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From the Dean



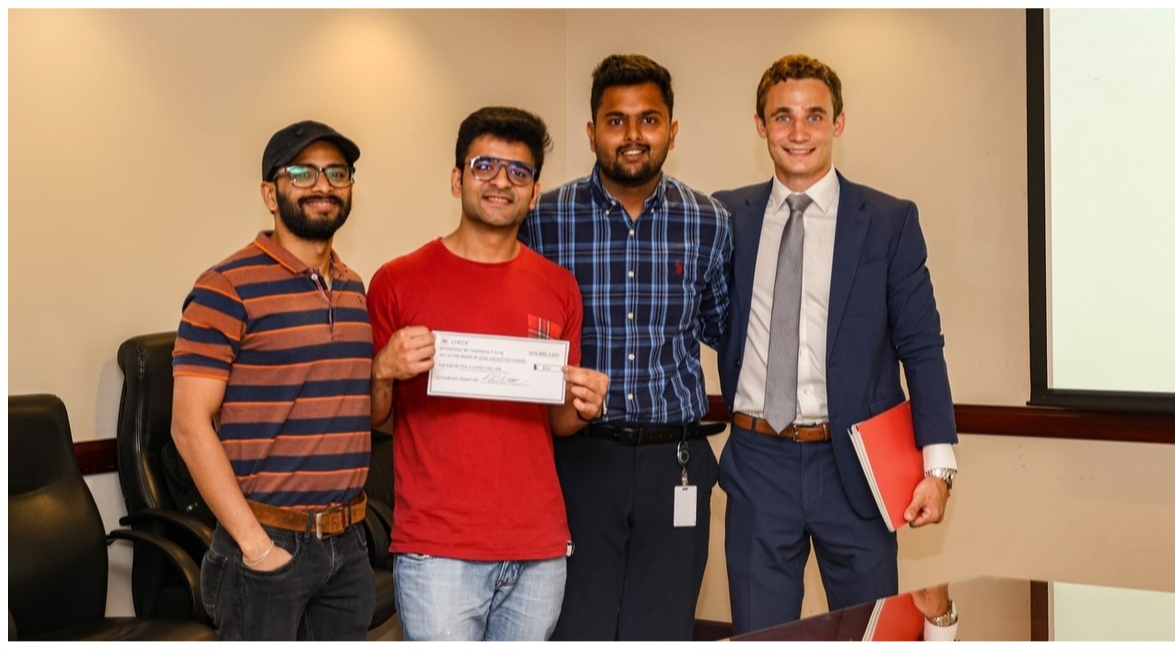
(L-R) Panelists Anthony Casey, Susan Morse, Anthony Niblett, and Shawn Bayern discussed Bayern's latest book, "Autonomous Organizations."

On Thursday, April 6, we hosted scholars from around the nation and Canada for a special event to celebrate Larry and Joyce Beltz Professor of Torts and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Shawn Bayern and his latest book, "Autonomous Organizations." In the book, Bayern proposes a new way to use corporate law and limited liability companies law to give legal personhood to software, including artificial intelligence, and explains why doing so isn't as alarming as it sounds. The book does an excellent job of deeply covering where technology is going and how that interplays with some classical legal principles. The book forum was a lively discussion on the social and political aspects of new autonomous organizational structures and their implications for legal theory. Panelists included Bayern; Susan Morse, the Angus G. Wynne, Sr. professor in civil jurisprudence and associate dean for academic affairs at the University of Texas Law School; Anthony Casey, the Donald M. Ephraim professor of law and economics and deputy dean at the University of Chicago Law School; and Anthony Niblett, an associate professor and Canada research chair in law, economics, and innovation at the University of Toronto Faculty of Law. If you were unable to attend the event to hear this fascinating panel discussion, you can [watch a recording online](#) now.

