

2007

FAMU Lawyer and 2006-2007 Annual Report Volume 6, Issue 1

FAMU College of Law

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FAMU College of Law

201 Beggs Avenue
Orlando, Florida 32801
www.famu.edu/law

Contacts

Admissions
407.254.3286

Career Planning &
Placement
407.254.3212

Development &
Alumni Affairs
407.254.3210

Law Library
407.254.3263

Main Line
407.254.3268

A Letter from the Interim Dean



This expanded Winter edition of *The FAMU Lawyer* provides a unique opportunity to reflect on the many accomplishments of the Florida A&M University College of Law over the past several months. While the *Annual Report* section highlights the activities of the 2006-07 academic year, the remainder of this publication is devoted to the success stories and sad events that have occurred since the 2007-08 academic year began in July 2007.

In the *Annual Report*, we point out the many student accomplishments that have helped law students broaden their academic experiences while bringing accolades to the law school. We also lift up faculty recognitions, such as accolades for appointments, academic honors, and scholarship. In addition, we announce several key staff appointments in the Admissions, Information Technology, Career Planning and Placement, and Security/Law Enforcement offices.

We're also very proud of the technology and facility enhancements we completed in our effort to make the law school community more efficient and

effective, including a revamped website, a new television-monitor communications program, and new location signs around the building.

During the past academic year, we hosted several distinguished guests, such as the 5th District Court of Appeals; the Southeast/Southwest People of Color Conference; Attorney Willie Gary; and Florida Supreme Court Justice Peggy Quince.

Wrapping the *Annual Report*, is a summary of major events and milestones that have occurred during the first half of the 2007-08 academic year. Among the high points were the Bankruptcy Judges Panel Discussion, and our recognition as the most diverse law school in the United States, according to the *US News & World Report – America's Best Graduate Schools* 2008 Edition.

The College of Law also mourned some losses, including the passing of the late Janise Joseph-Woodard, an evening law student who, along with her son, was tragically killed when a plane crashed into their home during the summer. Students held a memorial service at the law school and have set up a scholarship fund to honor her memory. In addition, Jesse J. McCrary, Florida's former Secretary of State and an alumnus of the original College of Law, passed away in October. Our BLSA chapter is named in honor of Mr. McCrary.

By far, the most significant recent events involved efforts to continue our quest for and progress toward accreditation and to solidify leadership at the FAMU College of Law. We have made great strides in both those areas. The Site Evaluation team of the American Bar Association visited the law school in late October and members were complimentary of the law school's progress toward compliance with each of the ABA's Standards for Approval of Law Schools. Key to that opinion was the support the law school has received from alumni and community supporters as well as University administrators.

Our new University administration, led by President James H. Ammons, demonstrated its commitment to the law school by holding the first Board of Trustees meeting of the year at the College of Law in September. During that meeting, the BOT and President Ammons named LeRoy Pernell as the new permanent dean of the FAMU College of Law. Dean Pernell will join us in January 2008.

Not every significant action that took place at the FAMU College of Law in recent memory is mentioned in this publication. Yet, many of the milestones that symbolize our continual growth are captured in text, photos or graphics that we hope you will enjoy reviewing.

Ruth A. Witherspoon
Interim Dean

ABA Accreditation Site Visit

A seven-member team of legal and education experts concluded their visit to the Florida A&M University College of Law on October 31, 2007 as part of an accreditation Site Evaluation by the American Bar Association (ABA).

During its four-day visit, the ABA Site Evaluation team met with students, faculty, staff and administrators from the law school, as well as law school alumni and community supporters. In addition, the team met with University officials, including the president, provost, legal counsel and chief financial officer. The team reviewed the law school's programs and its progress toward compliance with each of the ABA's *Standards for Approval of Law Schools*.

"We are committed to taking whatever measures are necessary to ensure that the FAMU College of Law becomes fully accredited," said Dr. James H. Ammons, FAMU President. "We must ensure that the College of Law continues its mission of producing excellent legal professionals for the state of Florida and the nation."

