



October 3, 2025

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FSU Law Alumni Association Board Takeover

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***Tara R. Price ('12),
President of the FSU Law
Alumni Association***



Welcome from FSU Law's Alumni Association Board!

At least once a year, we have the privilege of “taking over” the FSU Law Focus Newsletter and speaking directly to you, our FSU Law Community, about the work we are doing together to strengthen our community.

As Fall settles in, we may reach for cozy sweaters, cheer on our Seminoles, and enjoy warm seasonal lattes. But what truly sustains us year-round is kindness. As Aesop reminds us, “No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.”

This year, our Board has embraced kindness as a guiding principle—kindness toward our students, our law school, and our alumni network. For decades, the Alumni Board has worked closely with the administration to:

- Help recruit the brightest and best new students
- Support graduating 3Ls in securing meaningful career opportunities
- Strengthen alumni connections across communities
- Celebrate student and alumni achievements through awards
- Raise funds for scholarships, student organizations, and impactful programs

Building on that tradition, we are excited to launch a new mentoring initiative. This program will pair law students with alumni mentors who can provide one-on-one guidance—whether a student is struggling academically, weighing career paths, or simply seeking encouragement from someone who has walked the same road. Together, we can create a “pay-it-forward” chain of support that uplifts the next generation of lawyers.

If this resonates with you, we invite you to join us. Please reach out to me at tprice@shutts.com or to **Becky Shepherd** (rshepher@law.fsu.edu), our dedicated Executive Director of Alumni Outreach and Engagement, to learn how you can get involved. You may also connect with any of our [talented Board Members](#) to share ideas or explore opportunities that align with your interests.

We hope that you, like us, feel a strong calling in your heart to give back this year to the next generation of law students, who could benefit from your time, resources, and advice to succeed.

It is truly a remarkable time to be part of FSU Law’s history and future. Thanks to the collective efforts of our students, alumni, faculty, administrators, and Dean Erin O’Hara O’Connor, FSU Law was recently ranked **No. 38 in the nation** by *U.S. News & World Report*—a testament to the extraordinary community we all know and cherish.

We look forward to connecting with many of you at [Homecoming events over Halloween weekend](#). Until then, thank you for your continued support—and as always, Go Noles!

-Tara R. Price ('12), President of the FSU Law Alumni Association

FSU Law in the News



FSU College of Law was featured in an FSU News article titled, **["FSU College of Law Celebrates Strong Bar Results; Welcomes Jami Ferrell as Director of Bar Success."](#)**

The article discusses how FSU Law's graduates achieved an impressive **88.5% first-time pass rate on the Florida July Bar Exam** — up 1.3% from 2024 — underscoring the college's continued commitment to student achievement.

Strengthening that commitment, FSU Law has appointed **[Jami Ferrell](#)** as the new Director of Bar Success, a role focused on ensuring every graduate is prepared to excel.

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

"We are proud to celebrate our bar takers on this remarkable accomplishment that reflects their hard work, perseverance and commitment to excellence. I am also thrilled to welcome Jami to FSU Law. He brings deep experience in legal education and bar exam support, along with a clear dedication to student success."

Erin O'Hara O'Connor, Dean of FSU College of Law.

Professor **Jacob Eisler** was recently featured on Ohio State University's *Law & Democracy* podcast in an episode titled **[“A Conversation with Jacob Eisler on Constitutional Law, Political Fragmentation, and Judicial Power.”](#)**

In the discussion, Professor Eisler reflects on the recent **[2025 Election Law Conference](#)**, which convened leading scholars from across the nation to examine both the practice and theory of election law. He also explores critical questions at the intersection of constitutional law, democratic governance, and the role of judicial institutions, offering insight into some of the most pressing challenges facing American democracy today.



[Click here](#) to learn more and watch the full episode.

