

2009

## FAMU Lawyer Volume 7, Issue 1

FAMU College of Law

Follow this and additional works at: <http://commons.law.famu.edu/lawyernewsletter>

---

### Recommended Citation

FAMU College of Law, "FAMU Lawyer Volume 7, Issue 1" (2009). *FAMU Lawyer*. Book 10.  
<http://commons.law.famu.edu/lawyernewsletter/10>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the FAMU College of Law History at Scholarly Commons @ FAMU Law. It has been accepted for inclusion in FAMU Lawyer by an authorized administrator of Scholarly Commons @ FAMU Law. For more information, please contact [linda.barrette@famu.edu](mailto:linda.barrette@famu.edu).



## Inside this Issue

Message from Dean Pernell

International Law Center

Law Clinic Receives High Ranking

Faculty Accomplishments

Law Student Appointed by Governor Crist

Alumni Alliance and Council Formed

Scenes from FAMU COL



## 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

## Message from Dean Pernell



The first half of the 2008-2009 academic year has been extremely busy at Florida A&M University (FAMU) College of Law and the second half promises a more hectic pace.

We began the Fall semester by welcoming 231 students in the 2008 Entering Class, drawing the group of full-time day and part-time evening students from more than 1,200 applicants. The first-year students hail from 21 states and bring the College of Law total enrollment to more than 600 law students.

In addition to welcoming new students, the College of Law also greeted several guest speakers during the Fall semester.

Civil rights attorney **Lani Guinier**, Temple University International Law Professor **Henry J. Richardson**, Florida Supreme Court Justice **Harry Lee Anstead**, and U.S. Supreme Court Clerk of Court **William Suter** were among the many guest lecturers to address students and faculty. We launched our Faculty Enrichment Series, with Loyola University Law Professor **Sacha Coupet** and West Virginia University

Law Professor **Judith Scully** presenting to the faculty. The College of Law also hosted the 2008 Latimer-Hawkins Judicial Retreat, which featured more than 50 African-American jurists addressing law classes and conducting workshops and other programs during a two-day meeting.

The Fall semester academic events and new programs were complemented by the physical changes that took place at the College of Law. The Center for International Law and Justice (CILJ) officially opened on the third floor of the Law Library. We also opened the FAMU Café in the student lounge area of the first floor. Operated by Sodexo,

the Café features full, nutritious meals and drinks that students, faculty and staff can enjoy on site as well as healthful snacks for those on the run. When class is in session, the Café will operate from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. to accommodate the day and evening programs.

When the Spring semester begins, we expect more changes at the College of Law. The College of Law Bookstore is set to open in January 2009 on the first floor, in the Dedicated Skills area. To be operated by Barnes & Noble, the bookstore will provide law students an opportunity to purchase their books on site as well as to buy other materials and FAMU paraphernalia. Around the same time, we will debut our revamped website, which will feature more dynamic and user-friendly elements.

These are just a few of the objectives we are working to achieve in preparation for the most important activity to date – the February 2009 Site Visit of the American Bar Association.

**LeRoy Purnell**  
Dean



*Students attending the College of Law make selections at the new FAMU Café which opened just before the start of final exams. The Café is operated by Sodexo and offers a menu of hot and cold items, gourmet soups, snacks and soft drinks. The grand opening will take place in January, when the Café will operate from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.*

# College of Law Establishes International Law Center

FAMU College of Law recently established the Center for International Law and Justice (CILJ), a program developed and directed by **Dr. Jeremy Levitt**, Associate Dean for International Programs and Distinguished Professor of International Law. Levitt, a former World Bank official and UN consultant joins FAMU from Florida International University College of Law. Dean Levitt earned his Ph.D. in international relations from the University of Cambridge, St. John's College, a J.D. from the University of Wisconsin, and a B.A. in political science from Arizona State University.

The CILJ seeks to develop scholarly, educational, and practice-oriented activities, and evolve into the nation's leading center of excellence in research, training and advocacy in the international and comparative law of developing nations.

