



June 8, 2023

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From the Dean



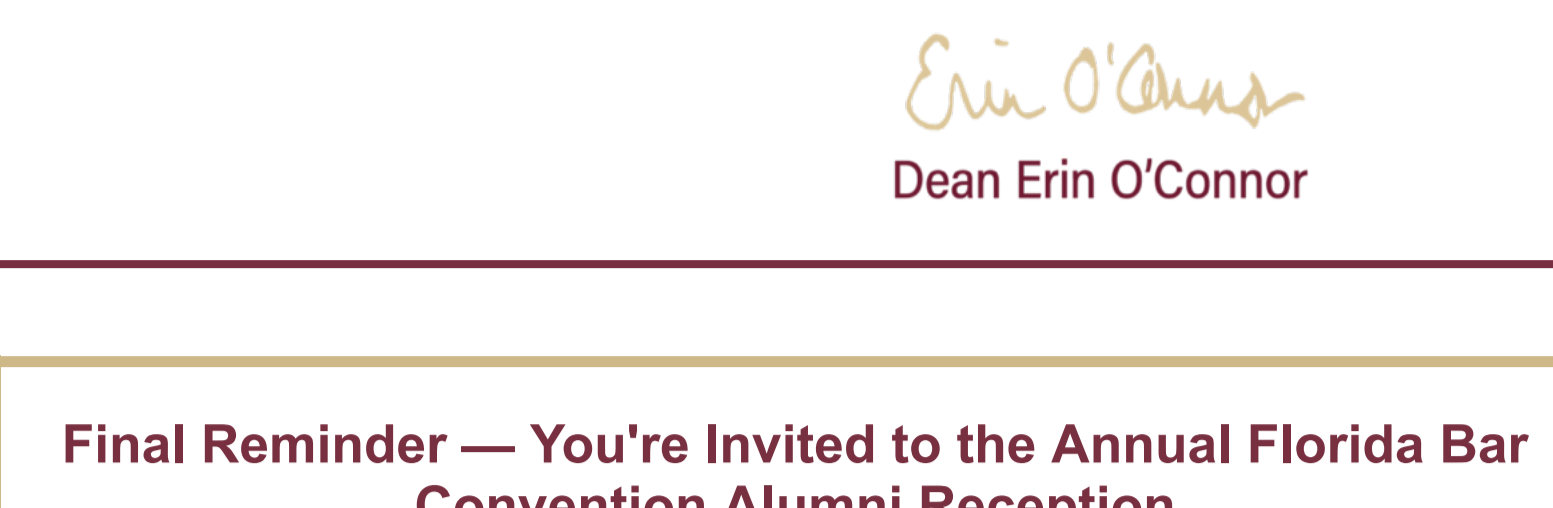
We are proud to welcome 55 undergraduate students from across the country for the **2026 Donald J. Weidner Summer for Undergraduates Program (SUG)**. This bright, ambitious group of students marks the 35th year of our nationally recognized program.

During SUG, prospective students are introduced to the study of law and gain insight into the skills that will support their future legal education. Participants engage in a variety of experiences, including **simulated classes led by law professors, guidance on the admissions process, exploration of legal career paths, and opportunities to gain an authentic perspective on daily life as an FSU Law student.**

The **Office of Student Advancement, FSU Law Alumni**, and the **FSU Law Faculty** also welcome these exceptional undergraduates to interact with our community through a series of meet-and-greet events with each other, current students, faculty, and deans.

We are excited to meet these future law students as they seek to become the next generation of legal professionals.

A special thank you to alumnus **Wayne Hogan ('72)**, President of **Terrell Hogan Law**, who has permanently endowed the program, prompting considerable growth.



Erin O'Connor
Dean Erin O'Connor

Final Reminder — You're Invited to the Annual Florida Bar Convention Alumni Reception

Join us for the **FL Bar Convention Alumni Reception**
 Thursday, June 18
 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Signia by Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek
 Orlando, FL

Thank you to our sponsors!

