



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
August 13, 2010

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### **FAMU College of Law Welcomes Largest Entering Class**

**Orlando, Fla.** – The Florida A&M University (FAMU) College of Law will begin the 2010-2011 academic year with the largest entering class in its history: 296 students. The first-year law students are comprised of both the day and evening programs. Classes begin Monday, August 16, 2010.

“We are excited to welcome to the FAMU College of Law our newest class of students who emerged as stand-outs from the largest pool of applications we have ever received,” said FAMU College of Law Dean LeRoy Pernell.

Nearly 1,900 applications were received by FAMU Law admissions officials for fall 2010. Increased interest can be attributed to the law school receiving full accreditation by the American Bar Association in July 2009, making this the first admissions cycle completed since the achievement of that milestone.

During the week of orientation, students had the opportunity to acquaint themselves with the law school environment. Activities included preview classes, introductions to various law school departments, legal writing diagnostics, and an introduction to the legal profession during a panel discussion featuring area judges and attorneys. Students will also participate in the Oath of Professionalism - a tradition which sets the standard for conduct at the FAMU College of Law. Comparable sessions are held to accommodate the 233 students in the full-time day program and the 63 students in the part-time evening program.

“We are pleased to have a strong incoming class that is not only culturally and geographically diverse, but also represents a wide range of undergraduate colleges and majors,” said Lisa Taylor, assistant dean for admissions.

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The 2010 entering class brings an academic background that is as diverse as the FAMU College of Law, which was recognized by *U.S. News & World Report* as the 'Most Diverse Law School in the Nation' for two straight years. The majors range from literature and pre-med to philosophy and civil engineering. Nearly 50 percent of the majors are in the social sciences, which include criminal justice, pre-law, legal studies and political science.

The following are some quick facts on the students entering this fall.

- 1,896 applications received
- 233 full-time students
- 63 part-time students
- 27 states represented
- 112 colleges represented
- 52 percent women
- 57 percent minority
- 25 median age
- 28 percent non-Florida residents

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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*.