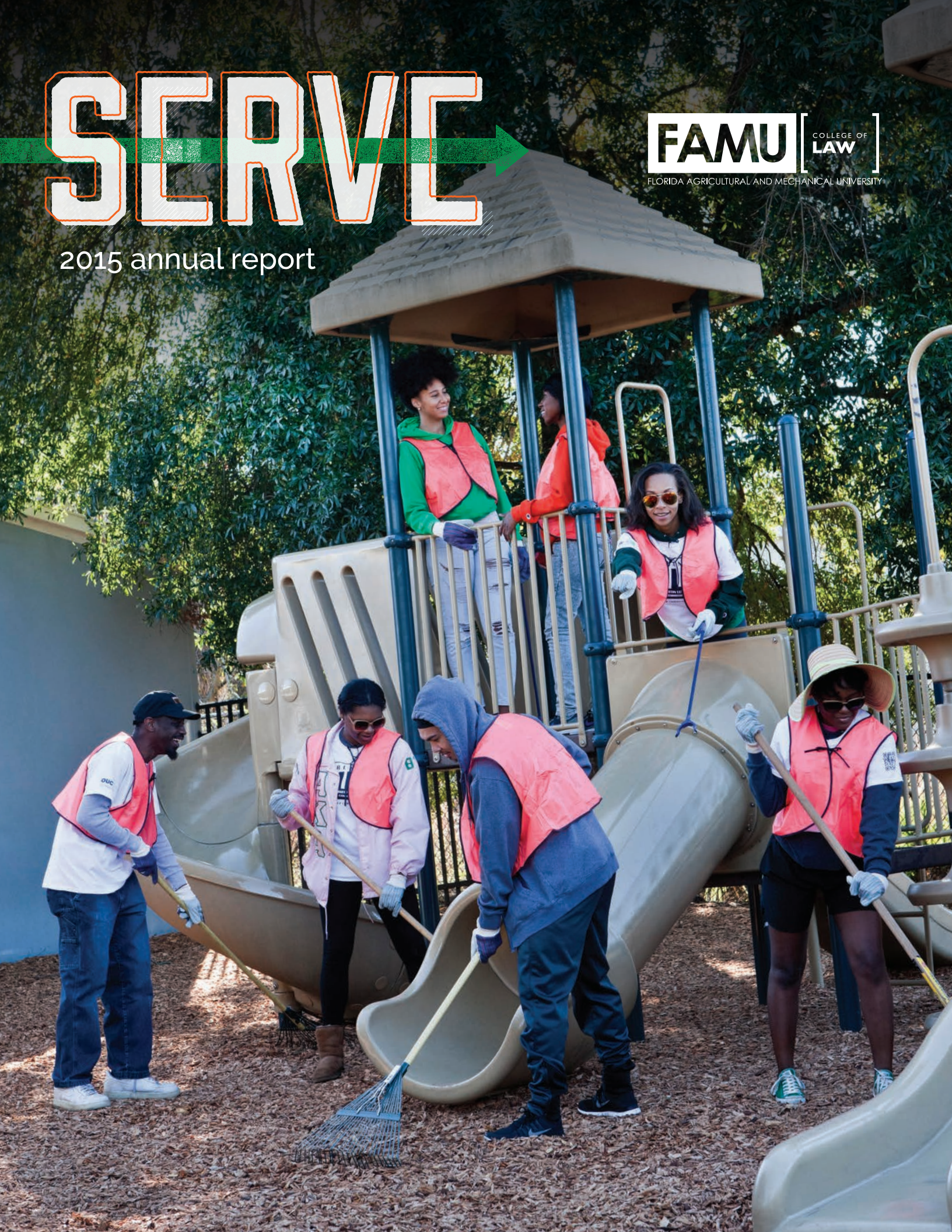
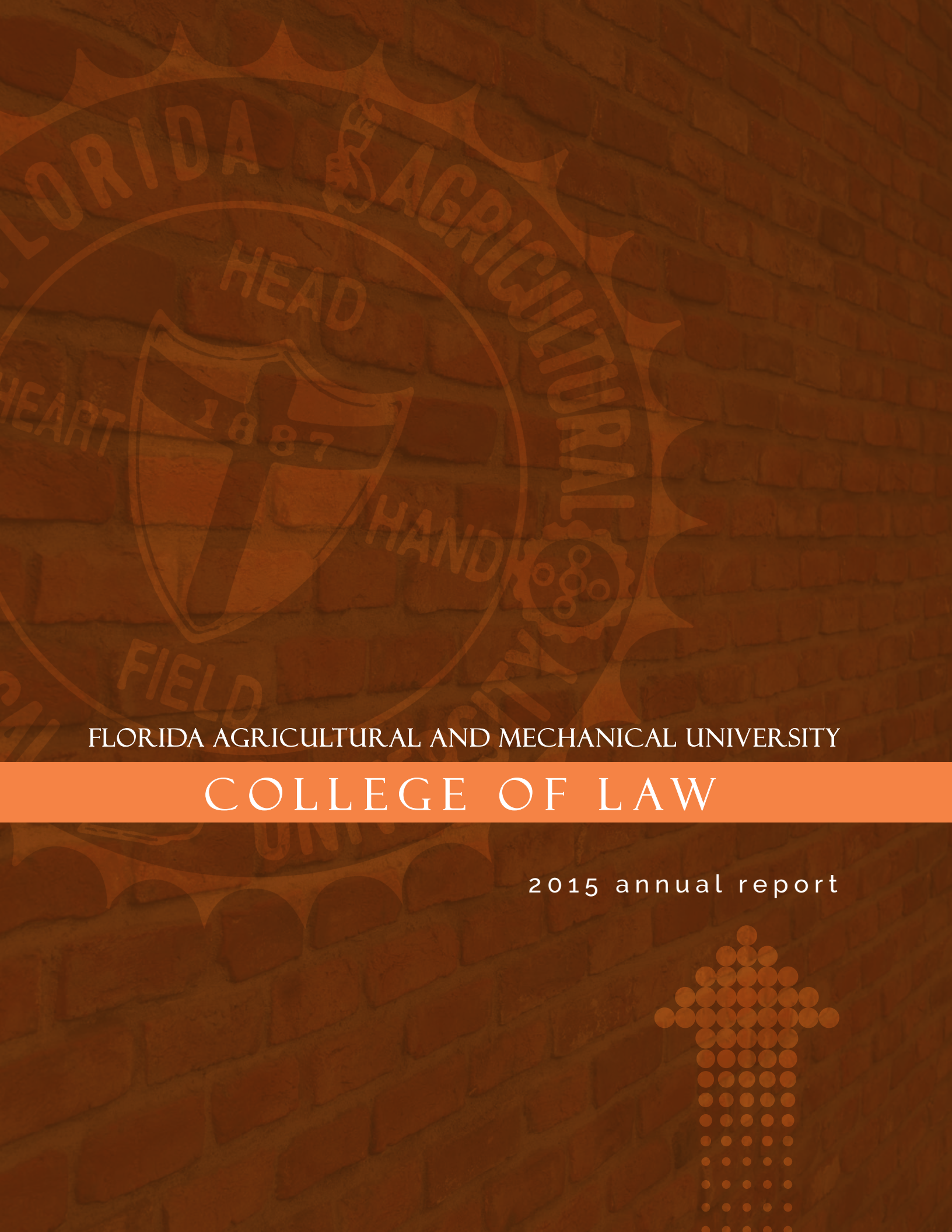


SERVE

2015 annual report

FAMU [COLLEGE OF
LAW]
FLORIDA AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL UNIVERSITY





FLORIDA AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF LAW

2015 annual report





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Vision

To envision the future of Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University College of Law, we must first look to the past, to our historical legacy of excellence, and chart a course that carries that legacy forward. Three times, our mission statement mentions service.