(List of sponsors follows)

We welcome you to join us at the **Annual Florida Bar Convention Alumni Reception at the Signia by Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek** in Orlando, Florida, on **June 18**.

Thank you to all of our generous sponsors for their support in making this special event possible.

If you have not already, RSVP by **Monday, June 8**, by emailing alumni@law.fsu.edu or calling the Alumni Office at **(850) 644-7260**.

FSU Law Clinic Event Recap



(L-R) Jacklyn Burkett, LSNF Case Manager; Professor Rima Nathan, Alexis Fulton ('25), H. Katelyn Roberts, ZL Justice Phan, Kathi Reiffel, LSNF Law Office Coordinator; Elizabeth Hornsby, LSNF Clinic Coordinator; and Carter Young, LSNF Pro Bono Project Manager Attorney.

FSU College of Law's Clinical Professor and Director of the **Claude Pepper Elder Law Clinic**, **Rima Nathan**, and alumna **Alexis Fulton ('25)** recently partnered with the **Legal Services of North Florida (LSNF)** Tallahassee Pro Bono Team to host an **Estate Planning Clinic** for the community.

Law students from the **Elder Law Clinic** and the Tallahassee Pro Bono Team spent the day assisting nine clients with estate planning and advance directive documents and needs.

FSU Law Ranking



FSU's College of Law was recently recognized by **Hackney Publications** as a university providing one of the **Top Thirty U.S. Sports Law Programs in 2026**. The recognition specifically noted FSU's **Joint Graduate Pathways J.D./M.S. in Sports Management Program**, which combines legal education with applied sports business training. The publication also emphasized the College of Law's expanded curriculum in Sports Law and Regulation of College Athletics.

Additionally, the article praised the College of Law for providing students with experiential learning opportunities, participation in national competitions, and meaningful industry networking through its **Entertainment, Arts, and Sports Law Society (EASL)**.

[Click here](#) to read more.

FSU Law Faculty News

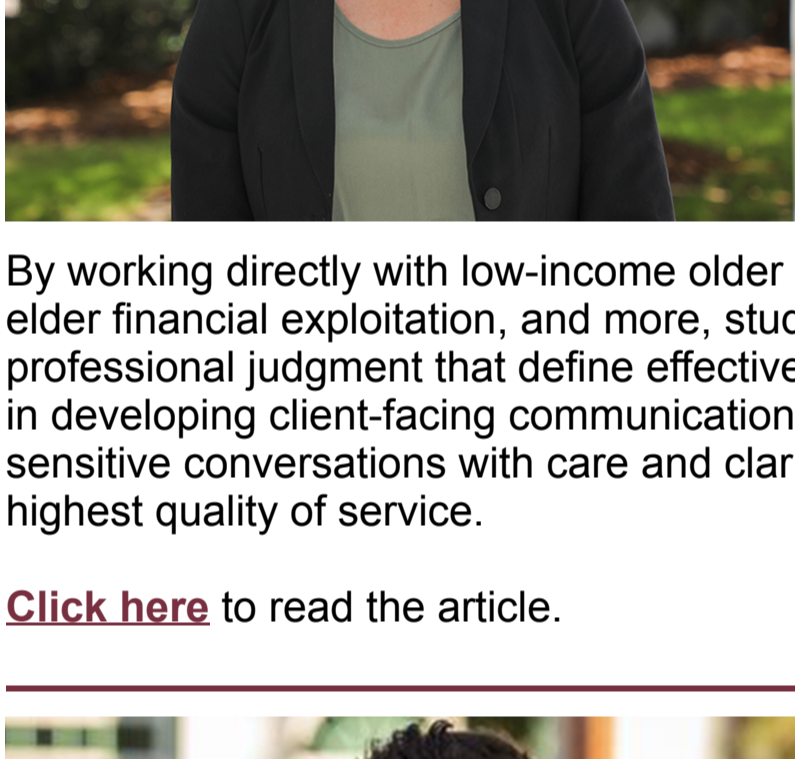


Shawn Bayern, Associate Dean for Technology and Larry & Joyce Beltz Professor of Torts, was recently featured in a series of articles on **X**: **"The Agent's Legal Body: How AI Agents Get the Right to Contract,"** and **"Agentic Capital Markets: How Autonomous Agents Will Be Funded,"** both written by Aaron Wright, founder of **Tribute Labs**, **Flamingo DAO**, and former Professor at **Cardozo Law**.

