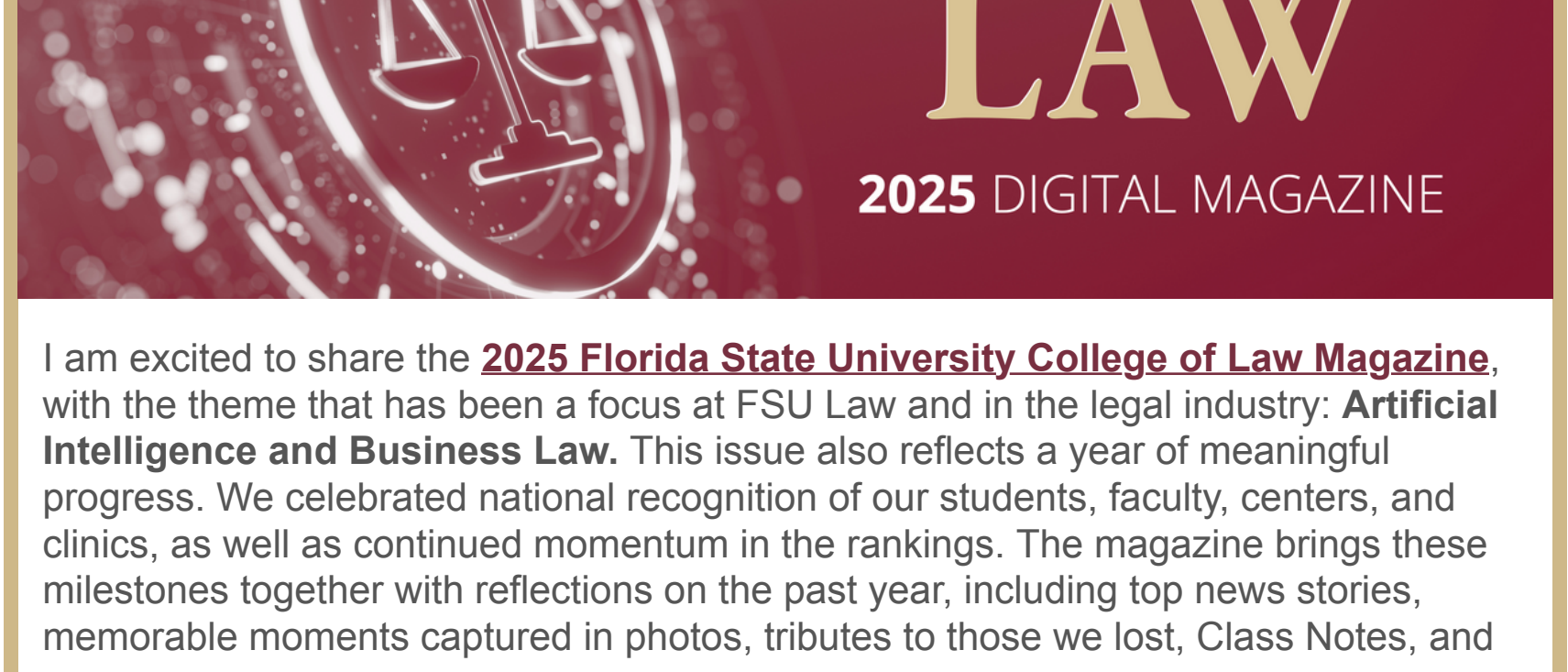


January 16, 2026

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From the Dean



I am excited to share the **2025 Florida State University College of Law Magazine**, with the theme that has been a focus at FSU Law and in the legal industry: **Artificial Intelligence and Business Law**. This issue also reflects a year of meaningful progress. We celebrated national recognition of our students, faculty, centers, and clinics, as well as continued momentum in the rankings. The magazine brings these milestones together with reflections on the past year, including top news stories, memorable moments captured in photos, tributes to those we lost, Class Notes, and more.

Beyond our classrooms and campus, FSU Law's impact is evident in the work of our alumni, who are leading with purpose and helping shape emerging areas of law. This issue features alumni stories: **Florida Bar President Sia Baker-Barnes ('00)**, **Celeste Gaines ('15)**, **Pat Gleason ('76)**, **Craig Glidden ('83)**, and **Ben Odom ('04)**, among others, illustrating the diverse and influential paths our graduates continue to forge.

I invite you to explore the **2025 FSU Law Magazine** as we highlight our successes, honor those we have lost, and reflect on how FSU Law continues to prepare students, engage scholars, and empower alumni to lead and thrive in a rapidly evolving legal landscape.