Mission

"The reestablished Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University College of Law reaffirms our historical legacy of excellence and responsibility to serve as a transformative force for the public good. Our mission is to serve as a beacon of hope and catalyst for change by providing access to excellent educational training and opportunities to generations of students seeking to serve the needs of traditionally underserved people and communities locally, nationally, and internationally."

This annual report emphasizes the service mission carried out by the faculty, staff, and students of FAMU College of Law in 2015. We intend to extend our legacy of responsible service into 2016 and beyond.



A Legacy of Service



LEROY PERNELL, DEAN JANUARY 2008 – JUNE 2015

LeRoy Pernell served as dean of the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University College of Law from January 2008 to June 2015, leaving a trail of academic and student service achievements. He helped the law school receive full accreditation from the American Bar Association in 2009 and to continue that status in 2014. Dean Pernell's focus on serving student needs led to the opening of the bookstore and plaza, as well as the law school's bar passage rate improving steadily, exceeding the state average on two occasions. He also ushered in the inaugural Distinguished Alumni Awards in May 2015 as the law school's signature fundraising event.



DARRYLL K. JONES, INTERIM DEAN

Effective July 1, 2015, Darryll K. Jones was appointed interim dean. Jones quickly worked to extend the law school's commitment to service to its external constituents, forging partnerships to host events with Florida Hospital and the Office of the Public Defender, Robert Wesley. Under Jones' leadership, the College of Law also played host to several events during the Florida Classic, including the Florida Conference of Black State Legislators' State of Black Florida Summit and the opening of the FAMU College of Law Hall of Fame, which debuted in November 2015 with the unveiling of State Sen. Arthenia Joyner's portrait on the first floor of the law school.



A. FELECIA EPPS, INCOMING DEAN, JANUARY 2016

A. Felecia Epps became dean on January 4, 2016, bringing decades of public service experience, including a distinguished career as a legal officer and judge advocate for the United States Marine Corps, and practical experience as a managing attorney for the Georgia Legal Services Program in Albany. Promising an emphasis on education's transformative power, Epps has said that "Service" is the thread that connects students, faculty, staff and the community.



Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University College of Law has a sterling reputation as an affordable, diverse, and nurturing place to prepare students for careers in law.

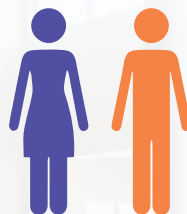
Before they can begin giving back through a lifetime of service to their communities through the practice of law, many graduates seek to pass the bar exam. Bar passage rates remained strong in 2015.

67.9%

**FALL 2015
BAR PASSAGE RATE**

(Within 1 percentage point of the state average.)

**2015
107
graduates**



57:43
female to male
RATIO

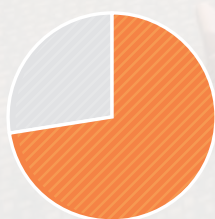
A+

1 of 5 Law Schools
with an A+ rating in
Diversity – *National Jurist
Magazine*

59
african-american
graduates
2015

160,000
Square footage
in state-of-the-
art campus

\$14,132
LOWEST IN-STATE
FULL-TIME STUDENT
TUITION



72%
minority
enrollment

**1st – Ranking
among 10 Best
Bargain law
schools – *On Being
a Black Lawyer***



Leadership

FLORIDA AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL UNIVERSITY

President

Elmira Mangum, Ph.D.

Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs

Marcella David, J.D.

COLLEGE OF LAW

Dean

Angela Felecia Epps, J.D.

Associate Deans

Joan Bullock, J.D. – Academic Affairs

Reginald Green, J.D. – Student Services and Administration

Board of Visitors

As we strive to recruit students, raise funds, and increase visibility for our mission of preparing the next generation of lawyers to provide service to our community, we are always mindful of, and grateful for, our Board of Visitors, who provide leadership in the business, legal, government, and education arenas.

As ambassadors, advocates, and contributors, we recognize and salute you.

- **Honorable Faye Allen**, County Judge, Ninth Judicial Circuit
- **Vernice Atkins-Bradley**, President & CEO, Votum Construction LLC
- **Darryl Bloodworth**, Shareholder Dean, Mead, Egerton, Bloodworth, Capouano & Bozarth, P.A.
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- **Honorable Theotis Bronson (Ret.)**, Circuit Judge, Ninth Judicial Circuit
- **Michael Broussard**, Managing Partner, Broussard & Cullen, P.A.
- **Patrick Christiansen**, Shareholder, Akerman Senterfitt Attorneys At Law
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- **Honorable Hubert L. Grimes (Ret.)**, Circuit Judge, Seventh Judicial Circuit
- **LaVonne Harmon**, Attorney, Kerbin & Kerbin, P.A.
- **Charles Hawkins, II**, Attorney
- **Daniel Holsenbeck**, Vice President, Government Relations, University of Central Florida
- **C. William Jennings**, FAMU Board of Trustees
- **David Jones**, Partner, Holland & Knight LLP
- **Andrew Jones**, Attorney, John Edward Jones, P.A.
- **Honorable John E. Jordan**, Circuit Judge, Ninth Judicial Circuit
- **Senator Arthenia Joyner**, Florida Senate
- **Reginald McGill**, Director, Constituent Services, City of Orlando
- **Opal McKinney-Williams**, Shareholder, Ausley & McMullen, P.A.
- **Rick Mitchell**, Shareholder, GrayRobinson, P.A.
- **Honorable Belvin Perry, Jr., (Ret.)**, Chief Judge, Ninth Judicial Circuit; Morgan & Morgan, P.A.
- **Nicholas Pope**, Managing Partner Emeritus, Lowndes Drosdick Doster Kantor & Reed, P.A.
- **Shawn Robinson**, Campus President, Hillsborough Community College – Ybor City
- **Ronald O. Rogers**, President, Ronald O. Rogers and Associates, LLC
- **Evet L. Simmons**, Shareholder, Greenspoon Marder
- **Paul Snead**, Past President, 100 Black Men of Orlando
- **Jacob Stuart**, President, Central Florida Partnership
- **Albert Tellechea**, Partner, Holland & Knight LLP
- **Honorable Emerson Thompson**, Senior Judge, Ninth Judicial Circuit
- **Wilhelmina Tribble**, Wilhelmina Tribble, Founder & CEO, Lowe Tribble & Associates
- **Roberta Walton**, Manager, Self Help Center, Orange County Clerk of Courts
- **Coleman Watson**, Managing Partner, Watson, LLP
- **Honorable Reginald Whitehead**, Circuit Judge, Ninth Judicial Circuit
- **Jéan Wilson**, Co-Managing Partner, Greenberg Traurig, P.A.
- **Carlos Woody**, Deputy General Counsel, Orlando Utilities Commission
- **Tad Yates**, Law Offices of Tad A. Yates, P.A.

Through the establishment of an endowment fund, donors support a specific need at the College of Law, in perpetuity, as funds are invested to provide a steady flow of income. General gifts are applied to the Annual Fund, which supports key law school programs, activities, and services. Whether through an endowment or a renewable annual fund donation, your support is vital, and highly appreciated.

