



IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 7, 2010

CONTACT: Mildred Graham
(407) 254-3206
mildred.graham@famuedu

Pamela Tolson
(850) 412-5211
pamela.tolson@famuedu

Florida Bar Foundation Awards Grant to FAMU College of Law

Orlando, Fla. – Florida A&M University (FAMU) College of Law has received an \$18,000 grant from the Florida Bar Foundation to support its Public Service Fellows Program in the Legal Clinic.

The grant will provide scholarships for up to eight law students who will promote pro bono and public service legal assistance activities on law school campuses and in the legal profession. This is the fifth consecutive year the FAMU College of Law has received the Law School Public Service Fellows grant, which will run from May 1, 2010 to April 30 2011. The Florida Bar Foundation sponsors the fellows through its Law Student Assistance Grant Program.

Working about 150 hours in both the fall 2010 and spring 2011 semesters, the Public Service Fellows will work with established programs such as the Legal Aid Society of the Orange County Bar, and Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida to promote the preservation of families and children. One law student will service clients in Osceola County; another will service education clients in Orange County; and two will service a broader group of clients in Orange County. Providing pro bono legal services to clients referred by the established agencies, the law students will handle guardian ad litem, disability, special education and other cases that address the legal needs of children and families.

“Because of the funding provided by this grant from the Florida Bar Foundation, our law students will be in position to expand upon past findings of the need for increased pro bono legal services for children and families in the underserved areas of Central Florida,” said Dean LeRoy Pernell.

– MORE –

PAGE TWO
FLORIDA BAR GRANT

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 (tied with Texas Southern) for Diversity by *U.S. News and World Report*.