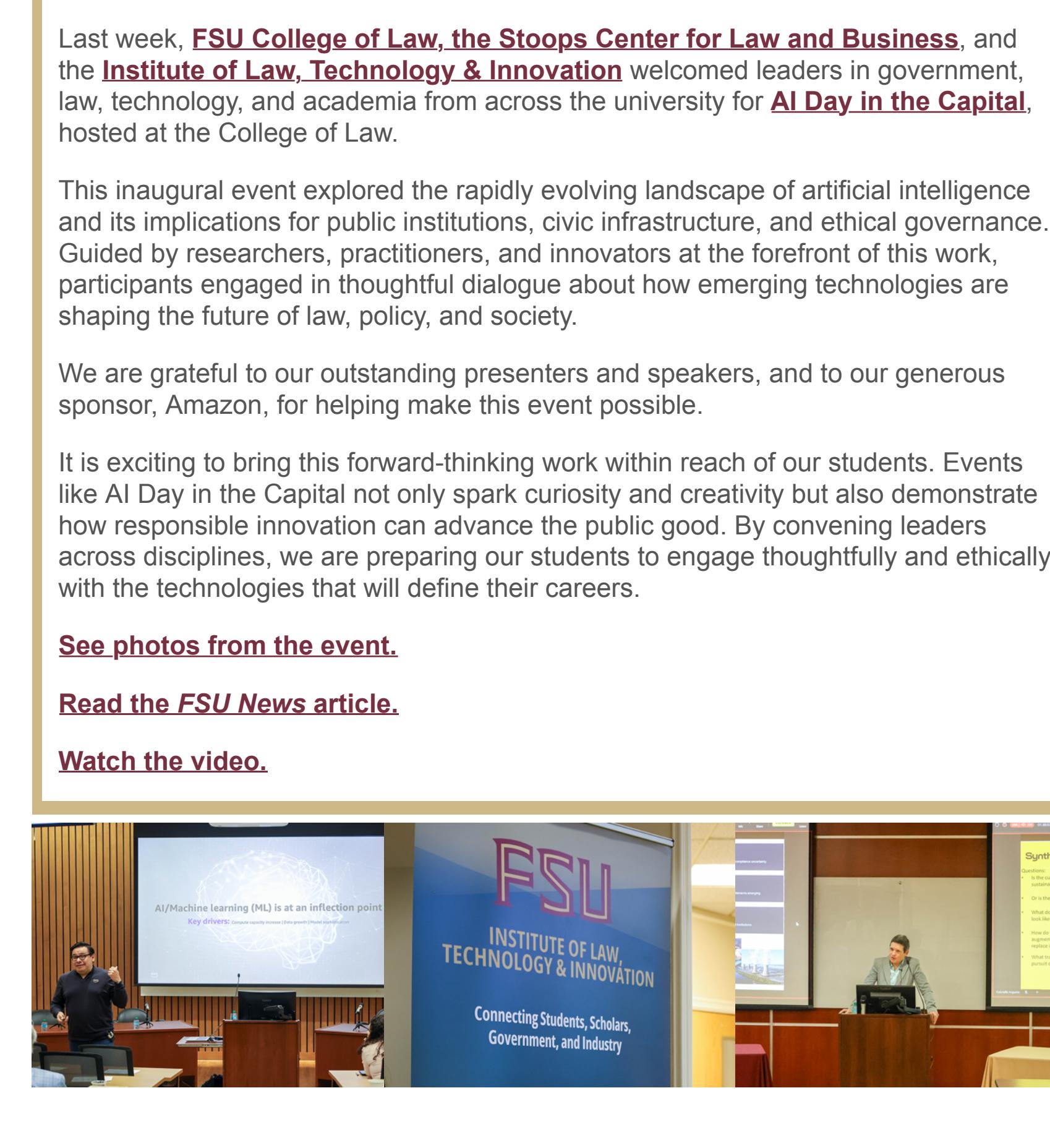


January 30, 2026

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### From the Dean



Last week, **FSU College of Law, the Stoops Center for Law and Business**, and the **Institute of Law, Technology & Innovation** welcomed leaders in government, law, technology, and academia from across the university for **AI Day in the Capital**, hosted at the College of Law.

This inaugural event explored the rapidly evolving landscape of artificial intelligence and its implications for public institutions, civic infrastructure, and ethical governance. Guided by researchers, practitioners, and innovators at the forefront of this work, participants engaged in thoughtful dialogue about how emerging technologies are shaping the future of law, policy, and society.

We are grateful to our outstanding presenters and speakers, and to our generous sponsor, Amazon, for helping make this event possible.

It is exciting to bring this forward-thinking work within reach of our students. Events like AI Day in the Capital not only spark curiosity and creativity but also demonstrate how responsible innovation can advance the public good. By convening leaders across disciplines, we are preparing our students to engage thoughtfully and ethically with the technologies that will define their careers.

[See photos from the event.](#)

[Read the FSU News article.](#)

[Watch the video.](#)



*Erin O'Connor*

Dean Erin O'Connor

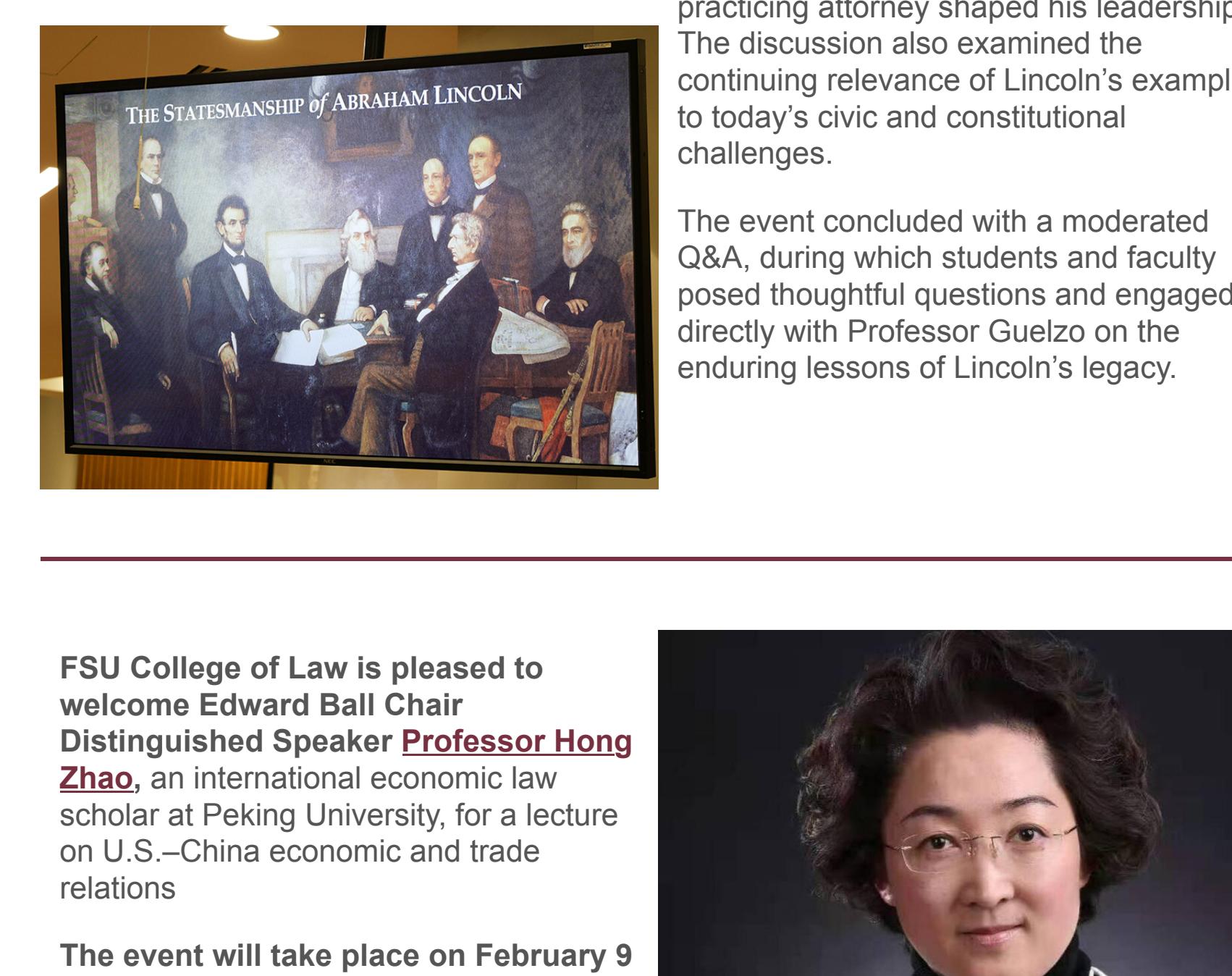


(L-R) Professor Michael Morley, FSU University President Richard McCullough, Senator Don Gaetz, FSU College of Law Dean Erin O'Connor, and Executive Director of the Election Law Center Maureen Wagnle Vinsen

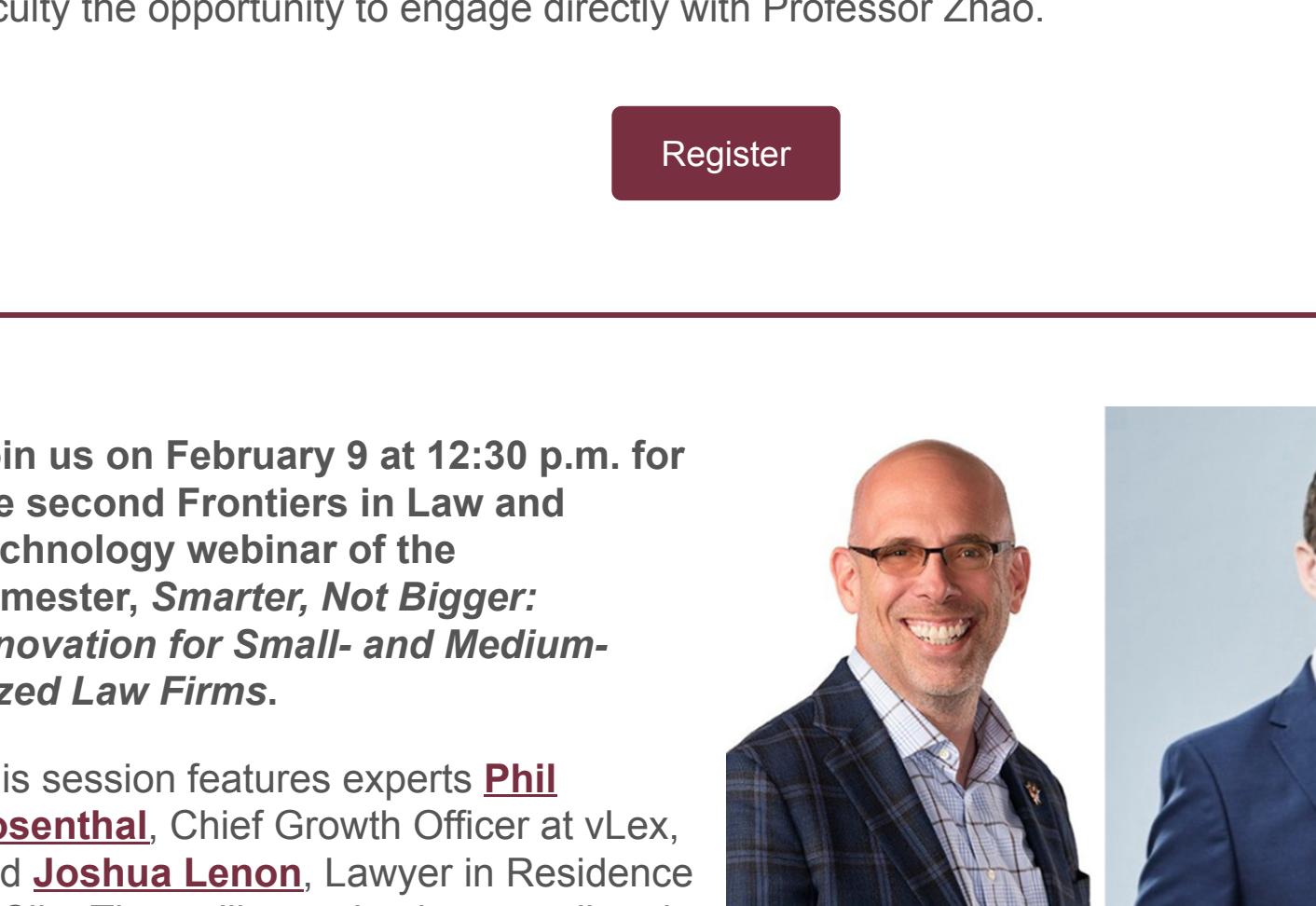
On Monday, the **Election Law Center** hosted a discussion with Florida Senator **Don Gaetz**, moderated by **Michael Morley**, the Sheila M. McDevitt Professor of Law and Faculty Director of the Election Law Center. **FSU President Richard McCullough** joined the program to introduce Senator Gaetz and welcome participants.