The ABA evaluation was the final full site visit while the College of Law is in its provisional status and before it will make its application for full accreditation. The ABA granted the FAMU College of Law provisional approval in August 2004. According to the ABA, a law "school that is provisionally approved is entitled to all the rights of a fully approved

law school. Similarly, graduates are entitled to the same recognition afforded graduates of fully approved schools."

The Site Evaluation team was complimentary of the progress made by the law school. The team will compile a report to be submitted to the Accreditation Committee and Council that will outline other issues for the school to take under consideration as it pursues full accreditation status. The report will be shared with the University and the law school in 2008.



Remembering Jesse J. McCrary

The namesake of the FAMU Black Law Students Association and alumnus of the original FAMU College of Law, Jesse J. McCrary, Jr., passed away on October 29, 2007. McCrary was a civil rights pioneer and was the first African-American cabinet member since Reconstruction, appointed Florida Secretary of State by Governor Reubin Askew in 1978.

He achieved many firsts throughout his career, including becoming Florida's first assistant attorney general in 1967

and in 1970 becoming the first black lawyer to argue a case (*Williams v State of Florida*) before the U.S. Supreme Court on behalf of a Southern state.

Jesse J. McCrary graduated from the original FAMU College of Law in 1965. He is pictured here giving an address at BLSA's 2004 Spirit of Service Awards.



Students Establish Joseph-Woodard Scholarship



Janise Joseph-Woodard

Classmates of the late Janise Joseph-Woodard have established a scholarship fund in her honor relying primarily on donations from the law school community and Metro-Orlando area businesses.

Joseph-Woodard and her infant son were tragically killed when a small plane crashed into her Sanford home during the summer. She would have been a second-year law student at FAMU.

Once news of the tragedy reached FAMU law students in her section, several classmates organized a vigil to reflect on how Joseph-Woodard made a positive impact on the greater law school community. Among those in attendance were a group of her survivors, including her husband Joseph Woodard. The first scholarship will be presented to a FAMU law student in the Spring 2008 semester. More information can be obtained at <http://janisejoseph.com>.

ANNUAL REPORT

2006 - 2007



MISSION

The College of Law has committed to the following mission: To provide a law program with high academic standards that produces excellent legal professionals who demonstrate professionalism, provide public service, enhance justice and promote scholarship; to provide a program that offers both full-time and part-time learning opportunities to students; and, consistent with the enabling legislation, to increase representation of minorities within the legal profession.

FAMU will continue its mission of meeting the educational needs of African-Americans and of other ethnic minorities while maintaining its leadership in racial diversity. At the same time, the University seeks students from all racial, ethnic, religious and national groups, without regard to age, sex or disability, who have the potential to benefit from a sound education. The University provides for all an atmosphere where excellent teaching and lifelong learning are hallmarks.

FAMU reaffirms its historical responsibilities to its students to provide important opportunities for service to the diverse communities in Florida, the nation and the world. FAMU strives to set, maintain and reward high standards for faculty, staff and students through continual evolution and pedagogy, curricula, research and public service demands. The College of Law's role is to promote the development of legal professionals as community leaders who are sensitive to the needs of all people.

STUDENT SERVICES

Student Affairs

From community service to workshops and seminars for law students, student organizations serve the law school and broader Orlando area community in a positive light that will make a difference for years to come. All student activities and organizations are supported by the **Student Bar Association** (SBA).

Workshops and Seminars

The **FAMU Law Review** hosted three workshops for its 2007 Write-On Competition beginning with "Citations 101" followed by "How to Write a Casenote" and finishing with "Navigating TWEN". The **Hispanic American Law School Association** (HALSA) sponsored a "Path to Your Own Practice" seminar which covered the plan, budget, trust accounts, the do's and don't of hanging your own shingle, and a Q&A session. The **Women's**



Phillip Miller
Director
Student Affairs

Law Caucus held a domestic violence symposium moderated by Professor Barbara Bernier, and questions were posed to a distinguished panel which included the Honorable Judge Jose R. Rodriguez, Ninth Judicial Circuit.