FAMU College of Law students, faculty, and staff wish to thank the following organizations and individual donors for their generous contributions:

2015 LIST OF DONORS*

\$10,000 to \$19,999

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- Bright House Networks
- TECO Energy, Inc.
- University Club of Orlando, Inc.
- Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.
- Verizon Communications

\$5,000 to \$9,999

- Jackson Lewis, LLP
- Kaplan Bar Review
- Monts Law, PL
- Sigma Gamma Rho, Inc. - The Grand Chapter
- Wells Fargo Bank

\$2,500 to \$4,999

- Metz, Husband and Daughton
- Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation
- Orange County Bar Association

\$1,000 to \$2,499

- Anonymous
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- Arthenia Joyner
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- Texas A&M School of Law
- University of Arkansas at Little Rock Bowen School of Law

- University of Florida - Levin College of Law
- University of Houston Law Foundation
- University of New Mexico School of Law
- Katie L. Williams

\$500 to \$999

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- Claudine Beale
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- Florida Justice Association Research & Education Foundation, Inc.
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- Law Office of Roman-Secor, P.A.
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- Phyllis Taite
- Emerson R. Thompson
- Erik Washington
- Eurilynne Williams
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\$200 to \$499

- Randall Abate
- Randolph & Lavon Bracy
- Rhoda Pierre Cato
- Gloria M. Cox
- Lakisha Davis
- Caroleen Dineen
- Jeff Gitto
- Casinova Henderson

- Robin Holmes
- Rena Holmes-Jones
- Adaryll Lee
- Pamela Leonard
- Irving Mills
- Robert Minarcin
- Peggy Quince
- Rhonda Reaves
- Shawn Robinson
- Omar Saleem
- Gamma Delta Sigma Chapter Sigma Gamma Rho
- Achara Stone
- Gary Wade

\$100 to \$199

- Deleso Alford
- Renee Allen
- Alvin Benton
- Nicola Boothe-Perry
- Theotis Bronson
- Patricia Broussard
- Frankie Brown
- Omar Brumley
- Kalestine Butler
- Eunice Caussade-Garcia
- Ann Marie Cavazos
- Alpha Kappa Alpha Psi Theta Omega
- Janice Clark
- Lisa Cunningham-Harvey
- Oteman Delancy
- John Duncan
- Leatrice Emeruwa
- Charles Gee
- Tia Gibbs
- Deveron Gibbons
- LaDray Gilbert
- Ronald Griffin
- Hubert Grimes
- Jennifer Gunn
- Willie and Bobbie Harris
- Gwen Hayslip
- William Henslee
- Bruce T. Henson

Honor Roll



Donation by Sigma Gamma Rho in honor of Gwendolyn S. Cherry, Esquire

- Norman Hull
- Joseph Hurt
- Roger Johnson
- Yolanda Jones
- Ashanti Jones
- Takeisha Pitts Jules
- Edward A. Kerben
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- Rebecca Olavarria
- Alicia Peyton
- Fritzlaine Powell
- Sanjanette Scott
- Claudia Slater
- Janelle Squires
- Wilhemina Tribble
- Ka'Juel Washington
- John Washington
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- Alice Cochran
- Evett Collins
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- Wilma Council
- Georgetta Daniels
- Kristy D'Angelo-Corker
- Michelle Delaney
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- Cynthia Doucette
- Margaret Doudy
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- Emery Ivery
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- Brandon Peters
- Theresa Pissini
- Erica Polite
- Alma Rhea Purify
- Michael Randolph
- Mi Amy Ratra
- Ruby Rayford
- Doranne Riggio
- Lori Ross
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- Sharon Shelton
- Linda Tartt
- Dena Tucker
- Susan Vernon-Devlin
- Tonya Walker
- Cal W. Walton, III
- Roberta Walton
- Celia Westbrook
- Lavon Williams
- Codeye Woody

Other Gifts

- Sophia Coger Atkins
- Teresa Banks
- Gloria Baskerville-Johnson
- Laura Bethel
- Sonja Boles-Melvin
- Barbara Brooks
- Yannick Brooks
- Annette Brantley
- Leroy Bryant
- Arnell Bryant-Willis
- Jane Carey
- Chontay Clark

If your name was inadvertently omitted or listed incorrectly, please notify us and accept our apologies.

* Includes donations and pledges through December 2015

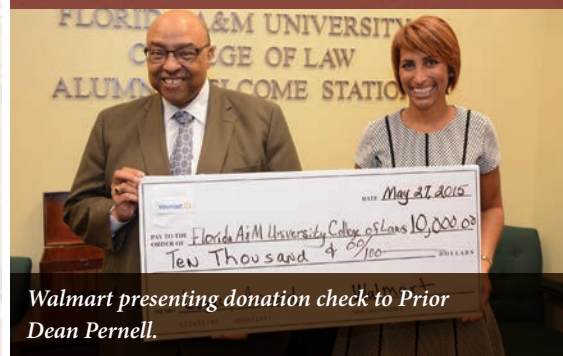
WHY I GIVE to FAMU College of Law

"I give to the FAMU College of Law because I know how important a scholarship can be to a law student's success. I received a scholarship when I was a student and it came at a time when I really needed it. Had it not been for the scholarship funds I received, I might have dropped out of law school. I started with a small donation and increased the amount every year. I recently established the Monts Law Endowment to ensure that my scholarship donation continues to provide support in perpetuity."

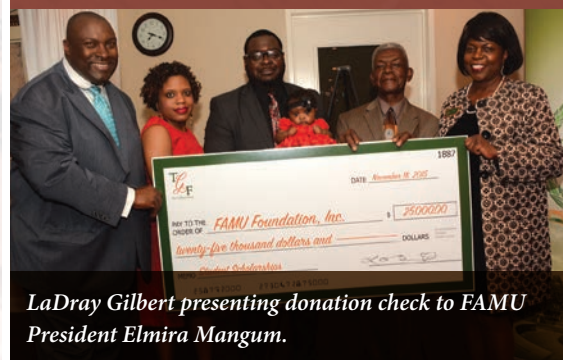
– **Christopher Monts**
Class of 2006, Monts Law, P. L.



Christopher Monts, Esq. presenting donation check to Interim Dean Jones.



Walmart presenting donation check to Prior Dean Pernell.



LaDray Gilbert presenting donation check to FAMU President Elmira Mangum.

Arthenia Joyner

FLORIDA STATE SENATOR
CLASS OF 1968



If you were to ask us whose picture should appear in the dictionary beside the phrase “public service,” we would answer, “Arthenia Joyner’s.” That’s why her portrait hangs in our atrium as the inaugural inductee into the FAMU College of Law’s Hall of Fame. Joyner was honored for her service in the legal, educational, legislative, business, and political arenas. This recognition is reserved for alumni and friends who have distinguished themselves in their profession, made significant contributions to the success of the law school, or who have enlisted constituents’ support. Joyner qualifies in all three areas.

A Florida Senator and former member of the Florida House of Representatives, Joyner graduated in 1968, a member of the last class of the original FAMU College of Law in Tallahassee. She is proud of the place the school holds in her heart, because it provides a better quality of life for its students and their communities, and because both the school and its legacy has endured.

Interim Dean Darryll K. Jones noted at the portrait unveiling that Senator Joyner has not only recruited dozens of students since the law school was re-established in Orlando in 2002, but has also hired several FAMU Law graduates to work in her legislative and law offices. In addition, she has established a scholarship for women law students committed to advancing the mission she shares with the law school—to serve the underserved.

The Arthenia L. Joyner Endowed Scholarship will provide financial support to a minority female law student who has demonstrated a commitment to social justice, human rights, women’s rights, or civil rights advocacy, and demonstrated dedication to public service, with a minimum 3.0 grade point average, a strong character, and leadership abilities.

“(This honor) bears witness to every other student in my final class who once witnessed these doors close and vowed, like me: ‘never again.’”

