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From the Dean



Next Thursday, Oct. 22, we will welcome scholars, attorneys and advocates to FSU Law for **"Free Speech in the Age of AI,"** a symposium we are pleased to co-host with the **First Amendment Foundation**.

As government agencies use artificial intelligence to conduct surveillance, make decisions and communicate with the public, questions about transparency and constitutional protections become increasingly important. How can people learn when and how their government is using AI? What protections apply when those uses affect their rights? And how should the law respond as the technology evolves?

Our afternoon program will explore these questions through three panel discussions addressing facial recognition technology at protests and public demonstrations, access to records about government AI systems, and legal remedies when automated decisions infringe on constitutional rights. Our faculty colleagues will join visiting speakers, including representatives from the Freedom of the Press Foundation and the Florida Center for Government Accountability, to examine how existing law applies and where questions remain unresolved.

These discussions give our students and the broader community a chance to consider different perspectives on issues that affect our ability to speak freely, participate in public life and hold government accountable. I am grateful to First Amendment Foundation President Bob Shaw and his team for their partnership in bringing this program to FSU Law.

I hope you will join us from 1:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. in the Main Classroom Building, Room 101. In-person attendance is free, and a paid virtual option is available for those unable to join us on campus. **CLE credit is available.**

[View the program and registration information.](#)


Dean Erin O'Connor

FSU Law Homecoming Parade



Join FSU Law in the **Homecoming Parade on Friday, Nov. 20, at 5:30 p.m.** Alumni, students, faculty, staff, families and friends of the legal community are invited to walk together and show their Seminole pride. Special FSU Law signs will be available for participants to carry.

Participants should gather on the front steps of the Main Classroom Building at 5 p.m. We will then walk together to our assigned lineup location before the parade begins.

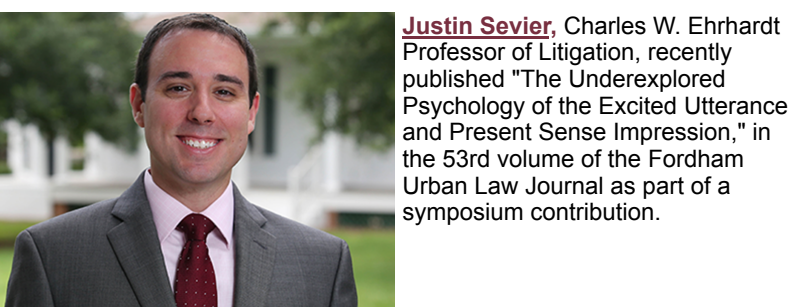
The parade will proceed down Macomb Street to Doak Campbell Stadium, featuring the Marching Chiefs, cheerleaders and groups from across the university, with decorated floats and golf carts. In celebration of FSU's 175th anniversary, this year's festivities will include an extended parade route, a free concert and a carnival for the FSU and Tallahassee communities.

We hope you will help us celebrate.

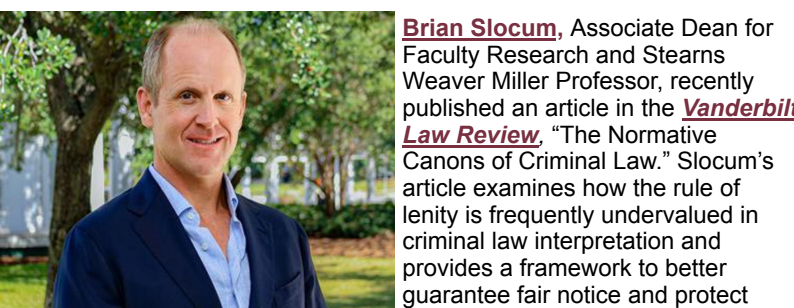
FSU Law Faculty News



Jake Linford, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Louis Fuller & Dan Myers Professor, participated in the **17th Annual Trademark Scholars Roundtable** with other legal scholars from the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, and New Zealand. The event was hosted by the New Zealand Centre for Intellectual Property at the **University of Auckland Law School** in Auckland, New Zealand.

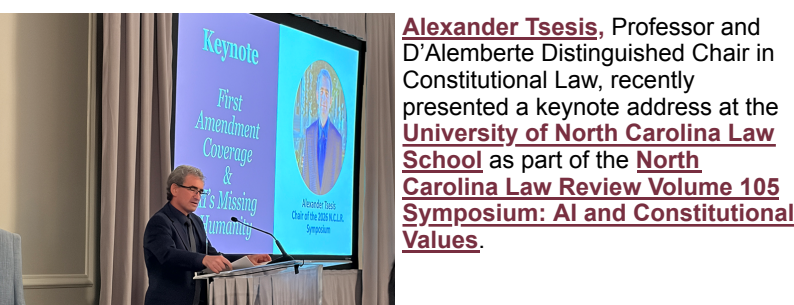


Justin Sevier, Charles W. Ehrhardt Professor of Litigation, recently published "The Underexplored Psychology of the Excluded Utterance and Present Sense Impression" in the 53rd volume of the *Fordham Urban Law Journal* as part of a symposium contribution.



Brian Slocum, Associate Dean for Faculty Research and Stearns Weaver Miller Professor, recently published an article in the *Yanlord Law Review*, "The Normative Canons of Criminal Law." Slocum's article examines how the rule of lenity is frequently undervalued in criminal law interpretation and provides a framework to better guarantee fair notice and protect individual liberties.