The article emphasizes Professor Bayern's scholarship, **"Of Bitcoins, Independently Wealthy Software, and the Zero-Member LLC,"** on artificial intelligence as the cleanest articulation of how **AI agents can take advantage of the existing LLC framework of autonomy to legally function as their own entities**. The legal scaffolding is already built. Wyoming codified the memberless LLC in 2021 with **W.S. 17-31-101**. Delaware's existing case law on their LLCs and broad operating-agreement freedom has been quietly accommodating the same structures for years. Shawn Bayern's memberless-LLC analysis remains the canonical scholarly reference.

[Click here](#) to read "The Agent's Legal Body..." article.

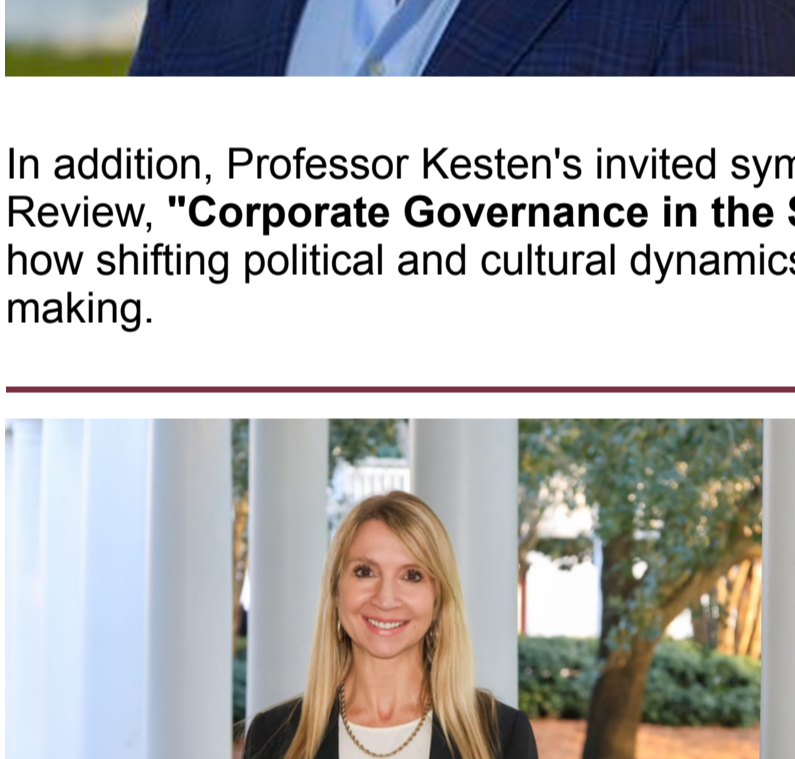
[Click here](#) to read the "Agentic Capital Markets..." article.



Rima Nathan, Clinical Professor and Director of the **Claude Pepper Elder Law Clinic**, was featured in a **Florida State University News** article, **"Faculty spotlight: How FSU's Rima Nathan turns legal education into action,"** highlighting how community-engaged legal education benefits both students and the seniors they serve.

By working directly with low-income older adults on cases spanning estate planning, elder financial exploitation, and more, students build the practical skills, empathy, and professional judgment that define effective advocacy. The Clinic also plays a vital role in developing client-facing communication skills, teaching students to navigate sensitive conversations with care and clarity while ensuring clients receive the highest quality of service.

[Click here](#) to read the article.



