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FAMU College of Law Alumni Presents First CLE of 2010-11 Academic Year

Orlando, Fla. – The Florida A&M University (FAMU) College of Law Alumni Alliance hosted “The Future is Now: 21st Century Law Practice,” a Continuing Legal Education (CLE) seminar on Friday, August 27, 2010 at the FAMU College of Law. Nearly twenty alumni and legal professionals attended the three-hour seminar.

The course was designed to keep practitioners in the Orlando area current on issues related to scientific and technological evidence, and it provided instruction to help prepare attorneys who will encounter challenges related to the areas.

“This seminar addressed the need for attorneys to develop competency in relation to the use and reliability of technological and scientific evidence,” said Rhoda Pierre-Cato, Associate Professor of Law, FAMU College of Law.

Professor Cato, who teaches Contracts I and II, Family Law, and Law and Film at the FAMU College of Law, served as moderator of the seminar. Panelists included Honorable Belvin Perry, Jr., Chief Judge, Ninth Judicial Circuit, Orlando; Ryan Vescio, Assistant State Attorney, Ninth Judicial Circuit, Orlando; Deborah Goins, Assistant Public Defender, Tenth Judicial Circuit, Bartow; Karin Moore, Assistant Professor of Law, FAMU College of Law; and, Michael Politis, Vasilaros & Politis, P.A., Daytona Beach.

A highlight of the event included the presentation by Judge Perry who took attendees on a virtual tour of Courtroom 23, where trials and hearings requiring the most sophisticated

technology are held. Other presenters addressed computer crimes, forensic pathology, DNA evidence, and how to use media technology effectively in trial.

“Lawyers who have not encountered these technologies had an opportunity to learn from some of the best and most experienced practitioners in the field,” Cato said.

The seminar was free for current FAMU College of Law students who were able to hear much of the seminar, and see video presentations via remote connection.

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Caption1: Honorable Belvin Perry, Jr., Chief Judge, Ninth Judicial Circuit, Orlando, addresses attendees at the CLE seminar.



Caption2: Associate Professor Rhoda Pierre-Cato (left to right) with Michael Politis, Judge Belvin Perry, Ryan Vescio, Assistant Professor Karin Moore, and Deborah Goins.

The FAMU College of Law was founded in 1949 on the main campus in Tallahassee. After graduating 57 lawyers, the law school was closed by the state of Florida in 1968. The Florida Legislature voted to reopen the law school in 2000 and Orlando was selected as the location. The re-established FAMU College of Law opened its doors in 2002 and is now housed in a state-of-the-art facility in downtown Orlando's Parramore neighborhood. The FAMU College of Law received full accreditation from the American Bar Association in July 2009, and is ranked number one in the nation for Diversity by U.S. News & World Report.