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FAMU College of Law

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College of Law Receives Full Accreditation



LeRoy Pernell, dean of Florida A&M University's College of Law (at the podium), along with FAMU President James H. Ammons (far left) and former FAMU President Frederick S. Humphries, gives remarks regarding the American Bar Association granting full approval to Florida A&M University's College of Law.

The American Bar Association (ABA) Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar granted full approval to Florida A&M University (FAMU) College of Law during its meeting in Chicago on July 30, 2009, according to FAMU President James H. Ammons.

"I applaud Dean Pernell, his administration, faculty, and students for reaching this milestone," said FAMU President James H. Ammons. "This achievement speaks volumes about their hard work, dedication and commitment."

Ammons announced the Council's decision regarding accreditation during a press conference held in the ceremonial moot courtroom of the FAMU College of Law in downtown Orlando. He was joined by FAMU Board of Trustees Chairman C. William Jennings, Law School Dean LeRoy Pernell, Former FAMU President Frederick Humphries, dozens of university administrations, law school alumni, friends and supporters.

"Critics of our school once said

that the mountain was too steep to climb," said Dean Pernell. "When faced with a mountain you have to cross, the slope is irrelevant. The Council's decision is a reflection of the resilience, perseverance and commitment of the university, our students, faculty and staff to the mission of the FAMU College of Law."

Under the rules of the ABA, the Council's decision is final and effective immediately, subject to review by the ABA House of Delegates. While the House of Delegates may request reconsideration of the Council's decision, the group has never done so in the history of the ABA.

"Full accreditation by the ABA ensures that the 500-plus FAMU College of Law graduates can continue to sit for the Bar exam in any state in the nation and it reaffirms what we have always known: that we have and will continue to

provide our students with a great legal education," Pernell said.

The FAMU College of Law becomes one of only 189 law schools fully approved by the ABA. To remain in compliance with ABA standards, the FAMU College of Law will undergo its next full site evaluation in three years then reviews every seven years thereafter.

In a released statement, Governor Charlie Crist said, "I want to congratulate Florida A&M University College of Law on earning full accreditation. Their commitment to academic excellence is helping prepare

Continued next page



The ABA's decision for full accreditation comes nearly 60 years after the original College of Law was established in Tallahassee.

ABA Grants Full Accreditation to FAMU Law

Continued from Page 1

future attorneys from Florida and around the globe to meet the legal needs of their communities. This well-deserved achievement is the result of a college-wide dedication to enhancing student services and programs and increasing education and career opportunities.”

The FAMU College of Law was reestablished in 2000 and opened its doors to 89 students in 2002. The ABA granted the law school provisional accreditation in August 2004. Since that time, the FAMU College of Law continued to grow and pursue its mission.

With the arrival of Ammons from North Carolina Central University in July 2007, and Pernell from Northern Illinois University’s College of Law in January 2008, sweeping changes and improvements followed at the law school. The changes included the addition of 16 nationally-recognized faculty members and a new Center for International Law and Justice (CILJ) at the start of the fall 2008



FAMU President James H. Ammons (center) stands with Dean LeRoy Pernell (left) and FAMU Trustees Chairman C. William Jennings, after a press conference announcing full accreditation of the law school in July.

semester. Law faculty publication and scholarship output increased; the law school was recognized as the most diverse law school in the nation by U.S. News and World Report; and was ranked seventh nationally for providing clinical opportunities by National Jurist magazine. The campus was enhanced also with the opening of the FAMU Café in December 2008 and the FAMU Bookstore in January 2009.

“This is a significant milestone for FAMU,” Ammons said. “But it’s just the beginning of a long journey to make the College of Law a premiere

institution of legal education, committed to its history of making an indelible mark on the community and the world.”

The law school was created with a specific mission — to “meet the educational needs of African Americans and other ethnic minorities, while maintaining its leadership in racial diversity.”