"We are very fortunate to have a globally recognized scholar-practitioner heading our international program," said FAMU College of Law Dean **LeRoy Pernell**

The CILJ has developed an array of scholarly, educational and pragmatic



*Dr. Jeremy Levitt (left) meets with staff members in the Center for International Law and Justice (CILJ) Suite. Pictured are Rebecca Gardiner (1L), Human Rights Fellow; Neil Fishman, Coordinator; and Candice McKinley (3L), Research Assistant. The Center is housed on the 3rd floor of the College of Law Library, adjacent to the faculty offices.*

initiatives that complement its mission and objectives such as the institution of an annual International Human Rights Law Fellowship program which provides scholarship and internship assistance to students. Other initiatives include: International Law Internship Program; Study Abroad Program; Certificate in Human Rights and Global Justice, for students interested in specializing in the field of human rights and international criminal law; Annual Lecture on Human Rights and Global Justice, featuring a noted lawyer, academician or policy-maker that will address contemporary human rights and global justice issues; Annual Student International Law Essay

Contest, an essay contest on an issue of global concern open to all College of Law students, and; Distinguished Professor and Scholar Program, enabling professors, judges and scholars with international and comparative law interests to research, teach and lecture on international law issues.

Dean Levitt states that he joined FAMU to "train a new generation of human rights conscious internationalists" and hopes that "CILJ will inculcate in our faculty, students and the broader FAMU and Orlando communities the conviction that saving the world is still a viable profession."

---

## Legal Clinic Ranked within Top 10 for Opportunities

Florida A&M University's (FAMU) College of Law was recently ranked seventh for providing clinical opportunities by National Jurist magazine, beating out other schools like Cornell, Harvard, Stanford and Rutgers Universities and making it one of two historically black colleges or universities (HBCU) on the list.

"We are pleased to be ranked with some of the most prestigious law schools in the country," said FAMU Law Dean LeRoy Pernell. "This recognition demonstrates the value-added significance of our legal clinic."

The September issue of the magazine for law students ranked the top 50 American Bar Association (ABA) law schools based on the total number of

full-time clinical course positions offered per the number of full-time students. National Jurist used information from the Official Guide to ABA Approved Law Schools, 2008 edition to compile the list.

"In a field where hands on experience is in high demand, this is great news," said FAMU President James H. Ammons. "The sun is indeed rising as we embark on a new day at FAMU. In taking steps to ensure the College of Law becomes a leader in producing the tops lawyers in the country and is home of top-rate and credible academic programs, this is just a sign of things to come."

The FAMU College of Law's Legal Clinic Program is under the direction of Assistant Professor Ann Marie

Cavazos and includes Guardian Ad-Litem, Public Defender, Prosecution, Judicial Externship, Homelessness and Legal Advocacy, Death Penalty, Housing and Volunteer Income Tax Assistance and Community and Economic Development. Information sessions are held regularly to inform students of available opportunities. Students participating in the legal clinics have assisted Orlando's indigent population with numerous court cases, and have been recognized for their winning efforts.

"In harmony with the College of Law's Mission Statement, the objective of the clinic is 'to produce excellent legal professionals who will demonstrate professionalism'," said Cavazos.

# FAMU Fall 2008 Faculty Achievements



**Jeremy Levitt**, Associate Dean for International Programs and Distinguished Professor of International Law, was appointed chair of the three-person

International Technical Advisory Committee (ITAC) of the Liberian Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia. Johnson is Africa's first democratically-elected female president. The purpose of the TRC is to promote national peace, security, unity and reconciliation by investigating gross human rights and humanitarian law violations including massacres, sexual violations, murder, extra-judicial killings and economic crimes between January 1979 and October 14, 2003, and determine who is most responsible for committing such violations and abuses and their impact on victims.



Associate Professor **Jennifer Smith** published "Morse Code, Da Vinci Code, Tax Code and ... Churches: An Historical and Constitutional Analysis of Why Section 501(c)

(3) Does Not Apply to Churches" in the 2007 edition of the University of Virginia School of Law's Journal of Law & Politics. This article analyzes section 501(c)(3) of the federal tax code from an historical and constitutional perspective to conclude that that provision, which prohibits churches from engaging in politics, was never intended to apply to churches in the United States.

Professor **Joan Bullock** was appointed Chair of the Standing Committee on Diversity of the ABA Law Practice Management Section. In this position, she is seeking to position the Law Practice Management Section as the

repository and the resource for law firm best practice diversity initiatives. She has also been selected to serve as a liaison to the ABA Presidential Advisory Council on Diversity in the Profession.

