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From the Dean



Chief Judge Allen C. Winsor (Center) with Alison DeBeltler, Jennifer Heckman, Debra Henley, and Russell Register (L-R) from the FSU Law Career Services team during his visit.

This week, our College had the honor of welcoming **Chief Judge Allen C. Winsor** as part of FSU Law's **Jurist in Residence Program**.

Judge Winsor currently serves on the **United States District Court for the Northern District of Florida**. Previously, he served as a judge in the Florida First District Court of Appeal. Before that, Judge Winsor served as **Solicitor General of Florida** at the Florida Attorney General's Office.

During his visit, Judge Winsor shared thoughtful insights about his legal journey with students in Professor Landau's **Constitutional Law class**, followed by a lecture on "Writing and Advocacy Before Federal Courts." Afterward, Judge Winsor participated in a lunch discussion with members of the **FSU Law Review**, the FSU Moot Court, and students pursuing judicial clerkships. Later that day, Judge Winsor met with FSU Law students to discuss effective preparation strategies for judicial clerkship interviews.

We are grateful to Judge Winsor for spending the day with our law school community, and to the many judges who have participated in this program over the years. These visits provide our students with invaluable opportunities to engage directly with members of the judiciary and gain a deeper understanding of the responsibilities and impact of serving on the bench.



Erin O'Connor
Dean Erin O'Connor

In Memoriam: Nell Morse



Earlier this month, we learned of the passing of **Nell H. Morse, the wife of the College's second dean, Joshua Morse III**. During Dean Morse's tenure from 1969 to 1978, Mrs. Morse played an important role in fostering a community of warmth among students, faculty, and their families.

In the early days of the College of Law, spouses of male law students formed an organization known as the "**Law Wives**," hosting gatherings, supporting school initiatives, and helping build connections within the young institution.

Mrs. Morse actively participated in these events, welcoming members of the law school community into the Morses' home. Through her hospitality and personal attention, she helped cultivate the College's close-knit spirit, a legacy preserved in scrapbooks and photographs from that era.

She was on the board of the Tallahassee Symphony and a Docent and Chair of the Tours at the Governor's Mansion during the Graham administration. She was also active in the **Law Wives** organization at the Law School and the University Women's Club and was a member of Phi Beta Pi Social Sorority. Mrs. Morse enjoyed the Oleander Garden Club and became a State Life member. She also enjoyed several bridge groups and was a member of the Tallahassee Duplicate Bridge Club.

Though often working behind the scenes, Mrs. Morse's contributions were deeply meaningful and helped shape FSU Law's culture and community. She will be remembered with gratitude for her kindness, warmth, and enduring commitment to the College and its people.

[Click here](#) to read her full obituary.

FSU Law Faculty News



We are pleased to celebrate the recent promotion and tenure approvals of several esteemed members of our faculty. Please join us in congratulating Professors **Nadia Banteka**, the Gary & Salliy Pajic Professor of Law; **Jacob Eisler**, the James Edmund and Margaret Elizabeth Hennessey Cory Professor of Law; and **Henry Wang**, the Mason Ladd Professor of Law, who have each been awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor. **Professor Michael Morley**, the Sheila M. McDevitt Professor of Law and Faculty Director of the Election Law Center, was promoted to Full Professor.

This well-deserved recognition reflects their outstanding scholarship, dedication to teaching, and meaningful service to the College of Law and the broader legal community. Congratulations to each of them on this significant achievement.

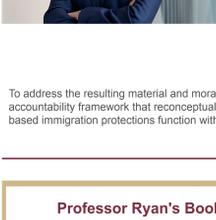
Professor Richard M. Benham, Director of the Business Law Clinic, was recently quoted in an FSUView article, "**Business Law Clinic provides legal advice for student entrepreneurs**."

The article discussed the common challenges student entrepreneurs face in newly formed businesses, including negotiation, entity formation, and intellectual property protection.



Through the **Jim Moran College of Entrepreneurship**, in partnership with the FSU College of Law, FSU students can receive free legal assistance from the **Business Law Clinic**. The clinic provides structured support in selecting forms, negotiating intellectual property agreements, and navigating contracts.

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

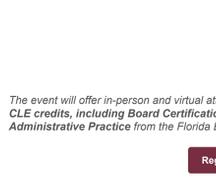


Congratulations to **Erika Nyborg-Burch, Assistant Professor**, on the forthcoming publication of her article, "**Protection as Punishment: Immigrant Victim Relief in the Crimmigration State**," in the 115th volume of the *California Law Review*.

The article examines a structural paradox within U.S. immigration law. While statutory protections for immigrant victims of violence are designed to address noncitizens' vulnerability to private harm, the increasing criminalization of migration often limits access to these protections and can produce parallel forms of state harm.

To address the resulting material and moral injuries, the article proposes an accountability framework that reconceptualizes safety and reexamines how victim-based immigration protections function within the broader enforcement system.

Professor Ryan's Book Talk: Law for the Land



Join us on **Wednesday, March 11, at 3:30 p.m.** for **Professor Erin Ryan's** new book launch, **Law for the Land: The Public Trust Doctrine, Mono Lake, and a Quiet Revolution in Environmental Law**.

