



# FSU LAW FOCUS

Friday, November 1, 2024

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## From the Dean



On Wednesday, October 30, FSU Law's Center for Environmental, Energy & Land Use Law presented its Fall 2024 Distinguished Environmental Lecture, featuring **Gerald Torres, Professor of Environmental Justice at Yale School**. In his lecture, titled "**Environmental Justice: Environmental Joy**," Professor Torres addressed the pivotal role environmental lawyers can play in confronting climate disruption, emphasizing the need for both practical and transformative approaches to justice. A [recording of the lecture](#) is available on our website.

*Erin O'Connor*  
Dean Erin O'Connor

## Virtual Blockchain & Digital Assets Conference



We're excited to invite you to the **Blockchain & Digital Assets Conference on Monday, November 18, from 1 to 5 p.m.** The virtual half-day event, hosted by the Stoops Center for Law and Business, the Institute for Law, Technology & Innovation, and Winston & Strawn LLP, will explore decentralization, blockchain, AI, and the concept of "code as law" in today's digital and decentralized systems.

The conference will feature a keynote presentation titled "Code is Law," featuring Larry Lessig from Harvard Law School in conversation with Andrew Hinkes of Winston & Strawn. Don't miss this opportunity to gain insights from leading experts in the field, including Michael Selig, Guillermo Christensen, and Nelson Rosario, as they discuss pivotal developments in blockchain law, AI, and digital assets.

The registration fee is \$99 and includes 5.0 CLE Credits (The Florida Bar) in General, Technology, and Business Litigation. We look forward to seeing you there and exploring the future of law in a digital age.

Please [click here](#) to register.

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## Annual Claude Pepper Elder Law Moot Court Competition

The 2024 competition will be held live in Tallahassee on **Friday, November 8, and Saturday, November 9, in the Advocacy Center.** Teams from across the country

will compete, focusing on age and disability discrimination in hiring practices. The final round will even be live-streamed

Also, join us in the **Rotunda on Thursday, November 7, from 4 to 6 p.m.** for a welcome reception with special guest speaker Susan Lynch, Special Counsel for Elder Justice at the U.S. Department of Justice and Professor at George Washington University Law School.

Thanks to the AARP Foundation, the top teams and participants in the competition will receive \$20,000 in monetary prizes.

Please [click here](#) to learn more.

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### Alumni in the News: Leron Rogers ('99)

Congratulations to Leron E. Rogers, a partner at Fox Rothschild, on being recognized by the Atlanta Business Chronicle as a **2024 Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEI&B) honoree**.

Awarded the Board Champion title, Rogers has served as chairman of the Black Entertainment and Sports Lawyers Association (BESLA) since 2021, where he has strengthened the organization's mission and secured scholarships for lawyers and law students of color. A prominent figure in the entertainment industry, he has negotiated major deals for top artists, including Rick Ross, Coco Jones, and Jagged Edge.



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

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### Alumni in the News: Janet Varnell ('95)

Congratulations to Janet Varnell, managing partner of Varnell & Warick, who received the **National Consumer**

## Law Center's 2024 Vern Countryman Award.

The prestigious honor recognizes an attorney whose special contributions to consumer law have strengthened and affirmed the rights of low-income and other vulnerable consumers.



Based in Tampa, Varnell is an expert in consumer class actions, she also handles civil rights, worker's rights, environmental protection, and other high-impact public interest litigation.

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

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### 3L Student Profile: Nate Lazor

**Desired Practice Location:** Chicago, New York, Toronto, or Detroit

**Expected Graduation:** May 2025

**Field of Law Sought:** Sports & Entertainment Law, also interested in Bankruptcy Law

Born in Beverly Hills, Michigan, Nate Lazor attended the University of Michigan and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in sports management and a minor in business. While at FSU Law, he serves as assistant director of the Entertainment, Arts, and Sports Law Society. He has gained valuable experience through various roles, including as a law clerk at McRae & Metcalf, P.A., interning at Priority Sports and Entertainment, Integration Innovation Co., and with the Jacksonville Jaguars.



For connections or job opportunities, visit his LinkedIn or email him at [ndl22@fsu.edu](mailto:ndl22@fsu.edu).

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***"I bring a diverse range of experience working with various clients and take pride in my adaptability and resilience. I love sports and the***

**sports industry, and I plan on being an NFLPA-certified agent."**

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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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