

Nathan W. Kotas

Associate Professor, School of Business Administration

Assistant Chair · Program Director, Paralegal Program

Daytona State College, Daytona Beach, Florida

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Nathan W. Kotas is an Associate Professor in the School of Business Administration at Daytona State College, where he serves as Assistant Chair and directs the Paralegal Program. He practiced law in Atlanta for more than two decades before joining the faculty in 2020, first at firms including King & Spalding and Alston & Bird and then in his own practice. His teaching pairs primary legal sources with guided use of artificial intelligence, which he treats as a scaffold for legal reasoning. He created AI & the Law (PLA 2872), the first course of its kind in the Florida College System, and he builds free study tools and open-source software for legal education.

Academic Appointments

Daytona State College, Daytona Beach, Florida

Associate Professor, School of Business Administration	2025–present
Assistant Chair, School of Business Administration (Paralegal and Office Programs)	2021–present
Program Director, Paralegal Program	2021–present
Assistant Professor	2020–2025
Adjunct Professor	2020

Legal Practice

Nathan W. Kotas, Esq., Atlanta, Georgia	2009–2020
Attorney, Private Practice	
Alston & Bird LLP, Atlanta, Georgia	2007–2009
Attorney	
Tin Roof Bar & Cantina, Atlanta, Georgia	2006–2007
General Counsel	
Mabry & McClelland LLP, Atlanta, Georgia	2000–2005
Attorney	
King & Spalding LLP, Atlanta, Georgia	1999–2000
Attorney	

Education

University of Florida Levin College of Law, Gainesville, Florida	1999
J.D., with Honors	
Journal of Law & Public Policy	
University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida	1996
B.S.B.A., Economics, with High Honors	
University Honors Program	

Bar Admissions

State Bar of Georgia (active)

Supreme Court of Georgia; Court of Appeals of Georgia; United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia; United States District Court for the Middle District of Georgia

Lead Instructor

Business Law I	BUL 2241	Business Law II	BUL 2242
Introduction to Law	PLA 1003	Legal Research	PLA 1104
Legal Writing	PLA 2114	Civil Litigation	PLA 2201
Criminal Law	PLA 2303	Bankruptcy Law	PLA 2460
Estate Law	PLA 2600	Property Law	PLA 2610
Legal Technology	PLA 2763	Family Law	PLA 2800
Artificial Intelligence and the Law	PLA 2872 · course creator	Constitutional Law	PLA 2880
Selected Topics in Legal Studies	PLA 2930		

Program Leadership and Curriculum Development

Paralegal Program

- Led the revision of the Paralegal Studies A.S. program, which added electives and created a direct path from the A.S. to the A.A. degree. Approved by the District Board of Trustees, April 2024.
- Aligned program learning outcomes with Quality Matters, ABA, and Florida Department of Education standards, and revised every core master course description to meet QM standards.
- Revised most core paralegal courses around activity-based assignments that require responsible and transparent use of artificial intelligence.
- Converted hybrid courses to a HyFlex livestream format so working students can complete the program.
- Replaced most commercial textbooks with primary sources and open materials, supported by legal-database access funded through annual Perkins grants.
- Founded the Daytona State College chapter of Lambda Epsilon Chi (LEX), the national paralegal honor society, and held its first induction in April 2024.
- Secured Westlaw and research access for students through a partnership with the Volusia County Law Library, and arranged guest speakers, tours, and internships with NASCAR, the Public Defender’s Office, and local firms.
- Recruited and mentored adjunct faculty to keep course design consistent in Falcon Online.

College-wide

Curriculum Developer, Artificial Intelligence Awareness Certificate	2024–present
Helped design and implement the interdisciplinary certificate, including development of AI & the Law (PLA 2872).	
Member, AI Learning Collaborative	2026–present
College-wide collaboration focused on AI use, implementation, and continued development of courses within the Artificial Intelligence Awareness Certificate.	
FCLE Curriculum Developer	2026–present
Selected to develop and manage instructional content and lead student preparation for the Florida Civic Literacy Exam, working with faculty and student-support units.	
Instructor and Course Developer, FCLE Review Sessions and Testing Opportunities	2025–2026
Academic Support Center and TRiO Student Support Services.	