The **SBA Career Services Committee** held a Resume and Cover Letter Writing Seminar at the start of the Spring 2007 semester for first-year students. The Committee also welcomed Attorney Earnest DeLoach of the DeLoach Law Firm, who presented on interviewing, and held a resume writing workshop followed by a workshop with Attorney Robert Dietz of Zimmerman, Kiser & Sutcliffe presenting on Dining Etiquette. The committee went on to hold the very first College of Law Career Fair, which featured participation by Holland & Knight LLP; Zimmerman, Kiser & Sutcliffe; Darden Foods; Orlando Utilities Commission; Lynum & Sanchez; Gary Roberts & Associates; The Pendas Law Firm; Parks & Crump; Bank of America; and, The Law Offices of Todd Long. **SBA** also offered a refresher to help the graduating class review for the Bar exam.

Continued next page

STUDENT SERVICES *continued*

The law firm, Holland & Knight LLP and **HALSA** hosted a series of five progressive lectures at the College of Law during the Spring semester which covered real-world practice in the areas of Civil Litigation and Real Estate Law. The College of Law hosted the annual Spring Circuit Meeting for the American Bar Association (ABA) Law Student Division's 5th Circuit welcoming dozens of student leaders from Mississippi to Florida.

Accolades

Twenty-four students were selected for the 2007-2008 **Law Review** and The FAMU College of Law released the inaugural issue of its journal. The publication includes an article written by Representative Althea Joyner of the Florida House of Representatives, District 59. Representative Joyner was a member of the 1968 and final graduating class of the original College of Law.

FAMU College of Law **BLSA** participated in the Frederick Douglass Moot Court Competition in Miami, Florida where two FAMU teams competed in a pool of 64 teams from participating schools in the Southern Region Black Law Students Association. Both teams advanced to a pool of 32 competing teams. Arnitra Briggs (2L) and Taniya Lall (2L) survived two additional eliminations and finished in the top eight (8) teams in the quarter final round, and ranked third out of eight.

Two additional teams participated in the Thurgood Marshall Mock Trial Competition at the **BLSA** Southern Regional Competitions in Miami. Team-A consisted of Betty Joseph (2L), Oreon Pinkston (3L), Danielle Pinkston (2L) and Oluwaseun Aduloju (2L). Team-B consisted of Jaya Balani (2L), Yolanda Bruce (2L), Leslie Lesperance (2L) and Chandra Paylor (3L). Both teams advanced to the round of 16 from 37 total participating teams. After the initial cut, Team-A was ranked 12th and Team-B ranked 5th.

Audrey Hicks (2L) and Willie Huntley (2L) attended the **Thurgood Marshall Leadership Institute** in New York City where they were coached in Global and International Law, Mergers and Acquisitions, Cultivating Professional Relationships, Resume Writing, Entrepreneurship, Business Etiquette and more. Ms. Hicks later shared her experience with College of Law students by hosting an open discussion in the student lounge.

Guest Speakers

Student organizations invited a diverse group of distinguished guests from across the country to address the College of Law community on hot topics and intriguing legal issues.

The **Christian Legal Society** invited Michael P. Schutt, Director of the Institute for Christian Legal Studies, a cooperative ministry of the Christian Legal Society and the Regent University School of Law. **SBA** and **BLSA** invited national best-selling author Mark Curriden to speak at the law school to discuss his book *Contempt of Court: A Turn of the Century Lynching That Launched 100 Years of Federalism*. The **Federalist Society** welcomed Kevin J. "Seamus" Hasson, Founder and Chairman of The Becket Fund for Religious Liberty who presented his book entitled *The Right to Be Wrong...Ending the Culture War Over Religion in America*. They also welcomed Professor Ronald Rotunda, a Harvard Law Graduate currently teaching at George Mason University School of Law who spoke on The Supreme Court and Creating the Law Governing Detainees. **BLSA** also welcomed N.Y. Nathiri, famed founder of the Zora Neale Hurston Festival in Eatonville, Florida. The **Entertainment, Arts and Sports Law Society** (EASLS) hosted its first "In the Industry" Entertainment Symposium with a panel, facilitated by Professor William Henslee, which included J. Martin Lett, Esq. of Register & Lett, LLP, Atlanta; Derrick Thompson, Senior Vice President, Urban Music Publishing, BMG Songs,

New York; Susan Janis-Mashayekhi, Vice President of Productions, Pink Sneakers Productions; and, Paulemile Fequiere, Director of Film/Photography, MG Studios, Orlando.

