

IMPACT

Sustained Success Through Community



FLORIDA AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL UNIVERSITY

WELCOME



PROVOST AND VICE PRESIDENT
FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
Maurice Edington, Ph.D.

The Florida A&M University College of Law exemplifies the University's commitment to "Excellence with Caring" through its mission to serve as a beacon of hope and catalyst for change. Few law schools have faced, and overcome, what have often seemed insurmountable challenges, but FAMU Law continues to thrive due to the determination of students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends who understand the tremendous value this college and its successes contribute to our state and nation.

Positioned in the heart of Orlando, FAMU Law has an unwavering commitment to social justice and community service. Our students learn from outstanding faculty who are dedicated to making a difference through their scholarly work, advocacy for the underserved, and focus on producing socially conscious legal professionals.

The history of the College of Law is filled with triumphs and defeats, challenges and successes, and is truly indicative of the spirit of our University. In the 21 years since the state's legislation reestablished FAMU Law, we have had cause to celebrate, as well as time to reflect, refocus and rededicate our efforts. However, the essence and soul of who we are cannot be quieted and we are making every effort to continue to produce high-performing, skilled attorneys who serve our communities with the same commitment and determination to succeed as our original 57 graduates.

Thank you for supporting us as we strike for justice.

Maurice Edington, Ph.D.
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs



FAMU COLLEGE OF LAW
Dean Deidre Keller

When I began my tenure as dean at Florida A&M University (FAMU) College of Law, I never could have imagined the twists and turns the 2020-2021 academic year would bring. Of course, I came to FAMU College of Law as the pandemic was consuming our attention. I quickly became familiar with the need to "pivot" as we switched from a planned hybrid instruction model to a completely virtual learning environment for the Fall 2020 semester, then back to hybrid for the Spring 2021 semester.

Through it all, FAMU College of Law faculty, students and staff persevered. In fact, we "Sustained Success" throughout the 2020-2021 academic year.

I articulated Sustaining Success through Community as the focus for my first year. I set the following goals for our team of faculty, staff and administrators: Recruiting and Retaining Highly Qualified Students in Line with Our Access Mission; Supporting Students to Success on the Bar and in the Profession; and Broadening Alumni and Community Engagement. I am proud to report that we made progress on each of these important goals!

We increased the median LSAT and GPA of cohorts year over year from 147/3.3 in 2020 to 149/3.42 in 2021 - all while maintaining the diversity of the incoming class. We also improved our retention of rising second-year students - awarding more than \$200,000.00 in retention scholarships to returning students.

We launched a mentoring program that matched law students with 57 attorneys across the nation, including judges and law alumni and began the Public Interest Fellows program and secured funding to support student participants. We also made alterations to our curriculum designed to support our most vulnerable students to success on the bar exam.

We connected with more than 150 legal, business and community leaders through our weekly Meet the FAM lunches. And we hosted Alumni Town Halls, including several for individual graduating classes.

Throughout this publication, you will find similar success stories recorded across the College and the curriculum. I am very proud of every student accomplishment, every faculty achievement, every staff accolade, and every alumni triumph.

Thank you, to everyone who helped move the FAMU College of Law toward sustained success in 2020-2021. We now look forward to the 2021-2022 academic year, Building the Foundation for Thriving Community, while celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the reestablished Florida A&M University College of Law in Orlando.

Deidre Keller
Dean, FAMU College of Law



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Spring commencement took place at the Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts in Orlando at the arts center's outdoor, socially distanced Frontyard Festival™ venue. See page 13 for the full story.



FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

Despite the challenges and difficulties faced during the 2020-2021 academic year, the College of Law continued to excel in its commitment to excellence in its offerings to the community. This was especially evident in how our renowned faculty members effectively produced, published, and presented their scholarship, as well as served as experts in their disciplines. The following pages are a slice of the excellence delivered by our faculty.



Professor Robert Abrams

PUBLICATIONS:
Robert Abrams, *Under the Pecos River Compact, Can Texas's Allocation of Water Be Charged for Evaporation of Flood-water Stored in an Upstream Reservoir*

Located in New Mexico?, 48 PREVIEW U.S. SUP. CT. CAS. 8 (2020).

Robert Abrams, *The ACF Water Wars Final Episode: Is Florida Entitled to Greater Flow in the Apalachicola River?*, 48 PREVIEW U.S. SUP. CT. CAS. 3 (2021).



Professor Nicky Boothe Perry

PUBLICATIONS:
Nicola A. Boothe, *Traffickers' "F"ing Behavior during a Pandemic: Why Pandemic Online Behavior Has Heightened the Urgency to Prevent*

Traffickers from Finding, Friending and Facilitating the Exploitation of Youth via Social Media, 22 GEO. J. GENDER & L. 533 (2021).

SELECTIONS, PANELS AND APPEARANCES:
Selected for Antonin Scalia Law School, George Mason University's Law & Economics Center Workshop for Law Professors, May 2021; Panelist - Georgetown Journal of Gender and Law Symposium: The Evolution of Technology and Gender-Related Offenses - "Sex Trafficking in the Age of Social Media" -- April 2021; Media Appearance, Channel 6 - WKMG, "A Historic Inauguration Day" - January 2021; Panelist - "Raise Your Voice To Stop Human Trafficking" - ACLU at FAMU College of Law - January 2021; Breakout Session Leader - AALS Hot Topic Program (Annual Conference) - "Actions

Speak Louder Than Words: Anti-Racism in Law Schools" - January 2021; Featured Speaker - Career Spotlight - University of Florida, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. - Nov 2020; Facilitator - Mindfulness In Life & Law - FAMU College of Law - October/November 2020.



Professor Patricia Broussard

PUBLICATIONS:
Patricia A. Broussard, Cheryl T. Page & Angela Downes, *Damn It! A Conversation on Being Black, Female, and Marginalized during the COVID-19 Pandemic: Is the*

World Listening? A Conversation between Black Female Law Professors, 12 ALA. C.R. & C.L. L. REV. 1 (2020).

PANELS:
"The Impact of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the Constitutional Right to Vote" September 17, 2020. (Florida State College at Jacksonville's Legal Students Association and Theta Sigma Chi Chapter of the American Criminal Justice Association).

"Know Your Rights" September 10, 2020. (FAMU American Civil Liberties Union and Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity, Inc.)

ADDITIONAL PANELS AND PRESENTATIONS:
September: ACLU Panel on Voting; Community Voting Panel; Florida State Voting Panel; News 13 Ruth Bader Ginsburg; ACS Voting Panel; October: Voting Panel; Verizon Voting Panel; Stonewall Voting Panel; NGA Voting Panel; November: News 13 Election; ASALH Panel; December: North Dakota Fair Housing; January: Phi Alpha Delta Panel; Client Counseling Competition; February: Black History Panel; University of Alabama BLSA; Loyola Law Symposium; FAMU Colorism Panel; March: Scholarship Presentation; April: Black News Channel.



Professor Ann Marie Cavazos

Florida A&M University (FAMU) College of Law Professor Ann Marie Cavazos pushed forward the agenda as the president of the FAMU Faculty Senate. Before being named Senate president in 2019, Cavazos previously served as FAMU Faculty

Senate representative for the College of Law, secretary, then vice-president. The president also serves as the faculty representative on the FAMU Board of Trustees.

At a FAMU Faculty Senate meeting in September, Cavazos offered encouraging words to faculty for pushing forward and coping with the pandemic. "This past March, when the world, it seems, shut down, our faculty went from face-to-face teaching to online teaching. Many of us were quickly trained in Zoom, thereby providing continuing education for our students. I noticed your hard work and dedication and I applaud you," said Cavazos.

The Faculty Senate is the highest legislative body within the University and advises the University President on academic matters and other concerns affecting more than one school or college. The Faculty Senate, which includes representatives from every school and college within the University, considers, legislates, and advises on all matters of general University interest.

Professor Cavazos is the first from the College of Law to serve as Faculty Senate President.



Professor Darryll Jones

Professor Darryll Jones participated in a telephone town hall hosted by Congresswoman Val Demings pertaining to the 2021 Tax Season. The COVID Tele-Town Hall Financial Relief and IRS Issues event took place on February 16, 2021.

Dean Deidré Keller

Dean Deidré Keller was recognized as a 2021 ONYX Magazine Women on the Move Honoree during a virtual award celebration on March 5, 2021. She also appeared on the cover of the September/October 2020 issue of the magazine.

Dean Deidré Keller participated as a panelist for a town hall meeting on the impact of COVID-19 on women. The event was held virtually on March 8, 2021.

PUBLICATIONS:
Deidré Keller & Melissa Kidder, *Learning from the Best Reflections on Nancy Sabol as a Teacher, Scholar, Mentor, and Friend*, 46 OHIO N.U. L. REV. 533 (2020).

Anjali Vats & Deidre A. Keller, *Critical Race Theory as Intellectual Property Methodology*, in HANDBOOK OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RESEARCH: LENSES, METHODS, AND PERSPECTIVES 777 (Irene Calboli & Maria L. Montagnani eds. 2021).



Professor Yolanda Jones

PUBLICATIONS:
Professor Yolanda Jones' article, "From Street-Level Bureaucracy to Sustainable Communities: Librarianship for Social Justice in Times of Limited Resources", has been accepted for publication in *Advances in Library Organization*, for its issue on "Critical Librarianship and Library Management".

Edward T. Hart et al., *Memorial: Yvonne Jeannette Chandler (1957-2020)*, 113 LAW LIBR. J. 71 (2021). - Director Yolanda Jones co-author.

On July 15, 2020 Professor Yolanda Jones, director of the Law Library, participated in a panel presentation for the American Association of Law Libraries 2020 Annual Conference titled Library 3.0: Using UX to Create the Library Space of the Future.



Professor Jeremy Levitt

PUBLICATIONS:

Jeremy Levitt, *Beloved Pan-Africanism: Martin Luther King's Stride Toward Africa, International Human Rights, and the Black International Tradition*, in ETHIOPIAN YEARBOOK OF INTERNATIONAL LAW 2019 163 (Z. Yihdego, M.G. Desta & M.B. Hailu eds. 2019).

MODERATOR:

Distinguished Professor of International Law Jeremy Levitt participated as a moderator and host for a round table discussion entitled "Christian Nationalism and Domestic Terrorism: Fighting to Redefine Patriotism and the Church in the 21st Century" on February 25, 2021.

