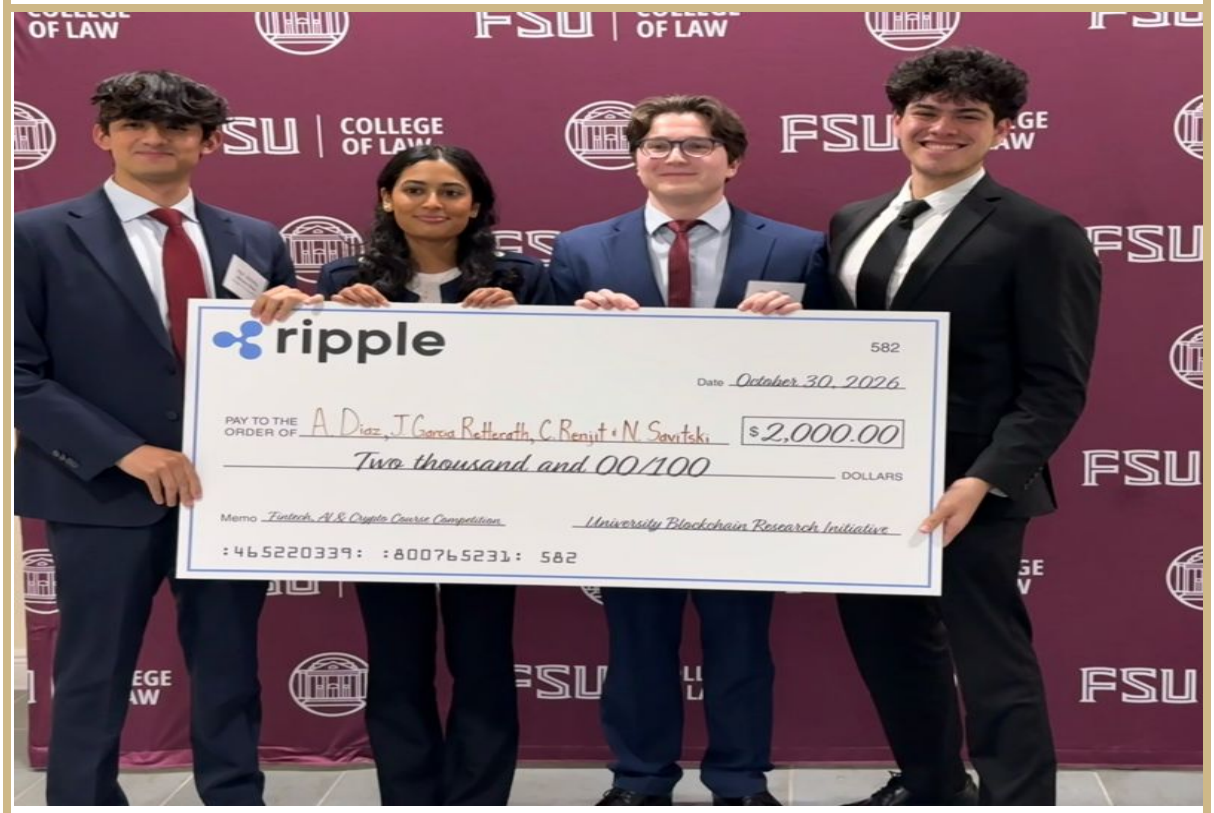
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FSU LAW FOCUS

November 6, 2026

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From the Dean



One of the most valuable experiences we can offer our students is the opportunity to apply what they learn in the classroom to challenges they will encounter in their careers. Last week, our students did just that during FSU's inaugural **FinTech, AI, and Crypto Hackathon Competition.**

The event brought together students from the College of Law and the **Herbert Wertheim College of Business** to investigate a simulated cryptocurrency fraud case using artificial intelligence. Working in interdisciplinary teams, students analyzed financial filings, developed legal arguments, and presented their findings to a panel of industry professionals. Congratulations to our winning team of law students **2L Joaquin Garcia Retterath** and **2L Nazar**

Savitski and business students **Christine Renjit** and **Alvaro Diaz**, who earned the $2,000 grand prize!