In a statement released by U.S. Congresswoman Corrine Brown, Brown said, “Indeed this is a victory that the school, its professors and student body deserve. I remember the humiliation and anger we felt as FAMU students when, in 1965, the Florida legislature voted to close the law school and move it to Florida State University. Today, after all these years, the law school is not only up and running, but is fully accredited. And with accreditation its programs will be given an even bigger boost, and the school will be able to attract even more students and successfully continue to produce a diverse body of lawyers for the surrounding Orlando community and the state of Florida as a whole.”

Site Visit Preparation Inspires Lasting Pride

Cheers filled the College of Law Atrium in February when more than 100 students gathered for rallies in preparation for an upcoming Accreditation visit. One by one, various speakers addressed fellow law students to spread optimism about the law school and the imminent visit by the American Bar Association (ABA).

The student event coincided with a faculty led initiative dubbed Destination Accreditation. Prior to the ABA visit, the Destination Accreditation team held various events and activities aimed at building morale and comradre among FAMU law students, faculty, administration and staff.



First-year law student Ananias Makar receives a Destination Accreditation T-shirt from Law Library Director Phebe Poydras in February.

The Destination Accreditation events included movie screenings, guest speakers and other programs co-sponsored by student groups. A notable event was the Chili/Gumbo Cook-off

where more than 100 students, faculty and staff members sampled the culinary talents of seven entries. The law school community was also treated to doughnuts and received a commemorative Destination Accreditation T-shirt and a keepsake keychain.

After the site visit dates had passed, various members of the law school community could be seen sporting the T-shirt on the law school campus, at student organization activities and various community service events, including the Tom Joyner 2K Walk/Run in downtown Orlando, where a group of more than 20 participated.

FAMU Spring 2009 Faculty Achievements



Associate Dean **Jeremy Levitt** along with Matthew Whitaker, Associate Professor of History at Arizona State University, edited and wrote the introduction

for *Hurricane Katrina: America's Unnatural Disaster*, a 336-page book that questions the efficacy of the national and global responses to Katrina's central victims, African Americans. Dean Levitt also had several articles published in the *Orlando Sentinel* including: "Washington-bound: Why I voted for Barack Obama"; "Out of Moral Darkness and Into the Bright Light"; and "Black History Month has Lessons for All of Us".

Associate Professor **Deleso Washington** served as one of two Inauguration Volunteer Training coordinators for law students working with the National Black Law Students Association. More than 150 law student volunteers were recruited and trained through a partnership to assist the Presidential Inaugural Committee during the Inauguration.



Professor **Robert Abrams**, an expert in water law, participated in the 27th Annual Water Law Conference in San Diego in February. The event themed "Change in the Midst of Constants: Adapting Water Law to Meet New Demands" was part of the American Bar Association Section of Environment,



Energy and Resources – Water Resources Committee. Professor Abrams presented "Water Law 102: Groundwater Basics". He also participated in the Boundary Waters Treaty (BWT) Centennial Symposium presented in February by the Wayne Law

Review at Wayne State University Law School in Detroit. The BWT of 1909 is a bilateral agreement in Canadian and US relations providing a foundation for environmental cooperation and equality between the two nations. Professor Abrams presented on the panel "the Boundary Waters Treaty and Protecting Freshwater Resources in North America." His topic was "Applying the BWT Framework to Contemporary Water Disputes."



Visiting Professor **Carolyn Bratt** published the article "Examining the Consequences and Character of 'Heir' Property," in the *Journal of Ecological Economics*, a transdisciplinary

journal published by the International Society for Ecological Economics (ISEE). Professor Bratt coauthored the piece with Professor **B. James Deaton** of the University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada and **Dr. Jamie Baxter**, of the Appalachian Center, University of Kentucky.