Erin O'Connor

Dean Erin O'Connor

Students Compete in Legal Hackathon



(L-R) Legal Hackathon winners Seemant Sagar, Somesh Dubey, and Ankit Mukati, and TEC co-founder Paul DeCoste

Last week, Florida State University student teams competed in a new event, the Legal Hackathon, where students pitched ideas to make the legal profession better. The event was hosted by FSU Law's Technology & Entrepreneurship Club (TEC) and Student Bar Association. The TEC created the competition with the aim of promoting innovation and collaboration by using technology to solve legal issues—teams were prompted to identify an existing or foreseeable problem that exists in any aspect of law, then to leverage technology to create a solution. On Thursday, April 6, four teams pitched their ideas to a panel of judges. Congratulations to FSU Law 2L Ankit Mukati, master's in computer science student Somesh Dubey, and master's in computer science graduate Seemant Sagar for their winning pitch: Background Checks 2.0, a concept for software that would analyze data from previous assailants to generate firearm-handling scores for new applicants. The team developed their proposal in response to a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report recording more than half a million deaths by firearms in the U.S. during the last 20 years, and the lack of uniform gun laws that balance the need to protect individual rights with the need to ensure public safety. The team won a \$500 cash prize, which was sponsored by Greenberg Traurig, LLP. Special thanks to the judges: alum Jake Kiker ('04), FSU College of Business Professor Lance Kerwin, FSU College of Law Professor Richard M. Benham ('05), and FSU College of Law Professor Justin T. Sevier.

In Memoriam: Alum Pamela Gayle Davis ('91)

On February 5, 2023, we lost a mother, a sister, a friend, a lawyer, a career prosecutor, and an FSU College of Law alumna named Pamela Gayle Davis. Pam Davis was a native Floridian born in Hollywood, Florida. After graduating from Hollywood Hills High School, Pam attended Florida State University for both her undergraduate degree and for law school. She remained an enthusiastic FSU football fan for the remainder of her life and was often heard each August discussing how the team looked for the new season.



In August 1991, Pam became an assistant state attorney in the Ninth Judicial Circuit and began a career that would span more than the next three decades. Pam worked her way up through the misdemeanor, felony, and specialized prosecution units of the State Attorney's Office and successfully litigated many cases. Pam was the first human trafficking ASA in the circuit, the first Black female sex crimes and homicide prosecutor in the circuit, as well as one of the first few Black supervisors in the office.

Her colleagues remember Pam as a patient mentor who valued the opinions and thoughts of even the newest attorneys, and enjoyed discussing cases and legal analysis. The local defense bar valued Pam's even temperament and professionalism as an administrator of justice. Friends will miss Pam's infectious smile, laughter, and all the stories about raising a teenage boy. Pamela Gayle Davis leaves a legal legacy as a respected prosecutor who cared deeply about victims and justice and spent over 31 years in public service to the citizens of the state of Florida.

- Tribute written by FSU Law alumna Catherine A. Marlowe ('00)

Student Profile: 3L Rachel Chang

Desired Practice Location: Miami, Fort Lauderdale, or Orlando

Expected Graduation: May 2023

Field of Law Sought: Personal injury, family law, or immigration

Rachel Chang is from Miami, and she earned a B.S. in broadcast journalism with a minor in political science from Florida International University. During the fall of 2022, Chang worked pro bono with the Leon County Teen Court. There, she aided student attorneys with writing arguments and interviewing defendants, participated in court hearings, and taught court etiquette. While enrolled in an appellate advocacy course, Chang presented an oral argument before three First District Court of Appeal judges, representing the petitioner, and wrote the petitioner's brief. Prior to law school, Chang worked as a journalist for four years. For two of those years, she presented National Football League news for a Miami Dolphins show while she served as a cheerleader and ambassador for the organization. During her time there, she also participated in bilingual (Spanish and English) public speaking engagements around the community and for live television.

At FSU Law, Chang is a member of the Cuban American Bar Association, Asian Pacific American Law Students Association, and Transfer Student Organization. If you are interested in connecting with or hiring Chang after graduation, visit her [LinkedIn page](#) or email her at rachel.chang013@gmail.com.



"My writing and public speaking skills are very strong. I worked as a newspaper, magazine, and on-camera journalist for four years before starting law school. Those years, I practiced being inquisitive and being a good listener, which I later realized gave me the skill to think quickly and formulate strong rebuttals."

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