

January 23, 2026

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## From the Dean



It was a privilege to join our colleagues in **celebrating the 175th anniversary of Florida State University** at the Florida Capitol Building this week during FSU Day at the Capitol. The day was marked by noteworthy speeches, spirited performances, and displays honoring our achievements as a university and our contributions to the State of Florida.


I was especially struck by the breadth of work represented—from students and faculty to centers, clinics, and research programs—each demonstrating the meaningful impact FSU continues to have both in our communities and across disciplines. The presence of so many students and alumni, proudly wearing garnet and gold, was a powerful reminder of the shared commitment and Seminole spirit that connect us.


As we mark this milestone, we look ahead with confidence and gratitude to many more years of growth, innovation, and service.

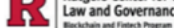



*Erin O'Connor*  
Dean Erin O'Connor

## Upcoming FSU Law Events

SIDLEY

FSU INSTITUTE OF LAW, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

Rutgers Center for Corporate Law and Governance



SAVE THE DATE  
2026 Miami Blockchain Symposium  
Tuesday, January 27, 2026 | 10:45 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. ET  
Available via livestream

The **FSU Institute of Law, Technology, & Innovation** will host the **2026 Miami Blockchain Symposium: Crypto and the SEC** in partnership with the **Rutgers Center for Corporate Law and Governance** and **Sidley Austin LLP**.

This virtual, full-day symposium will take place on **January 27**, from **10:45 a.m. to 5 p.m.**, and will convene innovators, policymakers, financial sector leaders, and academic experts to examine the legal, regulatory, and market forces shaping digital asset and blockchain innovation in 2026.

The program will feature a special fireside chat with **Hester M. Peirce**, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commissioner and designated leader of the SEC's Crypto Task Force. **Yulia Guseva**, Kevin Wood and Mary Jo Peed Professor at FSU College of Law, and **Liliya Tessler**, partner and head of the FinTech and Blockchain Group at Sidley Austin LLP, will moderate the conversation.

RSVP

## FSU Law Faculty in the News

Last week, the **Georgetown Law Center for the Constitution** hosted **Alexander Tsesis**, D'Alemberte Distinguished Chair in Constitutional Law, for a book workshop on his forthcoming work, *Freedom of Expression, Human Consciousness, and AI*, with commentary from Professors Dr. Mary Anne Franks, Alicia Solow-Niederman, Irving Gornstein, and Paul Oh.

The workshop explored the intersection of human and machine thought and the First Amendment in the age of AI.



FSU Law's new **First Amendment Clinic** was recently featured in an **FSU News** article, "**First Amendment cases are rising. FSU Law is rising to the occasion.**"

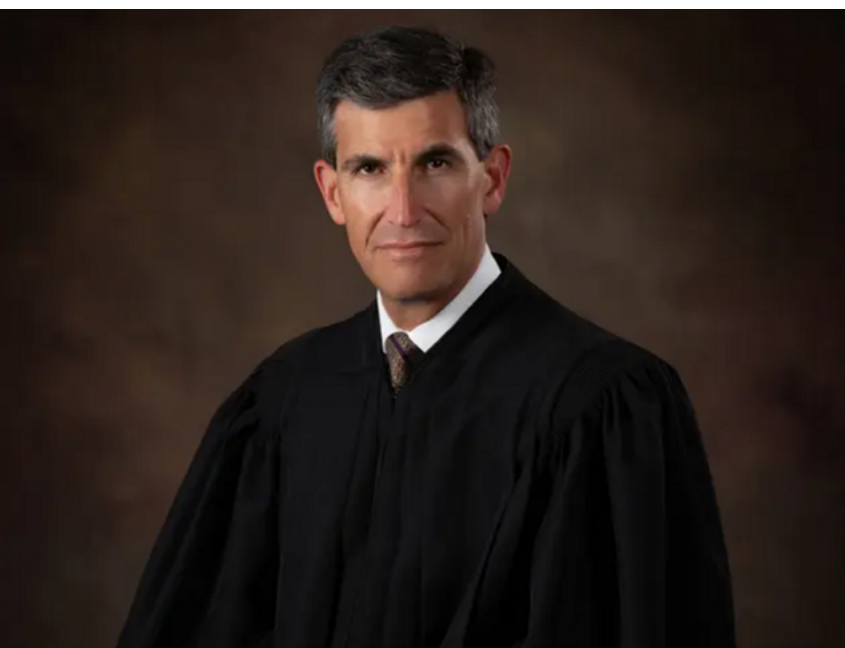
The article offers a Q&A with **Director Denise Harle**, giving an in-depth look into how the clinic provides students with hands-on experience working on real cases involving free speech, religious liberty, and other core First Amendment protections.

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

Congratulations to Justice Adam Tanenbaum, an FSU Adjunct Professor, who was recently appointed to the **Florida Supreme Court** by Governor Ron DeSantis.

Justice Tanenbaum, a former judge on the First District Court of Appeal and recognized for his deep experience in Florida law and government, now joins the state's highest court.

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



## FSU Law Alumni News



Congratulations to alumnus **Stephen R. Senn** ('89), who has been awarded the **2026 Tobias Simon Pro Bono Service Award**, the Supreme Court's highest recognition of a private lawyer for pro bono service.

Senn, a shareholder at **Peterson & Myers, P.A.**, has donated more than 1,000 hours of pro bono service over the past five years—representing just a fraction of his decades-long commitment to volunteer legal work.

The Tobias Simon Pro Bono Service Award honors the legacy of Miami attorney Tobias Simon and recognizes Florida lawyers who have made extraordinary contributions to expanding access to legal services for individuals who otherwise could not afford representation, while highlighting the vital role of pro bono work across the state.

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

Governor Ron DeSantis recently announced the appointment of FSU Law alumna **Ashley H. Lukis** ('13) to the **Board of Governors of the State University System of Florida**, which oversees Florida's 12 public universities serving more than 430,000 students statewide.

Lukis is a litigation deputy section chair and shareholder at **GrayRobinson, P.A.**, where she represents public entities and private clients alike in complex state, federal, and administrative litigation.

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



## FSU Law Social Spotlight



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Creativity, connection, and clarity for the year ahead 🌟

Students came together for a Vision Board activity to map out their goals for 2026. From growth and graduation to travel, financial goals, and dream plans, each board reflected what the year ahead could hold.

#VisionBoard #FSULaw

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Students kicked off the semester with a Vision Board event, mapping their 2026 goals—from growth and graduation to travel and beyond.

Follow us on social for more events and student highlights throughout the year.

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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