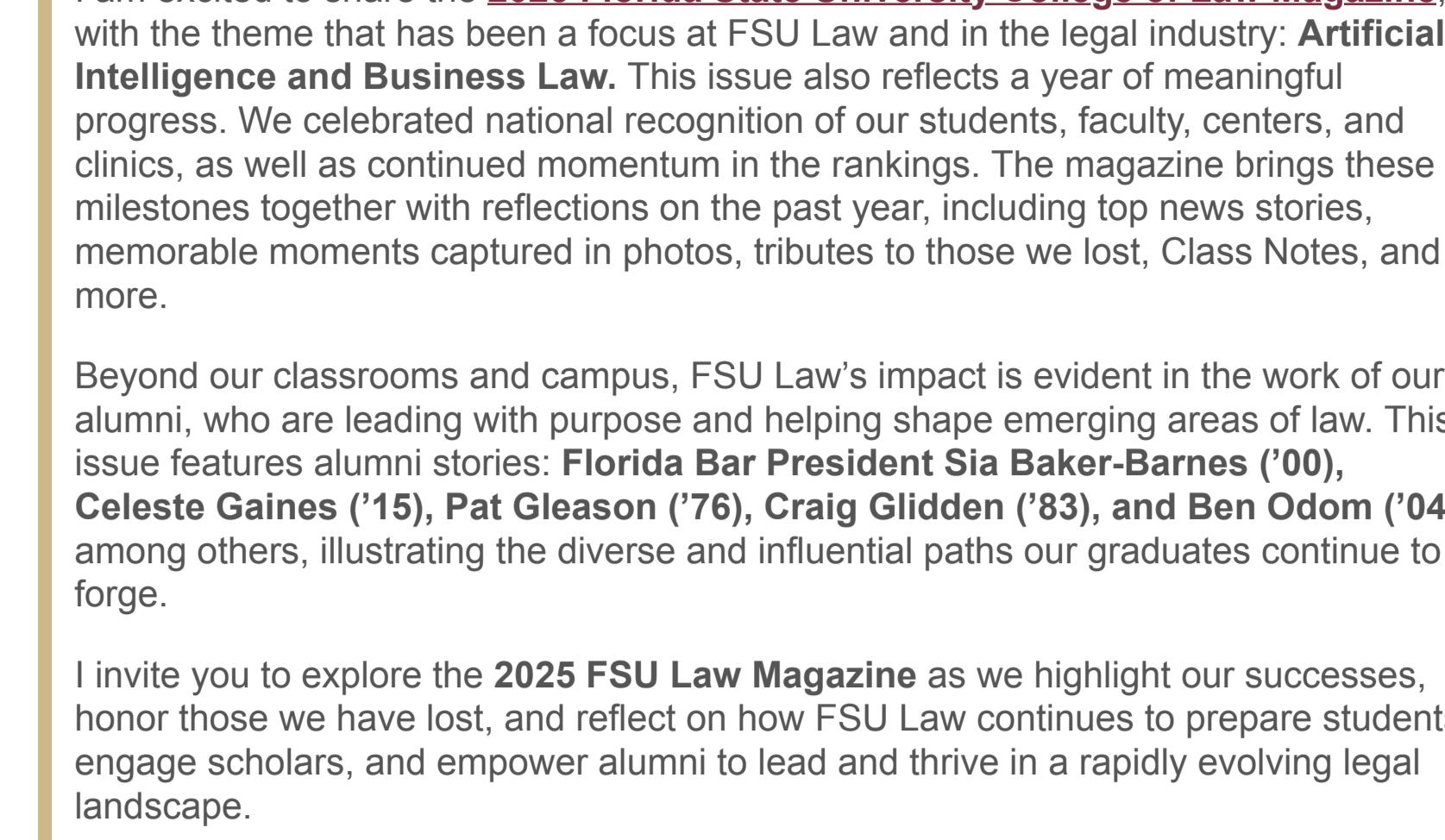




January 16, 2026

[Get Involved](#) [Submit a Class Note](#) [Join FSU Law Connect](#) [Make a Gift](#)

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.