The competition was the culmination of a new course co-taught by Kevin Wood and Mary Jo Peed Professor of Law, **Yuliya Guseva,** and Assistant Lecturer at the College of Business, Professor **Chungsang "Tom" Lam** . Their collaboration reflects an important reality of modern legal practice: attorneys must increasingly understand not only the law, but also the technologies and business practices shaping the industries they serve.

I am grateful to our colleagues in the Herbert Wertheim College of Business, the **Stoops Center for Law and Business**, and **Ripple**'s **University Blockchain Research Initiative (UBRI)** , which funded the competition and the winning team's prize. I also thank the distinguished professionals who volunteered their time to evaluate our students' work and share their expertise.

Experiences like this demonstrate the value of interdisciplinary education and the innovative opportunities available to FSU Law students. I look forward to seeing this collaboration continue to grow.

Click here to view the Photo Gallery.



Dean Erin O'Connor

FSU Law Event Recap



Recently, FSU Law's **Office of Career Services** welcomed representatives from 25 law firms to the Florida State Conference Center for **1L Meet the Firms**, giving members of the **Class of 2029** an early opportunity to explore career paths and build connections with legal employers.

The event featured firm introductions, a tabling session, and a closing reception, allowing students to learn about participating firms' practice areas, office locations, and summer associate programs. For many first-year students, the event marked their first opportunity to speak directly with legal employers and gain insight into the upcoming recruiting process.

FSU Law thanks the participating firms for investing their time in our students and helping them begin building professional relationships early in their legal education.

Participating firms: Adams & Reese; Akerman; Ausley McMullen; BakerHostetler; Bradley Arant Boult Cummings; Bryant Miller Olive; Carr Allison; Cole, Scott & Kissane; Foley & Lardner; Greenberg Traurig; Gunster; Haber Law; Hill Ward Henderson; Holland & Knight; Holtzman Vogel; Jimerson Birr Firm; Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton; Marshall Dennehey; Meenan; Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough; ORR | COOK; Phelps Dunbar; Rogers Towers; RumbergerKirk; and Shutts & Bowen.

Law firms and other legal employers interested in participating in future recruiting events or connecting with FSU Law students are encouraged to contact **Jennifer Heckman**, director of employer recruitment, at **jheckman@law.fsu.edu**.






FSU Law Upcoming Events



Next **Friday, November 13,** FSU College of Law will host the **International Human Rights and the Death Penalty Symposium** in the **Main Classroom Building, Room 101, starting at 8:30 a.m.**

The full-day event will bring together international scholars, legal experts, and advocates to examine capital punishment through the lens of international human rights.

Featured speakers include:

- **Sister Helen Prejean** - American Catholic Sister, author, and advocate
- **Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj** - former President of Mongolia
- **Mario Marazziti** - former deputy in Italy's Camera dei Deputati
- **Professor Corinna Barrett Lain** - University of Richmond School of Law
- **Professor William Schabas** - Middlesex University London
- **Robin Maher** - Executive Director of the Death Penalty Information Center

In-person and virtual attendance options are available. *The event is approved for* ***8.0 General CLE credits and 1.0 Ethics credit****.*

Register Here



Two weeks until FSU Law Homecoming!

This year's Homecoming weekend will be especially meaningful as we welcome alumni and friends back to campus to celebrate **60 years of FSU College of Law**.

Join us **November 20–22** for a weekend of reconnecting, reminiscing, and celebrating the generations of students, faculty, and alumni who have shaped our law school community since 1966.

Weekend highlights include our **Homecoming Reception & 60th Anniversary Celebration** on Friday evening, the **FSU Law and College of Business Tailgate** before the FSU–NC State football game on Saturday, and a special **50-Year Alumni Brunch** honoring the Class of 1976 on Sunday. We will also recognize milestone reunions for the Classes of **1976, 1986, 1996, 2006, and 2016**.