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

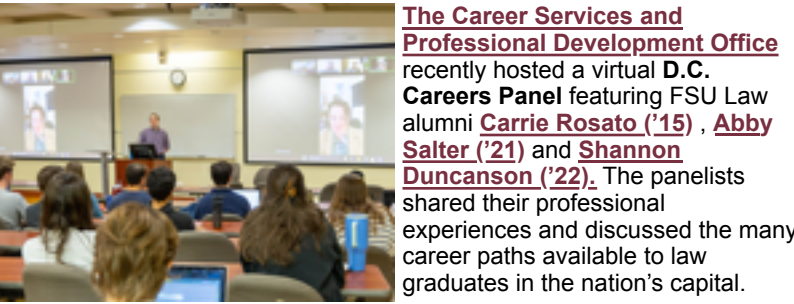


Alexander Tsellis, Professor and O'Leary Distinguished Chair in Constitutional Law, recently presented a keynote address at the **University of North Carolina Law School** as part of the **North Carolina Law Review Volume 105 Symposium: AI and Constitutional Values**.

FSU Law Event Recap



Last week, the **Office of Student Advancement** hosted its annual **Wellness Tailgate** in the **O'Leary Rotunda**. The event brought together partners from across the law school and FSU to connect students with wellness resources, activities and support.



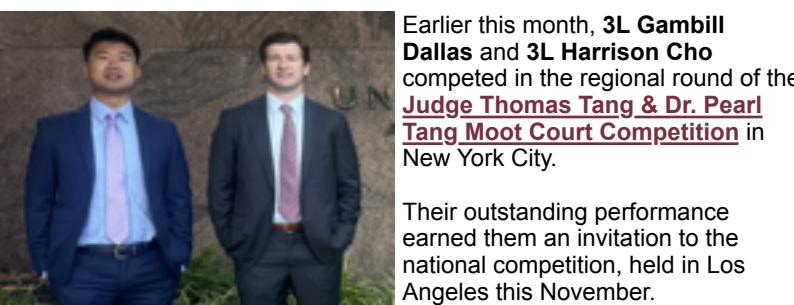
The **Career Services and Professional Development Office** recently hosted a virtual **D.C. Careers Panel** featuring FSU Law alumni **Corra Bosato (15)**, **Abby Sailer (21)** and **Shannon Burckhardt (23)**. The panelists shared their professional experiences and discussed the many career paths available to law graduates in the nation's capital.

The discussion explored opportunities with federal agencies, government offices, law firms and corporations. Students gained insight into the application and hiring process, the value of federal clerkships and the importance of building professional relationships.



The **Environmental, Energy and Land Use Law Program** recently hosted its annual **Environmental Certificate and Program Luncheon**, giving students a chance to learn about the certificate program and connect with faculty. Professors shared what students can expect from their courses and discussed how the skills and knowledge they develop can support their work in law school and future practice.

FSU Law Student News



Earlier this month, **3L Gambill Dallas** and **3L Harrison Cho** competed in the regional round of the **Judge Thomas Tang & Dr. Pearl Tang Moot Court Competition** in New York City.

Their outstanding performance earned them an invitation to the national competition, held in Los Angeles this November.

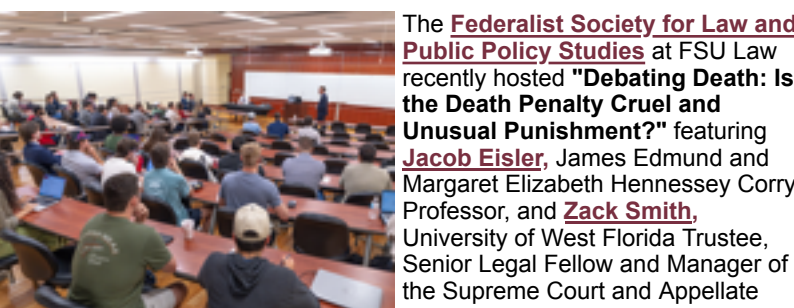
(L-R: 3L Harrison Cho and 3L Gambill Dallas.)

FSU Law alumni and former Moot Court team members **Michael Kanay (19)** and **Ben Taylor (19)** coached the team, dedicating their time and expertise to helping the students prepare. Congratulations to Gambill and Harrison, and thank you to their coaches for their guidance and support!



The **Business Law Society** recently held an **Ask the Experts: Business Law Q&A** event with Professors **Shawn Bayern** and **Justin Sevier**.

The conversation gave law students a closer look at the work Business Law attorneys do, what to expect in this area of practice, and which courses can help prepare them for success. Hearing directly from faculty and fellow students offered a valuable perspective as our students consider their career paths and prepare to enter the profession.



The **Federalist Society for Law and Public Policy Studies** at FSU Law recently hosted "Debating Death: Is the Death Penalty Cruel and Unusual Punishment?" featuring **Jacob Elster**, James Edmund and **Margaret Elizabeth Hennessy**, **Cory Professor**, and **Zack Smith**, **University of West Florida Trustee**, **Senior Legal Fellow and Manager of the Supreme Court and Appellate Advocacy Program** in the Edwin Meese III Center for Legal and Judicial Studies at The Heritage Foundation, and **Constitutional Liberty Fellow** at the Institute for Governance and Civics.

The discussion explored the Eighth Amendment's prohibition on cruel and unusual punishment, the U.S. Supreme Court's interpretation of constitutional limits on capital punishment and differing state standards for determining which crimes warrant a death sentence. A question-and-answer session gave students a chance to examine the speakers' competing legal and philosophical perspectives.

FSU Law Social Spotlight



Applications are now open for the Summer 2027 FSU Law Oxford Program!

In our latest reel, we highlight the unique opportunity for students to study law abroad while experiencing the historic halls and rich culture of one of England's most iconic university cities.

Watch the reel on Instagram to get a glimpse of the Oxford experience.



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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