Jeremy Levitt, J.D., Ph.D., was honored during the Orlando Magic game on Jan. 4, 2021, for his work as founder and president of the Stono Institute for Freedom, Justice and Security (SIFJS).



Instructor Paul McLaughlin

PUBLICATIONS:

Paul J. McLaughlin, *Raising the Impact Factor of the Library: Using the U.S. News & World Report's Upcoming Academic Impact Law School Rankings to Boost the Academic Standing of Law Librarians*, 37 LEGAL REF. SERVICES Q. 371 (2020).



Instructor Reginald Mitchell

FAMU College of Law Director of Academic Success and Bar Preparation and Instructor Reginald Mitchell was named to the American Council on Education (ACE) Fellows Program as part of the 2021-2022 Cohort.



Professor LeRoy Pernell

PUBLICATIONS:

E. Gordon Gee et al., *Professor David Williams II*, 81 OHIO ST. L.J. 1 (2020). - Dean Pernell co-author.

LEROY PERNELL & OMAR SALEEM, CASES AND MATERIALS ON COMBATING RACISM IN CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (2021).



Instructor Cynthia Ramkellawan

Academic Success Instructor Cynthia Ramkellawan was sworn-in as a new Faculty Senate senator on September 15, 2020. The Faculty Senate is the highest legislative body within the University and advises the University President on academic matters and other concerns affecting more than

one school or college. The Faculty Senate, which includes representatives from every school and college within the University, considers, legislates, and advises on all matters of general University interest.



Professor Maritza Reyes

PUBLICATIONS:

Maritza I. Reyes, *Professional Women Subjugated by Name-Calling and Character Attacks*, 23 J. GENDER RACE & JUST. 397 (2020).

Article on Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg "RBG: The Power of Dissent and Telling Her Story," September 20, 2020, Feminist Law Professors Blog

"Lessons in Public Advocacy and Self-Defense: Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez Responded to Representative Ted Yoho's Reported 'F*cking B*tch' and Other Sexist Epithets," Feminist Law Professors Blog

"DREAMers" versus the Labels Used in Government Documents and Judicial Opinions in Department of Homeland Security v. Regents of the University of California," ImmigrationProf Blog, Law Professor Blogs Network



Professor Omar Saleem

PUBLICATIONS:

LEROY PERNELL & OMAR SALEEM, CASES AND MATERIALS ON COMBATING RACISM IN CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (2021).



Professor Jennifer Smith

Participates in KJEANRL Symposium

PUBLICATIONS:

Jennifer M. Smith & Elliot O. Jackson, *Historically Black Colleges & Universities: A Model for American Education*, 14 FLA. A&M U. L. REV. 103 (2021).

BOOKS:

Chapter, Medical Marijuana, *Voices In Medical Sociology: Contemporary And Historical Perspectives* (co-author), Cognella Academic Publishing (2020 2d ed.)

Chapter, United States Health Care Reform, *Voices In Medical Sociology: Contemporary And Historical Perspectives*, Cognella Academic Publishing (2012, 2020 2d ed.)

Chapter, Organ Transplantation and the Poor, *Voices In Medical Sociology: Contemporary And Historical Perspectives*, Cognella Academic Publishing (2012, 2020 2d ed.)

OTHER SCHOLARSHIP:

Petition for Certiorari, United States Supreme Court, 2021

PRESENTATIONS:

Panelist, Life as a Lawyer/Choosing a Law School, Stillman College Pre-Law Workshop, ZOOM, April 2021

Speaker, Issues Confronting Cannabis-Related Businesses, Hemp & Marijuana Law Symposium, University of Kentucky College of Law, Journal of Equine, Agriculture, and Natural Resources Law, ZOOM, Feb. 2021 (CLE-approved)

Panelist, Rosewood Massacre, Youth Council Black History Month, Agapé Perfecting Praise and Worship Center, Orlando, FL, Ring Central, Feb. 2021

Panelist, Skin Deep: A Panel on Colorism, Black Law Students Association, Florida A&M University College of Law, ZOOM, Feb. 2021

Panelist, TrailblazeHER - Navigating the Legal Profession as a Woman of Color, Southern Region Black Law Students Association, ZOOM, Jan. 2021

Panelist, Post-Election America: What Now?, Environmental Law Society & Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity, Florida A&M University College of Law, ZOOM, Nov. 2020

Speaker, Succeeding in Academia, Leaders in Legal Education, ZOOM, Oct. 2020

Moderator, #YourVoteYourWeapon, Paul C. Perkins Bar Association, ZOOM, Sept. 2020

Panelist, Inter-topical Problem-solving: The Curious Case of the Estate of Jeffrey Epstein, Southeastern Association of Law Schools (SEALS) Annual Conference, ZOOM, Aug. 2020

Panelist, Black Lives, Systemic Racism & the Academy, Southeastern Association of Law Schools (SEALS) Annual Conference, ZOOM, July 2020

Panelist, Networking Session, Stillman College Pre-Law Workshop, ZOOM, July 2020



Professor Phyllis Taite

Professor Phyllis Taite Presents at the South Carolina Law Review Symposium

Professor Phyllis Taite was a panelist at the South Carolina Law Review 2021 Symposium entitled "Taxation, Finance, and Racial (in) Justice", held Friday, February 19, 2021. She was featured on the panel entitled, "Searching for and Wrestling with the Data on Race and Tax".

Professor Phyllis Taite presented at the Florida Tax Institute virtual conference on Friday, March 12, 2021. Her presentation was entitled, "Estate Tax Inclusion and FLP Planning".

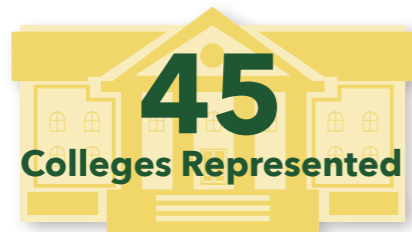
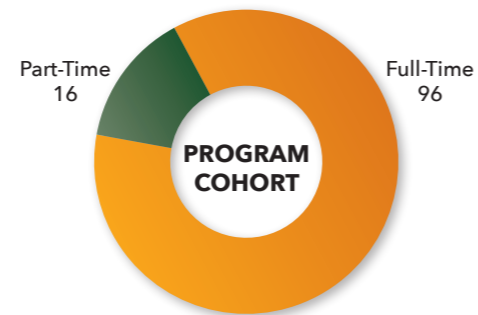
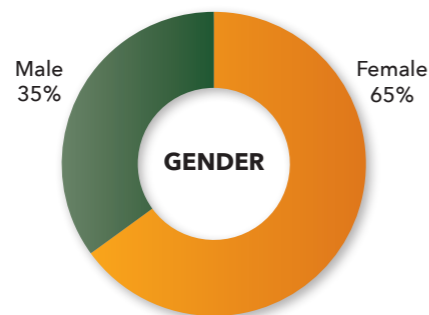
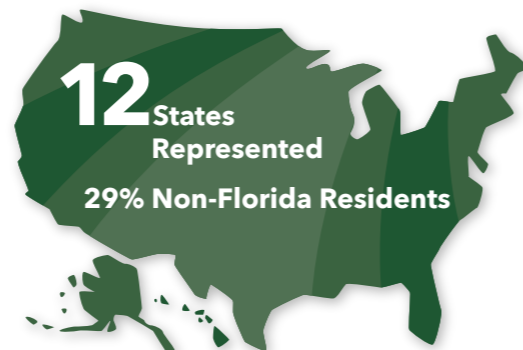
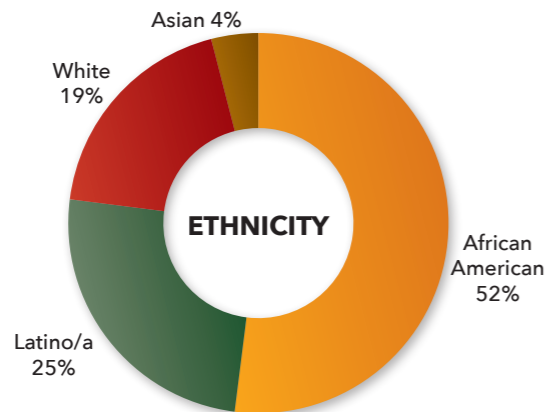
Professor Phyllis Taite was an invited panelist for the Association of American Law Schools (AALS) Tax Section panel entitled Addressing Racism in the Federal Income Tax Course.

RECRUITING & RETAINING

Highly Qualified Students

▶▶▶ Part of the College of Law's mission is to "serve as a beacon of hope and catalyst for change by providing ACCESS to excellent educational training and opportunities to generations of students..." During the 2020-2021 academic year, despite the onset of a global pandemic, the College of Law was able to seat an entering class of motivated first-year students, and many current students broke barriers in pursuing their dream of becoming a lawyer.

Admissions Stats for Fall 2020 Entering Class



LSAT	25 th	50 th	75 th
	145	147	150

GPA	25 th	50 th	75 th
	2.99	3.30	3.48



Shanice Cameron: Consecutive Holland & Knight Scholar

FAMU College of Law student Shanice Cameron spent a second summer in a row learning the legal profession from attorneys at Holland & Knight, LLP in Orlando. Cameron served as the 2021 Holland & Knight Scholar during the summer semester, and she received a full in-state tuition scholarship for her third year of law school, starting in Fall 2021.

Cameron, named Editor-in-Chief of FAMU's Law Review for the 2021-2022 academic year, also was named the 2020 Holland & Knight Scholar. She received a scholarship for her second year of law school and employment at the firm during the Summer 2020 semester.

Because of the pandemic, Cameron participated in both the 2020 and 2021 summer programs virtually.

Upon notice of the second scholarship, Cameron, who hails from Bronx, New York, expressed excitement in sharpening her skills and building relationships with the firm's partners, associates, and staff. She stated, "I am elated about the opportunity to return to Holland & Knight. Thank you to FAMU Law, Holland & Knight, my family, and friends for all your encouragement and support!"



Lucinda Louis: 2020 Richard R. Garland Diversity Scholarship Recipient

Thanks to a great scholarship opportunity, third-year student Lucinda Louis, a Sarasota native, spent the summer gaining valuable legal experience.

The Sarasota County Bar Association Council for Diversity and Inclusion awarded Louis with the 2020 Richard R. Garland Diversity Scholarship. The opportunity included \$5,000 and a legal internship. Louis interned in the legal department of Sarasota Memorial Hospital.