The discussion, titled **Inside Florida Election Law: How Election Law Really Gets Made in Tallahassee**, offered students and faculty an inside look at the legislative process behind Florida's election laws, with Senator Gaetz sharing perspectives from his distinguished career in public service and engaging in thoughtful dialogue about how policy is shaped in practice.

The program concluded with an engaging Q&A, giving students the opportunity to ask thoughtful questions and gain firsthand perspectives from an experienced state leader. We are grateful to Senator Gaetz for taking the time to share his experience and insights with our community.



## FUNDATHON SPRING 2026



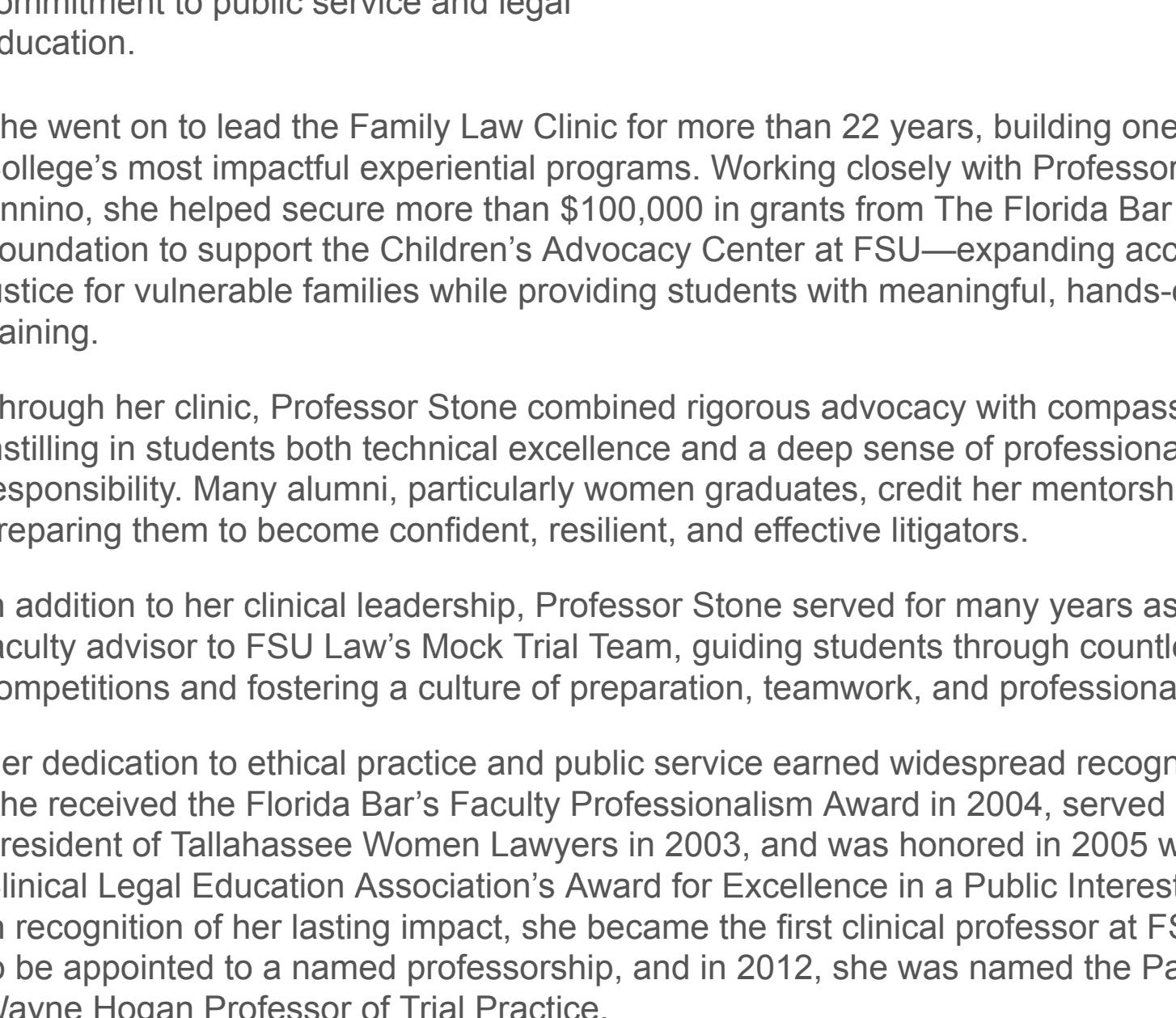
FSU Law's Spring Fundathon begins on **February 9**. Law students will connect with alumni by phone and email to share opportunities to support the College of Law. Gifts can support the law school's new annual giving initiative – **Innovative Leadership Campaign: The Future of Law Starts Here**, which helps develop graduates who lead with integrity, innovation, and adaptability.

