



# FSU LAW FOCUS

Friday, October 4, 2024

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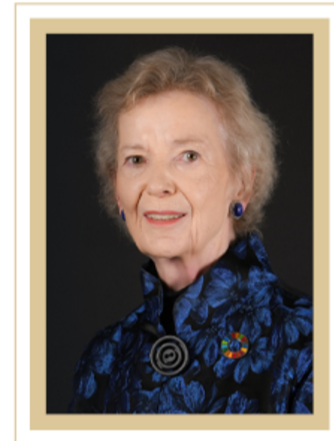
## From the Dean

We are very excited to announce that our 2025 D'Alemberte & Palmer Lecture in International Human Rights will be held on February 12, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. and feature Mary Robinson, former President of the Republic of Ireland. The topic is International Human Rights and the Rule of Law. Please save the date now and make plans to join us!

Dean Erin O'Connor

# International Human Rights and the Rule of Law

Presented by **Mary Robinson,**  
Former President of Ireland



February 12, 2025, 4 p.m.

**Room 101 of the Main Classroom Building.**

A reception will follow in the D'Alemberte Rotunda.

*Virtual attendance will be available.*

**Mary Robinson** was elected Irish President in 1990 and served for seven years as a principled and transformative leader who fought for equality and women's rights throughout her time in office. A firm believer in dialogue and reconciliation, she broke taboos by being the first Irish head of state to make official visits to Britain, as well as regularly visiting Northern Ireland. She was the first head of state to visit Somalia following the crisis there in 1992 and brought global media attention to the suffering of Rwandans as the first Head of State to visit the country after the 1994 genocide.

As UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (1997-2002), Robinson integrated human rights into the United Nations system and became renowned as an outspoken voice dedicated to investigating and exposing human rights abuses across the world. She founded *Realizing Rights: The Ethical Globalization Initiative*, which aimed to put human rights standards at the heart of global governance and to ensure that the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable are addressed on the global stage. For this, she was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Barack Obama in 2009.

Robinson is a founding member of The Elders and was appointed chair in November 2018. As a member of The Elders, Mary Robinson has addressed the UN Security Council and other agencies on multiple occasions. She has met with world leaders to promote global peace and ethical leadership, including Pope Francis in the Vatican, President Emmanuel Macron in Paris and President Xi Jinping in Beijing to discuss multilateralism, climate change, nuclear non-proliferation and human rights.

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**The Honorable Darrin Gayles Spends a Day with  
FSU Law Students as Jurist in Residence**



On Tuesday, October 1, we were honored to welcome the Honorable Darrin Gayles to the law school through our Jurist in Residence Program. Judge Gayles currently sits on the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida and was previously a circuit court judge on the Eleventh Judicial Circuit Court of Florida, after serving on the county bench in Miami-Dade County. Judge Gayles received his JD from George Washington University in 1993 and has a BA from Howard University. A former state attorney and assistant United States attorney, Judge Gayles was extremely engaging and encouraged students to ask him questions.

During his day with us, Judge Gayles joined Professor Sevier as he taught his evidence class and met with our student law review and journal members. He also spent time with faculty members comprising our Judicial Clerkship Committee. The entire 1L class was able to hear from the judge and ask him questions during a combined Legal Writing & Research class. The judge talked to the students about his journey to the bench, the value of judicial clerkships in learning the judicial process and procedures as well as in observing the attorneys coming before the court and effective advocacy techniques. He also told the 1L class that it is fine if they don't have it all figured out right now in terms of their legal career path and shared the differences in practicing before state and federal courts. Judge Gayles also visited with members of BLSA and the Business Law Society in a relaxed atmosphere during a dessert reception.

It was very nice to be able to welcome Judge Gayles to campus and to have him interact with our law students. We are grateful to the many judges who



have participated in our Jurist in Residence Program over the years and look forward to hosting more judges on campus in the future.

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## Join Us for Homecoming 2024

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All of us at FSU Law invite you to join us for the 2024 Homecoming Weekend festivities. Law school events begin Friday evening, November 22 with a reception for all alumni. The event is sponsored by Tim Meenan ('90) and Meenan P.A., and will provide an opportunity to connect with fellow law alumni. On Saturday, November 23, all alumni are invited to our Alumni Board meeting, and all alumni and their families are invited to the Law Alumni Tailgate Party on the law school's James Harold Thompson Green prior to the FSU v. Charleston Southern game. The weekend will conclude on Sunday, November 24, with a 50-Year Alumni Brunch celebrating the Class of 1974. In addition, the classes of 1974, 1984, 1994, 2004, and 2014 are celebrating reunions, and we encourage members of these classes to connect at our festivities. We look forward to seeing you and your families!



We invite 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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