The Council for Diversity and Inclusion's work is to bolster the diversity of the local bar and welcome inclusion of qualified law students of underrepresented groups who have expressed an interest to practice locally upon graduation. In addition to the \$5,000 scholarship to their law schools, a 10-week summer employment program is afforded the law student.



Two Florida A&M University (FAMU) College of Law students are the proud recipients of the Rattler for Justice Scholarships for 2021. The students will receive in-state tuition scholarships for their last year of law school beginning in August of 2021.

"FAMU Law students are dedicated to the mission of social justice and bringing significant change to our communities," said FAMU Law Dean Deidre Keller. "We applaud the efforts of this year's Rattler for Justice Scholarship recipients for going above and beyond to exemplify the characteristics of true advocates for social justice."

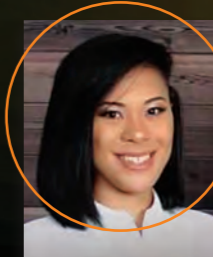
Students submitted essays explaining what being a Rattler for Justice means to them. Below are the names of the scholarship recipients and brief excerpts of their essays on social justice.



A'lexus Garnett Boynton Beach, Florida (part-time student)

Since a young child, I have wanted to become an attorney. I know that obtaining my legal education will give me the advantage to help people. I am interested in helping people of color and those who have a lower socioeconomic status. Now, even more than ever, we need Rattlers

for Justice who are ready and willing to speak out against the social injustices we are witnessing across America. With this Rattlers for Justice Scholarship, funding for school will be one less thing to worry about amidst this global pandemic, and I will be one step closer to pursuing my dreams.



Chelsea Kickingstallion Boynton Beach, Florida (full-time student)

Social justice is very near and dear to my heart. It means that our tears will no longer be washed away, and our voices will no longer be ignored. It means fighting for a cause greater than myself that will outlast my longevity. I aspire to be a change and role model in my community and to the young black girls following behind me. Being a first-generation college graduate, I will use my practice of law to uplift and motivate others. From my on-going experience in social justice advocacy, I realize the importance of understanding our laws and helping those who can't help themselves. Our ancestors fought so we may have a seat at the table, now it's time for us to bring the table.

A Rattler for Justice is someone who strives to shake up the status quo to encourage positive growth; someone who seeks to rattle a few cages to ensure justice is served; or someone who serves as a catalyst for change while assisting others in need.

RECRUITING & RETAINING

Highly Qualified Students in Line with Our Mission of Access

The College of Law Successfully Navigated the Pandemic Era through a Community Effort

For the entire world, the year 2020 definitely had its challenges. Before the start of the 2020-2021 academic year, the College of Law community departed the law school campus building and initiated remote learning and working to minimize the potential spread of the coronavirus during the pandemic. Zoom became the preeminent method for administrative and classroom meetings.

Dean Keller, who began her tenure July 1, 2020, would mark her first days as dean with the first time FAMU College of Law started an academic period remotely; students, faculty, and staff had to adjust to the period's uncertainty quickly. And they did.

In Summer 2020, all 47 Field Placement students completed their internships diligently and professionally despite the challenges amid the pandemic. In addition, the College of Law Registrar's Office initiated a process to mail all diplomas for Spring 2020 Juris Doctor graduates, which had arrived mid-July. The Law Library also continuously informed students on accessing the library electronic textbook subscriptions through the Law Library TWEN site.

By Fall 2020, the decision was clear to continue with a remote learning and working environment as the pandemic ravaged. The College of Law Information Technology department, continued to work at the campus throughout to ensure technology was functioning properly. The team also upgraded equipment to ensure remote and eventual Hyflex functionality would be sustainable. This included installing interactive technology in specific classrooms that would allow our professors to teach to both in-person and remote students simultaneously.

Students who entered prior to the pandemic era were now familiar with a remote process, however, they also benefited previously from in-person law instruction. Our Fall 2020 entering students would be the first to matriculate remotely. Challenge accepted.



Incoming FAMU Law Class Kicks Off Remote Semester with Virtual Oath

New students at Florida A&M University (FAMU) College of Law held up their right hands to take the Oath of Professionalism on Friday, August 3, as administered by Ninth Judicial Circuit Judge Faye Allen and Ninth Judicial Circuit Senior Judge Emerson Thompson.

For the first time, since FAMU Law re-opened its doors in downtown Orlando in 2003, the



traditional Oath of Professionalism was virtual. It is a part of tradition for the incoming class to take the Oath of Professionalism at the beginning of their law school journey to help guide the aspirations and conduct of students during law school and beyond.

The entire new student orientation, "Foundations for Law School Success", was converted to a virtual format due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Incoming students joined the returning students in experiencing a remote academic Fall semester as well.

FAMU Law's orientation planning team provided new students the full orientation experience despite it being virtual. The week-long orientation included a full array of virtual presentations and videos.

Students heard a powerful welcome message from FAMU President Larry Robinson. "Despite the challenges, you are embarking on an incredible journey with the rise of awareness around racial and social justice. You are needed now more than ever to make your mark on history," President Robinson declared in his recorded video message.

The College of Law Foundations Committee wanted to prevent the entire welcome experience from being lost to this entering class. On August 26, members of the Advancement and Admissions teams came together to assemble and mail approximately 100 welcome packages to our incoming students - all while following social distancing guidelines.



Along with the Foundations Boot Camp T, students also received the following:

- ▶ A welcome to the FAMUly message from the College of Law
- ▶ Foundations Boot Camp tote bag
- ▶ FAMU College of Law clear bag
- ▶ FAMU Law poncho
- ▶ FAMU Law key chain.

Some students also received their University Rattler Card and Sonitrol access card (for moving about the law school campus).



GETTING BACK TO CAMPUS

Towards the end of the Fall 2020 semester, promising data indicated the possibility of returning to the College of Law building at lower density levels. Dean Keller formed a Pandemic Task Force Committee consisting of administrators, faculty and students, to explore appropriate measures required to maintain efficiency levels within the College of Law community, while slowly transitioning back to campus. In addition, COVID testing became increasingly available, and the decision was made to allow easier access to testing. The first on-site COVID tests were made available in Spring 2021 to any faculty, staff or student in the area who desired one.

Florida A&M University (FAMU) began rapid COVID-19 testing of current students and employees on January 17th and 18th. Rapid antigen tests were conducted by Covid LLC at the FAMU College of Law in the loading dock.

President Larry Robinson stated at the time, "This new initiative is part of our strategy to keep our students, faculty and staff safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. Testing, combined with the other measures we have instituted throughout the campus, will make a difference. However, we need to remain vigilant. This fight is far from over.

The initiative came as the University ramped up testing protocols for the spring semester. Staff, faculty, and students were required to get tested within five days before returning to campus and every two weeks after their return.

SEEKING OPPORTUNITIES

FAMU College of Law students and alumni are referred to as “Rattlers for Justice” because they actively seek opportunities to place everyday citizens on level ground with access to advocates for representation and provide a voice for those who often go unnoticed or unheard. During the 2020-2021 academic year, the world watched as much of the nation faced a reckoning of its historical treatment of black and brown citizens in documented excessive force cases and deaths at the hands of police. Marches and protests sprang up across the country, including Orlando, and our law students peacefully made their voices heard. Further, as the nation prepared to go to the polls, College of Law students and faculty provided the community with virtual town halls and forums to discuss the potential ramification of election outcomes.

Rattlers for Justice say

“WE HAVE TO SPEAK UP”

Five simple but powerful words sum it all up accurately for Student Bar Association (SBA) President Julien Maynard and some of his classmates at Florida A&M University (FAMU) College of Law. The words are “We Have to Speak Up”.

Maynard did not know what to expect during his first term as Student Bar Association President. After all, he took office during the COVID-19 pandemic and thousands of people were dying nationwide. While the pandemic was making news across the country, there was another news story sharing the headlines over the summer.

The social justice movement was in full swing following multiple deaths of unarmed Black people by law enforcement and others. The Black Lives Matter movement was growing with a strong showing of support from non-Black protesters nationwide. Here in Orlando, FAMU Law students felt passionate about this cause and participated in the local marches, some students created cell phone video messages for the college’s social media channels or used ZOOM for virtual discussions about what they saw and felt.

In Fall 2020, SBA hosted a virtual discussion called The State of America: What’s Happening in our Communities. This event included a powerful list of panelists including Alexis Carter, Esq.,

Moderator, FAMU Law alumni; Regina Hill, Orlando District 5 Commissioner; Travaris McCurdy, member-elect, Florida House of Representatives, District 46; Jose Torroella, candidate for Orange County State Attorney; and Monique Worrell, candidate for Orange County State Attorney.

“It is very crucial that law students not only speak up, but Vote! Our rights and our livelihood are at stake.”

— Student Bar Association President Julien Maynard



FAMU Law students are called Rattlers for Justice. They have a purpose. A Rattler for Justice is someone who strives to shake up the status quo to encourage positive growth; someone who seeks to rattle a few cages to ensure

justice is served; or someone who serves as a catalyst for change while assisting others in need.

“It is very crucial that law students not only speak up, but Vote! Our rights and our livelihood are at stake,” said Maynard at the time. “To echo the sentiments of speaker Representative-Elect, Travaris McCurdy, protesting is necessary and has an immediate impact on the community. However, voting for elected leaders and on policy initiatives has the ability to affect generations. We have to fight for who and what we believe in. Exercising our fundamental right to vote allows us to do just that!”

When you ask Rattlers for Justice why they care about social justice, the answer can be summed up in a few words - “We have to speak up”.

► “Pull Up or Shut Up” Voting Panel

A Voting panel was held in conjunction with College of Law Black Law Students Association and Career Planning and Professional Development. Assistant Director Courtney Jones, who moderated the event stated, “Voting rights are under attack nationwide as states pass voter suppression laws. These laws lead to significant burdens for eligible voters trying to exercise their most fundamental constitutional right.”

The program focused on ways law students could get involved with the latest election and exercise their fundamental right to cast a ballot. The program also discussed measures to suppress votes including cuts to early voting, voter ID laws, and purges of voter rolls. Panelists included The Honorable Dotie Joseph, FL House of Representatives for the 108th District; Shaelan Williams, attorney general, Southern Region BLSA; Traci Atwell, NAACP student fellow, and; Courtney Shannon, NAACP student fellow.