Scholarships

Both of the 2015 Hy and Harriett Lake-Belvin Perry, Jr. Scholarship recipients mention that their mothers had a big influence on their educations, but for very different reasons.

Robin Rogers' mother is an attorney with a unique, flat-rate business model who practices family, bankruptcy, probate, and real estate law for middle- and low-income families. Rogers admires the impact her mother's work has on the community.

LaVater Massie-Banks, on the other hand, watched her mother work three jobs to make ends meet, and, while she is grateful for her mother's hard work, Massie-Banks says it strengthened her resolve to pursue higher education. She was the first in her family to graduate from college, and hopes to inspire her younger cousins to succeed, as well.

The diversity found at FAMU College of Law made an impression on both Rogers and Massie-Banks, but again in different ways. Massie-Banks is pleased to see

so many African-Americans among the faculty and student body, while Rogers is thrilled with the diversity of the educational offerings.

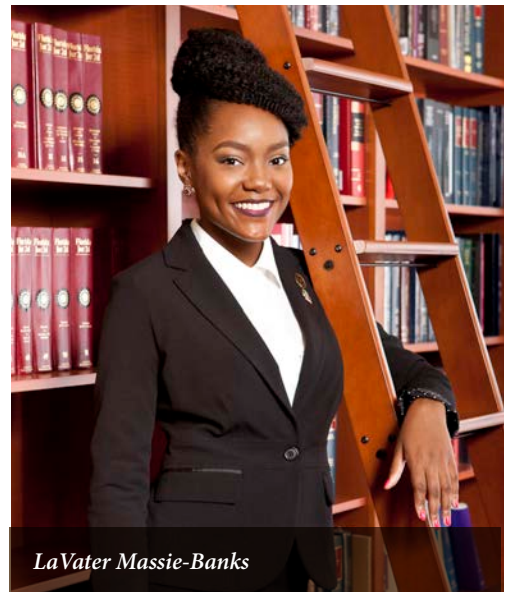
Rogers says her planned area of specialization changes every semester as she encounters different programs, but International Law is of special interest. Not surprising, considering she speaks French and has traveled to 25 countries on four continents.

Massie-Banks witnessed a great deal of abuse in her community growing up. She plans to specialize in Family Law in order to be an advocate for abused women and children and spends a portion of her time at FAMU College of Law giving back to the community through service activities like Senator Geraldine Thompson's back-to-school backpack giveaway.

Honoring the late attorney Hy Lake, his philanthropist wife, Harriett Lake, and former Chief Judge of the 9th Judicial Circuit, Belvin Perry, Jr., the scholarship provides full tuition to high academic achievers who have demonstrated an appreciation for how the law impacts their communities.



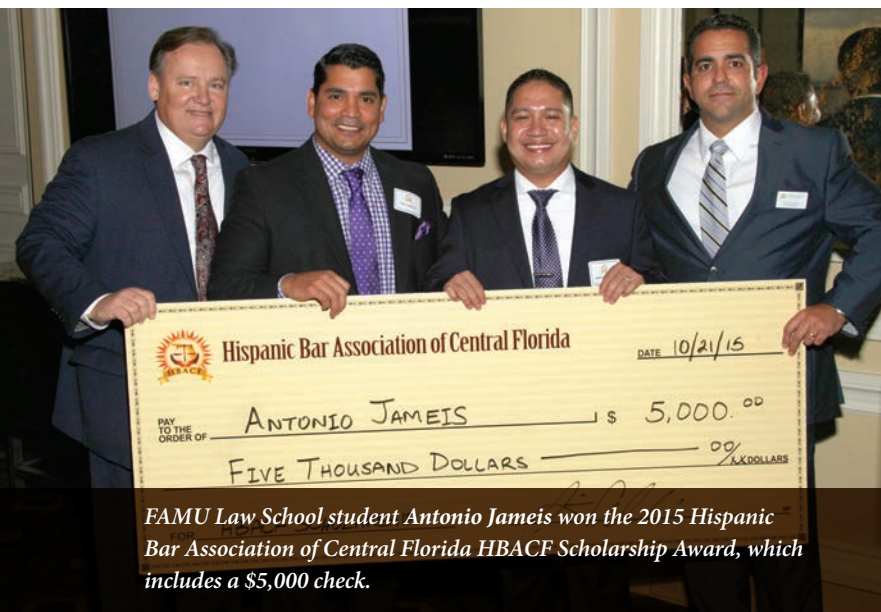
Robin Rogers



LaVater Massie-Banks

OTHER SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED IN 2015

The College of Law congratulates our 2015 recipients for their outstanding academic achievement and community service, and thanks our generous donors.



FAMU Law School student Antonio Jameis won the 2015 Hispanic Bar Association of Central Florida HBACF Scholarship Award, which includes a \$5,000 check.

SARA SIMMONS ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Recipient: Sabah Muhammad

Criteria: Female student returning to school and enrolling in law school after previous career

Term: Fall and Spring

GWENDOLYN SAWYER CHERRY, ESQUIRE, ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Recipient: Robert A. Edwards, II

Criteria: Student who received undergraduate degree at FAMU and is interested in public service law

Term: Fall and Spring

HOLLAND & KNIGHT, LLP ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP/INTERNSHIP

Recipient: Rachel Kilbert

Criteria: Second-year, full-time student in top 10% of class

Term: Fall and Spring



YOLANDA JONES
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AND
DIRECTOR OF LAW LIBRARY

Featured

Featured Faculty Member...

Associate Professor and Director of Law Library Yolanda Jones obtained a Faculty Travel Grant from the University in July 2015 to present a paper in August 2015 at the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) World Library and Information Congress in Cape Town, South Africa. She presented a paper with Caroline Ilako, Academic Librarian at Makerere University in Uganda, entitled "Dynamic Law Libraries: Access, Development and Transformation in Africa and the United States." The topic was access to legal information as a fundamental human right and approaches to access by law libraries in America and Uganda. Jones presented to the faculty and library staff at the Faculty Forum regarding her trip, supplementing her talk with highlights and photos of her visits to sites such as the National Library of South Africa, the South African Parliament complex and Robben Island, where Nelson Mandela was imprisoned.



Professor Randall Abate delivered invited presentations on work-in-progress papers at two international environmental law conferences in September, 2015. He was a panelist at the 13th Annual IUCN Academy of Environmental Law Colloquium held at Atma Jaya University in Jakarta, Indonesia, and spoke at an environmental human rights symposium at Vermont Law School, addressing topics at the intersection of environmental and human rights law.



Professor Robert Abrams published "Water Law Transitions" in the Spring 2015 issue of the South Carolina Law Review.



The Marshall-Bell organizers of Law Day 2015 selected **Professor Deleso Alford's** Race and the Law class as the venue through which the FAMU undergraduate participants could gain a law school classroom experience. Professor Alford's research and presentations on topics related to her research on the importance of including the diversity perspective in medical school curricula have resulted in her being appointed by the American Bar Association (ABA) President Paulette Brown as a member of the Special Committee on Bioethics and the Law for the bar year 2015-2016.



Professor Nicola Boothe-Perry presented at the Civil Rights—The Present and Future of Civil Rights Movements: Race and Reform in 21st Century America Conference at Duke University School of Law, Durham, NC on November 22, 2015. Professor Boothe-Perry was an invited panelist who spoke on the issue of "Social Media's Impact on 21st Century America's Youth."



Professor Lundy Langston wrote an op-ed piece, “*Board of Trustees Needs to Work with President Mangum*” in the July 19, 2015 issue of the Tallahassee Democrat.