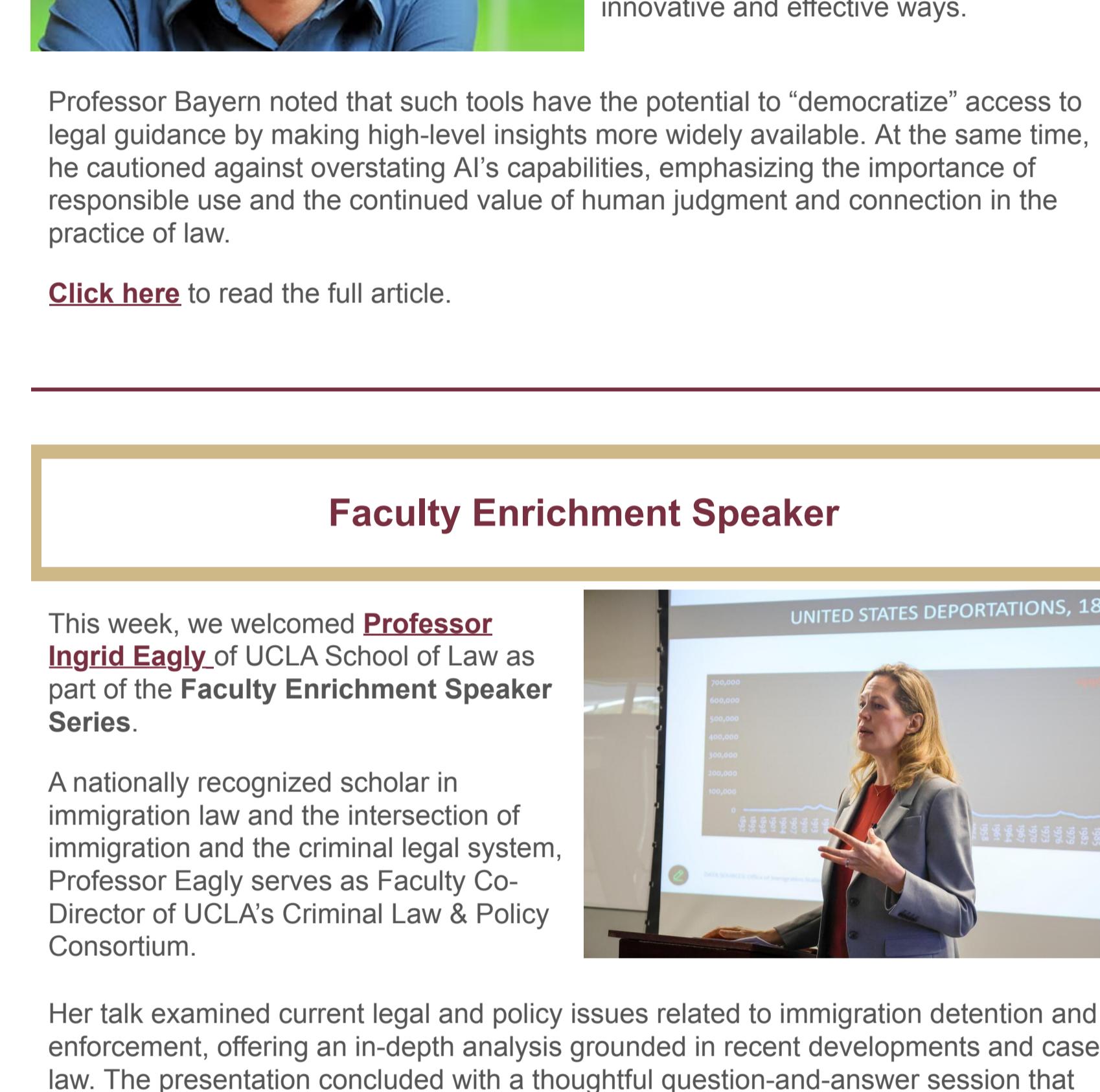
I invite you to explore the **2025 FSU Law Magazine** as we highlight our successes, honor those we have lost, and reflect on how FSU Law continues to prepare students, engage scholars, and empower alumni to lead and thrive in a rapidly evolving legal landscape.

[Read the Magazine](#)



