



# FSU LAW

## Focus

April 12,  
2024

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### From the Dean

The latest U.S. News & World Report law school rankings were released this week, and we are delighted to be ranked in the nation's top tier at 48th best. In addition, and perhaps more revealing about the quality of education we provide, several of our substantive programs are ranked among the nation's best. Our environmental law program is ranked 17th best, our tax law program is 28th best, our contracts/commercial law program is 36th best, our constitutional law program is 39th best, our criminal law program is 43rd best, our international law program is 45th best, and our business/corporate law program is 47th best.



These programmatic rankings reflect the strength of our nationally recognized faculty and the breadth of our curriculum. The rankings reinforce what we have always known: if you want to get a well-rounded legal education at one of the best law schools in the nation, you should study at FSU Law. Combined with the fact that we have the nation's second best student quality of life, and we are rated as the eighth best value law school in the nation, it is no surprise that FSU Law is at the top of many prospective students' lists when considering law schools.

*Erin O'Connor*

Dean Erin O'Connor

# FSU Law Institute Holds AI Forum in Washington, D.C.



*Panelists discuss the implications of artificial intelligence.*

On April 2, FSU College of Law's Institute of Law, Technology & Innovation and Holland & Knight co-hosted an informative Artificial Intelligence Forum in Washington, D.C. Approximately 800 virtual attendees and 80 in-person attendees participated in the half-day conference, which consisted of three panels and a thought-provoking keynote address by Anu Bradford, the Henry L. Moses professor of law and international organization at Columbia Law School. The panels featured top academics, policy market regulators, and thought leaders who discussed the promises and perils of artificial intelligence, including:

- Michael Atleson, senior attorney, Federal Trade Commission
- Shawn Bayern, Larry & Joyce Beltz professor and associate dean for technology, FSU College of Law
- Da'Morus Cohen, partner, Holland & Knight
- Anthony DiResta, partner and co-chair of the consumer protection defense and compliance team, Holland & Knight
- Michael Frank, former senior fellow, Center for Strategic and International Studies
- Brian Goodrich, partner, Holland & Knight
- Rich Harper, partner-in-charge-New York office and AI practice group co-chair, Baker Botts
- Kashmir Hill, tech reporter, The New York Times
- Hodan Omaar, senior policy analyst, Information Technology and Innovation Foundation
- Keith Sonderling, commissioner, U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

- David Vladeck, A.B. Chettle chair in civil procedure, Georgetown Law Center
- Kwamina Williford, partner and co-chair of the consumer protection defense and compliance team, Holland & Knight

During her lively keynote address, Bradford applied theories and findings from her recently authored book, “Digital Empires: The Global Battle to Regulate Technology,” to artificial intelligence. “There is a global consensus that technology should be regulated, but not what that regulation should look like,” began Bradford, before describing the intensifying global battle among the three dominant digital “empires”—the United States, China, and the European Union.

The event was the first in Washington, D.C., and one of many in-person and virtual events hosted by the law school’s new Institute of Law, Technology & Innovation in its first year. [Information about the institute and its previous events](#) is available on the College of Law website. You can also [watch a recording of the AI Forum](#) online.

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## Alum Profile: Kristin Ghanem ('10)

Kristin Ghanem is a director of contracts at Gartner, Inc. in Arlington, Virginia. In this role, Ghanem negotiates with federal, state, and local government, and Canadian clients as part of Gartner’s North America Public Sector Team. She also is a certified federal contracts manager. Prior to joining the research and advisory company in June 2019, Ghanem served as corporate counsel at Harkcon, Inc., a law clerk for the U.S. House Committee on the Judiciary, and a legal fellow with the U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs.



*“Each day at Gartner presents an exciting and new challenge that requires critical thinking, creative solutions, and problem solving. I am grateful to FSU Law for providing me with the skills to prepare me for these challenges, mentorship, and a wide range of*

*growth opportunities that continue to carry me throughout my career.”*

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## **Student Profile: 3L Samantha Lauranne Longley**

**Desired Practice Location:** Charlotte, North Carolina

**Expected Graduation:** May 2024

**Field of Law Sought:** Business law, tax law, intellectual property law, or international trade law

Samantha Longley, from Fort Mill, South Carolina, concurrently earned her bachelor's degrees in economics and marketing from Clemson University and will graduate from FSU Law in May.

Since October 2023, Longley has worked as a law clerk with the Florida Division of Emergency Management, where she drafts and reviews contracts, executive orders, and memoranda;

reviews legislative documents and collaborates on rulemaking processes; and conducts legal research on federal and state laws and regulations. Since September 2020, Longley has also worked as a financial analyst with Siemens Energy. She manages legal forms for vendor onboarding and maintenance; completes monthly financial reporting, reconciliation, performance reviews, invoicing, quotes, forecasting, and budgeting for several product lines; and manages global financial reporting. She also performs data configuration and file maintenance, including automation through Alteryx and Tableau. From October 2022 through April 2023, Longley was a research assistant for FSU Law Professor Fred Abbott. She assisted Professor Abbott primarily with a project, "Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer for COVID-19 Vaccines: Assessment of the Record," commissioned and published by the World Intellectual Property Organization. Longley researched patent licenses and contract agreements between parties who were producing or working to produce COVID-19 vaccines and reviewed license agreements for vaccines. During the summer after her 1L year, Longley was an ethics and compliance intern with the Risk Intelligence Group of Carnival Corporation. There, she researched global regulatory and legal environments governing the corporation's operating areas in health, environmental, safety, and security; built a customized maturity framework to assess different functional areas and determine current capabilities related to key



compliance issues; and assisted with preparing an organizational risk taxonomy, including discussions relating to the current risk landscape.

At FSU Law, Longley is a member of the Women's Law Symposium and Student Bar Association, and she was treasurer of the International Law Students Association during her 2L year. She is registered for the July 2024 Uniform Bar Exam in D.C., with additional transfer to North Carolina. If you are interested in connecting with or hiring Longley after graduation, visit her [LinkedIn profile](#) or email her at [sl21bg@fsu.edu](mailto:sl21bg@fsu.edu).

*“I pursued multiple work experiences while earning my law degree at Florida State University. This provided me the unique opportunity to see the application of legal concepts across various industries and contexts, through research, projects, collaboration with business teams, and in supporting legal professionals. My work experiences, coupled with a great education from Florida State University, have laid a very solid foundation for me to enter legal practice.”*



We are inviting 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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