Professor Jeremy Levitt wrote an article entitled, “*Under International Human Rights Law, Black Lives Matter*,” in the August 9, 2015 issue of the Orlando Sentinel.



Professor Reginald Mitchell spoke on the panel for the Tiger Bay Club of Central Florida on May 21, 2015 at the Doubletree by Hilton Downtown Orlando, providing insights on the political and legislative process, giving a sense of how this session's dysfunction compares to others.



Professor LeRoy Pernell's op-ed piece, “*S.C. Body-slam Shows Schools Trigger Happy*” appeared in the October 30, 2015 edition of the *Orlando Sentinel*.



Professor Phyllis Taite was selected to be a member of the FAMU Leadership Academy, and will participate in in-depth training, interactive dialogues, and visioning exercises to enhance her professional and leadership development.



Professor Ka’Juel J. Washington represented FAMU College of Law in the One-on-One advice clinic held on October 28, 2015 at the Marks Street Senior Center in Orlando, in celebration of National Pro Bono Week. The event was organized by the Legal Aid Society of the Orange County Bar Association to give free legal advice to the elderly and to residents of the Orlando Rescue Mission.



Professors Cori Harvey, Nicola Booth-Perry (pictured on p. 10), **Deleso Alford** (p. 10), and **Phyllis Taite** (p. 11) participated in a scholarly contribution to the 9th Annual Lutie A. Lytle Black Women Law Writing Workshop held July 9-12, 2015 at Vanderbilt Law School in Nashville, Tennessee.



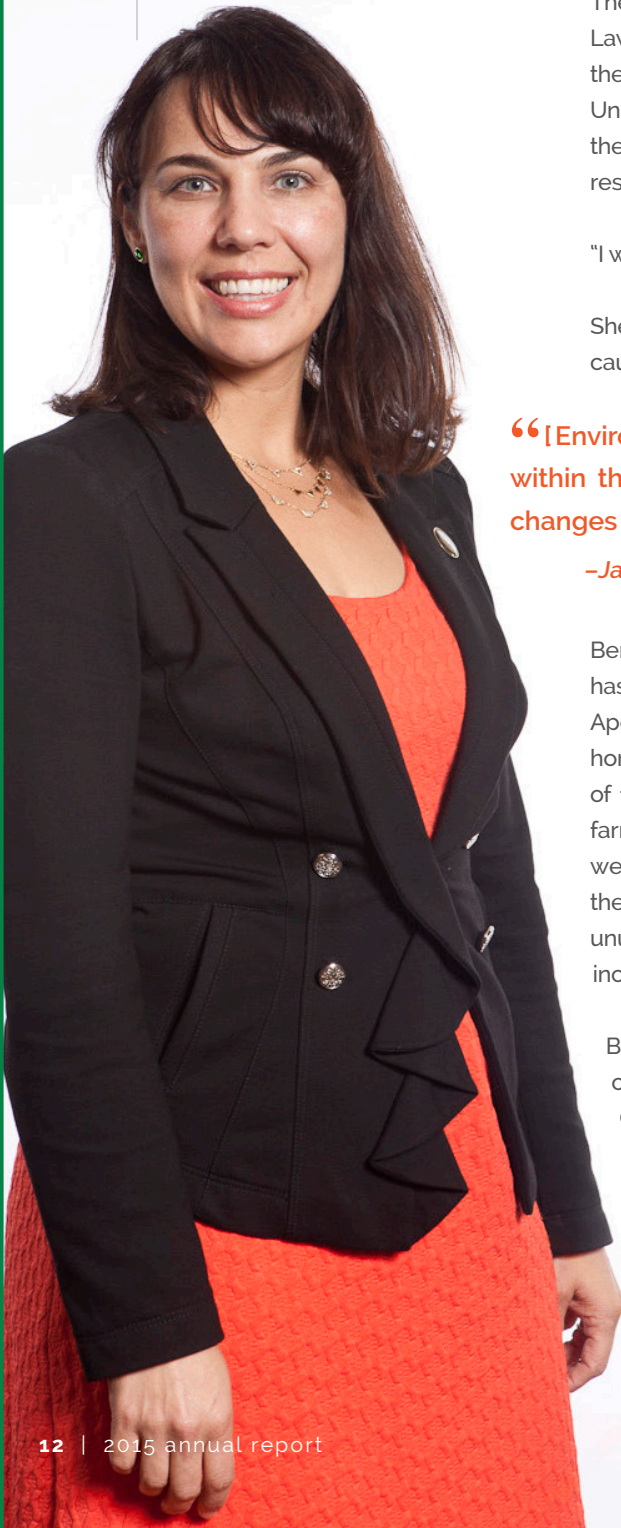
Professor Kristy D’Angelo-Corker and **Professor Rebecca Olavarria** coached the winning team at the Southeast Regional for the 4th Annual Puerto Rican Bar Association Moot Court Competition held in Miami, Florida.

FAMU College of Law
Faculty is a strong team
of legal scholars who are
uniquely qualified.

You'll find the students at FAMU College of Law with their noses buried in books, but you'll also find them with their boots on the ground, fighting to make their community, and the world, a better place, while gaining valuable real-world experience.

Featured

JACQUELINE BERTELSEN
EPA INTERN



Third-year FAMU College of Law student Jacqueline Bertelsen interned for the Environmental Appeals Board of the Enforcement and Compliance Office of the Environmental Protection Agency in Washington, D.C., this past summer, researching and writing a 30-page brief on the propriety of EPA penalties.

The opportunity came through the College of Law's Environmental Law Society and Center for International Law and Justice, which invited the Associate Dean of Environmental Law from George Washington University Law School, to speak to students about opportunities in the public sector. The visiting associate dean requested Bertelsen's resume and forwarded it to the EPA.

"I was very fortunate," she says.

She was also extremely qualified, thanks to a passion for environmental causes demonstrated both in and out of the classroom.

“[Environmental Law] is not just about recycling; it's about working within the system that has an opportunity to make broad policy changes and to implement the policies that we already have.”

–Jacqueline Bertelsen Third-year FAMU law student and EPA intern

Bertelsen, who serves as president of the Environmental Law Society, has been a regular participant in the group's annual Toxic Tour of Lake Apopka. The lake, one of Florida's largest inland bodies of water, was horribly contaminated by fertilizer and pesticides over several decades of farming and bad water management. People who worked on the farms around the lake, and their descendants, who still live in the area, were heavily affected by pesticides, both in the water and absorbed by the fish and vegetables they ate. As a result, they have experienced an unusually high incidence of miscarriages and other physical ailments, including premature death.

Bertelsen and the Environmental Law Society have also worked on corporate sustainability initiatives, including volunteering at Clean Our World, an organization that recycles soaps, shampoos, and toiletries from Central Florida hotels. They sanitize, repackage, and ship the personal care items to help countries that have experienced natural disasters, as well as Orlando's local homeless community.

Service Recognition

Although the service contributions of our alumni are too numerous to mention, each year we recognize one graduate for extraordinary devotion to public service. The 2015 recipient of our Distinguished Alumni Award for Extraordinary Public Service is Antonya Johnson.

Johnson works as an Assistant State Attorney in the Office of the State Attorney, 17th Judicial Circuit, in the Career Criminal Unit. Her work puts her in daily contact with all types of offenders. She practices in Broward County, serving the community in the fight against heinous crimes such as sexual battery and homicide.

A two-time graduate of Florida A&M University—with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice and Psychology and a Juris Doctor in 2006—Johnson began her practice of law at the State Attorney's Office, and left briefly for a stint in private practice, before returning to serve the people of Broward County.

She has been the prosecuting attorney in more than 60 jury trials, from Capital Sexual Battery and Attempted Murder to Traffic Homicide.