If you haven't yet contributed, please consider doing so. Your gift supports leadership development opportunities, professional readiness through experiential learning, access to experts and mentors, and programs that give students a competitive edge.

You can donate when you receive a call or email from one of our students, or you can [make your gift online today](#).

Thank you for your continued support of FSU Law!

### Alumni Career Advisor Fair

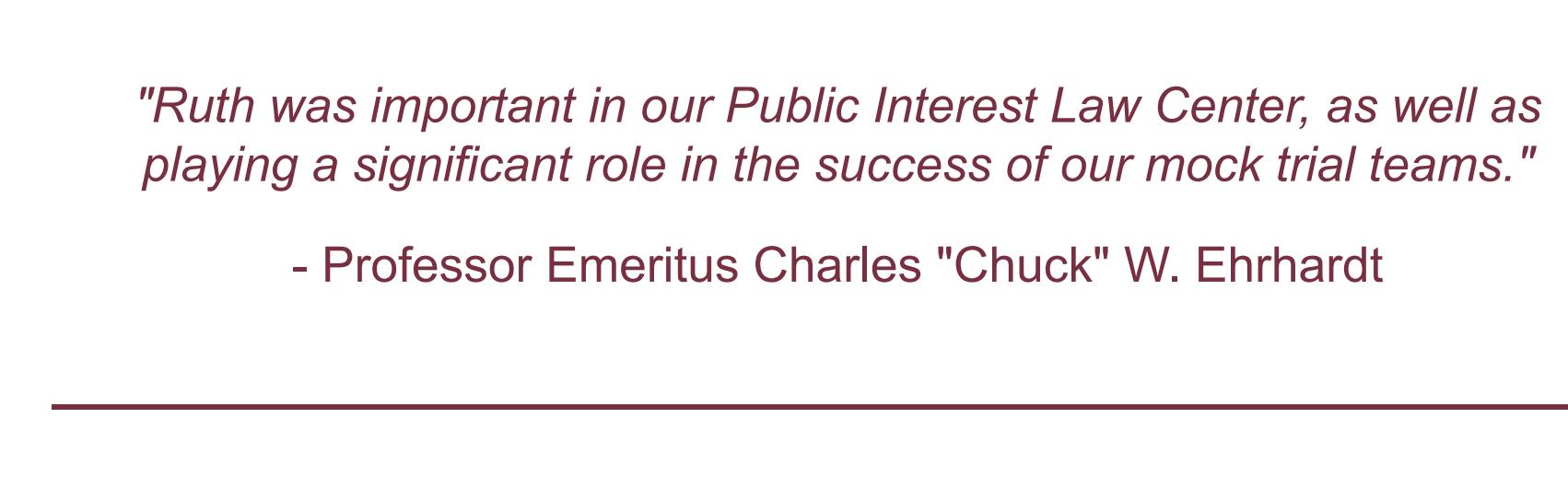


This week, FSU Law's **Office of Career Services and Professional Development** hosted its Annual Alumni Career Advisor Fair, welcoming more than 20 alumni attorneys from across the region to connect with students and share insights into their practice areas and career journeys.

The event featured broad representation across 17 areas of law, from bankruptcy and cybersecurity to elder law and HOA law.

Students had the opportunity to network and build meaningful professional relationships to support their career goals. We are grateful to our alumni who generously volunteered their time and expertise to invest in the next generation of legal leaders.

[Click here](#) to view more photos from the event.



