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FAMU College of Law Receives High Mark for Diversity From *National Jurist Magazine*

Orlando, Fla. – *The National Jurist* magazine recently placed Florida A&M University's (FAMU) College of Law among the top of the Diversity Honor Roll for law schools. Based on 2009 figures, FAMU College of Law held a 61.5 percent student minority population and a 66.7 percent faculty minority population. The combination resulted in an "A+" mark, shared with five additional law schools across the nation. A partial list is published in the March 2011 issue.

"Once again the unique make-up of our law school is being recognized," said Dean LeRoy Pernell. "Having students and faculty from various backgrounds in our classrooms helps to enrich all our law students' legal education experiences."

The grades for diversity reflect the percent of students and faculty who are minorities, modified by how the law school compares with its state average for minority population. All law schools were first sorted by a calculation that counted percent of minority students in 2009 for 66 percent and minority faculty for 33 percent. A letter grade was assigned using a modified curve, which was improved by two levels if the schools minority population was 60 percent higher than the state average, and one level if 25 percent higher. Additional criterion was used to improve or lower grades based on minority student population.

"We are extremely proud that Florida A&M University's College of Law is able to build such a diverse student body," said Lisa Taylor, assistant dean for admissions. "Public Service is an integral part of our mission and we believe that FAMU law students should begin their legal careers in an environment that reflects the diversity of the public that they will one day serve."

Along with the "A+" grade, the Diversity Honor Roll also noted that FAMU College of Law ranked fifth in African-American population with 40.6 percent and fifth in Hispanic population with 14.7 percent in 2009.

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FAMU LAW TOPS DIVERSITY

FAMU College of Law was ranked as the most diverse law school in the nation for two years in a row by *U.S. News and World Report* for the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 academic years.

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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*.