Associate Professor Jay Kesten has a forthcoming article, **"Presidential Immunity: A Lesson from Corporate Law"**, with the **Georgia State Law Review**. The article draws a compelling connection between corporate governance principles and broader constitutional questions.

This article underscores his impact on the study of corporate law and its intersection with contemporary legal and societal issues.

In addition, Professor Kesten's invited symposium of a state-law requirement **"Corporate Governance in the Shadow of the Culture Wars,"** examined how shifting political and cultural dynamics are shaping modern corporate decision-making.

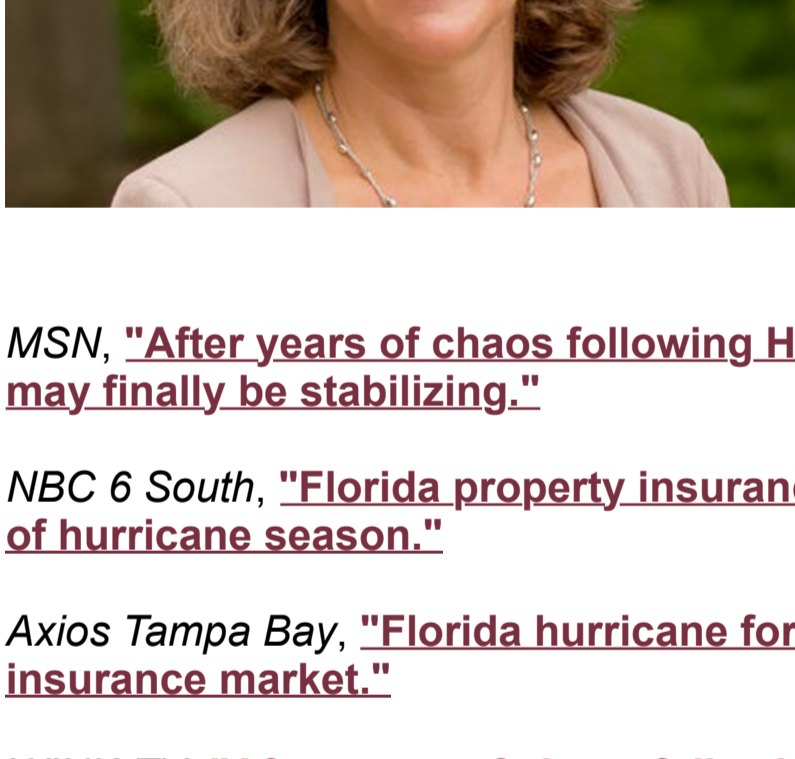


Denise Harle, Clinical Professor and Director of the First Amendment Clinic, wrote an opinion article for **SCOTUSblog** titled, **"Can the state force religious preschools to promote other religions?"**

The article dissected **Foothills Christian Ministries v. Johnson**, a case for which the First Amendment Clinic filed a brief. The Supreme Court recently declined to hear the appeal, leaving the lower court's ruling in place.

The article discussed the First Amendment implications of a state-law requirement compelling religious preschools to post signs and distribute notices informing parents that their children have the right to choose their own religious activities and to access spiritual advisors of their choice.