Career Planning and Placement



Kathy Payne
Director
Career Planning & Placement

The Office of Career Planning and Placement (OCP) welcomed Kathy Payne as director in June, and reclaimed its position as a vital resource for introducing opportunities to current students and graduates. Workshops on resume and cover letter writing were held as well as individual counseling sessions. The on-campus interview (OCI) program was launched. To date, 13 employers have accepted our OCI invitation to either come on campus to interview students or request resumes. Other programs are currently in the planning stage such as, *Summer Experience*, *Alternative Careers*, *Starting Your Own Law Practice*, *How to Dress for Success*, and more.

Employment information on 2006 graduates was collected and statistics were reported to both American Bar Association (ABA) and National Association for Law Placement (NALP). The OCP is in the process of purchasing an on-line career center,

STUDENT SERVICES *continued*

eCampus Recruiter (EaseLaw), a Simpedia Network's company. This software is designed to speed up the process of career services with job postings, resume uploading, counseling notes, sign up for job fairs and on-campus interviews, alumni mentoring, and more. Also, we are a member of the Brigham Young University J. Rueben Clark Law School Intercollegiate Job Bank. This job bank is password protected and allows our students to access job postings from other member schools across the country. In addition, we are a member of NALP, as well as the Association for Legal Career Professionals and PSLawNet and Equal Justice Works, both of which are the gateway to public interest law.

Security

Campus safety has always been an important component of the overall College of Law experience, and in 2006-2007 we continued to make gains toward a more secure environment.

In the early fall, the College of Law moved from temporarily assigned off-duty officers from the City of Orlando Police Department to uniformed FAMU Police, adding four officers, one sergeant, and with plans to hire two additional officers. With more than 600 students enrolled, familiarity with the students, faculty and staff by the police officers will help ensure the general safety of the College of Law community.



Bruce Henson
Director
FAMU College of Law Security

In addition to the officers, the two surface lots at the College of Law were equipped with electronic gates for faculty and staff members. The gates required the use of an active Proxy card for access, which blocked the access of non-law school related visitors. Ornamental aluminum fencing also will be added.

Another important security measure of an internal nature was the installation of the Sonitrol security system on the upper floors of the Law Library doors leading to the Atrium. This necessary installation eliminated the practice of open access to and from the library on all levels for students, and required staff to use Proxy cards to access the area, meeting specific standards outlined by the American Bar Association. Still, in the event of an emergency, all Sonitrol controlled doors will unlock.

Technology and Facilities

The Department of Information Technology continued to make advances that benefited the entire law school community while keeping pace with high-tech and digital information demands.

Angela Moss arrived in the Spring to fill the position of Director for Information Technology. Her arrival ushered in a wave of changes and additions to the department. One of the most notable change is the timely maintenance of the law school website. The site includes links to many of the student services departments and includes downloadable forms and information for students and the general public.



Angela Moss
Director
Information Technology

The IT Department also improved internal communication and navigation by making a high-speed internet upgrade, improving wireless connectivity throughout the campus and allowing video monitors to broadcast picture and sound throughout the building. Twelve primary monitors were connected to a broadcast unit to supply the law school community with official news and information.



FAMU College of Law video monitors keep law students informed of important events and opportunities for employment, scholarships and internships.