Associate Professor **Jennifer Smith** participated as a panelist at "Practical Issues in Health Law", Campbell



University Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law's Law Review Symposium in Raleigh, North Carolina in January. She served on the discussion panel "Important Legal

Developments in Health Law." She also participated on the Race, Culture, Class and Health Care panel at the 2009 Southeast/Southwest People of Color Legal Scholarship Conference held in Phoenix, Arizona in March. She presented her article entitled: "Screen, Stabilize & Ship: Emtala, U.S. Hospitals & Undocumented Aliens." Other articles published in the Spring include "Credit Cards, Attorney's Fees, and the Putative Debtor: A Pyrrhic Victory? Putative Debtors May Win The Battle But Nevertheless Lose the

War" in *Maine Law Review*, Volume 61; and, "Dirty Pretty Things' & the Law (Curing the Organ Donation and Health Care Crises in America)" in the *Chapman Law Review* (2008). Smith was also invited to draft the problem and bench brief for the 2009-2010 National Health Law Moot Court Competition that will be held at Southern Illinois University School of Law in Carbondale, Illinois.



Associate Professor **Patricia Broussard** published "Now You See it Now You Don't: Addressing the Issue of Websites which are 'Lost in Space'" in Volume 35, Issue 1 of the *Ohio Northern University Law Review*.

Assistant Professor **Karin Moore** presented her paper entitled, "So You Have a DNA Case: Now What?"



at the Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers annual "Death Is Different" death penalty conference in Orlando in March. The paper and presentation

instructed capital litigators from across the state on red flags to look for in DNA cases, how to investigate DNA evidence and how to challenge it in court. After her presentation, Prof. Moore was invited by fellow speaker, **Andrea Lyon**, to present on motion practice on forensic science evidence in capital cases at her death penalty clinic at DePaul University's College of Law next spring.



Professor **Barbara Bernier** published "Unholy Troika: Gender, Race and Religiosity in the 2008 Presidential Contest" in the *Duke Journal of Gender, Law and Policy*.

Law Students Embark on Summer International Experiences



Summer 2009 International Law Interns will participate in eight internships in five countries on four continents. Dr. Jeremy Levitt (second from right), Associate Dean for International Programs, organized the internships.

Florida A&M University (FAMU) College of Law offers two central ways for students to pursue their international interest: (1) the International Law Internship Program; and (2) The International Law Study Abroad Program. Consequently, the Associate Dean for International Programs, through the Center for International Law & Justice (CILJ) at FAMU College of Law, has organized eight highly coveted international law internships this summer in five countries on four continents as part of its International Law Internship Program.

The CILJ has also facilitated nine students to participate in summer study abroad programs in England, France,

Italy, South Africa and Spain. Of all Florida law schools, FAMU College of Law has among the highest number of students interning abroad, and all but one of them are women of color.

“Responding to the needs created by globalization is one of the greatest challenges facing legal education in the 21st century,” said FAMU College of Law Dean **LeRoy Pernell**, “The CILJ is our answer to these challenges.”

This year’s summer interns include: **Rebecca Gardiner** (1L), Caribbean Court of Justice, Port of Spain, Trinidad; **Danielle Hernandez** (2L), Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Center for Human Rights, Washington, DC; **Daniela McCalla** (1L), Ghanaian Supreme Court, Accra, Ghana; **Candice McKinley** (3L), International Criminal

Tribunal for Rwanda, Arusha, Tanzania; **Shawn McCullers** (1L), Interpol, Bangkok, Thailand; **Donna Robinson** (1L), Ghanaian Supreme Court, Accra, Ghana; **Lissette Shepherd** (1L), International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, Arusha, Tanzania; and **Karen Skyers** (2L), Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Center for Human Rights, Washington, DC.

The International Law Internship Program provides practical work experiences that enable students to gain advanced legal knowledge and skills within an organization, industry or functional area that reflects their academic and professional interests. It also provides law students with firsthand experience in government, international organizations, public and private interest law firms, nonprofit organizations, and other areas of interest relevant to legal education.

“The International Law Internship Program offers students transformative experiences that will enable them to value humanity beyond our borders,” said **Dr. Jeremy Levitt**, Associate Dean for International Programs.