In private practice Johnson litigated real estate matters, represented financial institutions in creditor disputes and dealt in insurance litigation. Her passion, however, is protecting the people in her community from those who would do them bodily harm.

In addition to practicing law, Johnson has served as the 2013-2014 President of the T.J. Reddick Bar Association. She was honored in 2014 by Sun Sentinel Legacy Magazine as one of its 25 Most Influential Black Women in Business and Leadership. Johnson also volunteers with Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

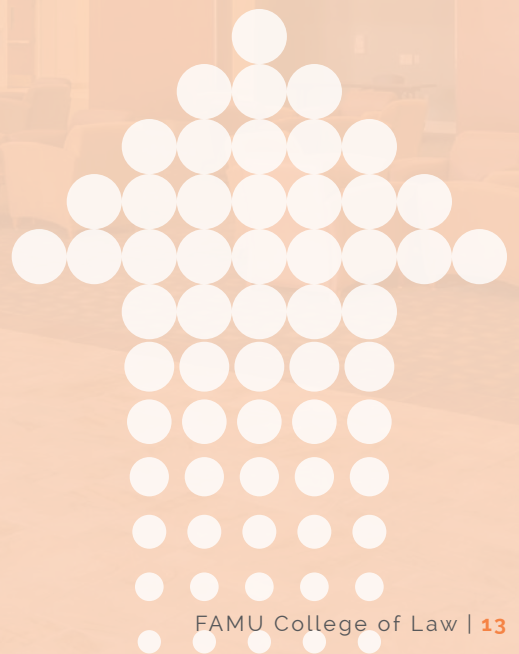
In May 2015, Johnson was recognized during the inaugural Distinguished Alumni Awards ceremony. The event honored nine alumni, drew more than 200 participants, and raised money to launch an alumni-law student scholarship.



Featured

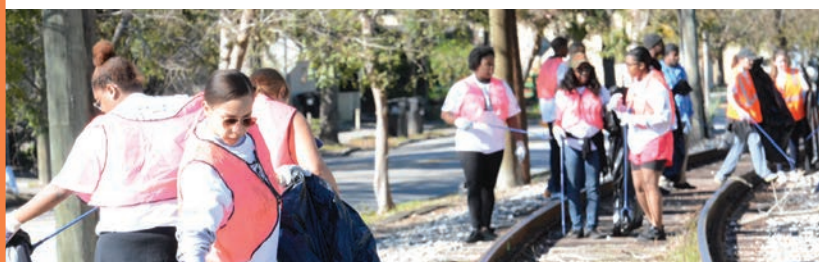
**ANTONYA JOHNSON
CLASS OF 2006**

**2015 RECIPIENT OF
OUR DISTINGUISHED
ALUMNI AWARD FOR
EXTRAORDINARY
PUBLIC SERVICE**



Florida A&M University College of Law is located in Parramore, the historical hub of African-American life in Orlando. Due to years of economic hardship, this once-thriving community endures challenges. The FAMU College of Law joins Orange County and the City of Orlando in ongoing efforts to maintain and restore this neighborhood we call home.

On Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, students hit the streets west of the law school in a community cleanup project. This annual effort is a great way to get to know area residents and let them know that FAMU College of Law has a heart for service. As a member of the Orlando Mayor's Martin Luther King Commission, Professor Patricia Broussard has coordinated the Parramore Cleanup Project for several years.



Community Service

FAMU College of Law students participated in several exciting community service projects in 2015:

- Breast Cancer Walk
- MLK Day Community Clean-up
- Phi Alpha Delta Easter Gift Bags
- Black Law Student Association Clothing and Care Drives



breast cancer walk



“Students can never learn through a textbook what empathy looks like. They have to experience it.”

— Ann Marie Cavazos

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR ANN MARIE CAVAZOS

As Director of the Legal Clinic and Pro Bono Program, Tenured Associate Professor of Law Ann Marie Cavazos, J.D., recently won university-wide recognition when the Academic Affairs Office honored her with the 2015 Senior Faculty Innovative Teaching Award.

A strong advocate of FAMU College of Law's tradition of service, Professor Cavazos believes that one way to serve others is to speak for those who cannot afford to speak for themselves.

Cavazos takes FAMU College of Law's legislated mandate to provide pro bono legal services to the Central Florida community very seriously. As the legal voice in the law school's local backyard, which is Parramore, law students have the opportunity to assist those who are defenseless. She says, "In order for justice to be served, for people to have equal access to justice, we have to be that voice for them." Accordingly, FAMU College of Law has provided millions of dollars' worth of in-kind services, free of charge, to those unable to pay.

A trailblazer who teaches Florida Constitutional Law and Florida Practice, Cavazos (a member of the State of Florida, State of New York, and United States Supreme Court Bars) believes law students need foundational skills courses from day one, and has written a skills and practice workbook on Family Law with three other colleagues. A second workbook, on Torts, will be published in 2016, and Cavazos plans to also collaborate on workbooks concerning Contracts and Criminal Law.

Understanding that law firms are looking for graduates who can "hit the ground running," with little on-the-job training, Cavazos advocates equipping students for the rigors of a legal system expanding and changing with time, while upholding the basic tenets and values that remain constant and form the foundation of our society, nation, and government.

Professor Cavazos focuses her scholarship on issues of Legal Education Reform and Local Government. Her articles have been published in the Southwestern Law Review, Connecticut Law Review, Journal of Legislation-Notre Dame Law School, and University of Pennsylvania Journal of Business Law.

Legal Clinics

The Virgil Hawkins Fellowship Program is a joint initiative between the Virgil Hawkins Florida Chapter of the National Bar Association (VHFCNBA), the FAMU College of Law legal clinics, The Florida Legislature and Florida's Attorney General's Office.

The Fellows, who are graduates, work closely with the FAMU College of Law legal clinic, and are responsible for providing services to indigent clients in the areas of Housing, Homelessness and Domestic Violence on a pro bono basis.

FAMU College of Law students apply what they learn in the classroom by providing community service through its legal clinics, giving voice to the voiceless.



“Sooner or later, everyone needs an attorney, but on minimum wage, people can't afford one. Knowing I am available to assist clients with that dilemma feels great.”

– Randesh Maharaj, Virgil Hawkins Fellow, Class of 2014



“When a domestic violence client smiles and says, 'Now I feel safe.' Those are the cases that make me feel happy I'm a lawyer.”

– Kene Anusionwu, Virgil Hawkins Fellow, Class of 2014



Under the Law School Practice Program, the Legal Clinic provides in-house and field placement opportunities to all eligible second and third year students.

A clinic is a legal educational outreach workshop provided each semester to the local community through agencies that serve low-income citizens.

Students listen to the legal concerns of attendees and direct them toward the appropriate assistance agencies. As non-lawyers, students do not provide legal advice, but they are able to assist with simple pro se—or self-completed—form preparation and obtaining documents such as marriage certificates, court progress dockets, and birth certificates (necessary to obtain services, records and identification). In addition, students provide brief services (such as rent strike letters, etc.)

