

February 13, 2026

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From the Dean

D'Alemberte
& Palmer
Lecture in
International Human Rights



We are pleased to announce that former **Ambassador Mark Brzezinski** will serve as the speaker for the fourth annual **D'Alemberte & Palmer Lecture in International Human Rights**.

Ambassador Brzezinski, who served as U.S. Ambassador to Sweden and Poland, will present "U.S. Embassies as 'Force Multipliers' for Democracy and Human Rights: The Case of Poland 2021-25" on March 12, at 3:30 p.m. at the **Florida State University College of Law**.

We are honored to welcome Ambassador Brzezinski to FSU Law. His distinguished career at the intersection of diplomacy, law, and human rights offers our students and the broader community meaningful opportunities to engage with the complex, real-world challenges of advancing democratic values and protecting human rights globally.

Currently, Ambassador Brzezinski serves as president and CEO of Brzezinski Global Strategies, a geostrategic advisory firm. He previously served as a managing director at Makena Capital Management, where he led sustainability initiatives and advised on environmentally and socially responsible investment strategies.

The D'Alemberte & Palmer Lecture in International Human Rights is made possible through the generosity of Patsy Palmer, Esq., and was established to educate the community about the vital field of international human rights, inspire our students, and contribute to the broader global dialogue on human rights issues. Previous speakers in the series have included Former President of Ireland Mary Robinson (2025), Ambassador David Scheffer, the first U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for War Crimes Issues (2024), and former General Counsel of the U.S. Navy Alberto J. Mora (2023).

The event is free and open to the public and has been approved for 1.0 CLE general credit by the Florida Bar.

I hope you will join us for what promises to be a timely and important discussion.

Read the news articles about the event: [Florida Bar News](#) and [FSU News](#).

RSVP

Dean Erin O'Connor

FSU Law Events



FSU College of Law recently welcomed members of the Florida Supreme Court to the D'Alemberte Rotunda for coffee and conversation with students, focusing on career paths, public service, and the values that uphold the rule of law.

Hosted by the **Cuban American Bar Association (CABA)**, the event featured Chief Justice Carlos G. Muñoz along with Justices Jamie Grosshans, Jorge Labarga, John Couriel, and Adam Tannenbaum.

During the discussion and student Q&A, the justices shared personal reflections on their professional journeys — many of which included nontraditional paths to the bench — and offered practical advice to students considering careers in public service and the judiciary. The conversation also addressed emerging challenges facing the legal profession, including technological change and maintaining public trust in legal institutions.

The event concluded with a guided tour of the Florida Supreme Court, providing students with a unique, firsthand look at Florida's highest court and an opportunity to further connect classroom learning with the realities of judicial service.



(L-R) Jessica Dworkin, Assistant Dean of FSU Law Admissions and author Gregory S. Gordon.

FSU College of Law recently hosted an evening with **Gregory S. Gordon**, Professor of Law at Peking University School of Transnational Law and former U.S. Department of Justice prosecutor, as he launched the North American tour for his new book, **Nuremberg's Citizen Prosecutor: Benjamin Ferencz and the Birth of International Justice**.

Professor Gordon, a former U.S. Department of Justice "Nazi hunter" and prosecutor in cases related to the Rwandan genocide, shared insights from his research on Benjamin Ferencz, the last surviving Nuremberg prosecutor and a pivotal figure in the development of modern international criminal law.

Co-sponsored by **HERC (the Holocaust Education Resource Council)** and the **Stoops Center for Law & Business**, the event highlighted previously lesser-known aspects of Ferencz's work at Nuremberg, including his role in the prosecution of Adolf Eichmann and his intellectual exchanges with political theorist Hannah Arendt.

The discussion offered attendees a powerful reflection on justice, accountability, and resilience, underscoring the enduring relevance of international legal institutions in confronting atrocities and defending human dignity.

FSU Law Faculty News



Professor Michael Morley, the Sheila M. McDevitt Professor of Law and Faculty Director of the **Election Law Center**, was featured in the History Channel's story, **"Why Do States Run Federal Elections?"**

In the article, Professor Morley explains that the Elections Clause of the U.S. Constitution grants states primary authority to determine the rules governing congressional elections. The U.S. Supreme Court has interpreted the clause as giving the states the authority to enact comprehensive election laws. Congress has the authority to step in and either replace rules that it doesn't like or create rules governing issues that the state has failed to regulate.

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

Professor Morley also appeared on WHYY's Studio 2 podcast in the episode **"President Trump's push to 'nationalize' elections."** He joined a panel of experts to discuss recent proposals and controversies around federal leadership over election processes, the constitutional role of states in administering elections, and implications for election integrity amid ongoing political debate.

