



FSU LAW FOCUS

August 28, 2026

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From the Dean



Excitement is in the air as the Fall 2026 semester officially begins, marking the final semester of our 60th anniversary year. This week, our campus buzzed with energy as our students returned. We are delighted to welcome back our 2Ls and 3Ls, along with [116 new 1Ls](#), 18 LL.M. students, and 29 transfer students.

A new semester is a time to embrace new opportunities, discover fresh perspectives, set goals, and prepare for the challenges ahead. As we continue celebrating 60 years of FSU Law, it is also an opportunity to reflect on the generations of students, faculty, staff, and alumni who have shaped our law school and the legacy our current community continues to build.

I encourage you to visit our [FSU Law 60th anniversary website](#), where you can explore the history of the law school through photos and an interactive timeline, learn about upcoming anniversary events, and order commemorative FSU Law merchandise.

We look forward to all that this semester will bring and to sharing the continued accomplishments of our students, faculty, and alumni throughout the year.

[Click here](#) to see photos from the **FSU Law at 60: Through the Decades Party**.

Read about our incoming class from [Above the Law, Florida Politics](#), and [Florida State University News](#).



Dean Erin O'Connor

FSU Law Faculty News

Nadia Banteka, Gary & Sallyn Pajic Professor of Law, was recently published in [The Yale Law Journal](#) with an article titled **"Cross-Sovereign Policing and the Constitutional Crisis of Accountability."** The article identifies a consequential but largely overlooked transformation in American policing. As federal, state, and local officers increasingly exercise overlapping authority, responsibility for misconduct becomes harder to assign, creating structural gaps in legal remedies and oversight.

In response, the article develops an "accountability federalism" framework to restore legal responsibility and democratic control across sovereign lines.

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

Shawn Bayron, Associate Dean for Technology and Larry & Joyce Beltz Professor of Torts, recently had his article featured on the cover of the journal [Laws](#). His article, **"Autonomous Organizations and the Decline of Anthropocentric Law,"** examines the legal and technological developments that have enabled nonhuman systems, such as artificial intelligence, to take actions with significant consequences under private law.

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

Michael Morley, Sheila M. McDevitt Professor of Law and Faculty Director of the Election Law Center, was recently published in [AFP Fact Check](#) with an article titled **"Differences between California and Florida voting laws are not evidence of fraud."** In the article, Professor Morley emphasizes the importance of a balanced election system.

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

FSU Law Upcoming Events

Join us virtually on **Tuesday, September 8, at 12:30 p.m.** for an **Enrichment Lecture** featuring **Professor Mark Nevitt** of Emory Law.

Hosted by the **FSU Center for Environmental, Energy, and Land Use Law**, the webinar **"Choke Point: The Law of the Sea and the Strait of Hormuz Crisis"** will examine the legal framework governing one of the world's most critical maritime choke points.

Professor Nevitt brings firsthand experience to the discussion as a former Navy JAG and tactical jet aviator who has transited the Strait aboard aircraft carriers.

[Click here](#) to register.

Join us **Friday, September 11, at 12:30 p.m.** for the first **Frontiers in Law & Technology** webinar of the fall semester. **"Navigating the Patchwork: Designing Agile AI Governance in the U.S. and Global Legal Landscape."**

Experts **Lynice Hannah**, Senior Counsel & COE Lead, Cyber, Privacy, & Technology at Acuity; **Christina Smietke**, Senior Counsel, Artificial Intelligence, Enterprise Technology + Sourcing Transactions at McKesson; and **Ian Hall**, Assistant General Counsel at Beazer Homes, will discuss AI governance, emerging regulatory frameworks, organizational policies, and practical approaches to implementing artificial intelligence responsibly.

[Click here](#) to register.

FSU Law Alumni News

Congratulations to alumnus **Judge David J. Arthmann** (BS), who has been appointed to serve as a judge on Florida's 17th Judicial Circuit Court by Governor Ron DeSantis. Judge Arthmann, a U.S. Navy veteran, currently serves as general counsel for the [Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles](#) in Tallahassee.

He has more than 20 years of service with the State of Florida, with experience at several state agencies before joining the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles. He will bring extensive public service and legal experience to the bench of the [17th Judicial Circuit](#), which serves Broward County.

Meet Your 2026-27 SBA President

Rising 3L Olivia Callari Leads SBA Mission for 2026-27.

Having previously served as SBA Secretary, **Olivia Callari** steps into her role as President with a clear vision for strengthening the connections and opportunities that define life at the law school.

Callari is focused on helping students build relationships, expand their professional networks, engage in service, and pursue meaningful professional development. Her commitment is already reflected in the work of the new SBA board, which has expanded to include positions such as Media Chair, Pro Bono Chair, and Alumni Chair.

[Click here](#) to read the full Q&A.

[Click here](#) to watch the video.

FSU Law Social Spotlight

A new chapter begins at FSU Law!

This week, we captured students on their first day of class, from those beginning law school to 3Ls entering their final year.

Each new semester brings fresh opportunities to learn, grow, connect, and take another step toward what comes next. We're excited to see all that our students will accomplish this year!

Don't forget to follow along as we share more from FSU Law throughout the year.

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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Florida State University
425 W. Jefferson Street, Tallahassee, FL, 32306, US

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