Designer and Instructor, Perkins Summer Career Exploration Camp	2025
Four-day camp for high school students on courtroom skills and trial preparation, ending in a live mock trial.	
Contributor, DSC Manufacturing Enterprise Smart Tiny House Project	2023–2024
Wrote course activities, hosted a student discussion with the College's General Counsel, and brought in Habitat for Humanity as a community partner.	

Research Grants

Drs. Leonard and Lynn Lempel Faculty Research and Writing Program Grant, Daytona State College	2025
Project: "AI in the Hands of Learners."	

Independent Projects and Open-Source Software

Personal professional work. These projects are not publications or services of Daytona State College.

LexED2	lexed2.com
Interactive course activities for legal studies, built around the principle "Learn the law. Question AI." Covers Introduction to Law, business law, civil litigation, constitutional law, legal technology, and AI & the Law.	
StudyFCLE	studyfcle.org
A free practice bank for the Florida Civic Literacy Exam across all four competencies. Each question explains why every answer choice is right or wrong and cites a primary source.	
Oyez MCP	github.com/attorneyate/oyez-mcp
An open-source Model Context Protocol server (MIT license) that lets Claude and other AI clients search the Oyez archive of U.S. Supreme Court cases and read decisions with vote breakdowns. Oral-argument transcripts can be filtered to a single Justice or advocate.	

Presentations and Panels

Panelist, "Generative AI in the Classroom: A Panel Discussion about Assignment Design." 18th Annual Academic Excellence Symposium, Department of Learning and Development, Daytona State College.	2026
Panelist, "The Low Road and the High Road: Using Both Low-Tech and High-Tech Methods to Develop a Balanced Student." 18th Annual Academic Excellence Symposium, Department of Learning and Development, Daytona State College.	2026
Panelist, "To AI or Not to AI? That Is the Question." Virtual Undergraduate Research Conference, Center for Interdisciplinary Writing and Research, Daytona State College.	2026
Presenter, "Changing Our HOW: Educating AI-Ready Paralegals." Volusia County Paralegal Association Annual Seminar, Leveraging AI in Legal Practice, Daytona Beach, Florida.	2025
Presenter, "AI and the Law." National Defender Investigator Association 2025 National Conference, Daytona Beach, Florida.	2025
Presenter, "How Paralegals Can Lead with Ethical AI Innovation." North Carolina Paralegal Association Annual Seminar.	2025

Honors and Awards

Service Excellence Award, Office of the President, Daytona State College	2026
NISOD Excellence Award	2025
Faculty Innovation Award, Daytona State College	2024

College Service

Falcon Ideas Planning Council Sub-Committee	2023–present
Co-Chair, 2026–present; Member, 2023–2026	
Administrative Unit Review Planning Council Sub-Committee	2022–present
Co-Chair, 2023–present; Member, 2022–2023	
General Education Committee, Member	2022–present
Paralegal Program Advisory Committee, Member	2020–present
Co-organizer, Constitution Day (college-wide event)	2022–present
Faculty Advisor, Mock Trial Club	2026–present
Faculty Advisor, Pre-Law Society	2022–present
Faculty Advisor, Student Paralegal Association	2020–2022
Peer Review Committee, Member	2022–2025
eMentors Committee, Member	2022–2025
Faculty Marshal, Commencement	2021–2022

Certifications and Professional Development

Florida AI Learning Community (FALCON), Statewide Meeting Series	2026–present
AI2 Summit: Artificial Intelligence and Academic Innovation, University of Florida AI2 Center, Orlando	2025
Chairperson Leadership Training Development Program, Daytona State College	2025
11th Annual UF Law E-Discovery Conference	2024
Quality Matters Rubric Update Certification, Seventh Edition	2023
Certified Quality Matters Peer Reviewer, Higher Education	2022
Daytona State College Digital Professional Program	2022
AAfPE National Spring Conference	2022
Writing Across the Curriculum / Writing in the Disciplines (WAC/WID), Level I	2020
Continuing legal education to maintain an active Georgia license	Annually

Professional and Community Service

Volusia County Paralegal Association	2024–present
Associate Member	
Port Orange Soccer Club, Inc.	2022–present
Vice President	
Local elementary school, Volusia County	2024–present
PTA Vice President, 2025–present; PTA President, 2024–2025; School Advisory Council, 2024–2025	
Catholic Church of the Epiphany, Port Orange, Florida	2015–present
Parish Council, 2022–2026; Engaged Couples Ministry, 2018–present	

Updated September 2026