Professor Eisler was also recently quoted in *The Economist* article, **[“The president’s border czar was caught in a sting operation.”](#)**

In the piece, he explains that over the past two decades, the U.S. Supreme Court has steadily narrowed the scope of federal anti-corruption law, increasingly blurring the line between lawful lobbying and outright bribery. He further emphasizes that this judicial trend has been compounded by presidential actions—such as the removal of inspectors general and the weakening of the Department of Justice’s Public Integrity Section—which have eroded critical safeguards for government accountability.

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



Congratulations to Adjunct Professor Monica Armster Rainge, who has been selected as the Keynote Speaker for the Food and Democracy: From Policy to Plate – Food Law Student Leadership Summit 2025 at Harvard Law School on October 4.

The Summit is the nation's premier gathering for law students committed to shaping the future of food and agricultural systems. It offers a unique opportunity for students from across the country to connect with peers, faculty, attorneys, and policy leaders while exploring how legal training can advance a more just, equitable, and sustainable food system.

Professor Rainge teaches agricultural law at the College of Law and is an internationally recognized agricultural lawyer, mediator, and farm advocate. She previously served in leadership roles at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), including Senior Advisor and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights.

Learn more about the Summit [here](#).

FSU Law Alumni News

ALUMNI AWARD

RECIPIENTS

2025



JOHN THRASHER ('73)
Distinguished Alum Award
(Posthumously)



MIKE MARKHAM ('88)
Alumni Association Service
Award



**NICOLE BAMBERSKI
HALL ('12)**
Everyday Hero Award



JUDGE STEPHEN BROWN
Class of '66 Award



PAT GLEASON ('76)
Exemplary Public Service
Career Award

This week, we proudly honored several distinguished Florida State University College of Law graduates who have made significant professional contributions and had a profound impact on the community.

Our virtual **2025 Alumni Awards** recognized the following trailblazers:

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

Learn more about each recipient's contributions or watch the event recording **[here](#)**.



Congratulations to alumnus Judge **Nathan Hill** ('11), who was recently appointed as a **United States Magistrate Judge for the Middle District of Florida**, where he will serve for eight years.

Judge Hill was also recently appointed by the Florida Supreme Court to the Florida Board of Bar Examiners. He brings extensive federal litigation experience as both a former Assistant United States Attorney and federal judicial clerk in Orlando.

Frontiers in Law & Technology

Join us next Friday, October 10, at 12:30 p.m. for the first Frontiers in Law & Technology webinar of the fall semester: **From Breach to Recovery: Winning the Cybersecurity Battle**. This timely discussion will focus on privacy and security incident response with **Elimu Kajunju**, Partner at Rimon PC, and **Celeste Gaines** ('15), Senior Counsel at McKesson.