Erin Ryan, Associate Dean for Environmental Programs and Elizabeth C. & Clyde W. Atkinson Professor, will share insights on her latest book publication, alongside guest speakers **Professor Alexandra Klass**, the James G. Degnan Professor of Law and Co-director, Environmental and Energy Law Program at the University of Michigan, and **Geoff McQuiken**, Executive Director of the Mono Lake Committee.

The event will offer in-person and virtual attendance options and is approved for **1.5 CLE credits, including Board Certification for State & Federal Government & Administrative Practice** from the Florida Bar.

[Register](#)

Past FSU Law Events



Last week, the **Career Services Office** hosted attorneys from **Holland & Knight** for a special on-campus luncheon.

The event provided students with the opportunity to engage directly with experienced practitioners and gain practical insight into the realities of corporate law practice.

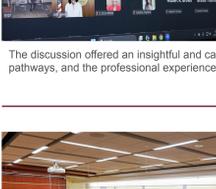
During the discussion, the attorneys shared reflections on their careers, offered professional advice, and provided candid guidance for students interested in pursuing careers in corporate law.

As part of our College's **Faculty Enrichment Speaker Series**, we were honored to host **Jennifer M. Chacón**, the Bruce Tyson Mitchell Professor of Law at Stanford, last Thursday, February 26, for a presentation of her paper, "**The Law of the Immigration Raid**."

Members of the FSU Law faculty convened to engage with her examination of the legal frameworks governing immigration raids and the significant constitutional questions they raise.



FSU Law Student Events & News



FSU's **Black Law Students Association (BLSA)**, in partnership with the **Tallahassee Barristers Association**, recently hosted a powerful and engaging virtual Judicial Roundtable Discussion.

The event featured the Honorable **Judge Embry Kidd**, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, and the Honorable **Judge Julie Sneed** of the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida.

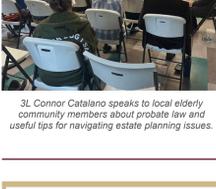
The discussion offered an insightful and candid look at the judiciary, judicial career pathways, and the professional experiences that shaped each judge's career.



(L-R) Solicitors General Eric Wessan, Jeffrey DeSousa, and Christian Corrigan speak to students.

Last week, the student-run organization the **Federalist Society** welcomed the Solicitors General from Florida, Iowa, and Montana for a distinguished discussion on the work of State Solicitors General and the cases advancing toward the Supreme Court.

Solicitors General **Eric Wessan** of Iowa and **Jeffrey DeSousa** of Florida joined **Christian Corrigan** of Montana, principal legal advisor to the Montana Attorney General, for a thoughtful discussion on state appellate advocacy at the highest levels.



3L Connor Catalano speaks to local elderly community members about probate law and useful tips for navigating estate planning issues.

As part of the **Elder Law Clinic's** community outreach initiatives this semester, **3L Connor Catalano** represented FSU Law at a local educational program devoted to probate law and practical guidance on estate planning.

During the presentation, he provided clear and accessible insight into the probate process, highlighted common challenges families may face, and outlined proactive measures individuals can take to better prepare their estates.

Student Feature: 3L Samantha Joles

Desired Practice Location: Tampa Bay
Expected Graduation: May 2026
Field of Law Sought: Personal Injury, Bankruptcy Law, Criminal Defense, and Family Law.

A native of Wesley Chapel, Florida, Samantha is a proud double Seminole and graduated *summa cum laude* with a dual degree in Psychology and Criminology before continuing her legal education at FSU Law.



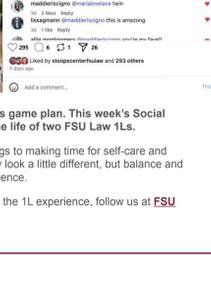
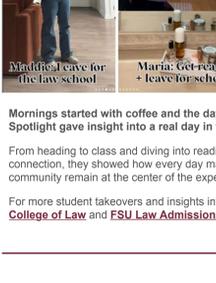
At the College of Law, Joles has combined her passion for advocacy with her love for animals through extensive work in animal law. She earned book awards in both animal law courses, completed significant pro bono work, and served as President of the **Student Animal Legal Defense Fund** from 2024-2025. She currently serves as a lobbyist for the **Animal Law Section of The Florida Bar**, speaking at committee meetings on legislation impacting animal welfare. Outside the classroom, she is the owner and director of **Feline Fine Animal Rescue**, a nonprofit organization that partners with local shelters to save cats at risk of euthanasia and has successfully rescued and adopted out 174 cats and kittens.

Joles has gained broad legal experience through roles with the **FSU Law Bankruptcy Clinic**, the **FSU Law International Human Rights Clinic**, the **Second Circuit Public Defender's Office**, **Gullday Law**, and **Libenhaus, Hesser**, working on matters ranging from bankruptcy and criminal defense to environmental and family law.

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

"Law school is a test of endurance, not one of intelligence."

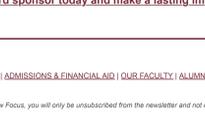
Social Media Spotlight



Mornings started with coffee and the day's game plan. This week's Social Spotlight gave insight into a real day in the life of two FSU Law 1Ls.

From heading to class and diving into readings to making time for self-care and connection, they showed how every day may look a little different, but balance and community remain at the center of the experience.

For more student takeovers and insights into the 1L experience, follow us at **FSU College of Law** and **FSU Law Admissions**.



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.

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