

2008

COLAW news Fall 2008

FAMU College of Law

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Recommended Citation

FAMU College of Law, "COLAW news Fall 2008" (2008). *FAMU Lawyer*. Book 8.
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COLAW news

The Newsletter for FAMU College of Law Alumni and Friends



Dean's Message

Brand New Day

Newly hired College of Law Associate Deans and Faculty arrive to help move the law school through the final phase of accreditation.



New Associate Deans

Associate Deans Kenneth Nunn (left to right), Markita Cooper and Jeremy Levitt join twelve additional faculty members for the 2008-2009 academic year

LeRoy Pernell, Dean of the Florida A&M University (FAMU) College of Law, announced the hiring of three associate deans who are nationally and internationally recognized for their academic leadership and legal expertise. Their appointments are effective for the 2008-09 academic year.

- **Markita Cooper**, Professor and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. Cooper formerly served as professor and associate dean for JD Program Academic Affairs at Golden Gate University School of Law in San Francisco, where she was responsible for the administration of curriculum, instruction and course scheduling. She also hired, evaluated and trained adjunct faculty and helped develop a comprehensive program that improved the bar passage rate. She holds a J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law, and an A.B. in communications and psychology from Stanford University.

- **Jeremy Levitt**, Distinguished Professor for International Law and Associate Dean for International Programs. Levitt previously served as associate professor and director of the Program for Human Rights and Global Justice at Florida International University College of Law, in Miami. His areas of

expertise include African Politics, the Caribbean, and Human Rights Law. He is a columnist for the Chicago Sun Times and has contributed to radio and television programs across the country and in Ghana, West Africa. He received a B.A. in Political Science from Arizona State University, a J.D. from the University of Wisconsin in Madison, and a Ph.D. in International Relations from the University of Cambridge St. John's College in the UK.

- **Kenneth Nunn**, Professor and Associate Dean for Research and Faculty Development. Prior to joining FAMU, Nunn served as a professor at the University of Florida College of Law in Gainesville, where his research focused on criminal law and procedure, civil rights, and critical race theory. He has served as a visiting professor at the University of Warsaw Faculty of Law in Warsaw, Poland and Makerere University Faculty of Law in Kampala, Uganda. Nunn has published extensively and served as consulting editor for law and society for the "Macmillan Encyclopedia Of Race And Racism. He received a J.D. from the University of California School of Law in Berkeley and an A.B. in International Relations from Stanford University.

The Honorable Perker Meeks, Jr.

Judge Perker L. Meeks, Jr. was born the sixth child of a farming family in Tallahassee, Florida in August of 1943. His commitment to equal rights for all persons was forged in his youth. At the age of 16, Meeks and other African Americans sat on the pavement in the front of the local five and ten cents store in protest of its segregated lunch counter. Local law enforcement officers responded with physical force which resulted in a permanent scar on the back of his head. His later efforts on school campuses to dismantle racism resulted in civil rights litigation that went to the United States Supreme Court.

Meeks received his Juris Doctor from Florida A&M University (FAMU) College of Law in 1968 after an undergraduate tenure that included playing varsity basketball as captain and forward for the Rattlers, and earning his undergraduate degree in political science and history in 1965. He was admitted to the Florida Bar in 1969 and the California Bar in 1971, distinguishing himself in the San Francisco Public Defender Office for seven years, trying hundreds of cases and serving as Head Trial Attorney. He was appointed to the San Francisco Municipal Court by Governor Edward G. Brown, Jr. on January 18, 1980 and was elevated to the rank of superior judge in 1998, serving with distinction as Assistant and Presiding Judge of the Municipal Court, receiving honors and recognition by the California Trial Lawyers Association, the Charles Houston Bar Association, the Asian American Bar Association, and the



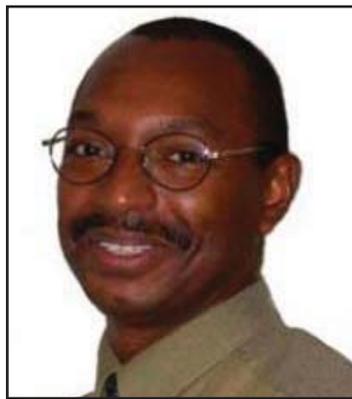
California Judges Association.

