



FSU LAW

Focus

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From the Dean



(L-R) Professors Lonna Atkeson, Florida State University LeRoy Collins Institute; Michael Pitts, Indiana University McKinney School of Law; Gilda Daniels, University of Baltimore School of Law; and Jacob Eisler, Florida State University College of Law, discuss the Voting Rights Act.

Last week, on April 25-26, we hosted our inaugural Election Law Conference, *Voting, Voter Registration, and the Federal Laws Governing the Electoral Process*. We welcomed leading election law scholars from law schools around the nation and top election law administrators for five thought-provoking panel discussions. The panel topics included the Voting Rights Act, the National Voter Registration Act and

Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, the creation of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), voter list maintenance and election administration, and improving voter registration and the electoral process. The panel on HAVA was recorded for an upcoming episode of “The Voting Booth” podcast. Conference participants included a commissioner with the U.S. Election Assistance Commission, Florida’s deputy secretary of state, supervisors of elections, and numerous law professors. The conference was the first of its kind coordinated by our new Election Law Center, and it was a huge success! Many thanks to Professor Michael Morley, the faculty member spearheading our Election Law Center, and Maureen Wagner, executive director of the center, for arranging the timely event.

Erin O'Connor

Dean Erin O'Connor

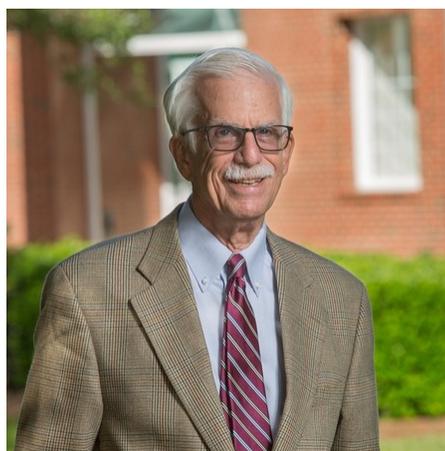
Ehrhardt Selected for Professionalism Award

Congratulations to Professor Emeritus Chuck Ehrhardt, who has been selected to receive the 2024 Law Faculty/Administrator

Professionalism Award, which is presented by The Florida Bar’s Henry Latimer Center for Professionalism. The award recognizes a faculty member or administrator of a Florida law school who best exemplifies the mission of the Standing Committee on Professionalism.

Ehrhardt was nominated for the award by numerous people, including judges, colleagues, and former students. You can [read more online about Professor Ehrhardt’s selection for the award](#).

Florida Bar President Scott Westheimer will present the award to Professor Ehrhardt on Wednesday, May 29, at 11 a.m., at The Florida Bar headquarters building at 651 E. Jefferson St. in Tallahassee. Colleagues, friends, and former students are invited to join us to help honor Professor Ehrhardt.



Alumni Profile: Dave Boyer ('11)

Dave Boyer is the managing attorney at Disability Rights Oregon (DRO). In this role, Boyer leads the

organization's work under the Mental Health Rights Project and the Multnomah Civil Commitment Program. Boyer's team is responsible for monitoring and investigating abuse and neglect of people with mental illness throughout the state. They also are involved in three major federal lawsuits that cover the breadth of issues facing people with mental illness in the state (*DRO v. Mink*, *DRO v. Washington County*, *J.B v. Dept of Corrections*). In addition, the team is responsible for legislative and administrative policy development. Prior to joining DRO in 2022, Boyer was the legal director at Disability Rights Rhode Island, managing attorney at the National Disability Rights Network, and was both director of investigations and a staff attorney at Disability Rights Florida. His prior experience also includes serving as a practicing psychologist in the United States Army for 10 years.



“I enjoy my work as a civil rights attorney for people with disabilities because I am able to intervene in the mental health system at any level. I work with individual clients, but also, I am involved in systemic policy work and litigation. It is not easy work, but it is an honor to be an advocate for our most vulnerable clients.”

Celebrating 2024 Grad Jordan Manahan

After graduation, Jordan Manahan will be working as an associate with Gunster in Tampa, Florida! During law school, Manahan has been a member of the Moot Court Team and a staff editor for the Florida State University Law Review for two years. He also serves as a Florida Supreme Court fellow to Justice Charles



T. Canady and previously was a judicial extern for Judge Robert J. Luck, of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. We wish Manahan all the best and look forward to celebrating his future accomplishments!



We are inviting all alumni and students to [join FSU Law Connect](#), a new platform exclusively for the FSU Law community. Alumni can keep in touch with the College of Law and other alumni, post jobs, and access career development tools. If you haven't already joined FSU Law Connect, please join today to help us increase engagement and connection.

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