[Read the Magazine](#)

Dean Erin O'Connor

SUG Applications Are Open



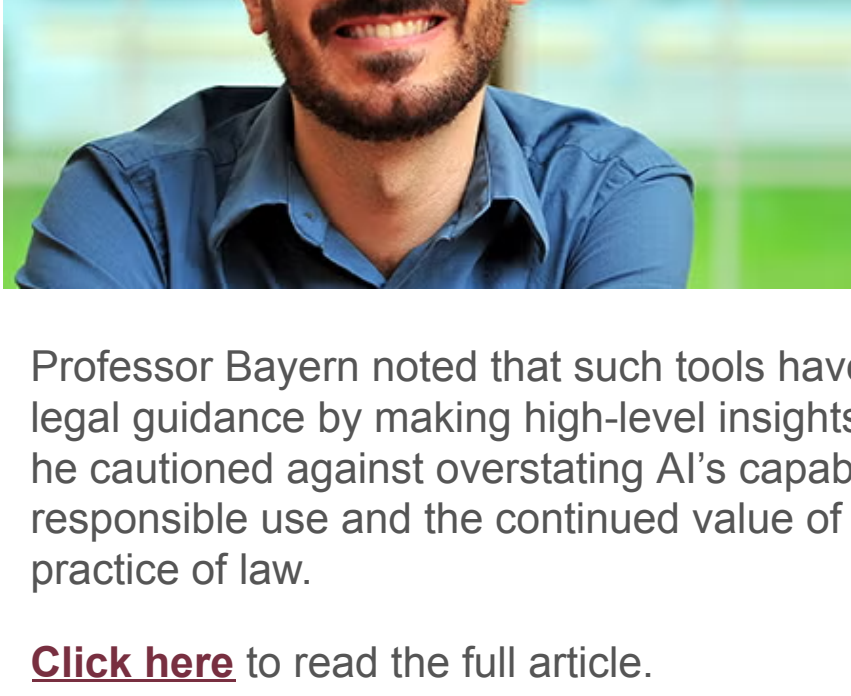
Applications are now open for **FSU Law's Donald J. Weidner Summer for Undergraduates Program**, which will run from May 28 to June 18, 2026.

This immersive, in-person summer experience offers undergraduates a firsthand introduction to law school through mock classes, writing workshops, and insights into the admissions process—all at no cost to participants.

Students interested in exploring a future in law are encouraged to apply. The deadline is March 27, 2026.

[Click here](#) to learn more.

FSU Law Faculty in the News



Shawn J. Bayern, Associate Dean for Technology and Larry & Joyce Beltz Professor of Torts, was featured in the *Daily Business Review* article, **"A Miami Senior Partner's Advice, Now Delivered by Chatbot."**

The article explores how chatbots are being utilized to deliver legal advice in innovative and effective ways.

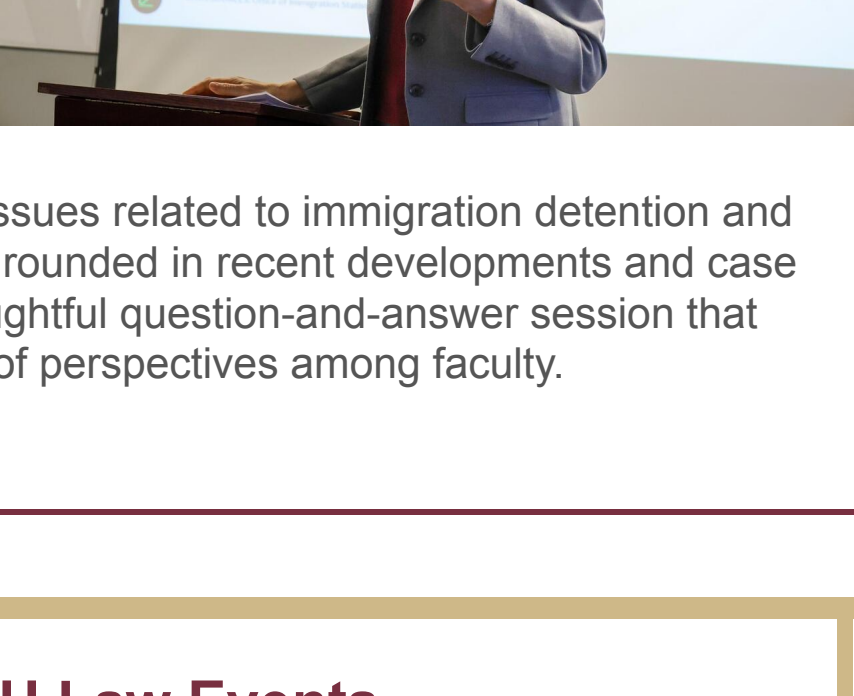
Professor Bayern noted that such tools have the potential to "democratize" access to legal guidance by making high-level insights more widely available. At the same time, he cautioned against overstating AI's capabilities, emphasizing the importance of responsible use and the continued value of human judgment and connection in the practice of law.