Meeks, who is the father of Perker L. Meeks, III and Alicia Meeks, has carried a passion for music and sports, particularly basketball, as evidenced in his Rattler days, and has served with the Jewish

Community Center's "San Francisco Fog", Huster and Schneider LLP, and the Charles Houston Bar Association's "Chocolate Bar", to name a few community teams. He has also served his community, volunteering many hours helping young people, serving on the Board of Directors of the San Francisco Pretrial Project, and the San Francisco General Hospital Volunteers, as Vice-President of the Archbishop Riordan Athletic Program and the Paradise Baptist Church County Jail Project, and teaching social studies and history at St. Michaels Catholic summer school program.

Dr. Shawn Robinson

For some reason, things have always seemed to "add" up for **Dr. Shawn H. Robinson**. He has received numerous awards and honors throughout a career that included a constant pursuit of degrees. Among those awards are the Phi Theta Kappa Florida Region Distinguished Advisor Award (2002); the Robert Giles Phi Theta Kappa International Distinguished Advisor Award (2001); Phi Theta Kappa Professor of the Year (1997-98); Paragon Phi Theta Kappa International New Advisor Award (1998); three time selection to Who's Who Among America's College Teachers (1996, 2003, 2004) and twice selected among the top 100 Outstanding Black Americans in Central Florida by Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., (2000, 2002).



Robinson joined Hillsborough Community College (HCC) as President of the Ybor City Campus in September 2007. Prior to that he served 15 years at Valencia Community College (VCC) on its East Campus in various capacities (adjunct Mathematics Professor, tenured Mathematics Professor, LRC Director, Academic Assistant to the Provost, and Dean of Social Sciences and Physical Education. In addition to teaching Mathematics, Mathematics Education,

and Student Success classes, he served as Phi Theta Kappa advisor and Florida Phi Theta Kappa Webmaster.

Dr. Robinson holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics Education (1991), a Master of Education degree in Mathematics Education (1994), and a Doctor of Education degree in Curriculum and Instruction (1998) from the University of Central Florida. He completed a Juris Doctorate degree at Florida A&M University in December 2005. As a FAMU Law student, he was the recipient of the Percy R. Luney Spirit of Service Evening Student Award in 2003.

As president of HCC, Robinson leads nearly 12,000 students who attend classes on the 15-acre campus located in the heart of Ybor City's entertainment and historical district.

Robinson lives in Lakeland, midway between his family in Orlando and the HCC campus in the Tampa area.

Giving to the College of Law

There are several ways to give to the FAMU College of Law. Alumni and friends can help support the law school's most critical needs by donating to the Annual Fund. Because contributions are renewed annually, gifts made to the Annual Fund provide the dean with a dependable stream of unrestricted funds to support key law school programs, activities and services. Another method of giving to the law school is through the establishment of an endowment fund. Endowments allow donors to support the FAMU College of Law in perpetuity as funds are invested to provide a steady flow of income for a specific need.

ANNUAL FUND

Gifts made to the FAMU College of Law's Annual Fund help to support a variety of programs and activities that recognize outstanding student achievements, bring renowned guest speakers to campus, encourage faculty development, honor distinguished alumni and friends, and advance the

image of the FAMU College of Law. A strong Annual Fund provides the dean with the flexibility needed to respond to urgent needs and increased demands of a first-rate institution of legal education. One aspect of the Annual Fund, Book Awards, recognize the most outstanding student in each law school course with a scholarship award.

The Annual Fund draws its strength from alumni, friends, law firms, and corporations committed to renewing their gifts each year. The FAMU College of Law welcomes gifts of all sizes, including those that are eligible for corporate matching funds. All gifts are tax deductible.