Associate Professor **Victoria Dawson** was inducted in the Biltmore Who's Who Registry, a select group of successful professionals who have been recognized for achievements and honors throughout the nation. The membership in this prestigious publication is for five years.



Associate Professor **Patricia Broussard** published the article Female Genital Mutilations: Exploring Strategies for Ending Ritualized Torture; Shaming, Blaming, and Utilizing the Convention Against Torture in the Duke Journal of Gender and Law Policy in June 2008.

Distinguished Judicial Lecturer **Herman "Sparky" Gierke** was certified by the Supreme Court of Florida as a Circuit mediator. Gierke will serve in this capacity for a period of two years. He has also been appointed as Chair of the American Bar Association's Standing Committee for Armed Forces Law.



Professor **Robert Abrams** delivered the keynote address at the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture's Public Policy Center and the University of

Arkansas Little Rock Bowen School of Law's biennial water conference. The conference, "H2Overdrawn: A Forum on Water Policy, Law, Science and Technology," identifies Abrams as one of the nation's leading water law experts, and will explore the water challenges facing Arkansas and how the state is addressing water quantity and quality issues through a combination of policy, law, science and technology.



"Commemorating 1808: Fighting for the Right to Dream" was the theme for a film discussion and conference held at the University of Toledo College of Law in Ohio recognizing the 200th Anniversary of the Federal Prohibition on Importing Slaves. The event was held in October and featured a variety of legal experts from across the country, including FAMU College of Law's Associate Professor **Deleso Washington**. Her presentation "Acknowledging the 'Narrative Behind the Narrative' of Enslaved Black Women and the Development of Gynecology in the United States" examined how experiments by J. Marion Sims on enslaved women were tantamount to exploitation traceable to current medical practices. An article on her discussion was released in the school's newspaper prior to the conference.



College of Law Associate Professor **Rhoda Cato** and Legal Writing Instructor **Timothy Blevins** served as presenters during the 2008 National Association of

Hearing Officials (NAHO) Conference held in Orlando. Professor Cato presented on "Due Process: Fundamental Concepts - Practical Application", a workshop that examined due process



requirements in administrative hearings by reviewing its constitutional and administrative basis. Professor Blevins served as closing keynote speaker with an address entitled "Striving for Excellence Through the Written Word."

# Governor Crist Appoints Student to Nomination Commission

Second-year law student **Elizabeth Dorworth** was appointed by Florida Governor Charlie Crist to the Judicial Nomination Commission for the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit. The Eighteenth Judicial Circuit is composed of Brevard and Seminole Counties.

“I am honored by Governor Crist’s decision to appoint me to the nominating commission for the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit,” said Dorworth, who once was appointed to the Early Learning Coalition of Seminole County in 2005 by then Governor Jeb Bush. She served a two-year term in that role.

According to Dorworth, the responsibilities of the Commission will be to evaluate judicial candidates and recommend no more than six nominees to the governor of Florida for appointment to the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit – a requirement under

Article V of the Florida Constitution. Dorworth, co-owner of Dorworth Property Group LLC, is succeeding Brooke Goldfarb and has been appointed for a term that will end July 1, 2012. Crist appointed four additional members to the Commission.

The Commission is composed of nine persons appointed by the governor. Four members are lawyers appointed from a list of nominees submitted by the Florida Bar. Of the remaining five members, at least two must be lawyers. Dorworth is one of three non-lawyer members who must be residents of the jurisdiction the commission serves.



*Dean LeRoy Pernell with Elizabeth Dorworth who received an appointment by Governor Charlie Crist.*

“This is a fantastic accomplishment for Mrs. Dorworth,” said FAMU Law Dean **LeRoy Pernell**. “This selection is yet another example of the academic and legal expertise that we are developing here at the FAMU College of Law.

---

## Law Review Inducts Members During Reception

Nearly 100 guests filled the College of Law’s Atrium as the FAMU Law Review held its annual induction ceremony in October 2008. The reception was a celebration of the accomplishments achieved by current law review members, as well as an introduction of second-year law students who will carry the torch next year.