Florida A&M University College of Law Annual Hooding Ceremony & Spring Commencement

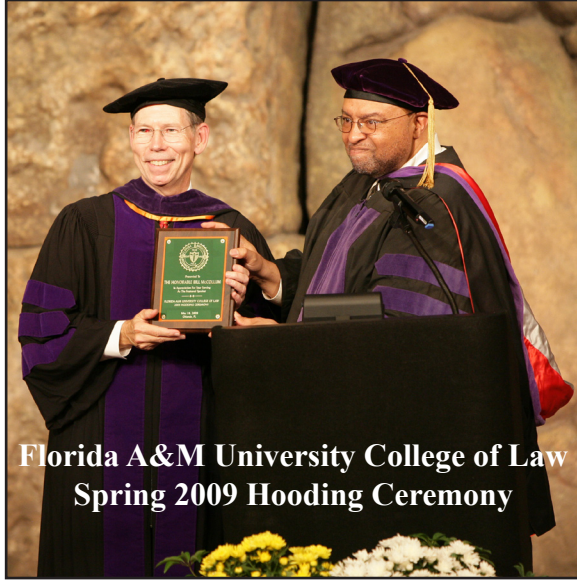
The Florida A&M University (FAMU) College of Law held its Annual Hooding Ceremony on Saturday, May 16, 2009 at Walt Disney World’s Hollywood Studios, Indiana Jones Epic Stunt Theater. The hooding ceremony recognized 168 law school graduates, from the Fall 2008, Spring 2009 and Summer 2009 classes, in a prestigious setting with more than 2,300 family, friends and special guests attending. Adam Goldstone, ‘08, and Michael Cortes, ‘09, were recognized as the Fall 2008 and Spring 2009 Valedictorians. Bill McCollum, 36th Attorney General of Florida and former United States Congressman, served as keynote speaker.

All FAMU College of Law juris doctor degrees are conferred in Tallahassee, and graduates may elect to participate in commencement exercises with their graduating class. The Spring 2009 Commencement Ceremony took place at the New Teaching Gymnasium on the main campus on Sunday, May 3, 2009. More than 60 law students and faculty participated, which made for the largest group to assemble for commencement exercises. Bill Clinton, 42nd President of the United States, served as keynote speaker. Following the ceremony, graduates and faculty visited the entrance to the old law school, located at the Coleman Library.

The following pages provide a glimpse at moments captured during the Spring 2009 Hooding Ceremony and Commencement Exercises.

Images provided by Bob Knight Photo, Walt Disney World and the FAMU College of Law.