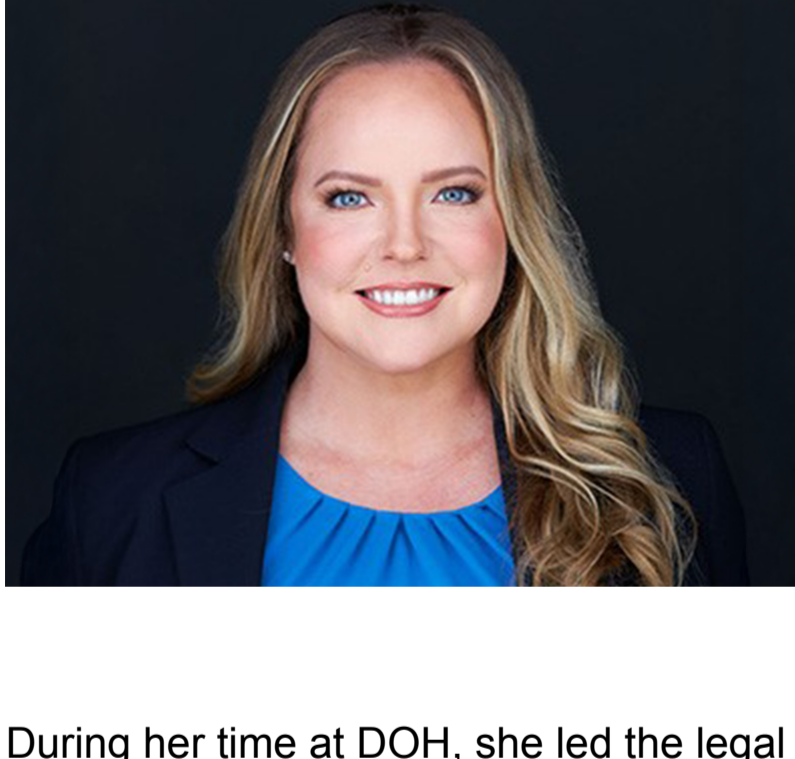
[Click here](#) to read the article.



Ryan Owens, Director of the Institute of Civics and Governance and Affiliate Faculty of the College of Law, was featured in a **WTXL** piece titled, **"FSU: 'Founding Voices' initiative to bring immersive civics education ahead of America's 250th anniversary."** The initiative is funded by a \$1.7 million grant from the United States Department of Education and will bring live historical interpreters and immersive seminars to middle and high schools statewide in an effort to make the nation's founding history more interactive and relatable for youths.

In the article, Professor Owens emphasizes that this initiative is both an educational effort and a long-term investment in cultivating informed, responsible citizens.

[Click here](#) to read the article.



Patricia Born, Courtesy Professor at FSU College of Law and Payne H. and Charlotte Hodges Midyette Eminent Scholar in Risk Management and Insurance at the Herbert Wertheim School of Risk Management and Insurance at the University of Florida, was recently quoted in several news outlets providing insight into Florida's property insurance market. She noted a pattern of slower premium growth and an increase in the number of insurers available to homeowners, indicating a market that is healthier than the conditions seen in 2022-2023.

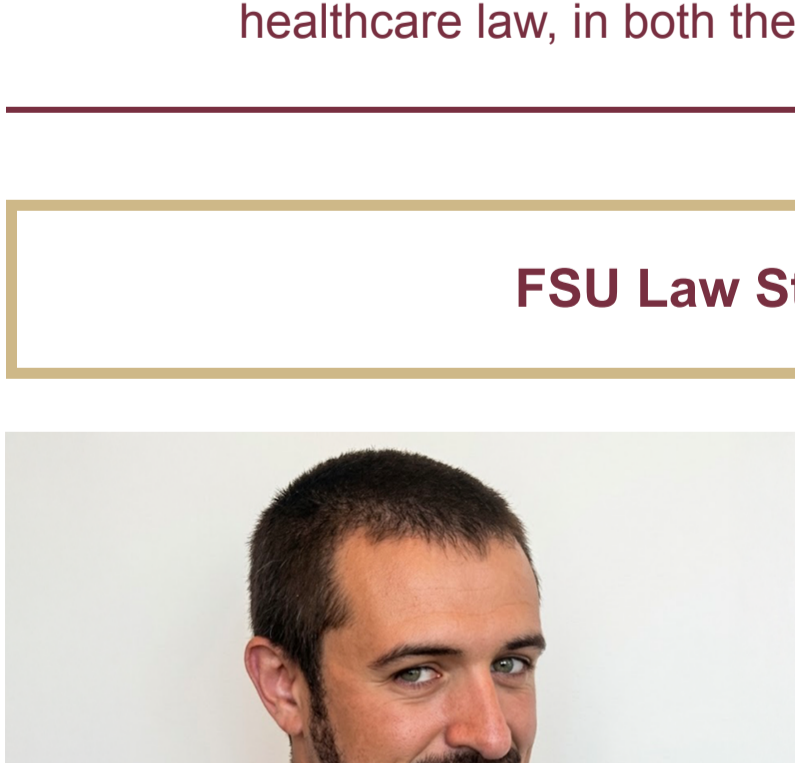
MSN, "After years of chaos following Hurricane Ian, Florida's insurance market may finally be stabilizing."

