



July 17, 2026

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From the Dean



As our graduates prepare for the **upcoming Bar Exam on July 28-29**, FSU Law's **Bar Support Team** will continue to provide comprehensive resources to help them succeed. Led by Director Jami Ferrell, Deans Nancy Benavides and Laura Dennis, and Professor Cecelia Smith, our **Bar Exam Prep initiative connects graduates with supplemental lectures, simulated exams, individualized tutoring, and wellness support** delivered by experienced attorneys, professors, and former bar graders. We are proud to offer these support systems as indispensable resources for our graduates and encourage you to leave them words of encouragement on our [online message board](#).

[Click here](#) to send your well wishes to our bar takers.

Erin O'Connor
Dean Erin O'Connor

FSU Law Oxford Program



FSU Law students and faculty participating in our 2026 [FSU Summer Program in Law at Oxford](#) have arrived. They spent their first days at Teddy Hall. The six-week program provides our students the opportunity to learn about International and Comparative Law, discover England, and cultivate a sense of community in one of the world's most inspiring places.

Our law students will be enriched by lessons from Oxford Professors [Jeffrey Hackney](#) and [Joanna Bell](#), and FSU Law Professors [Henry Wang](#) and [Courtney Brewer](#).



FSU Law Faculty News



Jake Linford, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Loula Fuller & Dan Myers Professor, was recently featured in an [NPR](#) article titled, **"A Florida airport is officially renamed for Trump. What does he stand to gain?"** The Federal Aviation Administration officially authorized the renaming of the Palm Beach International Airport; however, the airport has stated that ownership and operations will not be affected by the branding change.

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



Professor Erin Ryan, was featured in a [WFSU](#) article titled, **"Amid environmental concerns, some Florida counties are banning AI data centers."** Wakulla and Jackson counties have both recently adopted a new policy on the limits and restrictions for AI data centers, in order to preserve the local springs and seafood population.

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



Michael Morley, Sheila M. McDewitt Professor of Law and Faculty Director of the Election Law Center, was featured in [The Texas Tribune](#) article titled, **"Judge blocks feds from using immigration database to check voter eligibility."** A federal judge blocked the Trump administration's expanded use of the SAVE immigration database for voter-registration checks, finding that it posed privacy risks and could wrongly flag eligible U.S. citizens as noncitizens.

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

Professor Morley was also featured in [The Christian Science Monitor](#) article, **"Trump focuses on proof of citizenship, but other election changes could affect midterms."** In the article, he discusses the recent practice of questioning election legitimacy from both sides of the political aisle.

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

Professor Morley was also featured in a [WTXL Tallahassee](#) article titled, **"League of Women Voters and local news organizations host candidate forums ahead of Florida's primary election."** In partnership with local news organizations, the [League of Women Voters](#) hosted candidate forums in Tallahassee ahead of Florida's primary election to help voters hear directly from candidates and make informed decisions.

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



Ryan Owens, Affiliate Faculty and Director of the Florida Institute for Governance and Civics, published an article for the [Tallahassee Democrat](#) titled, **"Think civics is lost? Ask these middle schoolers at the Civics Bee."** The article explores how Florida's youth participated in the Florida Statewide Finals of the National Civics Bee, hosted by the [Institute for Governance and Civics](#).

Florida middle schoolers wrote essays on real problems in their community, from public transportation to bike safety, and defended their ideas before a panel of judges.

The story was picked up by [WFSU News](#). In further development of the piece, [Florida State University News](#) and [WTXL](#) reported Florida's winner for the State's Civics Bee, Araoluwakitan A., a student from The Voyager School, took home the top prize. Araoluwakitan now heads to the 2026 National Civics Bee in Washington, D.C.