Florida A&M University College of Law
Spring 2009 Hooding Ceremony

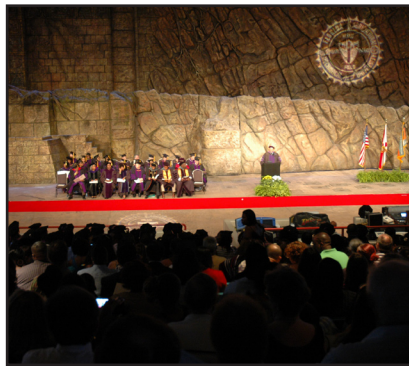


Florida A&M University
Spring 2009 Commencement





Florida A&M University College of Law
Spring 2009 Hooding Ceremony





Florida A&M University College of Law

2008 - 2009 Candidates for Hooding

Milton Acevedo	Robert Joseph Grimaldi	Mikaela Nicole Nix
Danielle Annette Achenkour	Melissa Elizabeth Hamilton	Gary Burdette Null
Stephanie Alistan	Crystal Denise Harmon	Tarjal LaTrois O'Neal-Moten
Rasheed K. Allen * ⁺	Michael Elliot Harris	Jason M. Orr ⁺
Nancy Alvarez *	Pamela Latrice Hatcher-Greene	Parita R. Patel
Hallie M. Alymat * ⁺	Casinova Orino Henderson	Wyntress Patterson ⁺
Marlese Adasé Ambrose ⁺⁺	Mark William Hernandez ⁺	Robrico L. Phillips ⁺
Anthony N. Amos ⁺⁺	Jeremy Gregory Hill ⁺	Esther Pierre-Louis
Joy Tolulope Anakhu	Regina Shanta Hogan *	Yvonne Wilson Pinto ⁺
Lenis Liona Archer	Teresa Danette Hordge-Miller *	Kendrick A. Pratt ⁺⁺
Tami Lynn Bell	Natalia S. Hunte	Glinda R. Pruitt ⁺⁺
Senly Bonny ⁺	Marlon Christopher Hyatt	Lucinda Crandell Pruss ⁺⁺
Aziza A. Bowser ⁺	Chinagozi Anucha Ikpeama ⁺	Juna Pulayya ⁺⁺
Vanessa Lee Brice ⁺	Andres Jackson	Philip A. Putnam * ⁺
Michael S. Brown ⁺	Iyada Evette Jackson ⁺	Bianca Pyko
Andrele Brutus	Jonathan H. Jacobs ⁺	Tiana Rafidinariyo ⁺
Christina Ann Buchan	Seyi A. Collins-Jemmott	Leyla R. Ramos ⁺
James George Buell	David Jimenez	Reganel J. Reeves, Sr. *
Dave Allen Cacciatore	Candace Lee Johns ⁺⁺	Christiné Dawn Richardson
Clinton Douglas Cagle	Amber L. Johnson ⁺⁺	Ashley Meagan Ridgeway
Elsa Tytiana Camacho	Maloni T. Jones	Michelle L. Rivera ⁺⁺
Valeta VanTasha Cameron ⁺	Nicholas Randall Jones	Amity L. Rohlfing ⁺
Maurice W. Campbell ⁺	Michael C. Jurgens	Jennifer Diane Rouse
Alexis Francisco Carter, Jr. *	Onyema Lillian Kamalu	Karen Jocelyn Ruiz
Amy J. Carter ** ⁺	Matthew Kaminski ⁺	Gregory Saint-Jour
Zaneta L. Castillo ⁺	Elizabeth L. Kirk ⁺	Gabrielle Nathleen-Patiana Sanders
Amanda Charlene Chew	Taniya N. Lall * ⁺	Bette J. Sandler ⁺⁺
Brunelle Cinous	Jason Scott Lanfersiek ⁺	Dalyla Santos ⁺
Jacques Lee Cooper	Leslie K. Lesperance	Jessica Spoerer Santos
Michael J. Cortes **	Rogell Xavier Levers	Monica A. Saucedá * ⁺
Mariavittoria Costa	Jennifer Ling	Jennifer B. Schulte
Iris Leesa Cruz * ⁺⁺	LaTonya Michelle Lipscomb	SanJanette LaGayle Scott
Timothy M. Dandar ⁺⁺	Nelson Llabona **	McArthur Shelton II
Lan Thi Ngoc Dang ⁺	Stephan Lopez	Amrita Davieca Singh
Mahala Dar ⁺	Christopher Tyler Loucks	Sarah Elizabeth Skidmore
Carinne A. Davis ⁺	Kelly Shiri Love ⁺⁺	Shantel T. Smith ⁺
Pamela Denise Davis ⁺	Skinner Louis	Javier Soto ** ⁺
Michelle Annette DeLeón ⁺	Tchad Kashim Lovell	Ronalda M. Stevens ⁺
Jacqueline M. Dexter ⁺	Mirna Angelica Lucho ⁺⁺	Rickey L. Strong ⁺
Deborah S. Dunn ⁺	Sandra K. MacDougall ⁺⁺	Edwin Suarez
Emily S. Dunn ⁺	Robert T. Magill ⁺	Britt Swain
Gerard Michael Dunn ⁺	Fauzia A. Makar	Jennifer Ann Synnamon-Cortez
Nicole Julie Marjorie Eaton	Antonio G. Martin ⁺	Tania Telfort
Rodney Antonio Edwards	Shantel T. Martin ⁺	Erica N. Thomas
Vanesa C. Elvers	Stephanie Marie Maxwell	Fatimah D. Thomas
Kambria Arielle Emanuel	Tamara Danielle McDonald	Brandi McKay Triplett
Andrea Lashae Fant	Candice Devonnie McKinley ⁺	James Christopher Turffs
Ricky Evrakes Favors-Payne *	Latasha A. McMillon	Kienna C. Turner ⁺
Fedline Ferjuste ⁺	Anna Estelle Meddin	Darlene J'Nette Vereen
Marjory M. François ⁺	Soeurette Michel	Edward Vu *
Susan R. Fuller ⁺	Christina M. Miner ⁺	Cal Warner Walton, III ⁺⁺
Richard A. Furman ⁺	Nina P. Mitchell ⁺⁺	Erik J. Washington
Ericka Garcia ** ⁺	Jerika S. Mobley ⁺⁺	Gerri E. Williams
Michena Georges	Yumeko La'Trese Motley	Latoya Shaday Williams
Adam S. Goldstone *** ⁺	Seán Spencer Moylan	Lavon B. Williams
Veronica Alma Gray	Ronald Charles Nesbitt	Juliana Zach ⁺