Gifts made to the FAMU College of Law's Annual Fund should be made payable to the FAMU Foundation and mailed to:

**FAMU College of Law
Annual Fund**
201 Beggs Avenue,
Orlando, Florida 32801.

For more information: 407.254.3206.

ENDOWMENTS

Providing a perpetual way to support the FAMU College of Law and its mission, endowments are established in the name of the donor or the name

of the donor's choosing. Endowment funds are invested with the earnings used for a specific purpose, including scholarships, book awards, professorships, chairs and special programs. The principal of an endowed fund is never spent. Endowment funds are established with a minimum of \$25,000.00. Endowments may be established with a single gift or a multi-year gift donated over a maximum of five years. Gifts of \$100,000 or more are eligible for the State of Florida Matching Gifts Program.

Endowed Scholarships

Endowed scholarships are vital to the academic success of our law students as they help ensure that students who are high achievers as well as those in need receive recognition and support. Gifts endowed at \$25,000.00 to \$100,000.00 provide partial-tuition scholarships. Gifts endowed at \$100,000.00 or more provide full-tuition scholarships.

Endowed Book Awards

Recognizing the top academic achiever in each law school course with a scholarship award, Book Awards are endowed at a minimum of \$50,000.00. Non-endowed book awards are welcomed as part of the FAMU College of Law's Annual Fund.

Yes! I want to support the annual giving program of the College of Law.

A check is enclosed in the amount of \$ _____
Payable to: Florida A&M University Foundation

Please charge the amount of \$ _____ to my
VISA MASTERCARD
Card Number
Expiration Date _____
Name on Card _____
Signature _____

Please specify how you would like the College of Law to use your gift:

I/We would like this Annual Fund contribution to support:

- The General Fund (unrestricted funds)
 Other _____
(scholarships, student organizations, etc.)
 My/my spouse's employer will match this contribution.

(company name)

Please PRINT all information:

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____
Zip _____ Phone _____
Email _____

Business _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____
Zip _____ Phone _____
Email _____

I am a FAMU alumnus Year _____
Major _____



Swearing In

College of Law Alumni took the Oath of Admission at the Orange County Courthouse in September 2007. Pictured are Warren Channell ('06), Jorge Quintana ('06), Cheo Reid ('07), Pascale Reid ('07), Alvin Benton ('07), Vanessa Disimone ('07), Eurilynn Williams ('07), Velma Jones ('06), and Lateefah Muhammad ('07)



First CLE Alumni Event

College of Law Alumni attended the Continuing Legal Education (CLE) Alumni event in February, which featured J.R. Phelps (center), Director of the FL Bar's Law Office Management Assistance Service. Professor Joan Bullock (fourth from left) helped organize the event.



Welcoming Dean Pernell

College of Law Alumni attended the Welcome Reception for Dean LeRoy Pernell in February. The alumni are pictured with Dean LeRoy Pernell (front, l-r), FAMU President James H. Ammons, and former FAMU President Frederick S. Humphries (front, far right)



Supporting Graduates

College of Law Alumni welcomed graduates at the 2008 Spring Hooding Ceremony in Kissimmee. Pictured are Alvin Benton ('07), Chaundi Randolph ('06), Natalie Randolph ('06), Trinetta Lyons ('05), Jarian Lyons ('06), Timothy Dave ('06), and Anthony Thomas ('07).

FAMU College of Law Fall Events

SEPTEMBER 18 - 20

Latimer-Hawkins National Bar Association Judicial Council - Judicial Retreat

SEPTEMBER 29

College of Law Showcase - Orlando Marriott Downtown

OCTOBER 8

Lani Guinier Seminar and Book Signing

Save the Date
Lani Guinier
October 8, 2008



COLAWnews

If you would like to be featured in the Alumni Spotlight section, have announcements or story ideas for the COLAWnews, please contact the College of Law's Office of Development at (407) 254-3266 or email claudine.beale@famuedu with information and suggestions, or inaccuracies in reporting.