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

Faculty Enrichment Speaker

This week, we welcomed **Professor Ingrid Eagly** of UCLA School of Law as part of the **Faculty Enrichment Speaker Series**.

A nationally recognized scholar in immigration law and the intersection of immigration and the criminal legal system, Professor Eagly serves as Faculty Co-Director of UCLA's Criminal Law & Policy Consortium.

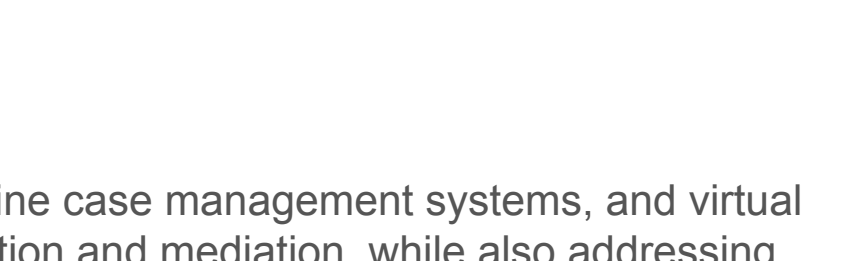


Her talk examined current legal and policy issues related to immigration detention and enforcement, offering an in-depth analysis grounded in recent developments and case law. The presentation concluded with a thoughtful question-and-answer session that encouraged robust discussion and a range of perspectives among faculty.

Upcoming FSU Law Events

Join us today at 12:30 p.m. for the first Frontiers in Law and Technology webinar of the semester, **From AI to Zoom: Technology Tools in Dispute Resolution with the American Arbitration Association**.

This panel features experts **Lisa Romeo**, Vice President, American Arbitration Association; **Myrna Barakat, Esq.**, Independent Commercial Arbitrator, Mediator and Dispute Prevention Neutral; **Samir Patel, Esq.**, Advocate, Holland & Knight; and **Kent Sinclair**, Advocate & Arbitrator, Sinclair Law, LLC.



It will examine how artificial intelligence, online case management systems, and virtual platforms such as Zoom are shaping arbitration and mediation, while also addressing ethical considerations and emerging trends in dispute resolution.

This event is approved for 1.0 Florida Bar CLE credit.

[Register](#)

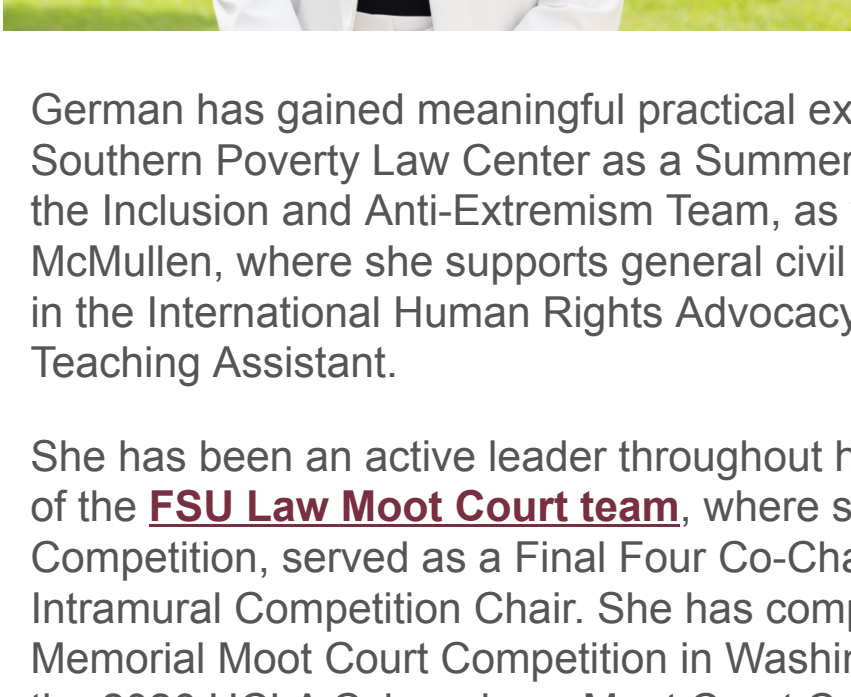
On **January 29** from 2-5 p.m., **Survive and Thrive Advocacy Center** is hosting the **Imagine Freedom: 2026 Human Trafficking Symposium** at the FSU College of Law, Room 208.