NBC 6 South, "Florida property insurance experts cautiously optimistic ahead of hurricane season."

Aviox Tampa Bay, "Florida hurricane forecast brings cautious hope for insurance market."

WINK-TV, "After years of chaos following Hurricane Ian, Florida's insurance market may finally be stabilizing."

FSU Law Alumni Profile: Louise St. Laurent ('11)



Florida State University alum **Louise St. Laurent ('11)** is joining **Stearns Weaver Miller's Tallahassee Office** as a Shareholder in the Administrative & Regulatory and Healthcare practice groups. A double Seminoles, St. Laurent earned her Bachelor of Science in 2007 and her Juris Doctor degree in 2011.

With over 15 years of experience in administrative, regulatory, healthcare, and cannabis law, she has served in various roles for nearly a decade at the Florida Department of Health (DOH), including as General Counsel.

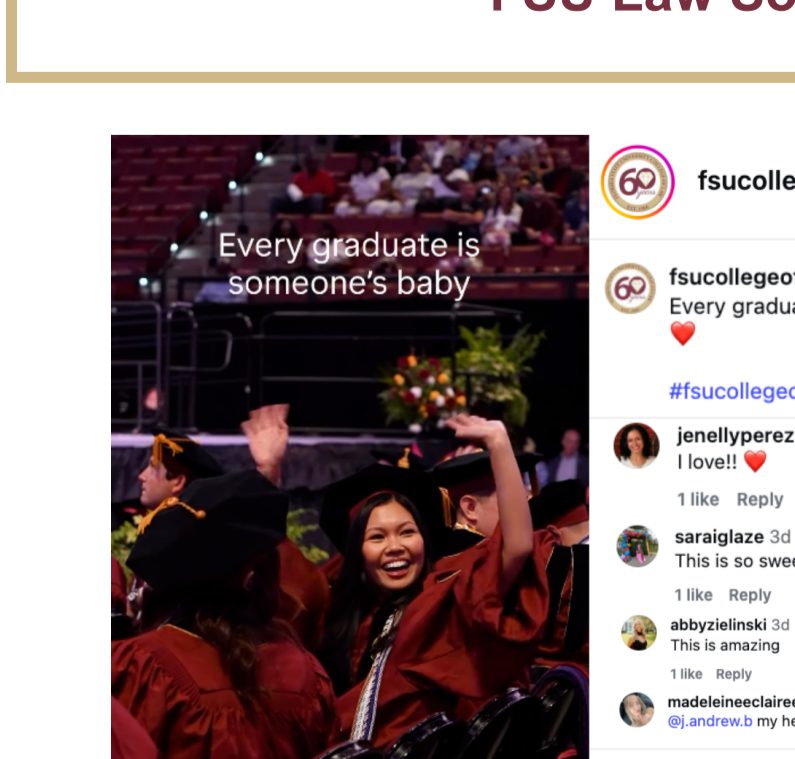
During her time at DOH, she led the legal office, managing more than 180 employees, including 90 attorneys, in supporting all public health-related activities. St. Laurent navigated complex state and federal regulations while overseeing legal operations related to regulatory compliance, litigation, and rulemaking. She managed high-stakes litigation and provided legal guidance on administrative law matters across Florida's circuit, district, and federal courts, as well as before the Division of Administrative Hearings (DOAH).