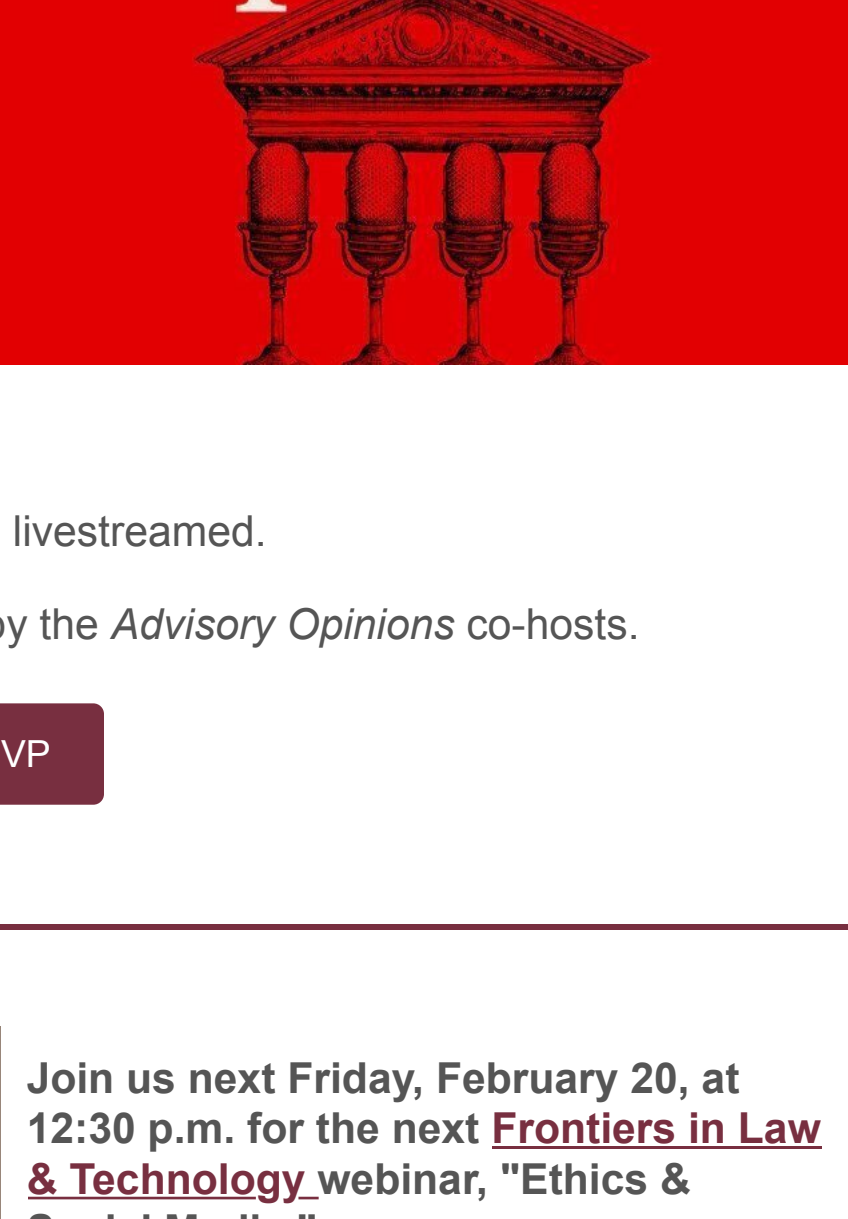
In both appearances, Professor Morley provided measured legal analysis on how election law structures and constrains governmental action.

[Click here](#) to listen to the full podcast.

Upcoming FSU Law Events

The **First Amendment Clinic and Institute for Governance & Civics** will host a live recording of **Advisory Opinions**, one of America's most popular legal podcasts, on **February 23**, at 11 a.m. in **MCB 101**.