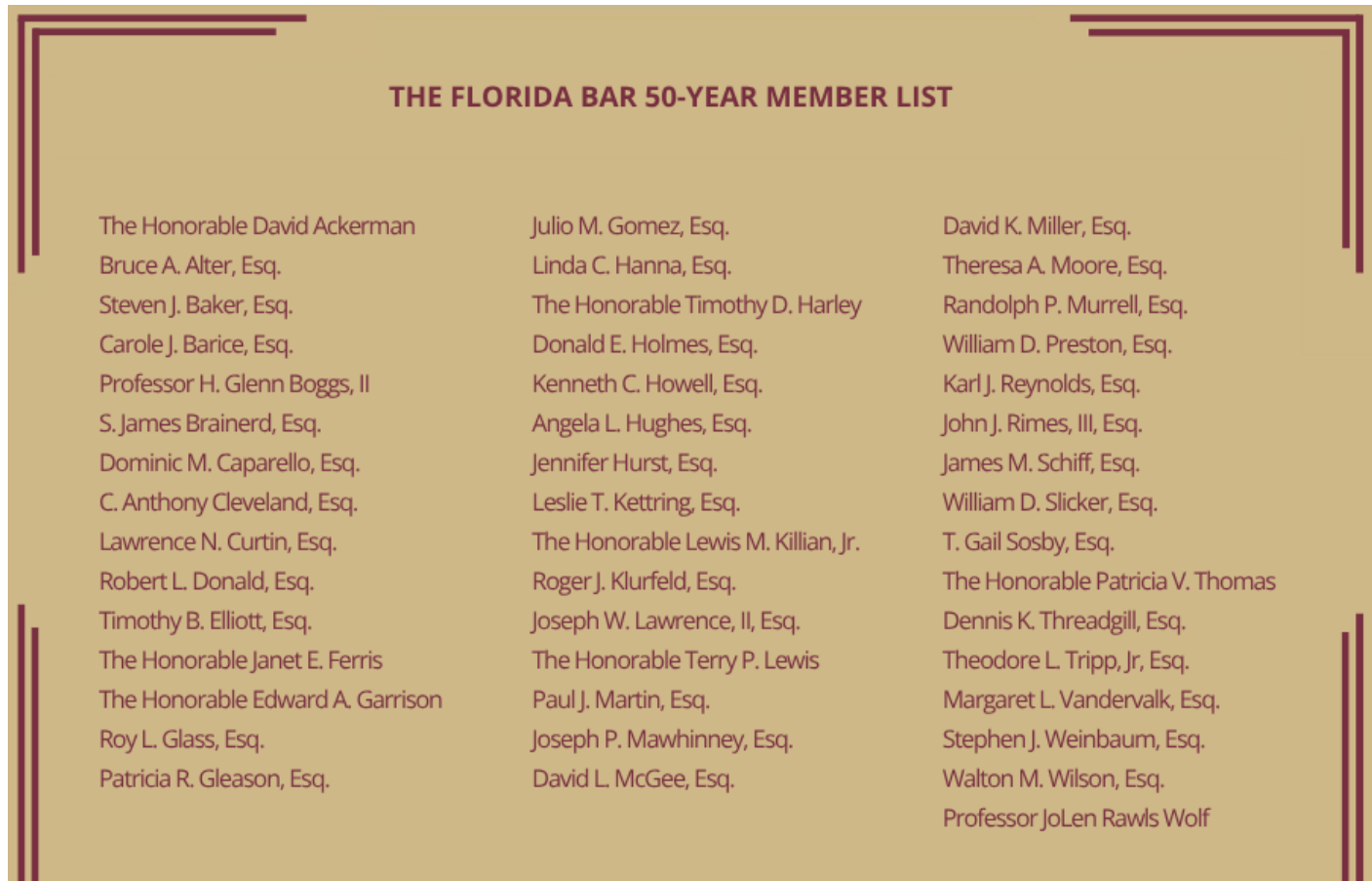
In addition, Professor Owens was featured in an [MSN](#) article titled, **"Trump given 'keys to the kingdom' warns conservative political scientist."** In the piece, he argues that the Supreme Court now needs to revive the nondelegation doctrine.

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

FSU celebrates its 175-year anniversary as the United States marks its own, aligning discussions on how our University has grown alongside this country. In a [Florida State University News](#) article titled **"FSU's 175-year journey along the road to America 250,"** the [Institute for Governance and Civics](#) (IGC) and the [First Amendment Clinic](#), launched by the IGC in partnership with the College of Law, were specifically highlighted.

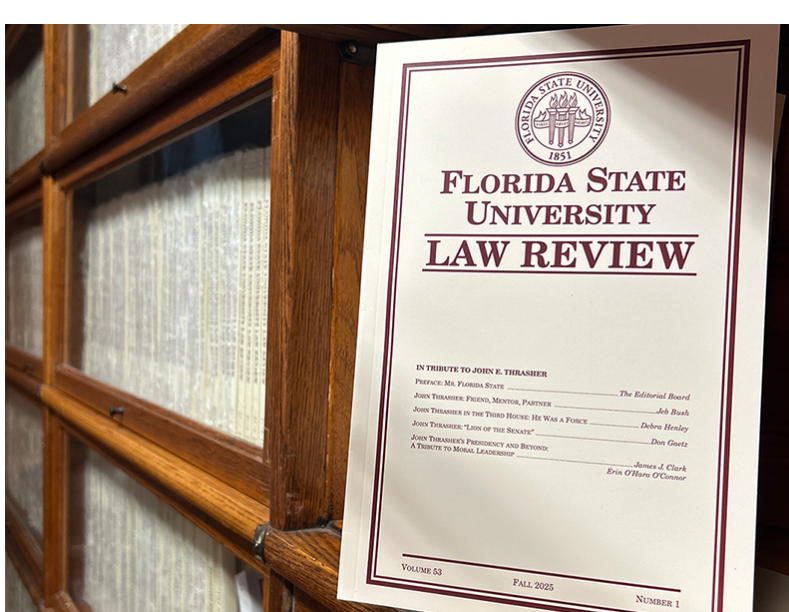
[Click here](#) to read the article.