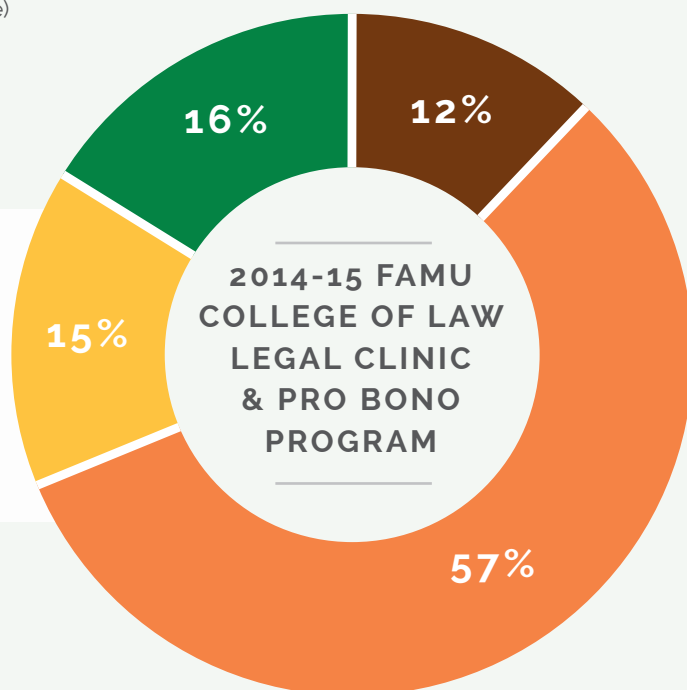
IN-HOUSE CLINICS

1. HOUSING
 - Landlord Tenant
 - Public Housing
 - Foreclosure Defense
2. COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
 - Corporate Entity
 - Privacy Law
 - Intellectual Property
3. GUARDIAN AD LITEM
 - Dependency
4. HOMELESSNESS AND LEGAL ADVOCACY
 - Family Law
5. CRIMINAL DEFENSE CLINIC
 - Misdemeanor Criminal Offenses
(Not Including DUI or Domestic Violence)
6. MEDIATION CLINIC
 - Ninth Judicial Circuit

EXTERNSHIPS/FIELD PLACEMENT

7. JUDICIAL EXTERNSHIPS
 - Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)
 - Florida Federal Court
 - State of Florida Courts - 20 Judicial Circuits
8. PROSECUTION EXTERNSHIP
 - State Attorney—20 Judicial Circuits
 - U.S Attorney
 - Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)
9. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE EXTERNSHIP
 - Injunction process
10. BANKRUPTCY EXTERNSHIP

- Family law
- Domestic violence
- Housing
- Other



Legal Clinics

PRO BONO

Students have the opportunity, outside of clinics, to participate in pro bono services—providing law-related services at no charge—at a variety of legal service agencies throughout the State of Florida. The nature of the work must serve the public interest, and involve civil (as opposed to criminal) law.

It takes a community to serve a community. FAMU College of Law would like to thank our partners in service, the local agencies and businesses who played significant roles in making our legal clinics successful.

The Community Economic Development Clinic re-launched with an event co-hosted by FAMU College of Law and Wells Fargo Bank on November 21st at the Orlando Public Library. Called "Minding Your Creative Business," the event provided attendees—veterans, entrepreneurs, artists, and writers—with legal advice for protecting their intellectual property, especially when using the Internet for creating businesses. Wells Fargo also supported events in 2015 on protecting consumers from housing foreclosures.

Harbor House in Orlando referred clients seeking help with domestic violence cases, and Orange County Legal Aid Society referred residents seeking Guardian ad Litem assistance.



One service FAMU College of Law students, staff, and faculty don't want to have to think about is Information Technology (IT). From professors using instructional technology in the classroom, such as projectors, audio systems, and recording equipment; and staff members counting on the high-definition digital security system to keep everyone safe; to students in the computer lab researching legal precedents via the school's updated high-speed network, on-demand performance and data security are mission critical.



FAMU College of Law computer lab has high-speed network, on-demand performance and data security.

tec

Technology



SHASHI PERSAUD and FAMU College of Law's award-winning IT team keep the servers running and the wireless docket system humming, saving hundreds of thousands of dollars by providing infrastructure services in-house.



Information Technology Team members Thomas Moore, Shashi Persaud, Marco Mujico and Erica Polite win a 2015 Prudential Productivity Award

Technology

Loyld Glenn arrived at the FAMU College of Law the day the ribbon for the new 160,000-square-foot building was cut. He planned to stay for three months. He ended up serving as Facilities Director for nearly a decade, ensuring a clean, safe and comfortable learning environment, until his retirement in September 2015.

Glenn's goal was to keep the building looking and functioning the way it did on opening day, and he did, working behind the scenes to ensure that the intricate machinery controlling temperature, security and safety were in good working order, and that every sign and surface was properly maintained.

Glenn's exemplary work and tireless work ethic contributed immeasurably to the quality of life at the FAMU College of Law, from the signage that helps people navigate our labyrinthine corridors, to our lovely landscaping, periodic re-carpeting and freshening of interior and exterior paint.

He was also responsible for construction of the beautiful brick-paved patio outside the student cafeteria area, complete with tables for dining and study—an oasis that serves as our southern gateway, and a welcoming venue for alumni returning for the annual Florida Classic reunion barbecue.

Glenn says the secret to successful facilities management is finding the right people and investing time in them.

“You ask about their families; you have dinner with them and their families. Then you become family yourself.”
— Loyld Glenn





loyd glenn



New Student Orientation is a time to explore and challenge yourself while preparing for a fulfilling legal career.

orientation



spirit day



On **Spirit Day**, the last day of New Student Orientation, entering law students get to show their true Rattler pride, donning FAMU Law paraphernalia and learning the University alma mater.

Upper-level students serve on a student panel during **New Student Orientation** to provide entering students with real insight on life as a first-year law student and ways to succeed.

Learning the value of professionalism from the beginning of their legal education, entering law students take an Oath of Professionalism from Florida Supreme Court Justice James E. C. Perry during New Student Orientation.



The **Florida Classic Tailgate Barbecue**, held in conjunction with the annual Florida A&M/Bethune-Cookman football game at the nearby Citrus Bowl, caps a day that is a homecoming of sorts for College of Law alumni, students, faculty and staff as well as an open house event for prospective students.





Traditions

The **Flag Football game** is an annual tradition that pits co-ed student teams against faculty/staff and alumni teams. The event is just for fun but some take the game very seriously as trophies—and bragging rights for a year—are at stake.



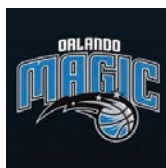
The **Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU) College of Law** collaborated on the “**Spreading the Dream**” initiative for the second straight year, promoting a broader understanding of history and the law, while building an appreciation for academic achievement, diversity and community involvement for youth. Joining FAMU College of Law were the African American Council of Christian Clergy, Orange County Public Schools, the Orlando Mayor’s Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission, and the Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts. A capacity audience, which included more than 2,000 middle school students from all 36 Orange County middle schools, packed the Dr. Phillips Center’s Walt Disney Theater on Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2015 for a two-hour performance that featured television celebrity the Honorable Glenda Hatchett, well known for presiding over the syndicated show, Judge Hatchett. During the program, College of Law students and guest jurists reenacted select arguments of the landmark Brown v. Board of Education case.

Nearly 80 high school seniors from Ribault in Jacksonville visited the FAMU College of Law campus on Thursday, April 9, 2015. The students had expressed an interest in the law, and learning more about FAMU’s law school in Orlando, and were greeted by Admissions officials and Dean LeRoy Pernel. FAMU College of Law first-year student Kyle Marcil (pictured), who attended high school in Jacksonville, was one of four law student ambassadors who provided assistance, and conducted tours of the campus during the visit.



FAMU College of Law is grateful for the support of the many dedicated individuals and committed corporations, whose generosity helps further our mission of community service. On behalf of the students, faculty, administration, alumni and friends of the FAMU College of Law—as well as the many people and causes we serve—we say “Thank You.”