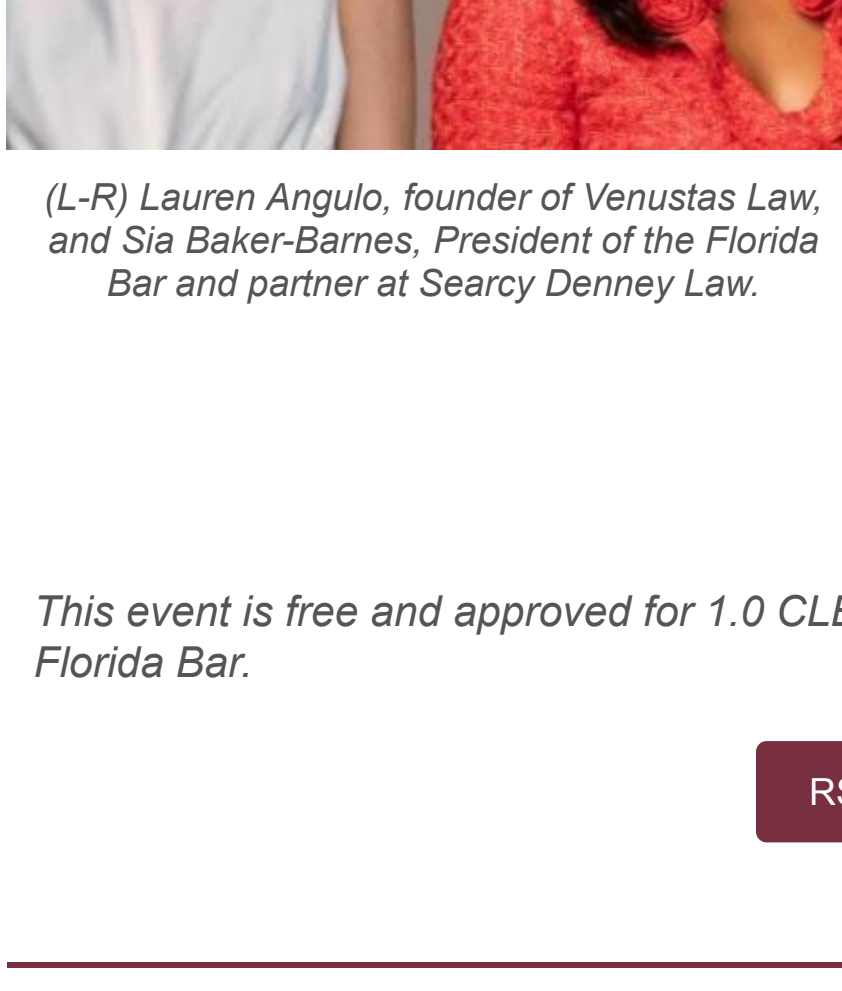
The thought-provoking and pithy podcast co-hosts, **Sarah Isgur** and **David French**, will discuss complex cases, legal issues, the courts, their collision with politics, and why it all matters. The event features a live podcast discussion followed by an audience Q&A.



It is free, open to the public, and will also be livestreamed.

Watch a short [promotional video](#) created by the *Advisory Opinions* co-hosts.

RSVP



(L-R) Lauren Angulo, founder of Venustus Law, and Sia Baker-Barnes, President of the Florida Bar and partner at Searcy Denney Law.

Join us next Friday, **February 20**, at 12:30 p.m. for the next **Frontiers in Law & Technology** webinar, "Ethics & Social Media."

Led by **Sia Baker-Barnes**, president of the Florida Bar and partner at Searcy Denney Law, and **Lauren Angulo**, founder of Venustus Law, the webinar will explore the evolving ethical landscape of how lawyers advertise and engage online.

The session will address issues such as attorney advertising rules, online testimonials and endorsements, sponsored content, personal and professional social media use, and how to avoid missteps in branding, solicitation, and public commentary.

This event is free and approved for 1.0 CLE (including Ethics and Technology) by the Florida Bar.

RSVP

FSU Law Student News

Congratulations to FSU Law Moot Court students **2L Devin DeLuna** and **2L Brayden Tompkins**, who advanced to nationals after a strong showing at the **Lefkowitz Moot Court Competition** in Atlanta.

The team earned **Best Oralist Team** honors and finished **Second Place Overall** at the regional competition. Thank you to their coach, alumnus **Lauren Pettine ('19)**, associate at WVRW Legal, PLLC, for her guidance and support.