*** - Summa Cum Laude

** - Magna Cum Laude

* - Cum Laude

⁺ - December 2008 (Fall) Candidate

⁺⁺ - August 2009 (Summer) Candidate

To be eligible for graduation with honors, graduates must have earned the required cumulative grade point average after completion of the semester immediately preceding the semester of graduation. The printing of this program is completed before final action is taken on all candidates. The list of candidates is tentative only. The University and the College of Law reserve the right to withdraw candidates.

Scenes from the FAMU College of Law

Minority Law Day



Dean LeRoy Pernell (right) addresses over 150 law school guests who participated in Minority Law Day in February. The event is designed to inspire and inform anyone contemplating a career in the legal profession.

Witnesses to History



FAMU Law students and faculty gathered at various locations throughout the law school campus to watch live broadcasts of the swearing-in of Barack Obama as the 44th President of the United States.

A Law School Tradition



The Student Bar Association sponsored the 2009 Barrister's Ball at the Orlando Citrus Club in March. Pictured are Kelly Love (3L), Andrew Fletcher-Gordon (2L), Ashley Mitchell (2L), Kambria Emanuel (3L), Camille Thompson (2L), Christopher Rountree (2L) and Ronalda Stevens (3L).

Recognizing Public Servants



Orange County Sheriff Jerry Demings (left to right) and Commissioner Tiffany Moore Russell pose with Assistant Dean Neverson Heatley, III at the 7th Annual Percy R. Luney, Jr. Spirit of Service Awards, which recognizes FAMU Law students, faculty and staff for their service to the school and community.

Supporting the Community



FAMU College of Law students and friends of the law school receive a pep-talk from Associate Professor Patricia Broussard prior to participating in the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Clean-Up Parramore event.

Striking for Healthy Starts



A group of FAMU College of Law students, faculty and staff sporting commemorative Destination Accreditation T-shirts participate in the Tom Joyner TJ2K Walk/Run in April at Lake Eola.

Law Students Leave Their Mark at Competitions

Demonstrating their superior advocacy skills, three teams of Florida A&M University (FAMU) College of Law students received high honors at regional trial competitions and two of those teams advanced to the finals at the national level. Here are the details:

The American Bar Association (ABA) Client Counseling Team comprised of third-year law students **Ricky Favors** and **Seyi Jemmott** won their Regional Competition and represented FAMU and Region 5 in the ABA National Finals in Durham, North Carolina, March 13-14, 2009. The FAMU team beat out a total of 11 competing teams and placed first for preliminary rounds through the finals. The team was coached by **Elizabeth Kirk**, a recent FAMU College of Law graduate, and assisted by Associate Professors **Patricia Broussard** and **Jennifer Smith**. As a consequence of this win, FAMU Law will host the ABA Client Counseling Competition next year.

