



April 24, 2026

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From the Dean



Last week, the **FSU Election Law Center** hosted its **Spring 2026 Conference in Washington, D.C.** The event brought together the nation's leading scholars, policymakers, litigators, election administrators, and regulators to examine the most pressing legal and policy issues shaping elections in the United States.

Throughout the two-day conference, participants engaged in wide-ranging discussions on election administration, voting rights, emerging litigation trends, and the evolving role of state and federal oversight in our democratic processes. The depth of expertise represented at the conference fostered meaningful dialogue that bridges theory and practice, offering both critical analysis and practical insights at a pivotal moment for our nation's electoral system.

Thank you to our attendees and speakers for their participation and contributions to the success of this event.

[Click here](#) to browse photos.



Erin O'Connor
Dean Erin O'Connor

FSU Law PILC Awards



(L-R) Top Row: 1. Hannah Ajo, 2. Emma Burns, 3. Adam McNeil, 4. Emma Chapman, and 5. Julia Wills; Middle Row: 6. Molly Kenney, 7. Sofia Higgins, 8. Krista Marocco, 9. Haven Branca, 10. Emma Smith, 11. Anavella Smith, 12. Danielle Culum; Bottom Row: 13. Aid LaPelle, 14. Sara Boker, 15. Jessica Featherston, and 16. Elliot Weier.

The **Public Interest Law Center (PILC)** recently hosted its **End-of-Year Celebration**, gathering students, faculty, and staff to reflect on a year of impactful work and service to vulnerable populations. The event highlighted the many accomplishments of PILC's clinics, showcasing the **meaningful contributions students have made through advocacy, direct representation, and community engagement.**

Attendees also took time to recognize outstanding students for their hard work, dedication, and commitment to public interest law. The celebration served as a fitting close to the academic year, honoring both the clinics' achievements and the students who make this work possible.

FSU Law News



Alumnus and former Florida Public Service Commissioner **Andrew Giles Fay ('10)**, currently Of Counsel at **Greenberg Traurig's Tallahassee office**, recently wrote an article for the *Florida Bar* titled, **"More Than Rankings: What Erin O'Connor Gave to FSU Law."**

In the piece, Fay highlights Dean Erin O'Hara O'Connor's decade of leadership, noting that while the College's rise in national rankings is significant, her lasting impact is better measured through the culture she fostered, the opportunities she expanded, and the strength of the FSU Law community she helped shape.

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

"She also deepened the law school's connection to the broader community. The expansion of clinical programs during her tenure was not simply about adding offerings. It was about ensuring that students could engage meaningfully with real-world problems while serving those who need it most."

FSU Law Faculty News



Henry Zhuohao Wang, the Mason Ladd Professor of Law, has been selected as a recipient of the **2025-26 Florida State University Teaching Award for Outstanding Graduate Teaching.**

Chosen by a committee of faculty and students, the award recognizes excellence in teaching and a strong commitment to student learning.

FSU Law Events



The **Florida State University Law Review** hosted its **52nd Annual Banquet** on April 15, 2026, celebrating another successful year of scholarship, leadership, and community. The evening welcomed newly elected Chief Justice John Courtiel of the Florida Supreme Court as the keynote speaker, where he shared thoughtful remarks and insights with members and guests.

3L Jack Rowan, Editor-in-Chief of Volume 53, led the evening by reflecting on the journal's accomplishments, recognizing the dedication and service of the outgoing board, and welcoming the incoming Volume 54 board. **2L Aidan Browne**, incoming Editor-in-Chief of Volume 54, also delivered remarks as he welcomed the new board and looked ahead to the future of the journal.