This powerful symposium brings together sex and labor trafficking survivors, legal experts, law enforcement, advocates, and community leaders for an in-depth exploration of how systems can, and must, respond to human trafficking. Designed for professionals, advocates, students, policymakers, and concerned community members, this symposium offers a rare opportunity to learn directly from survivors and experts.



[Register](#)

FSU Law Student Feature: 3L Nyah German



Desired Practice Location: Atlanta, GA
Expected Graduation: May 2026
Field of Law Sought: Civil rights law and Impact Litigation

Nyah German, a native of Orlando, Florida, earned her Bachelor of Arts in Literature and Psychology from Florida State University before enrolling at FSU College of Law.

German has gained meaningful practical experience through her work with the Southern Poverty Law Center as a Summer Legal Intern and current Remote Extern on the Inclusion and Anti-Extremism Team, as well as through her clerkship at Ausley McMullen, where she supports general civil litigation matters. She has also participated in the International Human Rights Advocacy Clinic and served as a Juris Master Teaching Assistant.

She has been an active leader throughout her law school career. German is a member of the **FSU Law Moot Court team**, where she was a Finalist in the 2024 Final Four Competition, served as a Final Four Co-Chair in 2025, and currently serves as Intramural Competition Chair. She has competed in the 2025 Thurgood Marshall Memorial Moot Court Competition in Washington, D.C., and will represent FSU Law at the 2026 UCLA Cybercrimes Moot Court Competition in Los Angeles this spring.

Additionally, German has been heavily involved in legal scholarship, serving as a Staff Editor for Volume 52 of the *Florida State University Law Review* and currently as a Notes & Comments Editor for Volume 53, where her Student Note will be published. She also serves as Managing Editor for Volume 35 of the *FSU Journal of Transnational Law & Policy*, after previously holding the role of Writing and Research Editor.

If you are interested in connecting with or hiring German after graduation, visit her [LinkedIn profile](#) or email her at nlg19a@fsu.edu.

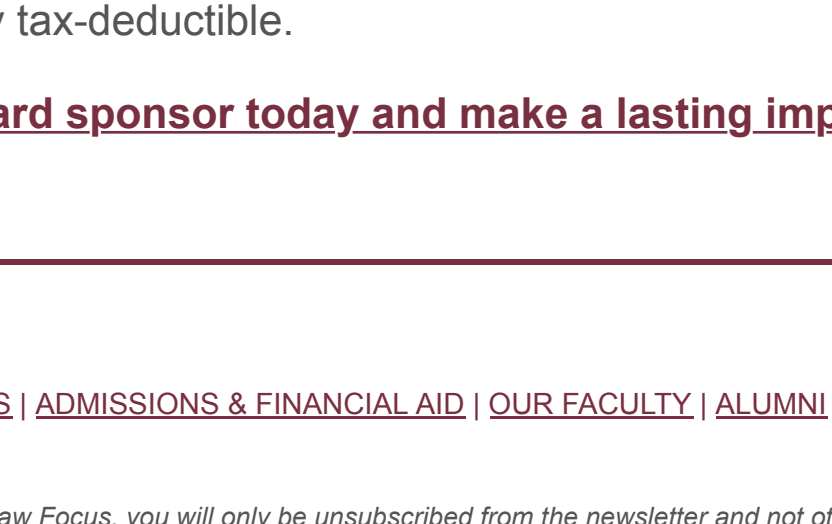
"My time at FSU Law has reaffirmed my passion for civil rights advocacy and using the law to enact effective, enduring change. Thanks to the wonderful, inspiring people I've met and grown alongside these past three years, I've made it through the most challenging, but also the most rewarding period of my life, and I cannot wait for the legal career ahead of me."

FSU Law Social Spotlight



In honor of Human Trafficking Awareness Month, we acknowledge the law's power to drive meaningful change. Throughout the month, we'll highlight the incredible work our students are doing and showcase how hands-on public interest advocacy makes a real difference in our communities.

Follow FSU College of Law to see how our students are turning legal education into impact.



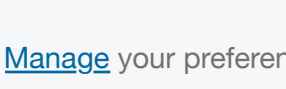
Support the next generation of lawyers through the **FSU Law Book Award Program**. Sponsors select a course of their choice, and each award recognizes student achievement while helping the College of Law recruit and retain top talent. Contributions are fully tax-deductible.

Become a Book Award sponsor today and make a lasting impact.

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