Panelists explored various avenues of advocacy and litigation across the country to eradicate harmful voter suppression measures, and outlined tactics currently used including: Voter registration problems; Voter purges; Strict voter ID and ballot requirements; Voter confusion; Voter intimidation and harassment; Poll closures and long lines; Malfunctioning voting equipment; Disenfranchisement of justice-involved individuals; and Gerrymandering. The panel concluded with a call to action and a pledge to “pull up or shut up”. This pledge encourages students to be extremely vocal about voting and continue these dialogues on social media and other appropriate settings.

► Voting Rights Panel



Professor Jennifer Smith served as a moderator for the Paul C. Perkins Bar Association, Alianza for Progress, and Voters Education of Central Florida forum entitled #YourVoteYour-Weapon: Voting Rights and Election Protection in 2020 on September 24, 2020.

The forum panelists included Alisia Adamson Profit, attorney and Voter Protection

associate; Russell Drake, past president, Orange County Democratic Black Caucus; Kristin Fulwylie Thomas, managing director, Equal Ground; Desmond Meade, president, Florida Rights Restoration Coalition, and; Dr. Gloria Pickar, co-president, League of Women Voters, Orange County.

► Voting Rights Discussion Panel

FAMU College of Law Professor Patricia Broussard served as a panelist for the program “The Impact of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the Constitutional Right to Vote” on September 17, 2020.

The event was co-hosted by the Florida State College at Jacksonville’s Legal Students Association and Theta Sigma Chi Chapter of the American Criminal Justice Association. Additional panelists included Pedro Hernandez, J.D., senior policy coordinator, FairVote; Shirley Jefferson, J.D., associate dean for student affairs and diversity, title IX coordinator, and associate professor of law, Vermont Law School, and; Nicholas Martino, J.D., LL.M, professor of legal studies, FSCJ. The event was moderated by Tameiko Allen Grant, J.D., Ph.D., instructional program manager of professional studies and public safety, FSCJ.



Professor Broussard also served as a panelist for the program “Know Your Rights” on September 10, 2020. The event was co-hosted by FAMU American Civil Liberties Union and Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity, Inc. Additional panelists included James Smith, III, criminal defense attorney; Sergeant C. Hayes, Sandersville Police Department; Kaysha Hutchinson, 10th Circuit public defender, and; the Honorable Hubert Grimes, former judge, attorney, Monts Grimes Law, P.L. The event was moderated by alumna Taniesha Alexander, J.D., ‘20.

► FAMU Law Students Attend Vote Fest

The FAMU College of Law Student Bar Association participated in the Central Florida Vote Fest at the Amway Center on October 25, 2020. The event was aimed at getting more minorities and African Americans to vote.



Additionally, College of Law third-year students Julien Maynard and Bria Calvin were interviewed by a local news station regarding the importance of being involved in the election process.



SUPPORT STUDENTS

to Success on the Bar and in the Profession

In a given year at the College of Law, our students typically find their routine early on to meet the rigor of law school. Some stake study area claims in the library, throughout the building, at coffee shops, or in the parks of Downtown Orlando. This academic year, however, was different due to the pandemic.

But our students operate with resiliency, and where there is a will, they find a way. As everyone had to adjust and adapt to the ever-changing 2020-2021, our law students continued to thrive in mentoring, fellowships and managed to have their first commencement ceremony hosted in Orlando.

Mentoring Program Launches with Lawyers from Across the Country

Lawyers from coast to coast had signed on to serve as mentors to College of Law students as part of the inaugural Mentoring Program. The 57 lawyers practice in states as far away as California and New York, including several judges, and represent areas of law ranging from intellectual property to personal injury.

The FAMU College of Law Mentoring Program was officially launched on Oct. 15, 2020, with a virtual event featuring Florida Supreme Court Justice Alan Lawson as the keynote speaker. More than 100 lawyers and law students participated in the kick-off event that afforded mentors and mentees an opportunity to get to know each other during virtual breakout sessions.



Oliver Telusma: Equal Justice Works Fellow

College of Law 2021 graduate Oliver Telusma received an annual Equal Justice Works Fellowship funded by The Florida Bar Foundation. He was assigned to the Community Justice Project in South Florida.

Each year, Equal Justice Works selects a class of public interest lawyers who have designed one-of-a-kind projects in partnership with legal services organizations. These projects are funded by law firms, corporations, private foundations, and individual supporters. Selected from 466 applications, the 2021 class of Equal

Justice Works Fellows includes 77 graduates from 47 law schools who will work at 70 legal services organizations across 20 states, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico.



Oscar Draughn: MMTC Fellow

FAMU College of Law second-year student Oscar Draughn was one of six law students from Florida law schools to be named a Summer fellow with the Multicultural Media, Telecom and Internet Council (MMTC) in Washington, D.C.

The fellowship was open to law students who were interested in administrative law practice primarily before the Federal Communications Commission (FCC); and achieving equal employment opportunity, civil rights, and diversity and inclusion in the media, telecom, and tech industries.



LexisNexis Fellowship

College of Law second-year students Oscar Draughn and Shayla McIntyre were among 12 law school students named to the inaugural cohort of the LexisNexis Fellowship. The fellowship is part of a program that was created in partnership with the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Law School Consortium (HBCULSC).

Along with their fellowship stipend, the fellows will spend nine months engaging in a unique experience that will accelerate their career, develop their leadership skills, and create opportunities to make a real difference.

Justice John Paul Stevens Public Interest Fellows

Two College of Law students received the Justice John Paul Stevens Public Interest Fellowship.



Destiny Hibbler worked over the summer with the Southern District of Florida Federal Public Defender's Office in Miami. The Fort Worth, Texas native, aspires to become a federal public defender after law school. **Sara Jensen**, a Sparta, New Jersey native, was placed with the office of the public defender in the Ninth Judicial Circuit in Orlando.



In 2021, the John Paul Stevens Fellowship Foundation expanded the Justice John Paul Stevens Public Interest Fellowship program in partnership with the historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) with law schools.

These law schools are among the nation's most diverse in terms of faculty and students. They are well-known for their commitment to the public interest and preparing a diverse group of law students for leadership.

The Paul Stevens Fellows from the HBCUs are committed, talented individuals who worked at a wide range of public interest organizations in both the public and nonprofit sectors this past summer, and they joined a national cohort of 80 Stevens Fellows, the largest group since the Fellowship program's inception in 1997.

FAMU Commencement Ceremony in Orlando -

A FIRST



Florida A&M University (FAMU) recognized students graduating from its College of Law during a commencement ceremony on Monday, May 10, 2021, 9 a.m. at the Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts in Orlando. The event took place at the arts center's outdoor, socially distanced Frontyard Festival™ venue on the Seneff Arts Plaza.



The outdoor event marked the first time the FAMU College of Law has held a full Commencement ceremony in Orlando. Underscoring the importance of the occasion, President Larry Robinson, Ph.D., served as the keynote speaker.

The University traditionally conducts commencement ceremonies on the main campus for all students, including those from the Orlando-based College of Law. After traveling to Tallahassee, law students would return to Orlando to participate in the annual hooding ceremony, which law schools customarily conduct.

During the ceremony, 138 individuals were honored, including graduates from the fall 2020 semester and spring 2021 semester, along with candidates for the summer 2021 semester.

"These graduating students have succeeded against immense odds to obtain a quality legal education," Keller said at the time. "President Robinson is the ideal person to help us celebrate their accomplishments because he fully understands and appreciates their struggles and their triumphs."

The University adhered to all Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Board of Governors guidelines during the commencement ceremony to ensure the health and safety of all participants.



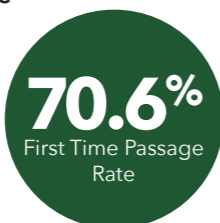
SUPPORTING STUDENTS

to Success on the Bar and in the Profession

The academic year 2020-2021 was one for the books for the College of Law. Our faculty and Bar preparation team worked tirelessly with graduates who would be among the first to sit for their licensure examination during a full-blown pandemic. Although there were numerous individual and group achievements by College of Law students, the following mentioned on the next two pages were of particular note.

College of Law Graduates Record Improved Bar Passage Rate

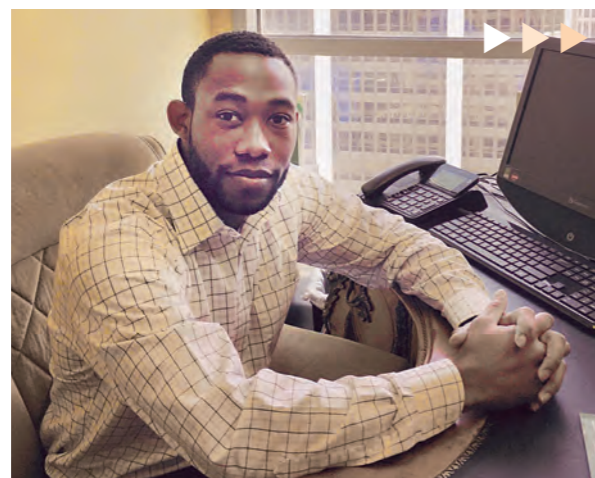
College of Law graduates recorded a 70.6 percent first-time passage rate on the February 2021 Florida Bar Exam. Of the 17 FAMU College of Law graduates taking the exam for the first time, 12 passed, according to results released by the Florida Supreme Court.



The February 2021 passage rate represents a 21.9 percentage point increase from the February 2020 pass rate. The overall February 2021 first-time pass rate, which includes all first-time takers and the "Admitted to Practice" examinees, was 62.4 percent. The average pass rate among Florida law schools was 61.3 percent.



Dean Keller was quoted at the time stating, "While we are pleased with the great strides in performance on the Florida Bar Exam, we are steadfast in our commitment to support our students and graduates to sustained success on all bar exams."



Laura Cepero Recognized by Fifth DCA for High Score on Florida Bar Exam

The 5th District Court of Appeal invited FAMU COL graduate Laura L. Cepero to speak at the May 3 induction ceremony for having scored one of the highest Florida bar exam scores.



Cepero earned her J.D. from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University's College of Law in December of 2020. She graduated Magna Cum Laude and was ranked number one in her graduating class. During her tenure at FAMU Law, she served as a Senior Editor of Law Review, as well as a member of the FAMU chapters of the Criminal Law Society, the American Civil Liberties Union, the National Lawyers Guild, and the American Constitution Society. Laura also penned an article, "Lost in the Supermarket: Federal Terrorism Prosecutions for Coughing COVID," which will be published in the Spring 2021 issue of Widener Law Review. Laura now practices criminal defense and appellate law at Lisabeth J. Fryer, P.A. in Sanford, Florida.