We hope you'll join us for this special celebration of our shared history and the connections that make FSU Law such a remarkable community.

View the 2026 Homecoming schedule and make plans to join us.

FSU Law Faculty News



Michael Morley, Sheila M. McDevitt Professor of Law and Faculty Director of the Election Law Center, was recently featured in a ***Fox News*** article titled **"Dem probes could 'torture' young Trump officials with crushing legal bills, subpoenaed conservative warns."** In the article, Professor Morley provides legal insight into congressional oversight and the challenges individuals may face when responding to investigations.

Click here to read the article.



Justin T. Sevier, Charles W. Ehrhardt Professor of Litigation, was featured in Episode 183 of the ***Excited Utterance*** podcast, hosted by Professor Edward Cheng, Hess Chair in Law at Vanderbilt Law School.

During the episode, Professor Sevier discussed **"The Authentication Illusion: Synthetic Evidence and the Limits of Human Judgment,"** a paper co-authored with Professor Henry Zhuhao Wang and 3L Gino Cerrone that tests whether judges, lawyers, and other adults can distinguish authentic media from AI-generated fakes and proposes a new approach to authenticating digital evidence in court.

Click here to listen to the episode.



Denise Harle , clinical professor and director of the First Amendment Clinic, was quoted in a ***Suncoast Searchlight*** article, **"Sarasota County fight over homelessness services could test religious freedom."**

Professor Harle discussed federal religious land-use protections and their implications for the dispute, highlighting the intersection of religious freedom, local zoning regulations, and services for vulnerable populations.

Click here to read the article.

2027 SUG Applications Are Open



Applications are now open for the **2027 Donald J. Weidner Summer for Undergraduates Program** at FSU College of Law!

Established in 1992, this award-winning program is the oldest and largest of its kind, bringing undergraduate students from across the country to Tallahassee for an immersive introduction to legal education. Participants gain firsthand experience with the study of law while developing skills that will strengthen their undergraduate studies and prepare them for future success in law school.

Applications are due March 1, 2027.

FSU Law Alumni News



(L-R: Alexis Fulton ('25), Arielle Galinsky, Jackson Tarkowski)

Alexis Fulton ('25) recently served as a panelist at the American Bar Association Comission on Law and Aging's **National Aging and the Law Conference.**

During the session, **"Law School Opportunities in Aging,"** Fulton joined a discussion with law students, elder law practitioners, and academics about expanding opportunities for law students to gain experience and engage with the growing field of elder law.

FSU Law Student News



The **Jewish Law Students Association,** in partnership with the **Holocaust Education Resource Council,** welcomed **David Goldman**, Chair of the Fellowship at Auschwitz for the Study of Professional Ethics, to speak on the law, ethics, and the Holocaust.

The conversation explored how ethical standards are defined and challenged, examining laws and legal cases from Nazi Germany to consider the relationship between legality, morality, and the professional responsibilities of attorneys.



The **Federal Bar Association at FSU** recently welcomed **U.S. Magistrate Judge Martin A. Fitzpatrick** and **Senior U.S. District Judge Robert L. Hinkle**, both of the Northern District of Florida, to the College's Advocacy Center Reading Room for **Bagels with the Bench** , an informal discussion offering students insight into the federal judiciary.

The judges shared their career paths and experiences on the bench, discussing the evolving judicial selection process, the Supreme Court's political influence, judicial caseloads, and how their backgrounds as practicing attorneys inform their approach to handling cases.

FSU Law Social Spotlight



Ever wondered what it takes to be part of FSU Law's Moot Court Team?

This week, as part of the 40th annual Moot Court Final Four competition, we're taking you behind the scenes to see how students prepare for competition, sharpen their oral advocacy skills, and gain valuable courtroom experience.

Watch the video on Instagram.



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