Throughout her career, St. Laurent has been a leader in various professional organizations in the North Florida community. She currently serves as Secretary and a Director of the **Tallahassee Bar Association**. St. Laurent held numerous roles within the Florida Bar, including past **Chair of the Administrative Law Section**, and served on the **Government Advocacy Committee**. She is also an active member of the **Florida Bar Health Law Section** and **Government Lawyer Section** and the **Florida Government Bar Association**.

[Click here](#) to read the Stearns Weaver Miller press release.

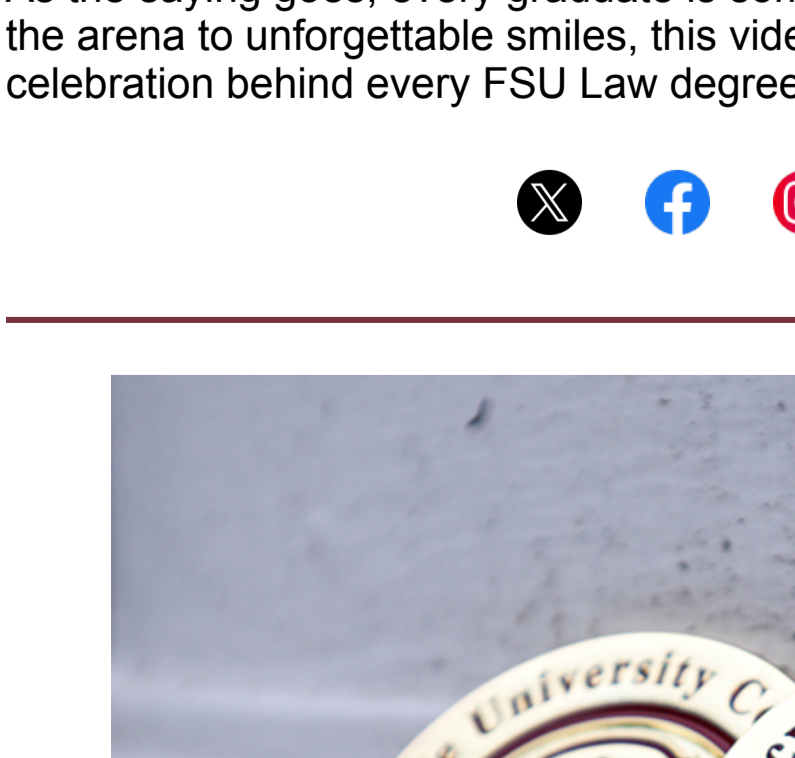
"FSU Law prepared me not only to step confidently into government practice, but also to build the professional relationships and mentorships that ultimately shaped my transition into private practice. The collaborative legal community in Tallahassee has created unique opportunities to continue those connections throughout my career. I am especially grateful to still be in Tallahassee, where I can support and encourage current law students who may be considering a similar path in administrative and healthcare law, in both the public and private sectors."

FSU Law Student News



We are proud to recognize rising 3L **Zachary Robert**, who has been selected by the **Government Lawyer Section of The Florida Bar** as the recipient of the **2026 Robert Butterworth Public Service Scholarship**. The scholarship is intended to award an outstanding 3L law student who demonstrates an interest in government service.