Raymere Thomas: Judicial Law Clerk

Second-year law student Raymere Thomas secured a position as Law Clerk at Ninth Judicial Circuit Court of Florida. At the time of appointment, Thomas was quoted as saying, "I'm excited and thankful for the opportunity. Criminal law is an area of law that I am passionate about, and clerking under the Honorable Judge Faye Allen in the criminal division will grant me the opportunity to gain experience and knowledge in an area of law that I wish to pursue upon graduating from law school."



Simon Safir Appointed Justice by FAMU SGA

Fourth-year law student Simon Safir was appointed Justice by Student Government Association (SGA) President Xavier McClinton and confirmed by the 50th Student Senate.

Safir, who graduated in December 2020, had also served as a FAMU Representative with the Florida Bar YLD Law Student Affiliates; Scholar with the Florida Bar Business Law Section; Student Ambassador for FAMU Law Admissions; President of the Student Animal Legal Defense Fund, and; Treasurer of the American Constitution Society.

Five FAMU Law Students Receive Microsoft Tech Law Summit Intellectual Property Achievement Award

Five College of Law students were selected to receive the Microsoft Tech Law Summit Intellectual Property (IP) Achievement Award.

"All five students received the IP Achievement Award because they are outstanding students and they have a positive impact on social justice and intellectual property," said FAMU Law professor William Henslee, who nominated the students for the \$2,000 awards.



Lacresha Pierre, a second-year law student from Brooklyn, New York, looks forward to contributing thought-provoking strategies to further promote the importance of technology as its own avenue within intellectual property law. "I aspire to be a lawyer within the intellectual property field because

creativity and innovation are interchangeable, and technology helps to make these things come to life," said Pierre. "An individual generates creative new ideas that are then innovatively implemented into an organization's systems and processes."

The five FAMU Law recipients of the Microsoft Tech Law Summit Intellectual Property Achievement Award included: Keyunna Harris, 2L, Columbus, Georgia; Daniel Holmes-Fountain, 2L, New York, New York; Allison Horton, 3L, Tallahassee, Florida; Samendio Mathieu, 3L, Boynton Beach, Florida; Lacresha Pierre, 2L, Brooklyn, New York



SALDF: NATIONAL CHAPTER OF THE YEAR

FOR SECOND STRAIGHT YEAR

The FAMU Law chapter of Animal Legal Defense Fund won the 2019 Animal Legal Defense Fund Student Chapter of the Year Award for the second straight year. This award celebrates chapters that have shown incredible efforts in advancing the field of animal law and advocating for animals through original projects and initiatives. Animal Legal Defense Fund Student Chapters are a vital part of the growing animal law movement. Through raising awareness of the field of animal law, they are showing their law school community that animal protection is a serious social justice issue.



Building on its momentum from winning the award the previous year, the FAMU College of Law SALDF had record membership and organized more than 20 vegan events, each with at least one college or community organization. They also joined volunteers to clean up Blue Springs State Park, a vital habitat for manatees. SALDF partnered with other student organizations to host an animal cruelty law and legislative workshop with Councilwoman Lois Paritsky and animal advocate Debbie Darino. In addition, award-winning film producer Allison Argo discussed her documentary "The Last Pig" before members of the chapter, several student organizations, and the community.

Among all the activities that garnered Chapter of the Year honors, several included volunteering at Rooterville, a sanctuary caring for more than 400 rescue animals; attending the National Animal Law Conference; volunteering at the C.A.R.E. Foundation, an exotic animal rescue and wildlife sanctuary; and volunteering at the Center for Great Apes, a sanctuary rescuing great apes from the entertainment industry, research, and the exotic pet trade. The FAMU SALDF chapter closed out the year with an Amicus Brief Panel in conjunction with ACLU of FAMU discussing the importance of educating courts on animal law topics.

BROADENING

Alumni & Community Engagement

Chances are, when you tune in to programming for news events, you may see the impact of the FAMU College of Law. Classrooms at the College of Law are led by an exemplary team of legal practitioners and legal scholars who are competent and compassionate law professors. These professors are experts in their field and are highly sought for their opinions regarding legal matters among a broad range of issues on a local and national scale. FAMU Law professors impress this knowledge upon their students through in-class discussions, which in-turn leads to graduates and alumni who similarly engage with their communities through their practice and other professional endeavors.

Faculty Media Appearances 2020 – 2021

Nicky Boothe Perry, Professor of Law

The significance of Kamala Harris being sworn in as Vice President of the United States (WKMG)

Patricia Broussard, Professor of Law

Can the Government Mandate Wearing Masks? (WFTV); The Legacy of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg (Spectrum 13); MLK Day of Service (BNC); Voter Suppression (BNC)

Eunice Caussade-Garcia, Legal Clinic Instructor

Governor Releasing Millions in Housing Assistance (Fox 35); Foreclosure/Evictions and Florida's Expiring COVID-19 Moratorium (Telemundo Orlando)

Joseph Grant, Professor of Law

COVID-19 Impact on Our Economy 'Perspectives' (Cox Media Group: WCFB, WPYO, WMMO, WDBO, WWKA)

William Henslee, Professor of Law

Quoted in an article on Law.com on liability when enforcing social media's terms of service

Deidre Keller, Dean and Professor of Law

The Impact of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg (BNC); Significance of Emmitt Till Historical Landmarks (BNC)

FEATURE ON FAMU COLLEGE OF LAW DEAN (ORLANDO BUSINESS JOURNAL)

Jeremy Levitt,

Distinguished Professor of International Law
Moratorium on Evictions Amid COVID-19 (BNC); COVID-19; Testing Responsibility; Mask Mandates; Confederate Monuments; Black Lives Matter (WFTV); President Trump's 4th of July Events Kicking Off at Mount Rushmore (BNC); Harvard and MIT Lawsuits Against President Trump on International Student Visas (BNC);

SCOTUS Rulings: Oklahoma's Native American Reservation Land and the Decision on Trump's Tax Returns (BNC); SCOTUS Rulings: Oklahoma's Native American Reservation Land and the Decision on Trump's Returns; Lawsuits on International Student Visas (BNC); White House Press Secretary's Argument on Opening Schools & Potential Legal Implications (BNC); Vehicle Procession in Honor of Honorable John C. Lewis and Federal Law Officers at Protests (BNC); COVID-19 Parties (WFTV); Tonight's Primaries (BNC); NRA Lawsuits (BNC); Joe Biden's Pick for Vice President, Kamala Harris (BNC); The Recent Shooting in Kenosha, Wisconsin and the Unrest Following (BNC); Crisis in Belarus (BNC); U.S. Sanctions, War Crimes Investigation: The Latest from the International Criminal Court (BNC); Department of Justice Request to Defend President Trump in E. Jean Carroll Defamation Lawsuit (BNC); Claims of Pressure to Alter Homeland Security Intel (BNC); 19 Years After 9/11: U.S./Taliban Treaty; Troop Withdrawal from Iraq (BNC); Judge Ruling: Florida Felons Can't Vote Until They Pay Off All Fines (WFTV); U.S. Ban on TikTok and WeChat & ByteDance Ltd. Information Access Concerns (BNC); The Pressure to Fill the Supreme Court Seat After the Death of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg (BNC); Trump vs McConnell? Differing Perspectives on Election Results (BNC); Combating Violence, Disorder and Looting and the Law Enforcement Protection Act (BNC); Biden-Trump Presidential Debate Analysis (BNC); Threat to Black Liberty; Violent White Extremists Protections by Trump Administration (BNC); Harris-Pence Vice Presidential Debate Analysis (BNC); Amy Coney Barrett's Position on 2nd Amendment & Felons' Voting Rights (BNC); Nigerian Protests Against Police Brutality; #EndSARSMovement (BNC); Blatant differences in treatment with Trump protesters and others such as Black Lives Matter; Capitol protest and ensuing riot (WFTV); Charges for former

Michigan Governor Rick Snyder in Flint water probe (BNC); Articles of Impeachment for President Donald Trump (BNC); Greater meaning of the Capitol insurgence (BNC); G7 Summit, the steps President Biden is taking to repair America's relationship with world leaders, and a general recap of the president's week (BNC); Impeachment Special (BNC); Chauvin Verdict (WFTV, WESH, Fox 35)

Reginald Mitchell, Director of Academic Success and Bar Preparation

Florida Bar Exam Watchdog Investigation: Issues Concerning Repeated Delays and Impact on Applicants (Spectrum 13); Q&A on the Georgia Senate run-offs and the Electoral College preview (WFTV)

LeRoy Pernell, Professor of Law

Legal Authority of the President to Delay an Election (WFTV); The Breonna Taylor Grand Jury Ruling (WFTV); Crusade for Change (WESH); Ocoee Massacre (WFTV); No Evidence of Election Fraud (WKMG); Qualified immunity and the impact it has had on federal/state court cases (WFTV); Chauvin's Appeal Groundwork (Bloomberg Law); Floyd Family Settlement and Chauvin's Appeal (Bloomberg Law); Derek Chauvin Trial Week 3 Takeaways (Huffington Post)

Jennifer Smith, Professor of Law

The significance of Kamala Harris being sworn in as Vice President of the United States (Spectrum 13); WFTV Channel 9 ABC, "Expert Talks Kamala Harris' Barrier-Breaking Day," Jan. 2021; HuffPost Black Voices, "HBCU State of the Yard," Verizon, Facebook, Oct. 2020; ORLANDO, Fla - Florida A&M University (FAMU) College of Law Professor Jennifer Smith has been selected to serve on a committee of the National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE).



Panel Discussions featuring FAMU Law Faculty

"The New Supreme Court: A Discussion of the Interpretation of Equal Rights and Justice Under the Law" (Stonewall LGBTQ Law Student Association, American Constitution Society, American Civil Liberties Union, Women's Law Caucus); Professor **Joseph Hurt** and Professor **Rhonda Reaves** (panelists); Professor **Patricia Broussard** (moderator).

"Your Vote Matters: National Voter Event" (Verizon Wireless); Professor **Patricia Broussard** (panelist).

"HBCU State of the Yard: A Diversity & Inclusion Collaboration presented by BOLD of Verizon" Professor **Jennifer Smith** (panelist).

