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College of Law to Host Inaugural Environmental Law and Justice Symposium

Orlando, Fla. – Florida A&M University (FAMU) College of Law and the FAMU Center for Environmental Equity and Justice will host its inaugural Environmental Law and Justice Symposium titled “New Directions in Environmental Justice” on Thursday and Friday, November 11-12, at the Sheraton Orlando Downtown and the FAMU College of Law campus. The symposium will feature an overview of the latest international, national, regional, state and local developments in environmental justice.

Thursday’s session at the Sheraton Orlando Downtown at 400 West Livingston Street will feature remarks by Gwendolyn Keyes Fleming, Esq., Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 4 administrator. Registration begins at 4:30 p.m. Friday’s keynote speakers at the College of Law located at 201 Beggs Avenue include: Beverly Wright, founder and director of Deep South Center for Environmental Justice in New Orleans; Quentin Pair, Esq., U.S. Department of Justice; and Prof. Maxine Burkett, University of Hawaii School of Law. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.

“We are pleased to host an event of this caliber that will not only boast nationally renowned experts in the environmental justice field, but also will focus attention on novel approaches to the environmental issues affecting our neighborhoods and our world,” said FAMU College of Law Dean LeRoy Pernell.

Other notable speakers and panelists include: Prof. Deepa Badrinarayana, Chapman Law School; J. Mijin Cha, director of Campaign Research, Urban Agenda, NY; Carlos Evans, Esq., EPA Headquarters, Washington DC; Michael Goldstein, Akerman Senterfitt, Miami; Prof. Carmen Gonzalez, Seattle University School of Law; FAMU Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Cynthia Hughes Harris; Kim Jones, Esq., EPA Region 4, Atlanta, Ga.; Marva King, EPA Office of Air and Radiation; Jacki Lopez, Esq., Center for Biological Diversity, San Francisco, Calif.; Prof. Catherine O’Neill, Seattle University School of Law; Cynthia Peurifoy, EPA Region 4, Atlanta; and Raul Soto, EPA Headquarters, Washington DC.

“In addition to an impressive lineup of distinguished featured speakers, the panelists and moderators for the symposium also are leaders in the environmental law and justice field from government, academia, private practice and nonprofit organizations,” said Randall Abate, FAMU associate professor of law and event coordinator. “Attendees can anticipate the symposium to address domestic and international dimensions of this timely topic, including the human and environmental impacts of the Gulf oil spill.”

The symposium will also feature an Environmental Justice Listening Session to provide an opportunity for EPA representatives to hear from local environmental justice stakeholders. Also the Lake Apopka Memorial Quilt will be on display by the Farmworkers Association of Florida.

The cost is \$50 for general attendees seeking CLE credit; \$35 for FAMU alumni and members of the Environmental and Land Use Law Section (ELULS) of the Florida Bar; \$25 for the general public not seeking CLE credit; and \$10 for general students. FAMU faculty, staff and students may attend at no charge; however, Rattler ID information must be provided on the registration form. Eligible attendees will receive 7.0 Florida Bar CLE Credit hours and 3.5 State/Federal Government Administrative Practice Certification.

For additional information or to register, please visit the FAMU College of Law webpage at the following link: <http://law.famu.edu/go.cfm/do/Page.View/pid/198>. Additional inquiries should be directed to FAMU College of Law Associate Professor Randall Abate at randall.abate@famu.edu.

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*.