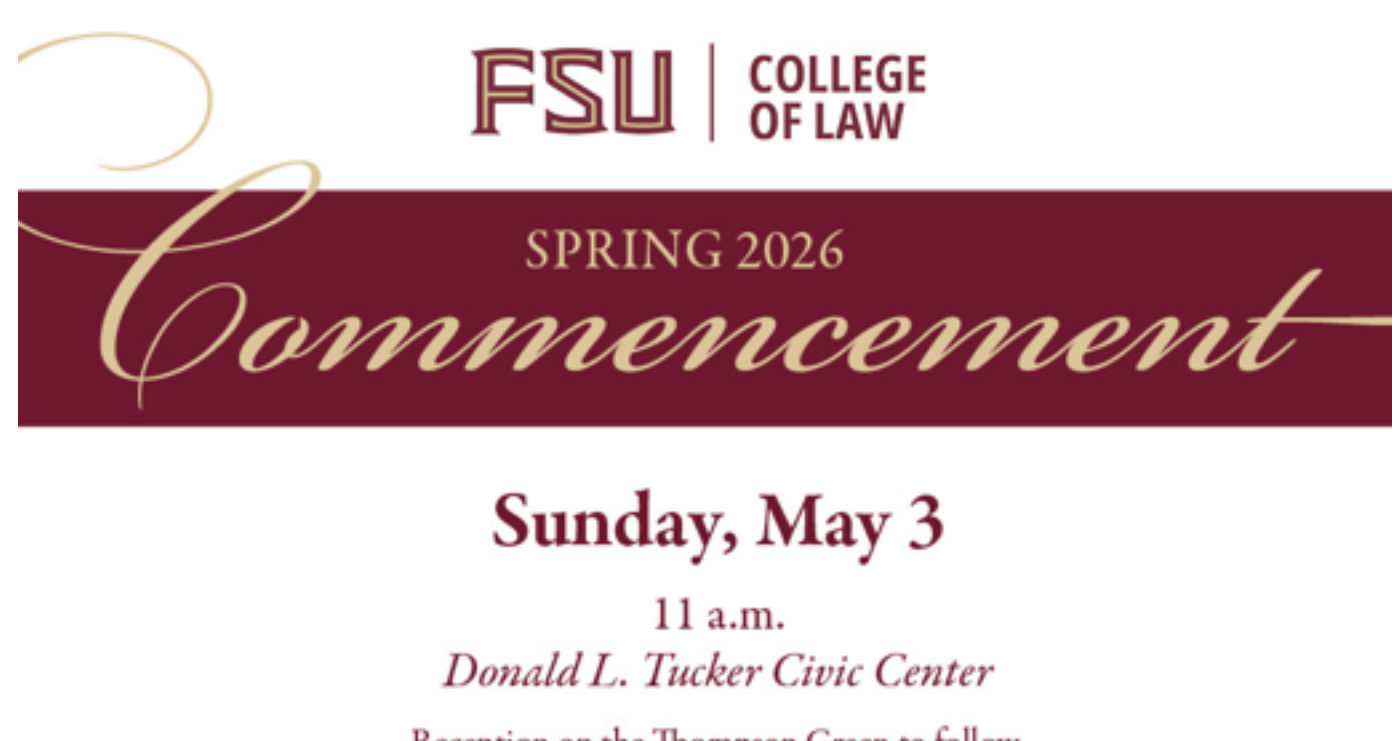
The banquet also honored graduating Staff Editors and Board Members for their contributions to the Law Review and recognized 2L award recipients **Haven Branca**, **Nicola Strouse**, and **Eden Punch** for their outstanding work and commitment to the journal. The event served as a meaningful celebration of the achievements of the Law Review and its members, while looking ahead to the continued success of the journal.



The College of Law recently welcomed **Stephen Rushin**, the Associate Dean for Faculty Research and Development and the Judge Hubert Louis Will Professor of Law at Loyola University Chicago, as part of its **Faculty Enrichment Speaker Series.**

During his visit, Professor Rushin presented his forthcoming scholarship, **"State Regulation of Federal Police,"** offering faculty the opportunity to engage directly with his research and insights.

Professor Rushin is a nationally recognized scholar in criminal law, policing, and constitutional law, with his work widely published in leading law reviews such as *Stanford Law Review*, *the University of Pennsylvania Law Review*, *Cornell Law Review*, *Duke Law Journal*, *California Law*, *Texas Law Review*, and the *Vanderbilt Law Review*.



Join us for the **Spring 2026 Commencement Ceremony**, which will take place at **11 a.m. on May 3, 2026**, at the Donald L. Tucker Civic Center, with a reception on the Thompson Green.

[Livesream](#)

FSU Law Student News



Last week, the **Italian American Law Student Association**, the **Law School Council**, and the **Student Bar Association** hosted a student-focused wellness event that offered fellow students a break from studying.

Held on the Thompson Green, the event featured food, games, and time to connect as students stepped away from their academic schedules.



Congratulations to our FSU Law students who competed and won the **2026 Spring FSU Intramural Recreational Soccer Championship.**

The team included students from all years, reflecting the strong sense of community across the College.

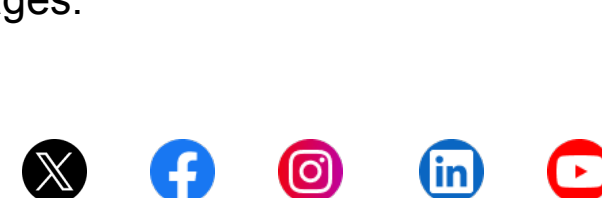
(L-R) 3L Jonathan Higgins-Riviera, 3L Adam Lanzetta, 3L Jesse Barron, 3L Madison McFadden, 3L Ethan Goodman, 3L Amber Hoehner, 3L Gary Ruffenbrenner, 3L Angelica Martinez, 3L Sara Boker, 2L Carson Joseph, 3L Sofia Higgins, 1L Myles Green, 2L Andrew Clines, and 1L Eric Douvan.

FSU Law Social Media



This week, we wished our FSU Law students success and confidence during final exams.

We invite our community to visit our social pages to wish our students good luck and share encouraging messages.



FSU College of Law has produced a **60-Year Commemorative Coin** to recognize participation in supporting the law school during its 60th year anniversary.

Alumni can earn a 60-Year Commemorative Coin by Donating \$250+ AND joining and engaging on FSU Law Connect, OR attending an in-person Alumni Event. These actions must be taken **between January 1 and December 31, 2026** to be eligible for the coin.

[Find Details on Eligibility Requirements for FSU Law's 60-Year Coin.](#)

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