"Sex Trafficking in the Age of Social Media" (Georgetown Journal of Gender and the Law); "Raise Your Voice to Stop Human Trafficking" (American Civil Liberties Union); Professor **Nicky Boothe-Perry** (panelist)

"The Black Superwoman - I Can Have it All, But at What Cost?" (National Black Prosecutors Association - South Florida); Professor **Patricia Broussard** (panelist)

"Skin Deep: A Panel on Colorism" (Black Law Student Association); Professor **Patricia Broussard** and Professor **Jennifer Smith** (panelists)

"Symposium on International Law and Racial Justice" (Wisconsin International Law Journal); Professor **Jeremy Levitt** (closing keynote)

"Race & Its Impact on the Latinx Community" (Hispanic American Law Students Association); Professor **Maritza Reyes** (speaker)

"Celebrating Black Women's Brilliance - A Juneteenth Celebration" (UCF Downtown); Dean **Deidre Keller** (panelist)

Community Outreach

College of Law third-year students **Lucinda Louis** and **Natiya Washington**, and second-year student **Breanna Moore** participated in an outreach effort assisting the City of Orlando with surveying businesses affected by the pandemic. In April 2021, the students surveyed minority-owned businesses in the Parramore community to determine if they were in need of financial assistance and/or other assistance to keep their business going.



Legal Connections Wins Prestigious Telly Award

FAMU Law and Orange TV won a Telly Award for coverage of the "Legal Ramifications of the Ocoee Massacre." The 1920 Ocoee Massacre in Orange County, Florida, remains the largest incident of voting-day violence in United States history.

Founded in 1979, the Telly Awards honors excellence in local, regional and cable television commercials, non-broadcast video and television programming. The Awards annually showcases the best work created within television and across video, for all screens. Receiving over 12,000 entries from all 50 states and 5 continents, Telly Award winners represent work from some of the most respected advertising agencies, television stations, production companies and publishers from around the world

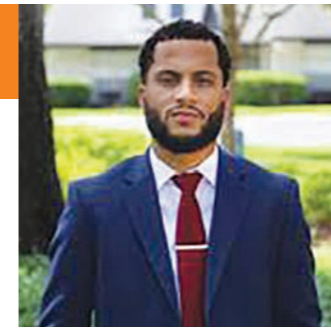
WFTV's Darlene Jones interviewed Dean Deidre Keller and Professor **LeRoy Pernell** about the massacre, voter suppression, human rights violations, mob violence, and possible justice for the families of victims. Stephanie Strong and Mildred Graham produced the special which was directed and edited by Orange TV.



Legal Connections

Legal Connections is a series of taped video segments featuring legal content produced through a creative partnership between the College of Law and Orange TV. The segments include interviews with FAMU Law faculty, lawyers, legal experts, professionals, alumni, and more. The programming is designed to inform viewers of legal matters, to provide self-help tips and resources, and to raise awareness of FAMU Law. Legal Connections is hosted by FAMU Law alumna Kimra Major-Morris ('07), who is a practicing attorney in Orlando.

Legal Connections Segments in 2020 - 2021 included: FAMU's Legal Scholars Program, John Perdue, Esq., Program Director; What is Social Justice?, LeRoy Pernell, Esq., Professor of Law, FAMU Law; Removal of Confederate Statues, Charles Gee, Esq. ('14), Gee & Lee Attorneys At Law; Student Bar Association, Julien Maynard, SBA President, FAMU Law; Consortium for Racial Justice, Deidre Keller, Esq., Dean and Professor of Law, FAMU Law; Wills & Trusts in the Age of COVID-19, Joseph Grant, Esq., Professor of Law, FAMU Law.



FAMU Alumni Award Scholarships to FAMU Law Students

College of Law alums **Benjamin Garcia** and **Orlando Sheppard**, both members of the class of 2015, teamed up to provide a \$1,500 scholarship to an incoming law student. The FAMUly First Generation Scholarship was made available to full-time, first-generation students in the College of Law's incoming 2020 class. The duo were so impressed with the applicants that they selected two students to receive \$1,500 each. Alexandra Vieira received the scholarship for Fall 2020 and Destiny Hibbler received the scholarship for the Spring 2021 semester.

FAMU Law Students Visit Local High School

In February, FAMU College of Law students visited Lake Brantley High School in Altamonte Springs to share information about law school, what it's like to attend an HBCU, and their experiences as members of historically Black Greek-lettered organizations. The students were invited to the campus by Brittany Williams Lacarte, a teacher at the school who serves as the chairperson of the Cultural Celebration Committee. Participating law students included **Chelsea Cooke, Ebony Hankerson, Danielle Helligar, Eric Hodge, Elliot Jackson and Brooke Jamison.**



Dean Keller Engages with Alumni through Series of Town Halls

College of Law Dean Deidre Keller initiated a series of virtual discussions with College of Law graduates through the Alumni Town Hall meetings in January 2021. The virtual discussions offer an opportunity for the former students to directly engage with the dean and discuss her vision for their alma mater moving forward. The town halls meet monthly and are targeted toward each graduating class. During the academic year, virtual meetings were held with classes 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009. The Office of Advancement and Alumni Affairs helps to facilitate the virtual town halls.



FAMU Law Student Writes Children's Book to Motivate Black Youth to Attend Law School

Okoye Morgan knew he wanted to be a lawyer in high school. After years of hard work and dedication, during his third year of law school at the College of Law, Morgan gathered his thoughts on the importance of a legal education and wrote a children's book called "**The Boy Who Went to Law School.**"

"I wrote a book encouraging youth to enter into the legal profession," said Morgan at the time. "It is important to have a children's book that represents people of color achieving professional studies such as law."

Looking at racial disparities in the legal profession, Morgan points to the 2019 American Bar Association report listing 85 percent of lawyers as white, compared to 77 percent of the U.S. population. Only 5 percent of lawyers are African American, 5 percent are Hispanic, and 3 percent are Asian.

FAMU Law boasts of producing lawyers who are Rattlers for Justice. "I want to be a lawyer to create change whether in policy or litigation. To defend those who have been harmed and need justice. Our neighborhoods usually don't have lawyers or curriculum that suggest going into the legal profession. I wanted to create something that kids could see in picture and story form to change their recurring narrative of literature depicting mostly athletics or entertainment," said Morgan.

LEGAL CONNECTIONS

BROADENING

Alumni & Community Engagement

▶▶▶ **Dean Keller** was introduced to the Orlando community delicately, given that she arrived at the College of Law in the advent of the Coronavirus pandemic in 2020. To assist with introducing her, **John Crossman**, past chair, FAMU Law Dean's Advisory Council and president, Crossmarc Services, partnered with the College to host a series of luncheons once it was safe to do so.



FAMU COLLEGE OF LAW
Dean Deidre Keller

The lunches, dubbed "Meet the FAM," allowed area leaders in the legal, business, tech, and education sectors to know the FAMU College of Law and its leadership here in Orlando.

Throughout 50 luncheons, more than 150 of the community's top leaders had lunch with Dean Keller. Forty-seven of the 50 lunches occurred at the University Club of Orlando, with the last occurring at the Citrus Club.



PAST CHAIR, FAMU LAW
DEAN'S ADVISORY COUNCIL
John Crossman

In a social media entry posted after the final lunch, Crossman stated, "The conversations at times were painful but mostly healing as we tackled tough topics including race, mental health, justice, and so many crucial issues." The following two pages list community members who attended the "Meet the FAM" luncheons.

We are grateful for everyone who joined us for the Meet the FAM lunches. Thank you for your support, here is a list of participants:

- Michael Aitcheson**, Christ United Fellowship
- Angela Alban**, SIMETRI, Inc.
- Jason Albu**, Albu & Associates, Inc.
- Paul Allen**, Saltmarsh, Cleaveland & Gund
- Judge Faye Allen**, Orange County Ninth Judicial Court
- Rachel Allen**, Peace & Justice Institute, Valencia College
- Stephanie Arguello**, AdventHealth
- Lisa Bachman**, Holocaust Memorial Resource & Education Center of Florida
- Andrae Bailey**, Change Everything, Project Opioid & Lead Homelessness
- Judge Andrew Bain**, Orange County Ninth Judicial Court
- Rick Baldocchi**, Avcon Engineers & Planners
- Bethanie Barber**, Legal Aid Society of the OCBA, Inc.

- Dick Batchelor**, Dick Batchelor Management Group
- Shannen Bazzi**, 20/20 Vision
- Richard Black**, ONYX Magazine
- Tara Bleakley**, TLC Engineering Solutions
- Makayla Bowman**, Ruggie Wealth Management
- LaVon Bracy Davis**, Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts
- Michelle Brady-Palmer**, SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment
- Jessica Braizer**, AdventHealth
- Larry Brinson, Jr.**, Ocoee City Commissioner
- Jeffrey Bromme**, AdventHealth
- Jared Brooks**, Broward State Attorney's Office
- Johanna Brown**, Community Partner
- Kamia Brown**, Florida House of Representatives, House District 45
- Bakari Burns**, City Commissioner, District 6