Dean Erin O'Connor

SUG Applications Are Open



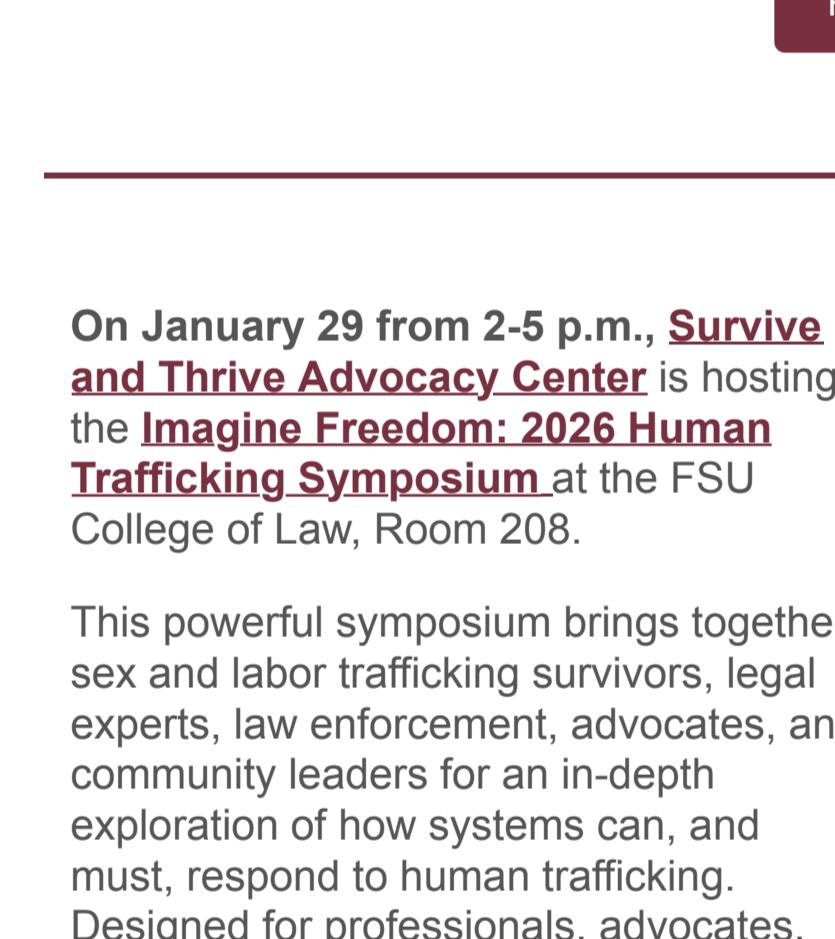
Applications are now open for FSU Law's **Donald J. Weidner Summer for Undergraduates** Program, which will run from **May 28 to June 18, 2026**.

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 Tort, was featured in the **Daily Business Review** article, ["AMiami Senior Partner's Advice, Now Delivered by Chatbot."](#)

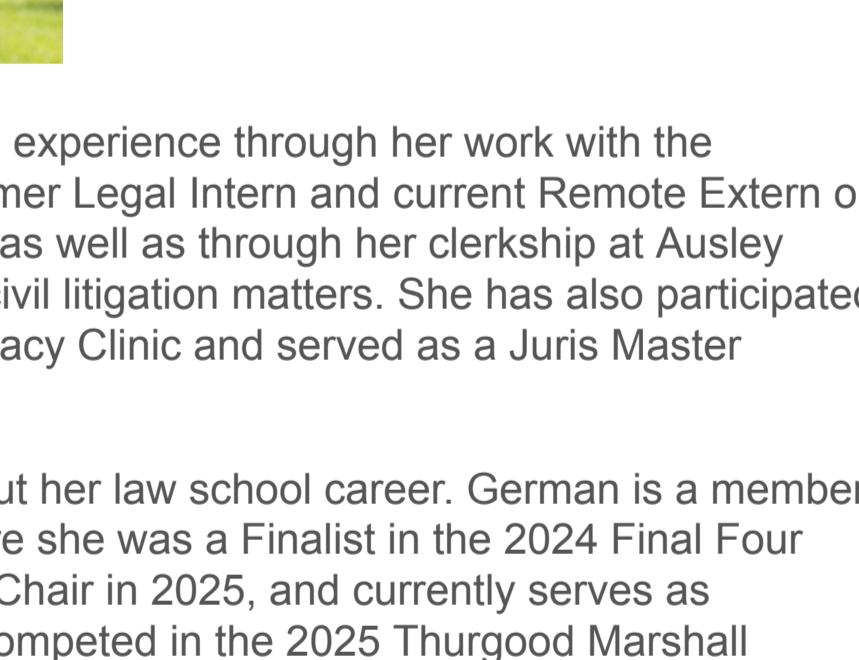
The article explores how chatbots are being utilized to deliver legal advice in innovative and effective ways.

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**.

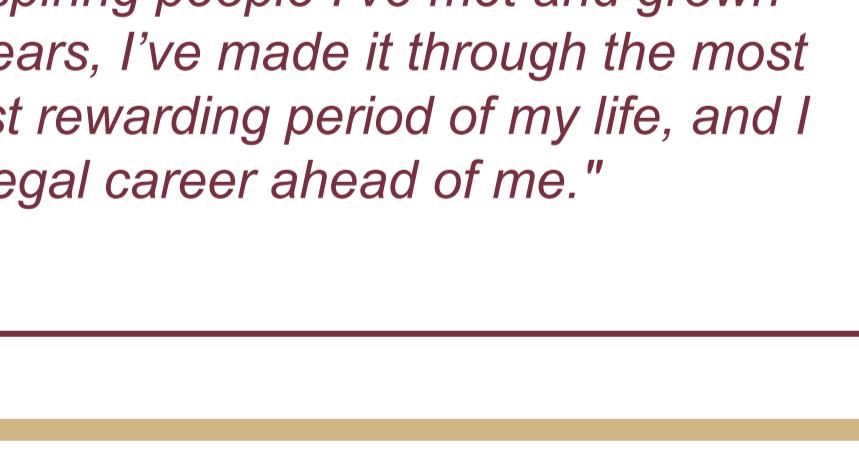


A nationally recognized scholar in immigration law and the intersection of immigration and the criminal legal system, Professor Eagly serves as Faculty Co-Director of UCLA's Criminal Law & Policy Consortium.

