

December 12, 2025

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From the Dean



As we close out the year, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has supported the FSU College of Law in 2025. Your generosity—whether through gifts, mentorship, or time—strengthens every part of our community. Because of you, our students have greater opportunities, our programs flourish, and our mission continues to grow.

The holiday season offers a moment to reflect on the values that connect us: leadership, excellence, service, and a shared commitment to preparing the next generation of legal professionals. It is also a time to recognize the impact our broader community has on the life of this institution. Each contribution, large or small, makes a meaningful difference in what we can accomplish.

As we look toward 2026, we do so with excitement and a renewed sense of purpose. The year ahead will bring new initiatives, new partnerships, and new opportunities for our students and faculty to excel. I am grateful to be on this journey with you.

Thank you again for all you have done this year. If you are considering year-end giving, I hope you will keep the College of Law in mind. Your support helps ensure that our momentum continues.

Warmest wishes for a joyful and restorative holiday season.

Give a Gift

  
Dean Erin O'Connor

FSU Law News

(L-R) - Dr. Darren Brooks, Professor Jacob Eisler, and Professor Denise Harle.

**Jacob Eisler**, James Edmund and Margaret Elizabeth Hennessey Corry Professor, joined **Dr. Darren Brooks** from the College of Business last week for a debate on “The First Amendment: The Limitations of Free Speech,” hosted by the **FSU Office of Public Policy Events** and the **Institute for Governance & Civics**.

Moderated by **Professor Denise Harle**, director of the **First Amendment Clinic**, the discussion explored the legal boundaries of free speech, the circumstances under which expression may still lead to consequences, and how students can navigate responsible speech in academic, professional, and public settings.

FSU Law Faculty News

**Fred Abbott**, Edward Ball Eminent Scholar Professor of International Law, has received strong early endorsements for his forthcoming book, ***Advanced Introduction to Pharmaceutical Law***, set to be released in March 2026 by Edward Elgar Publishing.

Leaders in international intellectual property, global health, and pharmaceutical regulation praise the book as a comprehensive, accessible, and timely guide to one of today’s most complex legal fields.

They highlight Professor Abbott’s deep expertise, the clarity with which he explains intricate regulatory and policy issues, and the book’s value for both industry professionals and scholars. Endorsers also note its relevance to rapidly evolving areas such as AI-driven drug development and telemedicine.

FSU Law Faculty in the News

This week, **Michael Morley**, Sheila M. McDewitt Professor of Law and Faculty Director of the Election Law Center, participated in the **U.S. House Subcommittee on Elections hearing, “Examining Potential Updates to the NVRA,”** in Washington, D.C.

Professor Morley’s opening statement at the hearing focused on modernizing the **National Voter Registration Act (NVRA)**. He discussed ways of improving the voter registration process, enhancing voter database maintenance, and expanding the range of information available to election officials to ensure the accuracy of their records. His testimony highlighted how better information can both protect eligible voters and bolster public confidence in the electoral process.

[Click here](#) to learn more.

[Watch the full meeting.](#)

Professor Morley was also featured this week as an expert for the *Texas Tribune*, in an article titled, **“A national GOP push to exclude noncitizens from future redistricting could have big ramifications in Texas.”**

In the piece, Professor Morley explains that excluding all or some noncitizens from apportionment counts would be unconstitutional under the clear language of the 14th Amendment’s apportionment provisions.

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

FSU Law Alumni News

Congratulations to FSU Law alumna **Judge Danielle Sherriff ’08** on her appointment to the Circuit Court Bench by Governor Ron DeSantis.

Judge Sherriff previously served as a County Court Judge and has already made a strong impact. Before joining the bench, she served as Senior Litigation Attorney for the Palm Beach County School District, worked in private practice, and was an Assistant State Attorney in the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit.

FSU Law Student News

Congratulations to 3L **Andrew Barrineau**, the **2025 FSU Law Alumni Association Mores Medal Award** recipient.

The Mores Medal honors a graduating student who demonstrates exceptional dedication to public service at the College of Law, including volunteering, demonstration of collegiality, teamwork, integrity, honesty, humility, and generosity.

A student veteran and an active leader within the law school community, Barrineau is known for consistently going above and beyond. His nominators describe him as a quiet, steady presence who makes significant contributions behind the scenes—dependable, professional, and deeply respected by his peers. First-year students frequently share how supportive and helpful he has been to them, and he models kindness, compassion, and integrity in everything he does.

FSU Law Social Spotlight

This week, we posted about International Human Rights Day — a reminder of the ongoing work needed to protect dignity and freedom worldwide.

Our **International Human Rights Advocacy Clinic** provides students with hands-on experience in this mission, from creating “Know Your Rights” materials for communities in Eswatini to developing voting rights resources and supporting justice-focused partners.

We are proud of our students who champion equity and elevate underrepresented voices.

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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