



September 12, 2025

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From the Dean



THE 2025 FSU ELECTION LAW CONFERENCE

We hope you will join us for the **2025 Election Law Conference (ELC)**, beginning today at 12:30 p.m. in the D'Alemberte Rotunda and continuing through Saturday at 12:15 p.m.

The conference brings together leading scholars from across the nation to discuss the practice and theory of election law, focusing on the most urgent issues currently facing American democracy. Over the next two days, we will examine critical issues such as representation, the relationship between democracy and economic factors, fair districting, and the complexities of maintaining trust in the electoral process.

We are honored to host **Nicholas Stephanopoulos**, the Kirkland & Ellis Professor of Law at Harvard Law School, as our keynote speaker.

The conference will also feature distinguished panelists, including:

- **Ashraf Ahmed** – Associate Professor of Law, Columbia Law School
- **Wilfred Codrington III** – Walter Floersheimer Professor of Constitutional Law, Cardozo Law
- **Travis Crum** – Washington University in St. Louis
- **Josh Douglas** – Acting Associate Dean for Research & University Research Professor; Ashland, Inc.– Spears Distinguished Research Professor of Law, University of Kentucky
- **Amanda Driscoll** – Florida State University
- **Jacob Eisler** – James Edmund and Margaret Elizabeth Hennessey Corry Professor of Law, Florida State University
- **Charquia Fegins** – Florida State University
- **Rebecca Green** – Associate Professor of Law, William & Mary Law School
- **Sarah C. Haan** – Sheridan Albert '48 Professor, Brooklyn Law School
- **Yunsieg Kim** – Hofstra University

- **Lori Ringhand** – J. Alton Hosch Professor of Law & Josiah Meigs Distinguished Teaching Professor, University of Georgia
- **Josh Sellers** – University of Texas at Austin
- **Alexander Tsesis** – D'Alemberte Chair in Constitutional Law and Professor of Law, Florida State University

The 2025 ELC at Florida State builds upon the 2024 Election Law Conference at Washington University School of Law. FSU College of Law has a long-standing commitment to this field. Our faculty, including **Professor Michael Morley** and others, along with the **Election Law Center**, have consistently advanced scholarship and fostered meaningful dialogue on elections' legal, political, and social dimensions.

We hope to see you there. **[Click here](#)** for more information and the full schedule.



Dean Erin O'Connor

SCOTUS Preview: Free Speech on the Docket



OUR PANELISTS



Jane Bambauer



Erin Morrow Hawley



Michelle Kallen



Cameron Norris



Mark your calendars for October 2 from 12:30-1:45 p.m. in Room 101 as our **First Amendment Clinic**, in partnership with the **Florida Institute for Governance & Civics**, will host a timely and engaging panel discussion on two of the most closely watched pending free speech cases headed to the U.S. Supreme Court: *Chiles v. Salazar* and *First Choice Women's Resource Centers v. Platkin*.

This distinguished panel will bring together leading constitutional scholars, seasoned legal practitioners, and experienced Supreme Court litigators:

- **Jane Bambauer** – Brechner Eminent Scholar Chair, Levin College of Law, University of Florida
- **Erin Morrow Hawley** – Senior Counsel and Vice President, Center for Life & Regulatory Practice, Alliance Defending Freedom
- **Michelle Kallen** – Partner, Steptoe
- **Cameron Norris** – Consovoy McCarthy PLLC

Panelists will examine the legal and practical stakes of these high-profile cases, their potential to reshape First Amendment doctrine, and their broader implications for government regulation, individual rights, and the future of free expression in America.

For more details or to RSVP, [click here](#).

FSU Law Faculty News



This week, **Professor Denise Harle**, Director of the **[First Amendment Clinic](#)**, was featured on the radio program *Tallahassee Talks with Brien Sörme* in a segment titled *The Big Picture: Collegiate Leadership*. She joined the conversation with **Professor Ryan Owens**, Director of the **[Florida Institute for Governance & Civics](#)**, to discuss leadership and civic engagement in higher education.

[Click here](#) to listen.

Last week, **[Erin Ryan](#)**, Elizabeth C. & Clyde W. Atkinson Professor and Associate Dean for Environmental Programs, participated virtually from China in a Capitol Hill briefing on August 26 on the **[Public Trust Doctrine](#)**, the focus of her forthcoming book.

The event, ***American Coastal Success and the Public Trust Doctrine***, was sponsored by four congressional leaders, including Rep. John Rutherford of Florida's Fifth District, and organized by the Coastal States Organization and the National Sea Grant program.

[Click here](#) to watch the full segment.





The FSU College of Law Alumni Association is proud to announce the recipients of the 2025 Alumni Awards, which recognize graduates and friends of the law school for their outstanding contributions to the profession, the community, and the College of Law.

The awards will be presented virtually on **Tuesday, September 30, from 6-7 p.m.**

This year's honorees are:

- **John Thrasher ('73)** - Distinguished Alum Award (Posthumously)
- **Mike Markham ('88)** - Alumni Association Service Award
- **Nicole Bamberski Hall ('12)** - Everyday Hero Award
- **Judge Stephen Brown ('66)** - Class of '66 Award
- **Pat Gleason ('76)** - Exemplary Public Service Career Award

[Click here](#) to learn about the recipients.