The Trial Team of third-year law students **Alexis Carter**, **Crystal Harmon**, and **Christine Richardson**, and second-year law student **Daniel Whitley** was the 1st Runner-up at the Southern Region Black Law Students Association (BLSA) Thurgood Marshall Mock Trial Team Competition in Nashville, Tennessee. The second-place finish made the team eligible to compete at the BLSA National Competition in Irvine, California, March 18-22, 2009. Richardson



Third-year law students Seyi Jemmott (left) and Ricky Favors won the ABA Client Counseling Regional Competition and represented FAMU and Region 5 at Nationals in March.

was named Best Advocate in the competition. The team was coached by Staff Attorney **Ka'Juel Washington**, a member of the inaugural FAMU Law class.

The Moot Court Team of second-year law students **Sean Campbell** and **Truleia Fuller**, coached by Professor **William Henslee**, represented FAMU Law in the Southern Region BLSA Frederick Douglass Moot Court Competition, also held in Nashville. The team advanced to the quarter-final round with an undefeated record before being eliminated. Campbell was named Best Oralist in the competition.

“The success of our law student teams in trial competitions demonstrates how seriously we take our advocacy training,” said **LeRoy Pernell**, dean of the FAMU College of Law.

Students Gain Valuable Experience at Advocacy Competition

Third-year law student **Melinda Merced** and second-year law students **Justin Eisele**, **Michael Gagnon**, **Peter Papanikolau**, **Susan Peters**, and **Courtney Soria** participated in the ABA National Appellate Advocacy Competition held March 5-7, 2009 in Brooklyn, New York. Peters and Soria advanced to the “Sweet Sixteen” round. **Danielle Hernandez**, also a second-year student, provided assistance at the competition as bailiff.

“The students dedicated many months of preparation in writing their briefs and perfecting their oral arguments,” said Assistant Professor **Eang Ngov**. “They exhibited ‘grace under fire’ as they argued before three rounds of judges at the competition.” Ngov assisted the teams for the competition.

The teams were also assisted by Legal Writing Instructor **Timothy Blevins**, Associate Professor **John Duncan**, Assistant Professor **Jonathan Fineman**, and Legal Writing Instructor **Carmenelisa Perez-Kudzma**. FAMU third-year law students **Brunelle Cinous**, **Mavette Coquillon**, **Veronica Gray**, **Cal Walton III**, and **Jennifer Synnamon** provided assistance in oral argument preparations; first-year students **Shawn McCullers** and **Zeanique Barber** assisted with the brief and oral argument.

Other Student News

The FAMU Law Environmental Law Society (ELS) hosted a forum to discuss the impact of SunRail in March. The event was coordinated by **Kerene Tayloe** (1L) and **Joseph Dillon** (1L), and received mention on local NBC affiliate WESH Channel-2 and coverage by the Orlando Sentinel.

Third-year law student **Michelle McDonald** was one of seven law students selected as Legislative Intern with the Humane Society of the United

States in its Government Affairs Office on Capitol Hill.

Ericka Garcia, '08 was named a fellow with Greenberg Traurig, LLP, and will work with the Legal Aid Society of the Orange County Bar Association in Orlando, Florida.

The Army Judge Advocate General's Corps selected **Alexis Carter**, '09 and **Dustin Myrie**, '08 for active duty.

First-year law student **Jonathan Wright** was selected for an internship with the **Honorable Richard Speers**,

a bankruptcy judge with the 6th Circuit in Toledo, Ohio.

First-year law student **Kerene Tayloe** was selected as an intern for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in the Washington, DC Metro area. She will work with the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response.

First-year law student **Latasha Lessington** was named Director of Membership 2009-2010 for the South Region of the Black Law Students Association (SRBLSA).

FAMU Law Seminar Examined Water Law Issues

The FAMU College of Law sponsored a seminar featuring nationally renowned property and water law experts discussing uses of the St. Johns River on April 1, 2009.

“Contemporary Water Law Issues in Central Florida: Of Floodwater Management and Surface Water Diversions” presented panels that addressed two areas of water resource concern in Central Florida: flood water management; and diversion of water from the St. Johns River for use in Central Florida communities. The seminar was organized by FAMU Law Professor **Robert Abrams**, an expert in both Water Law and Environmental Law.