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.



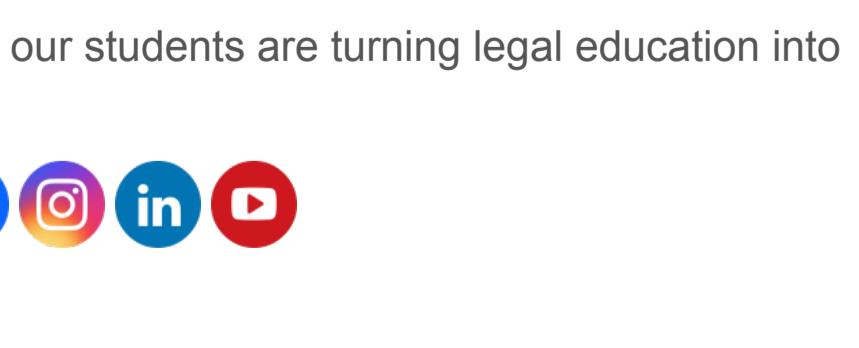
This panel features experts **Lisa Romeo**, Vice President, American Arbitration Association; **Myrna Barakat, Esq.**, Independent Commercial Arbitrator, Mediator and Dispute Prevention Neutral; **Samir Patel, Esq.**, Advocate, Holland & Knight; and **Kent Sinclair**, Advocate & Arbitrator, Sinclair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

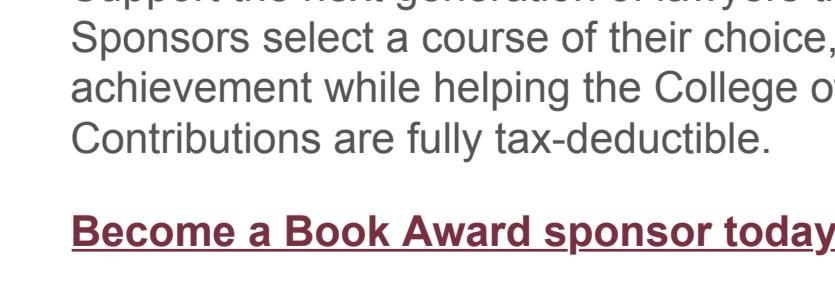
On January 29 from 2-5 p.m., **Survive and Thrive Advocacy Center** is hosting the **IMAGINE FREEDOM: 2026 Human Trafficking Symposium** at the FSU College of Law, Room 208.



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 her clerkship at Austen McMillen, where she supports general civil litigation matters. She has also participated in the International Human Rights Advocacy Clinic and served as a Jursis 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 Intramural Moot Competition Chair. She has competed in, and will represent Marshall Law at the 2026 UCLA Cybercrimes Moot Court Competition in Los Angeles this spring.

Additionally, Professor German has been heavily involved in University Legal Scholarship, serving as a Staff Notes & Comments Editor for Volume 63, where her Student Note will be published. She was previously Managing Editor for the Volume 56 of the *FSU Journal of Transnational Law & Policy*, after previously serving as Managing Editor for the Volume 55 of the *FSU Journal of International Law*.

If you are interested in connecting with or hiring German after graduation, visit her [LinkedIn profile](#) or email her at nig19@fsu.edu.

"My time at FSU Law has reaffirmed my passion for civil rights advocacy and using the law to enact effective, enduring change. Alongside these wonderful, inspiring people I've met through the 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

fsucoleoflaw • 1 day ago

Human trafficking is a global issue that affects millions of people around the world. At FSU Law, we are committed to fighting this injustice through our advocacy work and community engagement.

Throughout the month of January, we will share human trafficking statistics, news stories, and resources on our social media channels.

Follow FSU Law on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn to stay updated on our efforts to combat human trafficking.

[Register](#)

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

[Follow FSU Law on Facebook](#) | [Follow FSU Law on Twitter](#) | [Follow FSU Law on LinkedIn](#)

[Follow FSU Law on YouTube](#) | [Follow FSU Law on Instagram](#)

[Follow FSU Law on TikTok](#)

[Follow FSU Law on NextDoor](#)

[Follow FSU Law](#)