

FSU LAW FOCUS

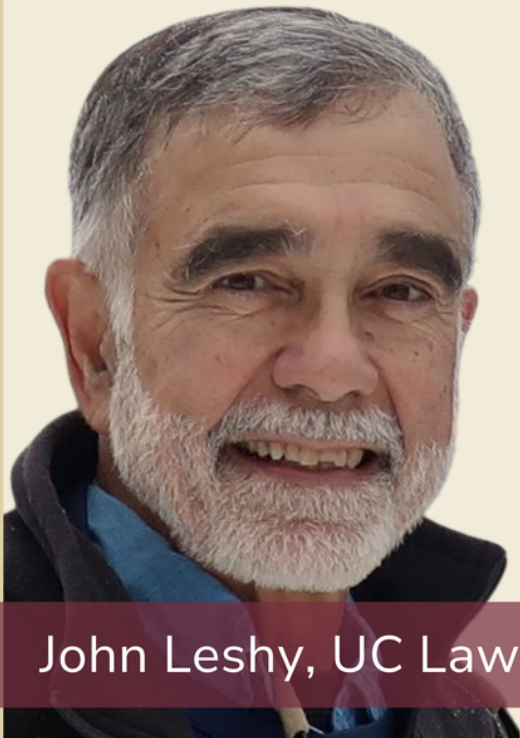
February 21, 2025

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From the Dean

THE FSU CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL,
ENERGY, & LAND USE LAW

Spring 2025 Distinguished Lecture



America's Public Lands:
*WHAT WILL
DONALD
TRUMP'S LEGACY
LIKELY BE?*

John Leshy, UC Law San Francisco

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OF LAW

Join us next week as the FSU Center for Environmental, Energy, and Land Use Law welcomes [John Leshy](#), Emeritus Harry D. Sunderland and Distinguished Professor of Real Property Law at UC Law San Francisco. Leshy will deliver his lecture, “America’s Public Lands: What Will Donald Trump’s Legacy Likely Be?” on **Wednesday, February 26, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. in the D'Alemberte Rotunda.**

Leshy brings a wealth of experience to the topic. His distinguished career includes serving as Solicitor (General Counsel) for the Department of the Interior during the Clinton Administration, as special counsel to the

chair of the U.S. House Natural Resources Committee, and as an attorney with the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC). Leshy has also held multiple roles as a law professor, including four visiting professor positions at Harvard Law School, and has published extensively, including works on the Mining Law of 1872 and casebooks on public land and resources law, as well as water law.

Don't miss this opportunity to hear from one of the foremost authorities on public lands and their future.

[Click here](#) to learn more or [here for the livestream link](#).

RSVP

Erin O'Connor
Dean Erin O'Connor

FSU Law in the News: D'Alemberte & Palmer Lecture



Last week, FSU College of Law had the honor of hosting former President of Ireland, **Mary Robinson**, for the 2025 D'Alemberte & Palmer Lecture in International Human Rights.

In her powerful lecture, “**The Rule of Law in International Human Rights**,” Robinson addressed more than 800 in-person and virtual attendees about the declining state of the global rule of law. She stressed the critical value of the rule of law in ensuring international order, explaining that without the rule of law, officials are not held accountable, and the dignity and equality of all people can be undermined. She also brought attention to the alarming findings in the 2023 World Justice Project’s Rule of Law Index, which revealed more than six billion people live in countries where the rule of law has declined at an alarming rate, and civic participation has fallen globally by 83% and freedom of expression by 78%.

While acknowledging the challenging nature of the situation, she outlined possible approaches for progress and concluded her lecture with a powerful call to action, urging individuals and communities to hold leaders accountable and advocate for the protection of the rule of law.

Read featured articles on [Forbes](#), [FSU News](#), the [FSView](#), and [The FAMUAN](#), or [click here](#) to watch the lecture.

Frontiers in Law and Technology



Judge Schlegel



Prof. Harper

Join us today Friday, February 21 at 12:30 p.m. for the Frontiers in Law and Technology Webinar, '**AI In the Courtroom**' – A Conversation with Judge Scott Schlegel.

Judge Scott Schlegel of the Louisiana Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal and **Rich Harper**, adjunct professor at FSU Law and partner-in-charge at Baker Botts, New York, are hosting a one-hour conversation on the impact of AI in the courtroom. Judge Schlegel will share his insights from the bench on modernizing the justice system, the challenges involved, and how both simple technologies and AI can improve court efficiency and access. He will also talk about the future role that AI and other technologies may play in the courtroom. With insights from both legal practice and academia, this discussion will explore the evolving role of AI in the judiciary and what the future holds for technology in the legal system.

[Click here](#) to learn more or [register](#).

Faculty In The News: Jacob Eisler

James Edmund and Margaret Elizabeth Hennessey Corry Professor [Jacob Eisler](#) was featured in the Economist in an article titled "**Donald Trump and the Art of the Quid Pro Quo.**"

This piece highlights the increase in transactional politics that have occurred under President Trump's time in office. Professor Eisler discusses how transparent this use of prosecutorial power has been throughout Trump's second term.

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



Faculty In The News: Jake Linford

[Jake Linford](#), Loula Fuller and Dan Myers Professor and Associate Dean for Research, was featured in a Bloomberg Law Article, "**Jack Daniel's Dog Toy Win Sidesteps Trademark Tarnishment Debate.**"

The case revolves around VIP's "Bad Spaniels" dog toy, which parodies the Jack Daniel's whiskey bottle and label. While the courts have ruled that the toy's design did not infringe Jack Daniel's trademarks, the company still succeeded in securing a ruling of "trademark dilution by tarnishment" under the Federal Trademark Dilution Act.



Professor Linford commented on the constitutionality of the tarnishment statute, noting that while he does not consider it facially unconstitutional, the law may be overly restrictive of commercial speech. He also co-authored a study highlighting that assumptions about the tarnishing effects of certain content may not be as damaging as often believed. Professor Linford emphasized that the case presents a significant question about the balance between aggressive First Amendment limits and trademark law's reach.

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

Student Profile: 3L Melissa Canaan

Desired Practice Location: Open to practicing anywhere, with particular interested in Florida

Expected Graduation: May 2025

Field of Law Sought: Health Law & Policy, Healthcare Risk Management & Compliance, Medical Malpractice, and Personal Injury



Melissa Canaan is from Orlando, Florida and she completed her Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Florida International University's Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing. Starting in August of 2023, Canaan currently works at Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare as a float pool nurse, providing care across multiple hospital units. The summer before starting her 3L year, Canaan worked at the Office of the State Attorney, Second Judicial Circuit, as a certified legal intern in the Misdemeanor Division. While there, she managed over 80 misdemeanor cases, conducting victim interviews, arguing motions, negotiating plea deals, and leading a jury trial, resulting in a guilty conviction. During the summer before her 2L year, Canaan worked as a summer legal assistant at the office of Cole, Scott & Kissane, P.A., where she conducted legal research, prepared memoranda, and drafted court motions, including a motion to dismiss and a motion for a more definite statement.

At FSU Law, Canaan is a Teaching Assistant for the Law & Risk Management Seminar. She is also a member of the Federalist Society for Law and Public Policy Students and The Florida Bar Health Law Section. If you are interested in connecting with or hiring Canaan after graduation, visit her [LinkedIn profile](#), or email her at mmc22@fsu.edu.

"Advocacy is more than just arguing cases—it's about understanding people, their struggles, and their needs. My background in both law and healthcare has given me a unique interdisciplinary perspective that shaped me into a problem solver, a critical thinker, and an advocate for justice, effectively preparing me for a career at the intersection of law and healthcare."



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