The Honorable **Emerson R. Thomspon**, Retired Judge, Fifth

District Court of Appeal, encouraged the FAMU law students to continue the work begun by their predecessors. The event was well attended by FAMU College of Law faculty, alumni and students.

This year’s new inductees include: **Jamie Lee Bowen, Tyrone Crawford, Nanette Cruz, Margaret Doudy, Justin Eisele, Pauline Evans, Ana Gargollo-McDonald, Daniel Gerola, Spencer Gledhill, Rena Jones,**

**Skinner Louis, Carlos Martoral, Melinda Merced, Jerika Mobley, Kaila Randolph, Nizam Razack, Laura Sacha, James Simmons, Guillermo Sollberger, Courtney Soria, Manuel Soto-Diaz, Camilla Thompson, Eric Washington, John Weinberger, Christopher Wright, and Tania Rios-Yampierre.**



*The Honorable Emerson R. Thomspon, (Ret.) served as the keynote speaker for the Law Review Installation event.*



*Newly inducted law review members greet current members after Dean LeRoy Pernell introduced and installed the new members.*

# Fall '08 Scenes from the FAMU College of Law

## New Speaker Series



*Dean LeRoy Pernell (right) with Lani Guinier, civil rights attorney and first tenured black woman law professor at Harvard Law School. Guinier served as the inaugural guest speaker of the Virgil D. Hawkins Lecture Series at the FAMU College of Law.*

## Visit From Supreme Court Clerk



*William Suter, Clerk of the United States Supreme Court (fourth from left) addressed the law school community and officiated the swearing in of nine faculty members including Dean LeRoy Pernell (center) to the Bar of the United States Supreme Court.*

## Meeting of Esteemed Jurists



*The Honorable Peggy Quince, Chief Justice Florida Supreme Court (front row, center) poses with African-American judges from around the state. The FAMU College of Law hosted members of the Latimer-Hawkins Judicial Council of the National Bar Association during their three-day 2008 Judicial Retreat.*

## CILJ Brings First Speaker



*Henry J. Richardson, III (center), author of *The Origins of African American Interests in International Law* and Temple University Beasley School of Law Professor, poses with Dean LeRoy Pernell (left) and Associate Dean Jeremy Levitt (right). Richardson was the 2008 Annual Lecture on Human Rights & Global Justice featured speaker.*

## Florida Supreme Court Justice Visits



*Allison Cochran (2L) presents a plaque to The Honorable Harry Lee Anstead, Florida Supreme Court Justice, with Associate Dean Kenneth Nunn (left) and Dean LeRoy Pernell (right).*

## Open House/Tailgate Year 2



*Prospective and current students, faculty, staff and supporters gathered on the south lawn to participate in the 2nd Annual Open House/Tailgate event before the Florida Classic football game.*

# Students Show Commitment to Orlando Community

Florida A&M University College of Law students held a campus-wide clothing and school supply drive during the summer months, and delivered car-loads of clothes and various school supplies to the Boca Club Apartments during a Community Outreach Festival at the beginning of the Fall 2008 semester. While the campus drive brought in a number of clothes and items for the children in the community, members of various law school student organizations took part by adopting a targeted number of children and purchasing specific items on school supply lists. The items were presented to the children during the day-long event hosted by the law students.

The event was organized by **Christine Richardson (3L)**, who along with **Federline Ferjuste (3L)** embarked

on a series of meetings with the Orlando Neighborhood Improvement Corporation to establish a relationship with the small community. Having heard about deplorable conditions of Haitian children, Richardson initiated a coalition for Haitian Relief, and contacted Jones High School Principal **Dr. Bridget Williams**, who suggested the Boca Club Community, located within the Jones High district. What resulted was the festival which featured free health screenings, including HIV and blood pressure checks, free haircuts, live entertainment and free food for the entire community.

Many students and faculty arrived at the event as early as 8 AM and volunteered until as late as 5 PM to distribute clothes, school supplies and food to the residents of Boca Club Apartments. The students' efforts were applauded

by the community as WESH Channel 2, Central Florida News 13 and Fox 35 captured footage of the event, even as the volunteers braved inclement weather to assist this community.