FSU Law Alumni News



We are proud to share the list of Florida State University College of Law **The Florida Bar 50-Year Member Honorees**. FSU Law celebrates and honors the incredible dedication and service of these distinguished members of our legal community. Congratulations to all!

FSU Law Student News



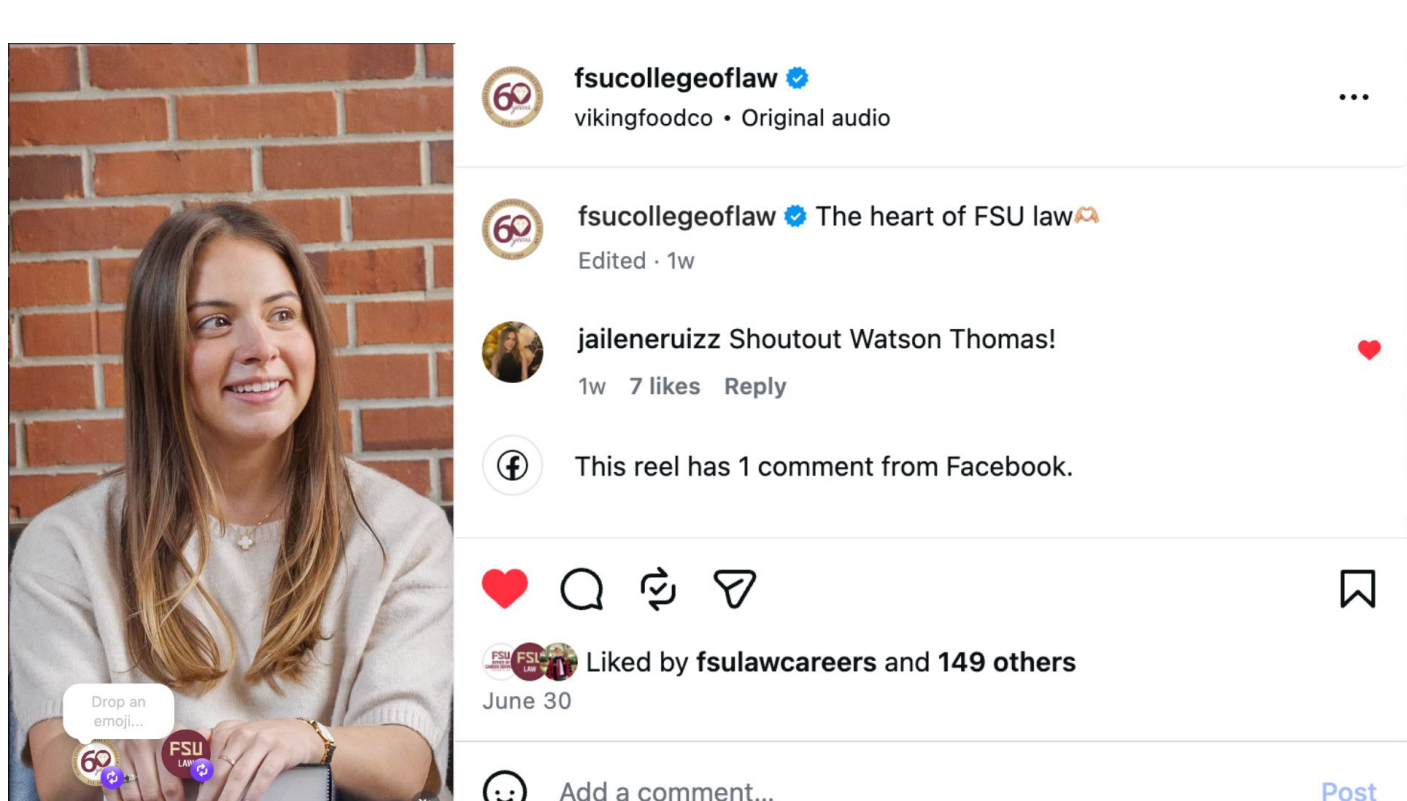
We are proud to share that the [FSU Law Review Volume 53, Issue 1](#) is available digitally and in print.

The latest volume features a special Tribute honoring the life and legacy of former [FSU President John Thrasher](#), highlighting Thrasher's lasting impact on Florida State University, public service, and the legal community.

The collection includes reflections from distinguished leaders, including former [Florida Governor Jeb Bush](#), former [Florida Senate President Don Gaetz](#), [Provost James Clark](#), [Dean Erin O'Hara O'Connor](#), and [Associate Dean Debra Henley](#).

[Click here](#) to read FSU Law Review Volume 53.

FSU Law Social Spotlight



Nothing captures the spirit of FSU Law quite like the smiles of our students. From the first day of class to everyday moments around campus, this post highlights the sense of community that makes FSU Law special. The best memories are the ones shared with a smile.

Follow us for more student highlights, faculty achievements, alumni news, and life at FSU Law.



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 **ANNUAL** 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.](#)