(L-R) 2L Devin DeLuna and 2L Brayden Tompkins



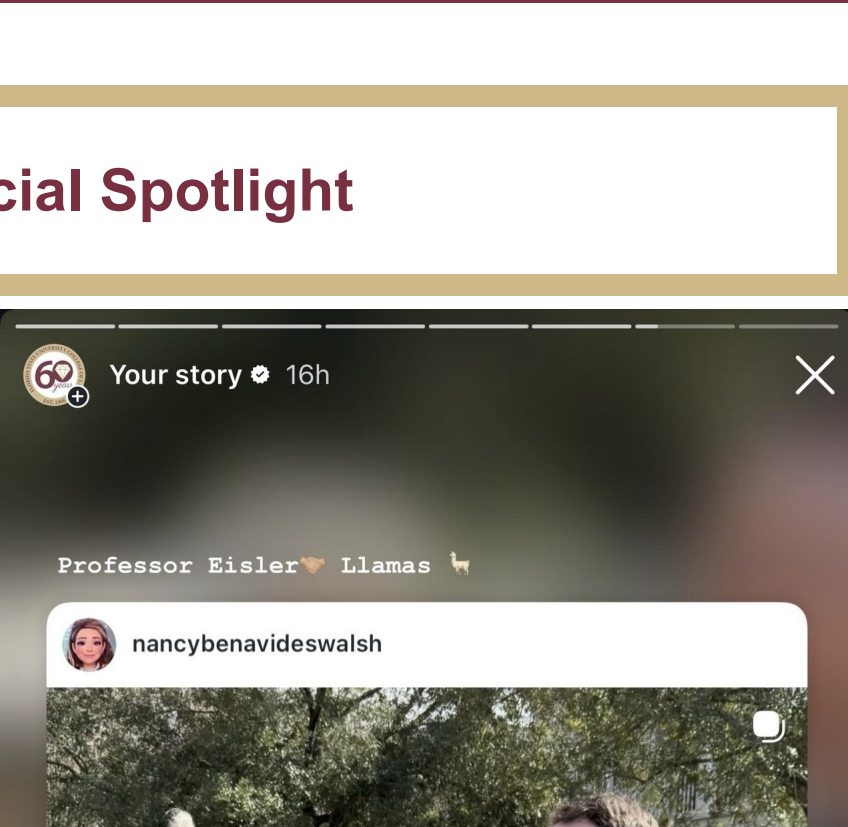
(L-R) Professor Melanie Kalmanson, death penalty exoneree Herman Lindsey, Director of Floridians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty Grace Hanna, and Assistant Public Defender Pete Mills.

This week, FSU Law's **Public Interest Law Students Association (PILSA)** hosted **The Death Penalty on Trial: Voices in Capital Punishment** in partnership with the **National Lawyers Guild** and the **Association for Criminal Justice** student organizations.

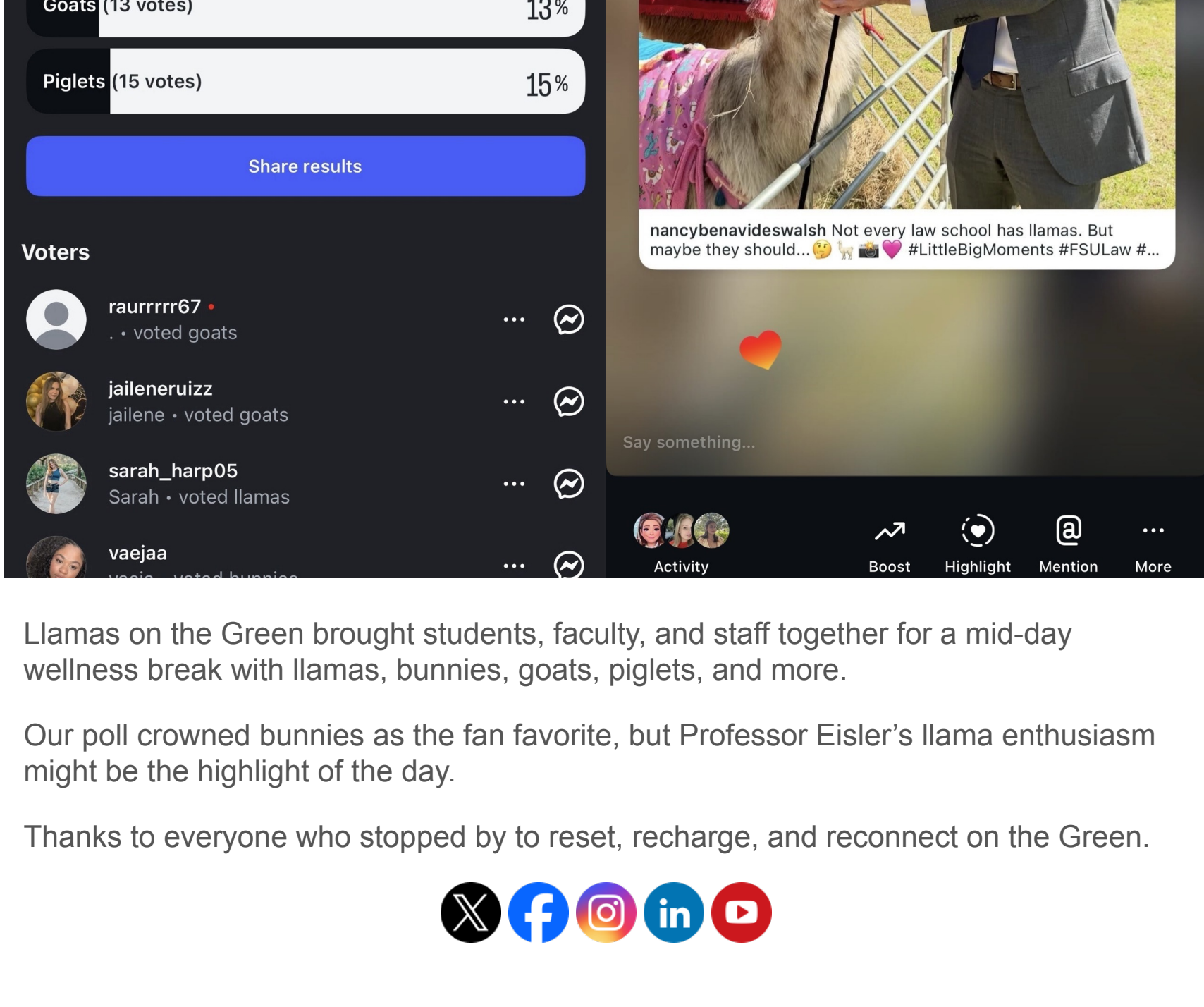
The discussion, moderated by FSU Law alumna and adjunct professor Melanie Kalmanson ('16), brought together a range of perspectives on capital punishment. Speakers included death penalty exoneree Herman Lindsey; Grace Hanna, Director of Floridians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty; and Assistant Public Defender Pete Mills. Together, they explored the legal, ethical, and human dimensions of capital punishment and reflected on its impact within Florida and beyond.