A number of the donated items were also shipped to the Dr. J. B. Callahan Neighborhood Center to further the College of Law community efforts there. The Callahan Neighborhood Center operates an after-school and summer care program, where most of the Head Start through middle school-aged children who attend fall below the poverty line. FAMU College of Law faculty and students have been consistent volunteers at the center as mentors and tutors for students living in the Parramore neighborhood. The center is located just blocks from the law school's campus.

## Fall 2008 Community Service Moments....



*FAMU law students representing various student organizations collaborated for the Boca Club Apartments community service event.*



*FAMU Law marched through the streets of downtown Orlando to participate in early voting and encourage others to follow suit.*



*College of Law students participated in the 6th Annual Caribbean Health Summit in September 2008 at the Central Florida Fairgrounds.*



*FAMU SBA held this community service event in the Azalea Park area in east Orange County where they helped clean the neighborhood.*



*College of Law Alumni Shannon Ligon ('08) (center) and Alvin Benton ('07) (right) participated in the 2008 Holiday Party at Ember. The event was sponsored by the FAMU College of Law Alumni Alliance and Council and the Ligon Law Group.*

*College of Law Alumni took the Oath of Admission for the first time in the Ceremonial Moot Courtroom in September 2008. The Honorable Belvin Perry, Chief Judge Ninth Judicial Circuit, officiated the event for the 21 participating graduates and their families.*

## FAMU College of Law Alumni Council and Alliance

It's official. A core group of recent graduates met recently to form the Florida A&M University College of Law Alumni Council and to plan the larger umbrella organization, the Alumni Alliance.

The Alumni Council is the official alumni advisory board for the law school, serving as the liaison between the College of Law and the Alumni Alliance. The Council is the primary vehicle through which alumni will communicate their ideas, questions and concerns to the school. The Alumni Council will direct and conduct the business and affairs of the Alumni Alliance; advance the goals and objectives of the Alumni Alliance; assist the College of Law in recruiting, career networking, and fundraising; and provide members with an opportunity

for professional development and networking.

The mission of the broader Alumni Alliance is to assist, advance and promote the educational mission of the Florida A&M University College of Law. Its purpose is to enhance communication between and among the College of Law community, alumni and friends; participate in and support recruitment and other student activities; foster lifetime involvement and commitment to the College of Law; and contribute to the financial stability of the College of Law.

While the Alumni Council is still in the developmental stages, organizers are already busy planning programs and activities for fellow graduates. A holiday networking party was held in

December in downtown Orlando and a survey is being conducted to plan continuing legal education programs for 2009.

Current volunteer members of the Alumni Council are **Kalestine Butler**, class of 2008; **Cynthia Conlin**, class of 2006; **Kamilah Jolly**, class of 2007; **Shannon Ligon**, class of 2008; **Alicia Peyton**, class of 2007; and **Wyntress Patterson**, class of 2009. The group is seeking additional members, especially alumni located outside of Central Florida. If you are interested in serving on the Alumni Council, please contact Claudine Beale, Assistant Director of Development and Alumni Affairs via e-mail at [claudine.beale@famuedu](mailto:claudine.beale@famuedu) or phone (407) 254-3266.

## Law Library Receives Scholarship Award



*Florida A&M University (FAMU) College of Law Dean LeRoy Pernell (center) and Law Library Interim Director Phebe Poydras (left), accept a scholarship check from Sharon Shofner-Meyer of West Publishing Corporation. FAMU's Law Library was selected as the recipient of the \$3,000 scholarship through the Law School Library Segment of West, a Thomson Reuters business. The scholarship was part of a promotion in which participating law schools entered into a drawing by scheduling a library review from April 1 - May 31, 2008. The scholarship will be used to acquire additional resources for the Law Library.*

Non-Profit Org.  
US Postage  
PAID  
Orlando, Florida  
Permit #413

[www.famu.edu/law](http://www.famu.edu/law)

Florida A&M University College of Law  
201 Beggs Avenue  
Orlando, FL 32801



---

# Save The Date

## Saturday, May 16, 2009

2009 Annual Hooding Ceremony



*The Florida A&M University College of Law will hold the 2009 Annual Hooding Ceremony at Disney's Hollywood Studios at Walt Disney World. The event will begin promptly at 7:30 p.m. More details will be released on the College of Law's website as the date approaches.*

[www.famu.edu/law](http://www.famu.edu/law)