- Wells Fargo: Housing and Economic Development Legal Clinic
- Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.: Legacy Award and Scholarship for the Distinguished Alumni Awards
- Holland & Knight: Endowed Scholarship and Summer Associate Program
- Walt Disney World: FAMU All-Stars Recruiting Tour
- Lowndes, Drosdick, Doster, Kantor & Reed: Support for Internships
- Orlando Magic: FAMU All-Stars Recruiting Tour
- BarBri of Florida: New Student Orientation and Bar Preparation Program
- Jackson Lewis: Employment and Labor Law Scholarship
- University Club: Scholarship
- Kaplan: New Student Orientation and Bar Preparation Program





Partnerships



John Crossman of Crossman & Company gave both time and treasure to FAMU.

One time-honored form of service is giving back—literally—to the institutions that you believe in. John Crossman of Crossman & Company gave both time and treasure on a November 2015 visit, with a \$25,000 scholarship check to be awarded to a FAMU university or law student interested in pursuing a career in real estate.



service

*Featured***ERICKA GARCIA**
CLASS OF 2008**DIRECTOR OF PRO BONO PARTNERSHIPS**
THE FLORIDA BAR FOUNDATION

As Director of Pro Bono Partnerships for the Florida Bar Foundation, this FAMU College of Law alumna not only gives voice to the voiceless—providing legal services for a full spectrum of clients who need, but can't afford, legal services—but also magnifies those efforts through partners, including the Florida Bar, the Florida Commission on Access to Civil Justice, the Florida Pro Bono Coordinators Association, and others.

Although the foundation represents clients of all ages, Garcia is particularly drawn to the plight of children in the foster system, and children with developmental disabilities.

“I have to keep serving those kids,”
says Ericka Garcia. “I just can't stop.”

Children like the 16-year-old girl who weighed no more than a typical one year old when Garcia took her case, who now has an in-home teacher, assistive technology, and communication aids, as well as occupational, speech and physical therapies.

Or the 11-year-old Garcia helped move from foster care and hospitalization to an adoptive home on a farm with three sisters, three brothers, dogs, cats, ponies, goats, chickens, a cow, and a donkey.

Garcia enrolled at FAMU College of Law in August 2005, working a parenting split shift with her husband, a FAMU law day student, who would meet her at school and take their four-year-old daughter home.

She worked full-time while attending law school, serving as assistant to Orange County Attorney Tom Drage.

At school, she distinguished herself through her child advocacy work, and her writing, which included a published article on the unconstitutionality of Florida's ban on adoption by gay parents—a ban that has since been repealed. Her advocacy work earned her an Equal Justice Works fellowship in her third year.

B“Booking” is a term with which Legal Aid attorneys are all too familiar. FAMU College of Law graduate Sally McArthur has given the word a new positive meaning, finding a way to serve more than the legal needs of her young and underserved clients.

Sarah L. “Sally” McArthur started coursework at the FAMU College of Law when she was 45, graduating at age 48. That’s when she began what she calls her third career.

Now a staff attorney for the Guardian ad Litem (GAL) Program for the Legal Aid Society of the Orange County Bar Association, Inc., McArthur spends her days working with attorneys who provide free legal representation to children in Orange County, and representing plaintiffs before a pro bono GAL attorney is assigned. Her special focus is providing services to young adults aging out of the foster care system. She also carries a caseload of her own.

It can be hard and heartbreaking work. And then there are the cases that remind her why she chose this service-intensive career. Like the time she visited a home and asked a little girl if she wanted to read a book together. The girl went to her room and returned with an empty CD case, flipping the “pages,” making up a story, because there were no books in the home.

“The Guardian ad Litem program is work I can feel passionate about. I know I can’t change what happened to abused children in the past, but I can ensure their future is safe.”

McArthur brought her books, and watched her bloom. Reasoning that other children would benefit from books they could enjoy at the office, or that attorneys could share on home visits, she secured a grant to provide a full library at the Legal Aid office.



Featured

**SALLY MCARTHUR
CLASS OF 2006**

**STAFF ATTORNEY, GUARDIAN
AD LITEM PROGRAM, LEGAL AID
SOCIETY, ORANGE COUNTY BAR
ASSOCIATION**

Featured

JEREMY HILL
CLASS OF 2008

ATTORNEY,
DAN NEWLIN & PARTNERS

Part of our mission is to
serve as a beacon of hope.
Our alumni carry that
light into the world.

A former high school history teacher who earned his law degree while working full time, Jeremy Hill serves by volunteering in the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary around a busy schedule as a litigator.

On May 17, 2015, Hill was part of a crew sent to find a fisherman thrown from a 33-foot pleasure craft off Ponce Inlet. The man's friends had reported him missing around 4 p.m., estimating that he must have fallen overboard when they hit a big wave 20-minutes earlier. The man had been reclining in a beanbag chair and had not been wearing a life jacket.

DARKNESS FELL.

Hill described the grim conditions: *"Imagine looking for something the size and shape of a coconut, floating in the dark, somewhere within a 500-mile area, in four to six-foot swells."*

After six hours, 22 miles off the coast, the coxswain in charge of Hill's 45-foot response boat stopped to check off a completed search area. They were about to mark the square as empty and move on when, from out of the darkness, Hill and his crewmates heard a faint cry for help. They trained the searchlight on the water.

Donnie Clark had been about to give up when the Coast Guard rescue boat appeared out of nowhere. Hill threw him a life ring, and he and the others pulled the 45-year-old Port Orange man to safety.

We pray that few of our alumni will have to literally serve as a beacon, as Hill did, but we are proud of our service tradition, and celebrate the impact our graduates are having on the world.

alumni

Featured

**LADRAY B. GILBERT
CLASS OF 2008**

**PERSONAL INJURY
ATTORNEY,
THE GILBERT FIRM**

**“We have to make
an impact. We are
part of establishing
the living, moving,
breathing legacy of
our law school.”**

Sometimes we serve by honoring those who served before us, and nurturing those who will serve after.

That's the position LaDray Gilbert found himself in last summer, as he linked arms with 75 young men from North Florida and marched across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Birmingham, Ala.

The bridge was one of several historic landmarks Gilbert visited as a chaperone for 500 Miles of Freedom Tour II: Birmingham & Selma 2015, a cultural rite of passage for middle and high school students sponsored by the Omega Lamplighters of Tallahassee.

Gilbert expected the experience to have a profound effect on the young men. That was the point. He expected to see the tears in their eyes as they crossed the bridge together, arm-in-arm, as those other marchers did on Selma's Bloody Sunday in 1965; as they posed on the steps of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, where four little girls became martyrs in the battle against racism; and stood on the balcony of the Lorraine Hotel in Memphis, where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. smoked one last cigarette before succumbing to an assassin's bullet.



He was not fully prepared for the effect it would have on him.

"It changed me," he said. "The way I live . . . the way I do my job as a lawyer. I haven't been the same since."

Gilbert has dedicated his professional life to making a difference, the kind of difference he says the FAMU College of Law made in his life. "We have to make an impact," he says.

Gilbert's legacy includes a \$25,000 Endowed Scholarship at FAMU College of Law, and the LaDray B. Gilbert, Esquire Justice Center in Marianna, Fla., his hometown.





FAMU College of Law Students at *Justice or Else* Rally, Million Man March Anniversary, National Mall, Washington, D.C., October, 2015



STEP FORWARD *in* SERVICE

Staff, students, faculty, and alumni of the FAMU College of Law are proud of our tradition of public and community service. Within our walls our people grow into a greater understanding of what a life of service to the concepts of "liberty and justice for all" really means. As a part of the fabric of the community, we all grow through service to Orlando, Central Florida, our state, our nation, and the world.

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