Continued next page

STUDENT SERVICES *continued*



Mweni Ekpo
*Assistant Dean for
Admissions and Financial Aid*

Admissions

The College of Law Office of Admissions experienced growth during the 2006-2007 year, doubling in size from two to four staff members and opening the door for more efficient services afforded to incoming students.

One significant addition was the hiring of Mweni Ekpo as Assistant Dean for Admissions and Financial Aid. With her vast knowledge and experience in law school admissions, the College of Law was introduced to new programs and events which catered to the needs of prospective and incoming students.

One such event was the very first Entering Students Day where more than 100 guests converged on the law school during the summer. Admitted students who had committed to the College of Law were exposed to a variety of law related activities and were given an opportunity to meet future classmates. Activities included a mock law class, a panel discussion with current students, a financial aid workshop, and a vendor fair with local-area apartment communities and banks.

The 2006-07 application cycle yielded a Fall 2007 entering class composed of

202 students. Representing 19 states and 81 colleges with an age range of 20 to 61, the class displayed the diversity for which the FAMU College of Law has become known. In fact, the College of Law was recognized as the most diverse law school in the United States according to the *US News and World Report – America's Best Graduate Schools (2008 Edition)*. The ranking identifies law schools where students are most likely to encounter classmates from various racial or ethnic groups.

In preparation for the Fall 2008 entering class, the College of Law will be represented at a variety of national and college-campus recruiting events during the 2007-08 application cycle. With the addition of three Open House programs and a February 2008-Minority Law Day program, the Office of Admissions anticipates another exciting and successful admissions season.

LEGAL CLINIC

The FAMU College of Law Legal Clinical Program was established to provide indigent clients with legal representation by upper-level law students under the supervision of trained legal professionals. The clinical program allows the law school to fulfill its mission of servicing the community.

The **Homelessness and Legal Advocacy Clinic** accepted a visitation case and represented the non-custodial parent, the mother, who was residing at the Coalition for the Homeless. The mother's right to visit with her three children was interfered with by the father for approximately three months when the father refused to follow the court ordered visitation schedule. The student prepared and successfully argued a motion for contempt against the father for allegedly interfering with the court ordered visitation of the mother. The court found the father in contempt, ordered visitation to commence that weekend, and

awarded the mother court costs and fees connected to the motion.

In the **Housing Clinic**, two students represented a tenant facing eviction due to non-payment of rent. Tenant's defense was landlord's non-compliance to maintain and repair the premises even after tenant gave the landlord proper notice. The case went to trial and the students successfully argued in court and obtained a favorable outcome. In that case the court denied the eviction and the tenants' rent was reduced 50 percent for two months due to the conditions of the premises. The client also obtained an award for court costs and fees.

The **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program** was recognized as runner up for the Outstanding VITA Rookie Site award presented at the ABA Conference in Summer 2006. Also, four **Community Economic Development Clinic** students were recognized as "Village

Keeper Partners" by Mayor Anthony Grant of Eatonville. The clinic and the Town of Eatonville went on to receive the Community for a Lifetime (CFAL) Partnership Award from the Florida Department of Elder Affairs Banquet. Student work through the **Death Penalty Clinic** was also recognized.



Ann Marie Cavazos
*Director
Legal Clinical Programs*

LAW LIBRARY

The Law Library proudly houses the Orange County Bar Association legal collection. Dozens of attorneys, judges and community members use the added legal materials on a daily basis.

The College of Law's Law Library continued the practice of providing excellent services and resources for law students and the community while witnessing increased activity among its staff. This included hosting an open house at the College of Law, where 33 Central Florida librarians received a tour of the facility and enjoyed light refreshments. Attendees included colleagues from the law firms of Holland & Knight LLP; Ackerman Senterfitt; and Rumberger, Kirk; as well as the University of Central Florida, Florida Metropolitan University, Barry University Law School, Seminole Community College and the Winter Park Public Library. The Law Library also sponsored the Central Florida Library Consortium (CFLC) meeting of reference librarians with the CFLC Executive Director in attendance.