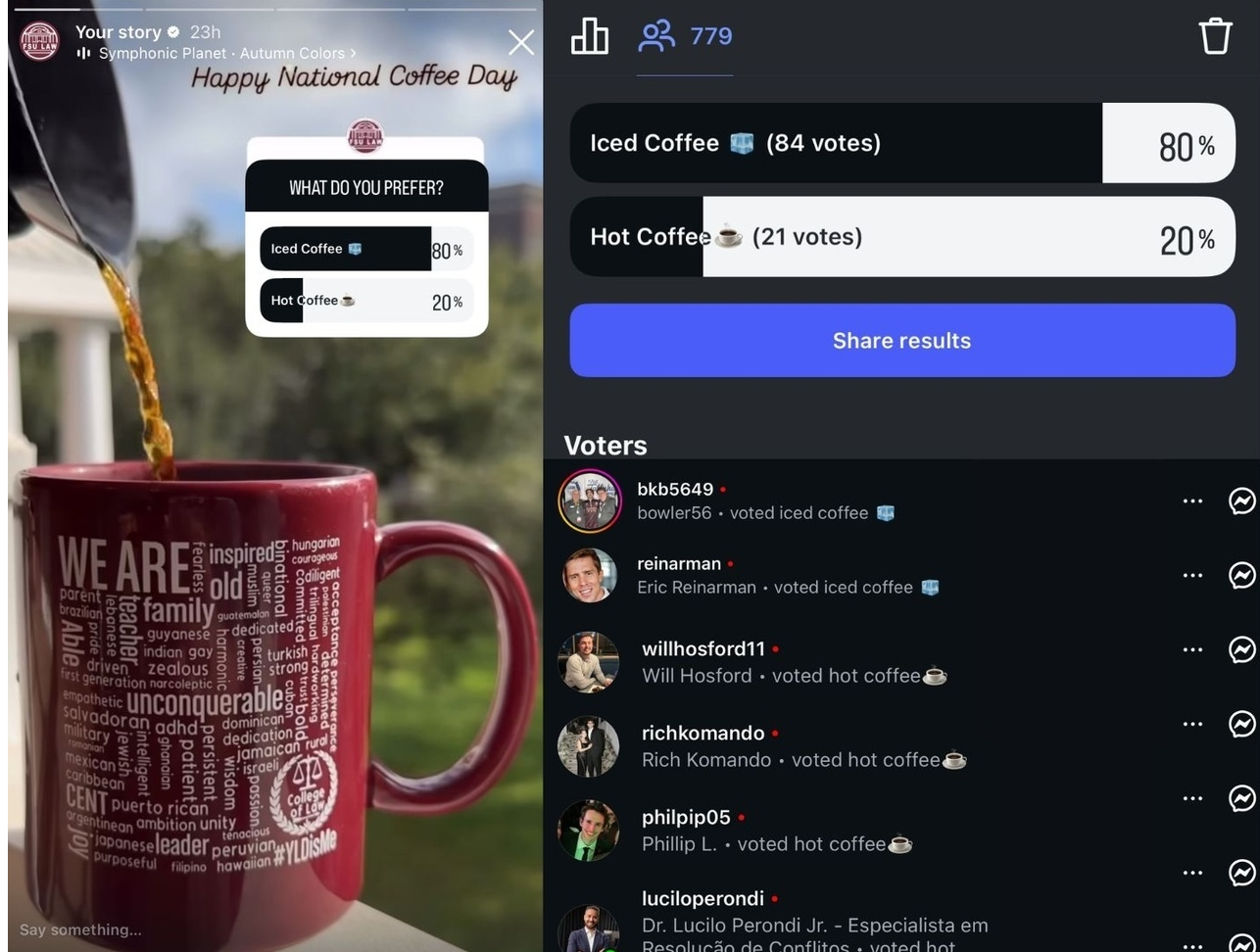


Participants will gain practical insights into how organizations can prepare for, respond to, and recover from data breaches—while maintaining trust and compliance. The program will cover **best practices, legal considerations, risk reduction strategies, and real-world lessons learned**.

This event has been approved for 1.0 CLE credit, including 1.0 Technology credit, by the Florida Bar’s Continuing Legal Education program.

Register [here](#).

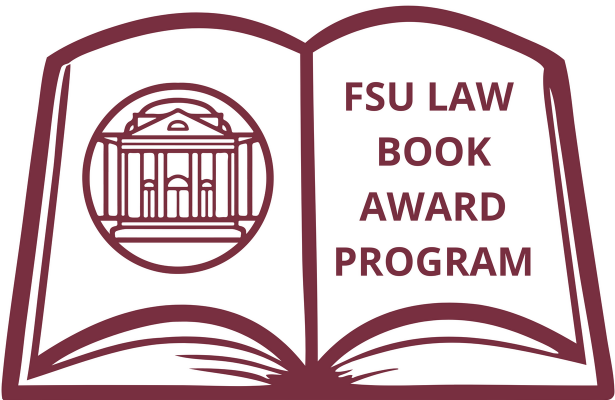
FSU Law Social Spotlight



For National Coffee Day on Monday, we created a poll on our story asking: Do you prefer your coffee iced ☹️ or hot ☹️?

The results are in... and iced coffee takes the win!

Stay tuned as we celebrate more national days with fun polls and interactive posts!



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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