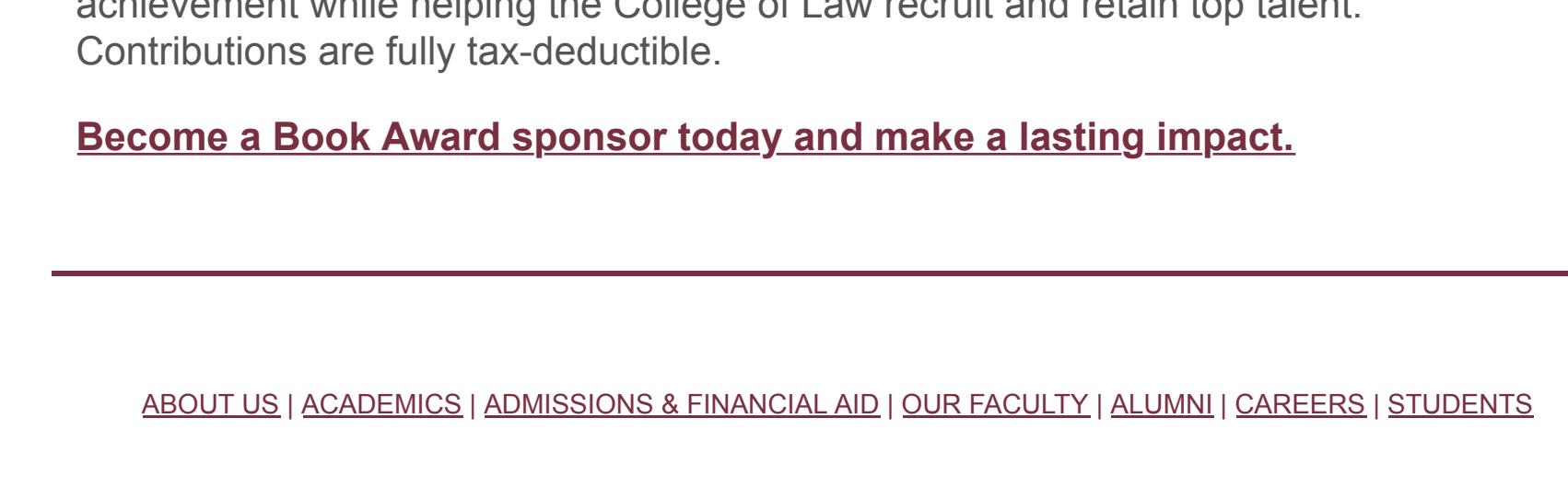
Last week, FSU College of Law hosted a lecture by renowned Lincoln scholar Professor Allen Guelzo from the University of Florida's Hamilton School for Classical and Civic Education.

Presented in partnership with the **Institute for Governance & Civics** and sponsored by the **Florida Supreme Court Historical Society**, the program explored Abraham Lincoln's statesmanship, his commitment to the rule of law, and how his experience as a practicing attorney shaped his leadership.

The discussion also examined the continuing relevance of Lincoln's example to today's civic and constitutional challenges.

The event concluded with a moderated Q&A, during which students and faculty posed thoughtful questions and engaged directly with Professor Guelzo on the enduring lessons of Lincoln's legacy.

[Click here](#) to view more photos from the event.



This event is approved for 1.0 Florida Bar CLE credit (including technology).

[Register](#)

### FSU Law Events



Join us on February 9 at 12:30 p.m. for the **Technology Webinars in Law**, and **Smarter, Smarter, Not Bigger: Innovation Firms, Small and Medium**. This session features experts **Phil Rosenblatt** and **Joshua W. Lenon**, examining how small and medium-sized law firms can thrive through innovation.

Lenon will share strategies and tools that empower firms to work smarter—leveraging technology, data, and process improvements to deliver better client service without necessarily expanding headcount or overhead. This program is ideal for service withouts, forward-thinking professionals interested in practical approaches to building resilient, innovative law firms.

This event is approved for 1.0 Florida Bar CLE credit (including technology).

[Register](#)



"After the Advocacy Center brought its 5 courtrooms, Ruth Stone organized our students, faculty, and alumni advocates and faculty from around the country."

- Dean Emeritus Don Weidner

"Ruth was important in our public interest Law Center, as well as playing a significant role in the success of our mock trial team."

- Professor Emeritus Charles "Chuck" W. Ehrhardt

[Register](#)



Earlier this month, the FSU Law community experienced deep sadness at the passing of retired Ruth E. Stone (76), a Trial Practitioner, Professor, and mentor to generations of law students and faculty.

Professor Stone was a beloved member of the FSU Law faculty for more than two decades, and her impact on the College of Law will be felt for many years to come.

Professor Stone's legacy is one of dedication to her students and her profession, and her impact on the legal community is immeasurable.

Her commitment to her students and her profession is evident in the many awards she received during her career, including the Florida Bar's highest honor, the Florida Bar Award.

Professor Stone's impact on the legal community is immeasurable, and her legacy will live on through the many students she mentored and the legal professionals she inspired.

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