Grace Mills
Director
Law Library

The Law Library organized a permanent faculty display case which featured a collection of published work completed by FAMU College of Law professors. Phyllis Allen rotates displays of legal interest monthly.

Law Library staff increased their credentials in academia by joining various organizations and publishing research guides. This includes the

selection of Linda Sobey, Assistant Director of Technical Services to a three-year term on the Board for the Florida Library Association, Academic Library Member Group. Also, a *Sustainable Development Law (SDL) Research Guide* was published on *Globalex* by Reference Librarian Gary Yessin. This article was the first research guide published on this area of international law. A research guide on *International Human Rights* was published by Grace Mills, Director of the Law Library. *Globalex* is an electronic legal publication dedicated to international and foreign law research.

There were several personnel changes within the Law Library. Linda Sobey was promoted to Assistant Director of Technical Services. Phyllis Allen was promoted from LTA (Library Technical Assistant) to LTA Supervisor. Elester Cawthorn joined the Law Library as an LTA.



Scenes from 2006-07

Spirit of Service Awards



The Black Law Students Association (BLSA) held the Fifth Annual Percy R. Luney, Jr. Spirit of Service Awards at the Downtown Orlando Marriott in April. Famed Attorney Willie Gary (center) served as the keynote speaker.

Holland & Knight Lectures



Holland & Knight LLP and the Hispanic-American Law Students Association (HALSA) hosted five progressive lectures at the College of Law during the Spring Semester, covering real-world practice in the areas of Civil Litigation and Real Estate Law.

FACULTY

FAMU College of Law Faculty are experienced, nationally recognized and highly regarded in legal education. The 2006-2007 academic year was extremely active in regards to faculty scholarship, law school activities and community service.

Publications

The mark of great law professors is measured in-part by their standing in published legal work. FAMU College of Law Faculty were responsible for several notable publications in 2006-2007, including:

- Assistant Professor **Reginald Mombrun** who published his first book, A Complete Introduction to Corporate Taxation, with Gail Levin, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs and Research at Nova Southeastern University School of Law, as co-author.
- Assistant Professor **Robert Thompson** was published in the June 2006 edition of The Environmental Law Reporter – News and Analysis with an article entitled: “Radioactive Warfare: Depleted Uranium Weapons, the Environment, and International Law.”

- Professor **Omar Saleem’s** article, “The Physics of Fourth Amendment Privacy Rights” was published in the *Thurgood Marshall Law Review*.
- Professor **William Henslee** co-authored a book, “Nonlegal Careers for Lawyers, Fifth Edition” with Gary A. Munneke and Ellen Wayne, which has become No. 2 on Amazon’s Best Sellers listing.
- Associate Professor **Jennifer Smith’s** article *Morse Code, Davinci Code, Tax Code and... Churches: An Historical and Constitutional Analysis of Why Section 501(c)(3) Does Not Apply to Churches* was published in the University of Virginia School of Law’s Journal of Law & Politics.

Advancements

Several faculty members received career advancements or outside degrees to fortify their academic credentials. This included Assistant Professor **Phyllis Smith**, who obtained her Master of Laws (LLM) Degree from the University of Florida; and **Reginald**

College of Law Faculty

(Juris Doctor Degrees Held)

University of California, Berkley
University of Chicago
Columbia University
Duke University
Florida A&M University
Florida State University
University of Florida
Georgetown University
Harvard University
Howard University
Indiana University
Inter-American University
Mercer University
University of Miami
University of Michigan
Pepperdine University
Southern University
Stanford University
Temple University
Texas Southern University
University of Toledo
Vanderbilt University
University of Wisconsin

Mombrun, who was approved for a promotion from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor.

Appointments

Members of the College of Law Faculty were also appointed to numerous organizations and committees for the 2006-07 year. This included several Florida Bar Association appointments, among them, Assistant Professor **Phyllis Smith**, who was appointed to the Continuing Legal Education Committee and the Tax Section as Faculty Liaison; Assistant Professor **Nicola Boothe-Perry**, who was appointed to the Florida Supreme Court Standing Committee on Professionalism; and Associate Professor **Karin Moore**, who was selected for the Florida Bar Rules Committee.