- Gary Cain**, Boys & Girls Club of Central Florida
- Leon Camarda**, Project Management Advisors, Inc.
- Judge Andrew Cameron**, Orange County Ninth Judicial Court
- Cindy Campbell**, Seyfarth Shaw LLP
- Dean Cannon**, GrayRobinson, PA
- Nadia Carmino**, Alliance One
- Owen Carmino**, Alliance One
- Lyndon Carter**, Darden Restaurants, Inc.
- Alexander Cartwright**, UCF
- Charles Castellon**, Widerman Malek Attorneys At Law
- Jess Cearley**, Crossman Career Builders
- Jennifer Cerasa**, UCF Foundation, Inc.
- Ginny Childs**, Akerman LLP
- Judge Vincent Chiu**, Orange County Ninth Judicial Court
- Vincent Citro**, Law Offices of Horwitz & Citro, P.A.
- Rob Clark**, Ruggie Wealth Management
- Barry Cotton**, Office of Senator Rick Scott
- Rachael Crews**, GrayRobinson Attorneys at Law
- Dan Cross**, Athletes Connection Foundation
- Richard Crotty**, Richard Crotty Consulting Group, LLC
- John F Davis**, Orlando Regional Chamber
- Horace Dawson**, Red Lobster
- Hugo H. de Beaubien**, DSK Law
- Summer E. DeGel**, GrayRobinson Attorneys at Law
- Lisa Dilts**, Compspring Real Estate Advisory
- Ava Doppelt**, Allen, Dyer, Doppelt + Gilchrist, P.A.
- Bill Dymond**, Lowndes
- Rhonda Ferebee**, My Notary Services
- Trinetta Fisher**, Cohen Law Group
- Mimi Flatley**, Turner Construction Company
- Rosana Fonseca**, Orange County Property Appraiser
- Ben Friedman**, Elevation Financial Group, LLC
- Jay Galbraith**, Valencia College
- Tanisha Gary**, African American Chamber of Commerce
- Olive Gaye**, GenCare Resources Healthcare
- Glenton Gilzean, Jr.**, Central Florida Urban League
- Linda Gonzalez**, Orlando Magic
- Drew Gorman**, Westmoreland Partners, LLC
- Linda Greene**, DSK Law
- Merchon Greene**, City of Orlando - Office of the Mayor
- Alex Hamrick**, JP Morgan
- Thomas Harbert**, Mateer & Harbert PA
- Charles Hart, Esq.**, Orange County Republican Party
- Stuart Heaton**, Elevation Financial Group, LLC
- Edwin Hernandez**, AdventHealth University
- Regina Hill**, City of Orlando Commissioner
- Kent Hipp**, GrayRobinson Attorneys at Law
- Tiffany Hughes**, KBI Staffing Solutions LLC
- Dr. Joel Hunter**, Community Resource Network
- Sumner Hutcheson III**, Hutcheson & Associates
- Eric Jackson**, Total Roof Services
- Kimberly Jean-Louis**, 3D Strategic Management, Inc.
- Judge Steven**, Jewett Orange County Ninth Judicial Court
- Marissa John**, Crossman Career Builders
- Michael Johnson**, UCF
- Judge John Jordan**, Orange County Ninth Judicial Court
- Jeff Justen**, Turner Construction Company
- Courtney Keller**, GreenbergTrauig
- Chris King**, Elevation Financial Group, LLC
- Bud Kirk**, Rumberger Kirk
- Wendy Kurtz**, Elizabeth Charles & Associates, LLC
- Dan LaMorte**, Turner Construction Company
- Michael Lane**, Farmers Insurance
- Judge Bob LeBlanc**, Orange County Ninth Judicial Court
- Scott Lee**, Elevation Financial Group, LLC
- Dazi Lenoir**, Lyons Legal, LLC

- Jarian Lyons**, Lyons Legal, LLC
- Enrique Machado**, Kelly Services
- Judge Diego Madrigal**, Orange County Ninth Judicial Court
- John Martinez**, Crossman Career Builders
- Myrna Maysonet**, Greenspoon Marder LLP
- Reginald McGill**, City of Orlando - Office of the Mayor
- Robert Mead**, Dean Mead
- Amy Mercado**, Orange County Property Appraiser
- Harold Mills**, UCF, Board of Trustees
- Scott Mingonet**, Kimley-Horn
- Joel Montilla**, The Montilla Law Firm
- Christopher Monts**, Monts Law, P.L.
- Tiffany Moore Russell**, Orange County Clerk of Courts
- Daisy Morales**, Florida House of Representatives, District 48
- Bruce Mount**, Leach Law Firm
- Judge Lisa Munyon**, Orange County Ninth Judicial Court
- Yetzenia Negron**, Orange County Government, Housing and Community Development
- Jo Newell**, Orlando Regional Chamber
- Judge Mikaela Nix-Walker**, Orange County Ninth Judicial Court
- George Oliver**, Ocoee City Commissioner
- Brittany Parks**, Trump Victory Deputy State Director
- Carla Parks**, AdventHealth
- Bert Pearsall**, Pearsall Global Consulting, LLC.
- Rene Plasencia**, Florida State Representative
- Kathleen Plinske**, Valencia Community College
- Tekoa Puerie**, Tekoa Puerie International
- Erika Pulley-Hayes**, 90.7 WMFE & 89.5 WMFV
- Eric Quinn**, KMI International
- Christina Redman**, Dean's Advisory Council Member
- Judge Heather Rodriguez**, Orange County Ninth Judicial Court
- Jerry Ross**, National Entrepreneur Center
- Avita Samaroo**, Samaroo Law
- Nancy Schwalb**, Schwalb Public Relations
- Jason Siegel**, Greater Orlando Sports
- Karen Skyers**, Skyers Law Group
- Carlos Smith**, Florida House of Representatives, District 49
- Jenny Steinbach**, CRU
- Hunter Strickland**, First Capital Property Group, Inc.
- Robert Stuart**, City of Orlando
- Anthony Suarez**, Suarez Law Group
- David Swanson**, First Presbyterian Church of Orlando
- Craig Swygert**, Clear Channel Outdoor
- Emerson Thompson**, Retired Senior Judge
- Geraldine Thompson**, Florida House of Representatives, District 44
- Victor Torres, Jr.**, Florida State Senator, District 15
- Bradley Trent**, Project Management Advisors, Inc.
- Keith Truenow**, Florida House of Representatives, District 31
- Craig Ustler**, Ustler Development, Inc
- Ralph Veerman**, Veerman & Associates
- Trey Vick**, V3 Capital Group & Strive Senior Living
- Erin Waldron**, Office of U.S. Rep. Val Demings, FL 10
- Roberta Walton**, Orange County Clerk of Courts
- Ray Watson**, GROWFL
- David Watson**, Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith, Inc.
- Reggie White**, Pastor
- Michael Wilde**, BakerHostetler LLP
- Charee Williams**, FSU Black Alumni Association
- Ross Wolf**, UCF
- Al Yorston**, Florida State Senator, District 15
- Roderick Zak**, Rejoice in the Lord Ministries
- Phil Zeman**, CenterState Bank

STAFF SUPPORTING Students to Success

The coronavirus pandemic brought many things to a halt, given the inability to meet in person at the onset. Students, faculty, and staff had to adjust to a new normal of remote learning and work that turned homes into offices and classrooms. Often referred to as the 'backbone' of the College of Law, the staff and departments continued to function to ensure the faculty and students could successfully navigate during the unprecedented times. Here are examples of how our staff and departments thrived during the 2020-2021 academic year.



Career Planning Continues Programming Virtually



During the pandemic period, the Office of Career Planning and Professional Development team continued to offer their services to students and graduates of the College of Law. Assistant Dean **Randy Reliford** and his team made extensive use of virtual options to advise and assist students and alumni with various phases of their career planning process. Programming included resume and cover letter writing workshops, networking, job search strategies, and interviewing techniques. The office also facilitated panel presentations by practitioners on different practice areas.

In November, the team hosted the highly anticipated JD Advantage Night. The annual event offered an opportunity for attendees to learn about career paths where the JD provides an advantage in obtaining or performing a role. The event featured guest panelists in tax, regulatory compliance, healthcare, human resources, and management careers.

Career Week was hosted during the spring semester and featured five days of networking with alumni, employers, and professionals in the legal community. The events included Careers in Higher Education Panel Discussion; Careers in the Law: Practice Area Night; Careers in the Law: Organization Night; and Spring 2021 Virtual Career Expo. Careers in the Law is an annual informational fair that allows students to learn more about different practice areas, network with the legal community and meet organizations that recruit from FAMU Law. Practice Area Night offered insight on practice areas such as Tax, Litigation, and Corporate, among others. Organization Night attendees asked participating organizations and firms direct questions to see what they look for in new employees.

RumbergerKirk Professional Development Series

For the second year in a row, RumbergerKirk hosted a series of workshops for College of Law students. The RumbergerKirk Professional Development Series moved to a virtual format and featured five workshops designed to help prepare the next generation of leaders for the ever-changing legal industry.

Dean Keller stated: "During these unprecedented times, it's more important than ever that we provide our law students with opportunities to enhance their legal education with practical skills to help ensure that they are practice-ready when they graduate. It's so appropriate that we launch this year's professional development series by

addressing the bar exam, which now includes an additional set of stressors and uncertainties for law students and recent law graduates everywhere because of the COVID-19 pandemic."

RumbergerKirk had assembled an eminent group of presenters for the workshops conducted via Zoom, including partners, associates and professionals from the firm, and local judges and other legal experts. Several workshops featured breakout sessions and polling questions to ensure a more interactive and engaging experience.

The virtual workshop series included "Taking the Bar Exam and Bar Admissions Process," presented

On-Site Mental Health Professional



In January 2021, the College of Law welcomed **Jeannie Hoban** to serve as Mental Health Professional for the law school campus. Her arrival marked the first on-site mental health professional for the college. Before her arrival, students seeking assistance would work with professionals on the main campus in Tallahassee. These professionals would periodically visit the Orlando campus to conduct in-person counseling sessions to address students' needs.

Hoban earned her master's degree in Social Work from Florida International University, a master's degree in Education, and is currently a doctoral student in Higher Educational Leadership and Research Methodology at Florida Atlantic University. She has been a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in Florida for 25 years. Hoban was formerly the Director of the Student Counseling Center at Palm Beach State College for nine years and was also the Domestic Violence Coordinator for the 15th Judicial Circuit prior to that.

Supporting Our Veterans

The College of Law Armed Forces Student Organization held a virtual Veteran's Day Panel on November 10, 2020. The annual event was open to everyone and recognized those who protect our freedom and liberties. College of Law professors Darryll Jones and Phyllis Taite, who both served with the United States Army Judge Advocate General Corps, served as moderators for the event.



The event also featured representatives from several College of Law departments and community agencies who provided information on benefits, resources, and services available to students and community members who serve. The panelists included **Sonja Boles-Melvin**, director, FAMU Law Registrar; Louis Dilbert, director, FAMU TRIO Program; Tommie Maladado, Orange County veteran service officer; and Randolph Reliford, assistant dean, FAMU Law Career Planning and Professional Development.

by Richard Greenberg, Partner; Michaela Kim, Associate; and Sara Lewis, Associate (September); "Associate Life: What to Expect Your First Three Years," presented by Jason Bullinger, Associate; Vaughn Ginton, Associate; and Christian Tiblier, Associate (October); "Courtroom Etiquette and Professionalism," presented by Suzanne Hill, Partner; Judge Bob LeBlanc, Ninth Judicial Circuit; and Judge Margie Schreiber, Ninth Judicial Circuit (November); "Interviewing Skills," presented by Angela Sterley, Human Resources Director (January); and "Taking Depositions," presented by Skip Eubanks, Partner; Darryl Gavin, Partner; and Shenele Pettis Bright, Associate (February).