RSVP



Event organizers Lauren Angulo ('17), founder of Venustas Law, and Alexander Onaindia, founder of Distinction Agency.

Following the inaugural **Future of NIL Florida State Summit**, alumna **Lauren Angulo ('17)**—founder of Venustas Law—was featured in an interview with *FSUNews.com*. The article, ***“From athlete to entrepreneur: NIL tips from industry experts,”*** highlights the changing landscape for student-athletes and the growing importance of building personal brands and followings online.

The summit was presented in partnership with the **Stoops Center for Law and Business** and the **Sports Management Student Association**.

[Click here](#) to read the full story.

FSU Law Student Spotlight: 3L Genesis Gutierrez

Desired Practice Location: Palm Beach County

Expected Graduation: May 2026

Field of Law Sought: Family Law and Trusts and Estates

Genesis Gutierrez, of West Palm Beach, FL, earned her bachelor's degree in political science from Florida State University.

At FSU Law, Gutierrez serves as President of the **[Cuban American Bar Association](#)**, student ambassador, and member of the **[Hispanic Law Student Association](#)**.

Gutierrez interned at **[Advocates USA](#)**, a personal injury and workers' compensation firm, from 2016-24. During her time at Advocates USA, Gutierrez assisted paralegals and attorneys in drafting and revising communications, as well as conducting translation services for the firm.

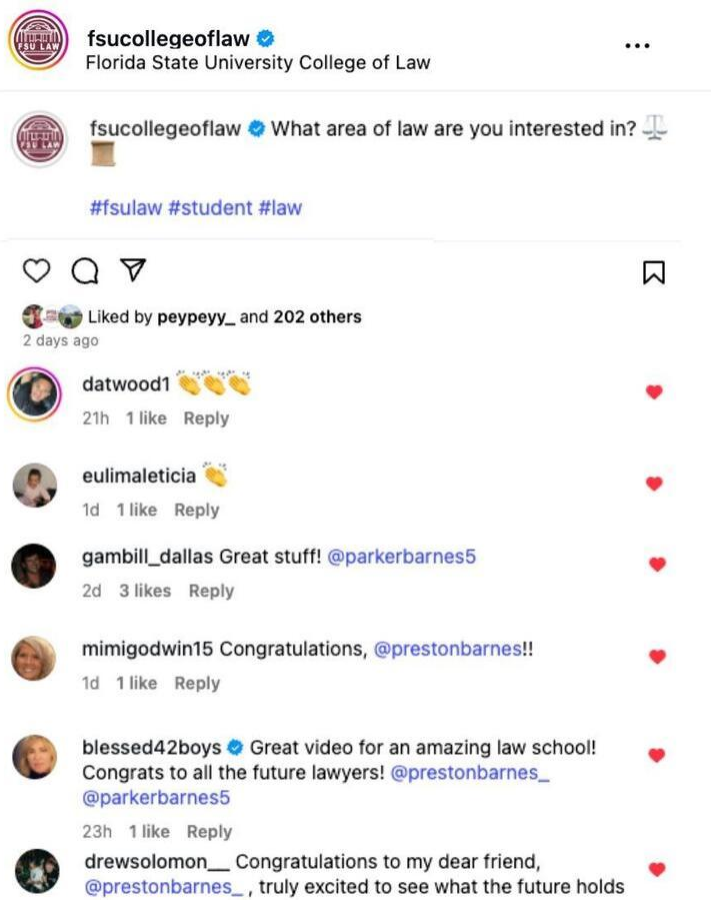


In the summer of 2025, Gutierrez interned at [De Las Cuevas Law](#), a firm that focused on family law, wills, trusts and estates, and immigration. Gutierrez observed client meetings and court hearings, gained practical experience, and collaborated with the supervising attorney to discuss case strategies.

If you are interested in connecting with or hiring Gutierrez after graduation, visit her [LinkedIn profile](#) or email her at ggg19@fsu.edu.

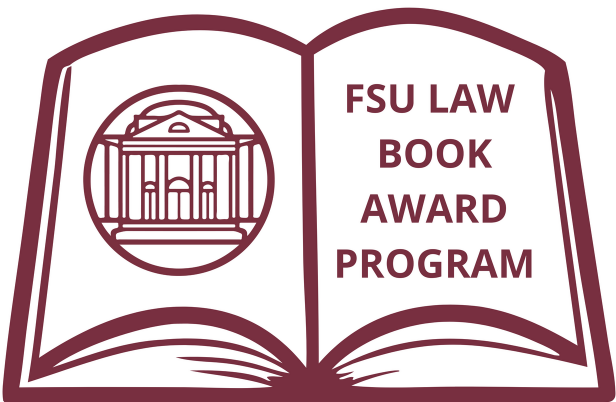
"I have enjoyed my time at FSU Law and have cherished the relationships I have made along the way. Now, I am ready to move back home after graduation, and I'm excited to keep growing in this field. Above all, I look forward to being part of a team that is fueled by collaboration and dedication to serving the surrounding community."

FSU Law Social Spotlight



From criminal and corporate law to everything in between, our students shared what areas of law they are interested in for this week's reel.

Follow along for more stories, insights, and fun content all year!



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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