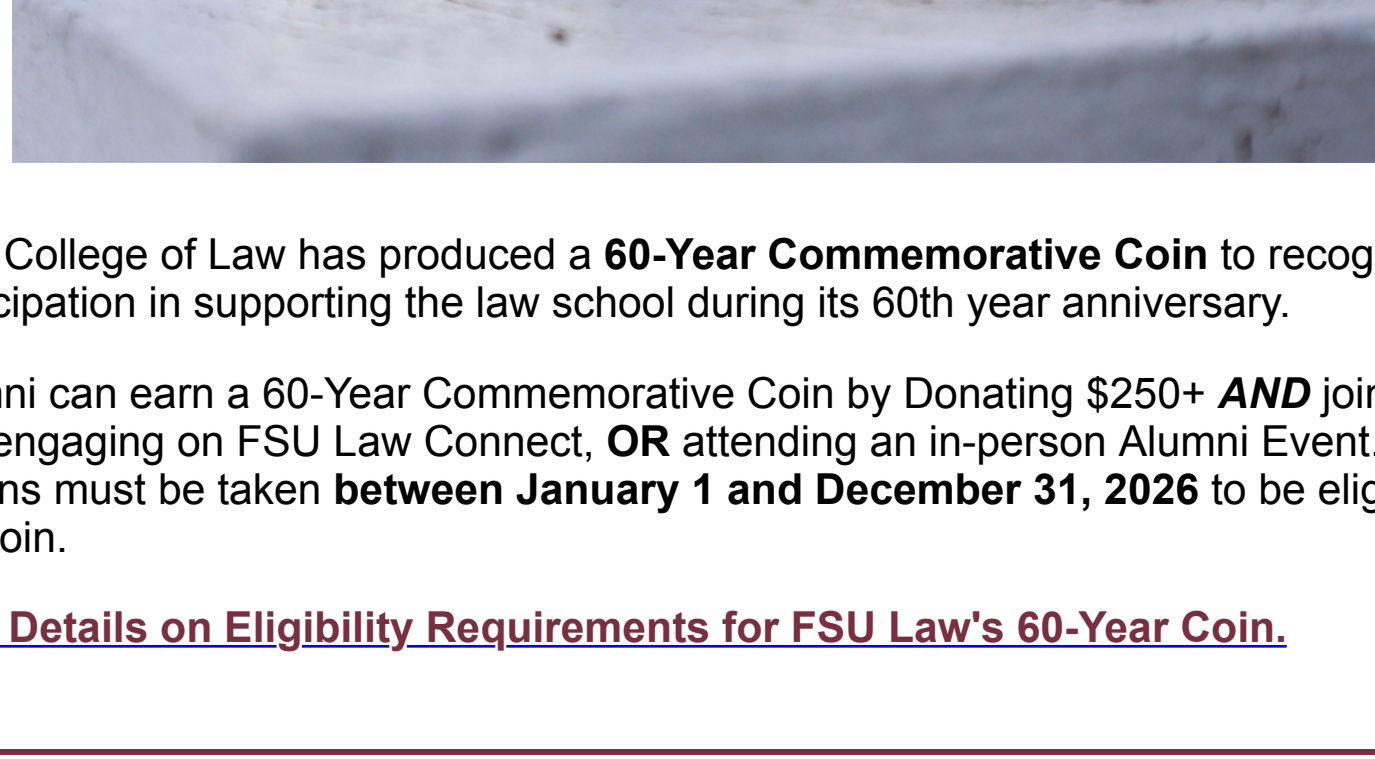
The announcement will be shared in the **Florida Bar News**, along with his interview to be published in the 2026 Summer Edition of the Government Section of the Florida Bar's publication, **The Voice**.



Congratulations to recent graduate **Madison McCloskey ('26)** for her outstanding accomplishment of being the first of our J.D. law students to earn a **Business Law Certificate with a Technology and Innovation Focus**.

Following graduation, McCloskey will be working at **Cole, Scott & Kissane (CSK)** in Tampa, Florida.

FSU Law Social Spotlight



Watch this adorable, heartwarming Reel of our graduates sharing a special moment with the people who helped them get here.

As the saying goes, every graduate is someone's baby. From proud waves across the arena to unforgettable smiles, this video captures the love, support, and celebration behind every FSU Law degree.



FSU College of Law has produced a **60-Year Commemorative Coin** to recognize participation in supporting the law school during its 60th year anniversary.

Alumni can earn a 60-Year Commemorative Coin by Donating \$250+ AND joining and engaging on FSU Law Connect OR attending an in-person Alumni Event. These actions must be taken **between January 1 and December 31, 2026** to be eligible for the coin.

[Find Details on Eligibility Requirements for FSU Law's 60-Year Coin.](#)

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