FSU Law **Claude Pepper Elder Law Clinic** students **2L Kit LaPlante** and **3L Connor Catalano** attended a legislative hearing on **SB 198**, a bill aimed at protecting seniors from scams involving virtual currency kiosks.

The students supported the bill alongside volunteer attorneys at **AARP Florida**. SB 198 has since received favorable votes in two committees and now moves to the **Rules Committee** for further consideration.



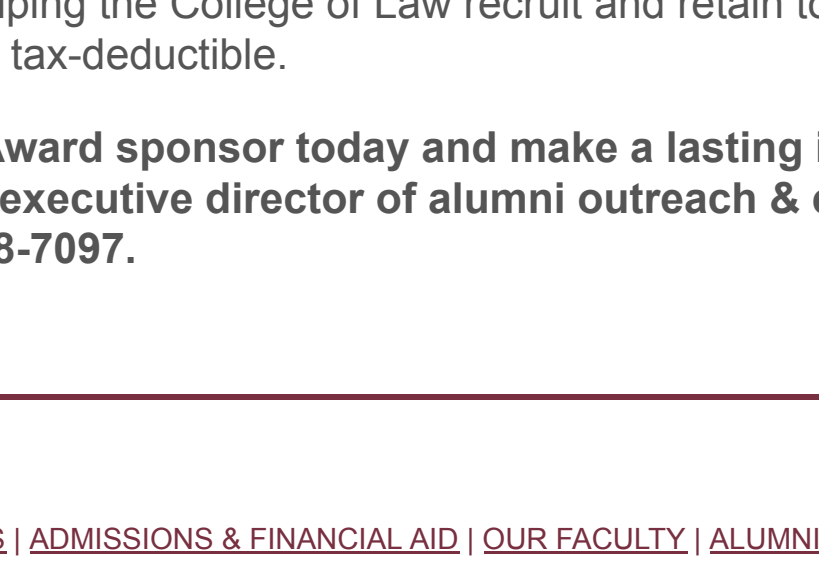
FSU Law Social Spotlight



Llamas on the Green brought students, faculty, and staff together for a mid-day wellness break with llamas, bunnies, goats, piglets, and more.

Our poll crowned bunnies as the fan favorite, but Professor Eisler's llama enthusiasm might be the highlight of the day.

Thanks to everyone who stopped by to reset, recharge, and reconnect on the Green.



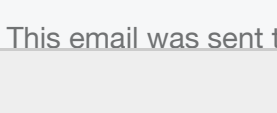
Support the next generation of lawyers through the **FSU Law Book Award Program**. Sponsors select a course of their choice, and each award recognizes student achievement while helping the College of Law recruit and retain top talent. Contributions are fully tax-deductible.

To become a Book Award sponsor today and make a lasting impact, contact **Becky B. Shepherd**, executive director of alumni outreach & engagement at (850) 644-0231 or (800) 788-7097.

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