The flood water panel considered the law governing potential liability of landowners to one another and the role and potential liability of governmental units that attempt to manage the water. The panel also explored the linkage between land use planning and water management. **Randall Abate**, a visiting professor of law at Florida

Panelists and sponsors of the Property Law seminar pose with FAMU College of Law Dean LeRoy Pernell (third from right) following the event. Professor Robert Abrams (second from right) organized the event.



State University and **Dawn Jourdan**, an assistant professor at the University of Florida, were the featured panelists. The panel was moderated by **Phyllis Smith**, an assistant law professor at FAMU.

The diversion panel presented an overview of the Florida system of regional water management districts and the law governing consumptive use permits issued for the inter-basin or inter-jurisdictional use of water. The proper application of those laws to the pending proposed diversion of St. Johns River water to Seminole County was debated by Attorney **Daniel**

Fernandez, Attorney **Edward de la Parte**, and **Itzhak Kornfeld**, a visiting professor at Florida Coastal School of Law. The panel was moderated by **Tshaka Randall**, an assistant law professor at FAMU.

FAMU College of Law Dean **LeRoy Pernell** saw the Seminar as “a unique opportunity for the law school community and the broader Central Florida community to engage in academic discourse regarding our water supply – an issue that affects us all.”

Fifth DCA Visits FAMU Law School for Third Year



FAMU Law students with Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity, International pose with members of the 5th District Court of Appeal during the Law Day visit in April.

Alan Lawson, and Honorable **Kerry I. Evander**. Judge Griffin is a former school teacher and instructor at the Judicial

College, and Judge Lawson was under consideration for an appointment to the Florida Supreme Court.

The Court heard oral arguments for the following three cases during the visit: *Huck v State* (Criminal Law; Ineffective Counsel); *Alsobiae v Parkinson* (Contract Issue); and *Demings, Sheriff v Orange County*

For the third consecutive year, the 5th District Court of Appeal heard oral arguments for “Law Day” in the Ceremonial Moot Court Room on Wednesday, April 8, 2008. These were actual appeals and arguments made by practicing attorneys on behalf of their clients. The panel consisted of The Honorable **Jacqueline R. Griffin** (Presiding Judge), Honorable C.

Citizen Review Board (Separation of Powers; Florida Constitutional Law). Following each oral argument, the Court paused proceedings to take questions from the gallery. The Court also entertained questions directly concerning the arguments presented.

“There are a number of opportunities during the semester when we encourage students to visit a court,” says Legal Writing Instructor **Timothy Blevins**. “On April 8th, the Court came to our students and presented a rare opportunity that resulted in minimal impact on student time.”

Many of the attending law students were first-year students, and gained valuable experience as they prepared for their own year-end oral arguments. The session concluded with an opportunity for those remaining in the gallery to personally meet with the judges.

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FAMU Law's Fifth Hooding Ceremony



The FAMU College of Law held its 5th Hooding Ceremony Program since re-opening in Orlando, Florida. For the first time, the Hooding Program was held in the evening, and a pre-Hooding reception was held at the law school the previous evening. Students seized the opportunity to honor their beloved classmate Heather D.M. Windsor who passed prior to completing her law program. More than 150 students were recognized at the Hooding Ceremony.

The Florida A&M University (FAMU) College of Law held its Annual Hooding Ceremony on **Saturday, May 16, 2009** at Walt Disney World's Hollywood Studios, Indiana Jones Epic Stunt Theater. This was the fifth Hooding Ceremony held since the law school was re-established and placed in downtown Orlando.

Bill McCollum, 36th Attorney General of Florida, served as the featured speaker and addressed the Spring 2009 candidates, who had the Juris Doctor degree conferred in Tallahassee, Florida at the University's Commencement Ceremony on May 3, 2009. The Hooding Ceremony recognized more than 150 candidates, including Fall 2008 and Summer 2009 classes, in a prestigious setting with their family, friends and special guests.

A pictorial of Spring 2009 Hooding and Commencement moments is featured in this issue of the *FAMU Lawyer*.