2006-07 College of Law Faculty

FACULTY *continued*

There were also several faculty appointments to committees of the American Bar Association (ABA), including Professor **Joan Bullock**, who was elected to the ABA Council for the Law Practice Management Section at the ABA Annual Meeting held in Hawaii; Professor **Robert Abrams**, who was reappointed Vice-Chair-at-Large of the ABA Water Resources Committee and the American Society of Civil Engineers, Water Regulatory Standards Committee; and Professor **William Henslee**, who was selected as National Appellate Advocacy Committee chair for the ABA.

Presentations

From the media to national conferences, College of Law Faculty were well represented in Florida and across the country as experts, presenters and analysts for a variety of legal venues.

- Professor **Barbara Bernier** joined LegalNews.tv as a legal analyst.
- Professor **Robert Abrams** presented “States, History, and the Public Trust” at the University of Michigan Law School Conference “Great Lakes: Reflecting the Landscape of Environmental Law” in Ann Arbor, Michigan.
- Assistant Professor **Reginald Mombrun** presented at the Law Society Convention – Policies For A More Just Economy – in Baltimore, Maryland.
- Professor **John Paul Jones** conducted a comprehensive mediation training course in Chicago, Illinois at the request of the Illinois Supreme Court. The training was tagged as an intense 40 hour class in civil mediation for 38 circuit court judges from throughout Illinois.

Awards

Among notable awards received by College of Law Faculty: Assistant Professor **Nicola Boothe-Perry** received the Silver Level Award for pro-bono Service from the Orange County Bar Association; and the Council for International Exchange of Scholars (CIES) recommended Professor **Omar Saleem** for a Lecturing Award with the People’s Republic of China through the 2007-08 Fulbright Program.

Community

The College of Law Faculty were visible throughout the greater Orlando community. Notable works of service included Professor **Joan Bullock**, who conducted a mock class for students from the Central Florida Freedom Schools of Sanford. Fifth-grade students at Ivey Lane Elementary School received a treat when College of Law professors participated in their first “College Day” event. Professors **Patricia Broussard, Rhoda Cato, Victoria Dawson, William Henslee, Karin Moore** and **James Smith** presented to two classrooms and

discussed the importance and rewards of successfully completing advanced degrees in higher education.

Several College of Law Professors initiated “The Public Square” in October. The forum was designed to bring the College of Law community together to discuss current events and ideas. Topics covered ranged from World Politics to Water Growth.

Growth

The College of Law saw the addition of many faces including Assistant Professor **Eunice Caussade-Garcia** who joined the faculty to work with the Homelessness, Housing and Legal Advocacy Clinics. The FAMU College of Law also expanded the Legal Writing section by adding instructors to join Professors **Victoria Dawson** and **John Harper**. This addition included **Timothy Blevins, Patricia Montgomery** and **Phebe Poydras**.



College of Law faculty and students discussed issues at the Public Square forums

DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI AFFAIRS

The FAMU College of Law Office of Development & Alumni Affairs is charged with coordinating all fund raising and alumni activities, donor support and communication efforts for the law school. The primary focus is raising funds and promoting a positive image for the College of Law.

Gift Highlights

- \$2,000 from 100 Black Men, completing a \$10,000 commitment to the General Scholarship Fund.
- \$5,000 from Jackson Lewis LLP for the awarding of a scholarship to a student interested in Employment Law.
- \$5,000 from Toshiba Business Solutions Florida for the General Scholarship Fund.
- \$10,000 from the University Club Foundation for scholarships.
- \$14,015 raised for the Faculty & Staff Scholarship Luncheon.
- \$16,000 from Thompson West/BARBRI for the General Scholarship Fund.
- \$18,000 grant from the Florida Bar Foundation for student fellowships in the Legal Clinic Program.
- \$25,000 grant from the Florida Bar Foundation to partially fund a staff attorney position in the Legal Clinic Program.
- \$50,000 from Walt Disney World, Co., as part of a \$250,000 gift for the Family and Children's Clinical Program.