The Career Planning and Professional Development and Alumni Affairs departments collaborated to facilitate the workshops.



VIRTUAL RECRUITING

The College of Law Office of Admissions and Recruitment continued to provide exceptional service to our incoming and prospective students during a period that eliminated conventional recruiting trips and fairs. Aside from fielding countless phone and Zoom calls, our admissions team of Director **Erika Hill**, **Kelsey Holland** and Margot Jones, held several events of note for future "Rattlers for Justice" via virtual formats.

Among the virtual events our Admissions team participated in were digital law school forums presented by the Law School Admission Council (LSAC), where prospective students visited exhibition halls and accessed the platforms through computer or handheld devices. Four virtual events were held each month from September to December 2020. The team developed a six-panel digital display for the forums, which linked to targeted locations on the College of Law website.

A Fall Virtual Open House was held in October 2020 and featured a virtual Meet & Greet, greetings from Dean Keller, and presentations by Financial Aid, Admissions, and Law Student Ambassadors. The event also included a virtual Mock Class with College of Law Professors. In November, the Admissions team presented "Preparing for Law School: The Part-Time Edition." The virtual Q&A offered prospective evening students an opportunity to discuss balancing the work and law school load as part-time students.

After months of virtual recruiting, the 2020-2021 season culminated with a Virtual Admitted Students Day in June 2021. Similar to an open house, the admitted students were provided presentations by various College of Law departments and received details on the curriculum and academic requirements, preparation for the Bar exam, and options for post-law school employment. As will be detailed in next year's annual report, the College of Law received over 1500 applications and enrolled an entering first-year class of 130 full- and part-time students.



IN MEMORIAM



Frederick S. Humphries, Sr., Ph.D.

Frederick S. Humphries, Sr., Ph.D., under whose

leadership Florida A&M University (FAMU) was named College of the Year, and who was a lifelong cheerleader and advocate for his alma mater, died Thursday, June 24, 2021, in Orlando, Florida. He was 85.

Dr. Humphries, a renowned scholar, charismatic, visionary, and innovative administrator and admired public servant, left a legacy that touched countless students, corporate leaders, philanthropists, and peers across the nation.

Dr. Humphries had a distinguished career in higher education as the eighth FAMU president and president of Tennessee State University (TSU), in Nashville.

Along with his almost three decades of leading two Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), the Apalachicola, Fla., native served on countless corporate boards, and earned an impressive list of accolades and awards.

Dr. Humphries, whose 6-foot-7 frame, booming voice and easy smile, commanded attention whenever he entered a room, was a trained scientist. He graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in chemistry from FAMU in 1957 before going on to complete a master's and a doctorate in physical chemistry from the University of Pittsburgh. He was the first African American to obtain a Ph.D. in his discipline from the University of Pittsburgh. While a graduate student, he met his future bride, Antoinette McTurner.

Dr. Humphries left TSU to succeed Walter Smith as president of FAMU in 1985. The 16 years Dr. Humphries occupied the president's office suite are described as FAMU's golden years. He was credited with turning FAMU into one of the nation's premier Black colleges and the restoration of its law school, now located in Orlando.

Following his resignation, Dr. Humphries served as president and CEO of the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education. In 2003, he was named a Regent Professor at the FAMU College of Law in Orlando.

Oxford Languages defines "impact" as "the action of one object coming forcibly into contact with another". Upon the shoulders of those who arrive before us, we continue to make transformative changes, reinterpret, and progress visions of the past. We walk with those who aspire for change at times, but they may no longer be here to see it to fruition. We salute those individuals who have impacted the College of Law, University, and the community around them - and us. We dedicate this section to those we have lost during the academic year 2020 - 2021, who have been a force in their own right.



The Honorable Alcee Hastings, U.S. Representative

U.S. Rep. Alcee Hastings, whose career as a civil rights attorney and a public servant spanned more than half a century, passed in April 2021. Hastings was 84. He was a 1963 graduate of the original College of Law on the FAMU campus.

Hastings was elected to the United States House of Representatives in 1992, representing Florida's 23rd district in South Florida. After redistricting, representing Florida's 20th district since January 2013 and didn't face a serious challenge for re-election since. During his congressional tenure, the former civil rights attorney and federal judge won election 15 times. He represented parts of Broward and Palm Beach counties.

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The College recognized him during the Distinguished Alumni Awards program as a Legacy Award honoree in 2017 and he served as the keynote speaker for the Annual Hooding Ceremony in 2014.



Elbert Hatchett

Elbert Hatchett, whose career as a fierce lawyer, civil rights activist and trailblazer spanned more than half a century, passed in April 2021. He was a 1966 graduate of the original College of Law on the FAMU campus.

Hatchett was a trailblazer who was one of the first Black attorneys in Oakland County and helped form one of the earliest Black-owned law firms. He worked on a wide variety of legal cases and was a settlement negotiator when the Detroit Lions fought to break their 30-year Pontiac Silverdome lease.

Hatchett returned to Tallahassee during the 2013 homecoming to offer closing remarks for a program that paid tribute to all 57 original College of Law graduates.



The Honorable Daisy Lynum, Orlando City Commissioner

Daisy Lynum, who led the effort to bring the reestablished law school to Parramore, passed in October 2020. She was a visionary, and we are indebted to her for foreshadowing our future as a resource in the Parramore, downtown Orlando, and broader community. Her son, Edward Juan Lynum, is a member of the inaugural graduating class of 2005.



Irving Mills

Irving Mills died in April 2021, in Tallahassee, Florida, at the age of 79. He graduated from Florida A&M University High School, Florida A&M University and Florida A&M University College of Law. His professional career embraced his deep interest in legal studies, politics and people. Irving began his professional career as law librarian and lecturer at the Florida A&M University College of Law. Until his retirement, he continued to serve his alma mater in various positions, including Assistant Vice President and Assistant Dean of Student Affairs, Law Enforcement Investigator and Student Affairs Coordinator.



Jordan Stevenson

Jordan Stevenson was an anticipated graduate in the Spring 2021 semester. Stevenson passed away in Houston, Texas in May 2021. A husband and father who had completed his associate's, bachelor's and master's degrees while working and raising a family, Stevenson was preparing to take the bar exam following graduation from FAMU Law. A true Rattler for Justice, he planned to serve the underserved in his hometown.

SUPPORTING STUDENTS TO SUCCESS

Despite a pandemic that limited face-to-face engagement, the College of Law effectively raised funds to provide scholarships, fellowships, and other career development opportunities for our deserving students. Faculty and staff, alumni and friends, law firms and corporations, all stepped up to provide funding designed to make an immediate or long-term impact on the student body.

A particularly impactful accomplishment was the launching of our Public Interest Fellowship program, which provides funding for law students who work for agencies or organizations addressing issues such as social and economic justice, discrimination, environmental protection, and child welfare. Prior to the implementation of the fellowship program, many of our law students worked passionately for public defender offices and nonprofits, for example, without compensation. Among the grants secured for fellowships during the 2020-2021 academic year were:

- ▶ **\$20,000.00 for the LexisNexis Fellowship, funded by the LexisNexis Rule of Law Foundation**
- ▶ **\$10,000.00 for the Florida Law Schools' Consortium on Racial Justice Fellowship, funded by Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.**
- ▶ **\$10,000.00 for the Public Interest Fellowship, funded by the John Paul Stevens Foundation**

In addition, the College of Law received more than \$30,000.00 in donations and pledges from the FAMU National Alumni Association, including more than \$5,000.00 from multiple alums to cover the expense of bar preparation courses for new law graduates and book scholarships for current students, as well as a pledge for a \$25,000.00 scholarship endowment.

Additional major gifts included \$10,000.00 from the University Club Foundation for scholarships, \$5,000.00 for the Dr. Calvin Collins and Mrs. Lottie Collins Endowed Scholarship Fund, and \$2,000 for the Sara Simmons Endowed Scholarship Fund.

The College of Law also increased participation in the Faculty & Staff Giving Campaign by more than 50 percent and increased donations to more than \$10,000.00, year over year. And, the school increased the 1887 Strikes Day of Giving donations from \$1,600.00 to \$5,200.00 and increased the number of donors from 21 to 63, up more than 300% and 200% respectively, year over year.

Every gift, whether large or small, is appreciated.

As we embark on a promising future for the next academic year, we welcome all levels of financial support from individuals, groups, organizations, firms, and corporations interested in helping the College of Law to advance our mission of serving the underserved. While our greatest need is for scholarships to recruit and retain top-performing and committed law students, we also require funding for programs designed to expand the many learning opportunities outside of the classroom, including law review, advocacy, student activities, and student organization programs.

▶ There are several ways to give to the College of Law:

- ▶ To give to the fund of your choosing, please

text **FAMULAW** to **41444**

- ▶ Or, if you want to memorialize your gift with a permanent marker, please consider purchasing a commemorative brick in our newest section of the FAMU Plaza Walkway. The new 20th Anniversary Section of bricks will be limited to 200 bricks that will be unveiled as part of the year-long anniversary celebrations. Bricks in the 20th Anniversary Section are \$200.00 each, which includes a 4-by-4 inch replica marble tile with the same engraving on the brick. To purchase a brick in the 20th Anniversary Section, please scan the QR code.



If you have an interest in providing financial support for a specific area of the College of Law, please feel free to contact the Office of Advancement at

407.254.3210

or the Office of the Dean at

407.254.3200.

2021-2022 FOCUS:

BUILDING THE FOUNDATION FOR THRIVING COMMUNITY

*Continuing A
Great Legacy:
Two Decades
and Beyond*

On the heels of a successful 2020-2021 academic year, the College of Law has established the following goals for the 2021-2022 academic year:

- ▶ **Improve the Stability of the College to Sustain and Build upon 2020-2021 Progress**
- ▶ **Improve the College's Ability to Make Data-Driven Decisions**
- ▶ **Put an Emergency Preparedness Structure in Place**

Zeroing in on these goals will help the College of Law to position itself to respond to the ever-changing educational and legal landscape. Certainly, we look forward to continuing to make a positive impact on our community.

Please join us as we envision a bright future by celebrating our past success as part of the 20th Anniversary Celebrations. From November 2021 through October 2022, the College of Law will host 20 events to commemorate the reopening of the law school in Orlando in 2002.



Stay tuned to learn about FAMU College of Law upcoming events, programs, and activities by visiting law.famu.edu.

Follow us on Social Media:

