



May 23, 2025

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From the Dean

THE FLORIDA BAR 50-YEAR MEMBER AND SENIOR COUSELOR RECOGNITION

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We are pleased to announce that **68 distinguished FSU College of Law alumni are being honored as 50-Year Members of The Florida Bar**—or who have reached the extraordinary milestone of 50 years in legal practice.

This remarkable achievement is more than a testament to longevity—it is a reflection of a lifelong dedication to justice, ethical leadership, and the enduring impact of legal service. Over the course of five decades, these alumni have not only shaped the legal landscape through their work in courts, government, private practice, and public service, but they have also mentored new generations of lawyers, upheld the highest standards of professionalism, and contributed meaningfully to their communities.

Your commitment to the legal profession serves as an inspiration and reminds us all of the profound and lasting influence that a career in law can have. On behalf of the entire FSU Law community, I extend my warmest

congratulations. Thank you for your contributions to the practice of law and for representing FSU College of Law with distinction for half a century.

We are honored to celebrate this milestone with you.



Dean Erin O'Connor

FSU Law Alumni News

Congratulations to FSU Law alumnus **Judge Thomas Palermo ('01)** for being named “**Trial Judge of the Year**” by the **Florida Chapters of the American Board of Trial Advocates (FLABOTA)**.

Judge Palermo serves in the **13th Judicial Circuit in Tampa**, where he is widely respected for upholding the highest standards of professionalism and ensuring the fair and impartial administration of the rule of law.



Claude Pepper Elder Law Clinic



The Claude Pepper Elder Law Clinic, directed by **Professor Rima Nathan**, equips law students with hands-on experience in elder law while serving low-income older adults through legal services and community education. The Clinic addresses critical challenges facing the state's aging population. From legal protections to policy work, students help promote dignity, resilience, and justice for seniors across Florida.

The Clinic is hosting the **Elder Law Moot Court Competition** October 24-25 where teams from across the country to compete at the College of Law. This year's topic is financial exploitation and liability issues surrounding retirement communities.

"Participating in Clinic has been a profoundly transformative experience, both personally and professionally. Working directly with clients gave me invaluable, hands-on legal drafting experience while fostering meaningful attorney-client relationships. While contributing to educating older adults about their legal rights has deepened my understanding of elder law and empowered me to engage in these tough conversations with greater confidence."

-Rising 3L Krista Marrocco





We invite all alumni and students to [join FSU Law Connect](#), a 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 and start connecting.

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