FAMU College of Law 2006 - 2007 Gift Summary

Total Endowment Amount - \$3,410,725

Total Gifts/Pledges Received - \$385,999

Total Number of Gifts - 78

Grants Received - \$443,000

Interest Income
from Endowments - \$116,980

State of Florida Match - \$112,674

Scholarships/Grants Awarded - \$410,160

Number of Scholarship Recipients - 97

Law School Events

Several events were hosted at the College of Law with assistance from the Development group, including "A View From the Bench" in November where esteemed jurists shared their experiences with the law school community. Chief Justice (Ret.) Henry Frye, North Carolina Supreme Court; Justice Peggy Quince, Florida Supreme Court; Justice James E. Graves, Mississippi Supreme Court; and, Judge (Ret.) Morris Overstreet, Texas Supreme Court were on the panel. In addition to this jurist event, the **5th District Court of Appeal** heard arguments in March before a crowded Ceremonial Moot Courtroom with the Honorable Vincent G. Tory, Jr., Honorable C. Alan Lawson, and Honorable Kerry Evander holding session.

The Southeast/Southwest People of Color Legal Scholarship Conference was held in March with Associate Professor Rhonda Reeves as Chair. Many of the workshop sessions were facilitated by College of Law Professors.

The Development group worked with law school administration and a host of volunteers to hold the **Annual Hooding Ceremony** in early May at the Bob Carr Performing Arts Center in downtown Orlando. Florida Supreme Court Justice Peggy Quince served as the keynote speaker. For the first time, the reception following the ceremony was held at the law school.

Publications

In the communications aspect of the Development group, the Inaugural College of Law Calendar was produced and distributed to the law school community and beyond. The calendar featured photos of the interior and exterior of the law school, its people and environment, along with FAMU holidays and College of Law academic dates. The College of Law Viewbook was also updated utilizing images related to the calendar. The viewbook was used as a marketing tool for the Admissions Office on recruitment trips.

The weekly publication, **The Record**, was also published throughout the Fall and Spring semester. The publication was produced in limited print quantities weekly, and widely through TWEN, an internet based course available to law students. More than 130 students had registered for the course by year's end. Our goal is to soon move to an electronic-only weekly publication.



Mildred Graham
Director
Development and Alumni Affairs

Fall '07 Scenes from the College of Law

Scholarship Luncheon



FAMU College of Law scholarship recipients and their donors attended a special luncheon in the Dean's Conference Room in September.

Alumni Swearing-In Ceremony



FAMU College of Law recent graduates took the Oath of Admission in September at the Orange County Courthouse.

Racial Preference Debate



FAMU College of Law Associate Professor Patricia Broussard (left) sparred with Todd Gaziano of the Heritage Foundation of Washington DC in the debate sponsored by the Federalist Society and the Black Law Students Association (BLSA) in November.

Law Review Reception



Chief Judge Belvin Perry, Jr. of the 9th Circuit (first row-center) spoke in November before a crowd of 150 guests in the Rotunda of the Orlando City Hall at the annual Law Review Reception.

Bankruptcy Judges Visit



Bankruptcy Judges and Lawyers from across the country participated in "Bankruptcy Career Paths" and discussed their accomplishments with law students in October.

Open House and Tailgate



More than 100 potential law students participated in the Open House event before the annual Florida Classic football game in November. The tailgate portion brought alumni, supporters and families together.

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Signs of the Times



When the FAMU College of Law moved to its permanent campus at 201 Beggs Avenue, temporary signs were used for building identification. Today, through the efforts of Facilities Director Lolyd Glenn, several permanent signs have been placed in conspicuous locations. The individual lettering (top left) is placed at the front entrance of the law school. The large in-ground street sign (above) is located at the corner of Hughey Avenue and Washinton Street, with a similar sign at the corner of Hughey Avenue and Robinson Street. Small in-ground signs are located at both corners of Beggs Avenue.