



Criminal Law Section Events, Awards, Scholarships and More During the Annual Florida Bar Convention

In case you missed them, the Criminal Law Section hosted several events during the Annual Florida Bar Convention.

Our June 26, day-long [Criminal Law Update 2025](#) had an excellent turnout. Attendees gained critical insights on new case law, DUI developments, and the evolving landscape of crimmigration. The roster featured Supreme Court Justice [John Couriel](#), retired Justice [Peggy A. Quince](#), retired Palm Beach County Public Defender [Carey S. Haughwout](#), and a thought-provoking panel discussion on a lawyer's place in contemporary America. Special thanks to Program Chair [H. Scott Fingerhut](#).

At the Section's reception that evening, three recent law school graduates received our 2025 Student Scholarship Awards. [Lily Arslanian](#), University of Miami School of Law, [Micayla Richardson](#), Florida International University College of Law, and [Ruquyyah Smith](#), Florida International University College of Law, each received \$2,500 cash scholarships. In addition, we introduced the four young lawyers selected to participate in the section's first-ever Fellowship Program. Under the leadership of Committee Chair Alexa Cline, the CLS Young Lawyers Committee launched the new initiative to spur interest, retain, and foster participation in the section among the next generation of criminal law practitioners, while fostering leadership, mentorship, and professional development among its members. The Section's inaugural class of Fellows includes [Laura Chiu](#), [Brooke Pemberton](#), [Freddie Menard](#), and [Kyra Lucas-Millbrook](#). Learn more about the Fellows in the [Bar News write-up](#).

In addition to the Section's regular business during the June 27 Executive Council meeting, 2024–2025 Section Chair Patricia Dawson presented outstanding service awards to [Alexa Cline](#), [Stacey Salmons](#), and [Michael Ufferman](#), "In recognition of your commitment to the Criminal Law Section, your dedication to the practice of criminal law, and your invaluable contribution to the criminal justice system."

Also during the EC meeting, the Section's new officers were installed, and four Section members were elected to serve two-year terms on the Executive Council.

Congratulations to the newly elected officers of the Criminal Law Section. The Honorable [Tatiana Salvador](#) (Chair), [Ryan J. Vescio](#) (Chair-Elect) [Jude M. Faccidomo](#) (Secretary), [Michael Ufferman](#) (Treasurer), and [Patricia Dawson](#) (Immediate Past Chair).

Please join us in welcoming the four Criminal Law Section members elected to serve two-year terms on the Executive Council starting July 1: [Paul Figueroa](#), [Aaron Wayt](#), [Professor Sarah Wolking](#), and [Brian Zack](#).

After the EC meeting, we were [privileged to honor](#) retired Florida Supreme Court Justice [Peggy A. Quince](#), a trailblazer whose career embodies the principles of justice, equity, and public service, with the 2025 Selig I. Goldin Memorial Award, honoring her exemplary service, profound impact on Florida's legal landscape and longstanding commitment to the Criminal Law Section.

Many Goldin Award luncheon guests attended a complimentary CLE immediately following the presentation. Panelists for "Confronting Tomorrow Today: The Ethical and Professional Impact and Implications of AI in the Courtroom" included [Judge P. Kevin Castel](#) of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York, [Richard A. Greenberg](#) of RumbergerKirk in Tallahassee, Chief Magistrate

[Judge William Matthewman](#), West Palm Beach Division of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida, and [Peter Wechsler](#), Peter L. Wechsler, Esq., Miami. Read the presenters' bios [here](#). Special thanks to Program Chair [H. Scott Fingerhut](#).

Photo recap of the Criminal Law Section's events during the convention:

