



Excellence With Caring

201 BEGOS AVENUE  
ORLANDO, FLORIDA 32801

# Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University

COLLEGE OF LAW

TELEPHONE: (407) 254-3268  
FAX: (407) 254-3213

April 11, 2008

Hulett H. (Bucky) Askew  
Office of the Consultant on Legal Education  
To the American Bar Association  
321 N. Clark Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60610-4714

Dear Consultant:

Pursuant to the report sent March 12, 2008, Florida A&M University and the Florida A&M University College of Law hereby respond. The Florida A&M University College of Law has had an opportunity to review the report entitled *REPORT ON FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LAW October 28-31, 2007*, and submits the below comments, updates and corrections that are important for full consideration of the progress of The Florida A&M University College of Law towards the goal of permanent ABA accreditation. In submitting these comments, updates and corrections it is first important to note that both the university and the college of law recognizes with extreme appreciation, the hard work, dedication, and expertise that was represented by the commitment and efforts of this site visit team.

If you have any questions about the materials submitted, please do not hesitate to contact either of us.

Sincerely,

Dr. James H. Ammons  
President

LeRoy Pernell  
Dean

**RESPONSE OF  
FLORIDA A & M UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF LAW  
REGARDING SITE EVALUATION TEAM REPORT  
OCTOBER 28-31, 2007 VISIT**

The comments below are organized according to the major headings in the report. This response does not purport to address every different opinion that might reasonably be expressed regarding all observations in the site team report, but rather focuses on the most significant observations needing correction and/or clarity.

### **The Site Visit**

Regarding this section the following corrections should be noted:

Page 1 Paragraph #1, Last Sentence:

Because there were no letters *subsequent* to the "February 2007 Letter" related to the accreditation of FAMU, the reference should be changed to read previous letters.

Page 1 Paragraph #2, Line 9:

There is only one attorney serving as outside counsel for matters related to the law school. He is Richard Mitchell, an attorney with the Gray Robinson law firm.

### **History of the Law School and University**

Page 2 first Sentence in 2<sup>nd</sup> Paragraph:

Change "mission of educating African-Americans" to "mission to increasing representation of minorities within the legal profession."

Page 3 Paragraph #2, 4<sup>th</sup> Sentence:

The visit in November 2005 was the first full-team visit of the Law School since the Law School received its provisional approval.

Page 3 Paragraph #3, Line 7:

Omar Saleem and Frank Motley were Associate Deans.

### **Self Study and Strategic Planning**

Page 6 1<sup>st</sup> Sentence:

Correct "Friend" to "Friends"

Page 6 same Paragraph, middle of Paragraph:

Correction – change "Dean Saleem" to "Associate Dean"

Page 6 Paragraph #3, Line 13:

The LEAP program is not mandatory.

## Program of Legal Study

Page 8 Paragraph #4, Line 6:

Florida Practice II, The College of Law's 4 credit bar preparation course, is not a required course.

Page 8 4<sup>th</sup> Paragraph, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sentence:

"At present in order to graduate a student must successfully complete 90 semester hours of academic credits, not including a **required 4 credit bar review course...**" should be changed to "**a non-required 4 credit bar review course.**"

Page 11 1<sup>st</sup> full Paragraph, 5<sup>th</sup> Sentence:

Change "She also supervises VITA" to "She also co-supervises VITA."

Page 11 3<sup>rd</sup> full Paragraph, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sentence:

The sentence "For example, the Criminal Defense external clinic, taught by Professor Moore could not be offered in fall 2007 because the seven students who had signed up dropped the course..."

A correct statement is "The Public Defender clinic was not offered in fall 2007 because it did not meet the enrollment requirements."

Page 11 5<sup>th</sup> Paragraph, last Sentence:

In addition to teaching the GAL clinic, she also teaches either Torts II, Florida Practice, or Consumer Law, for a total of 5 credits per semester. If she decides to teach the GAL clinic in the summer, she will have a total of 13 credits per calendar year.

Page 12 1st Paragraph, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sentence:

"In addition to her overall responsibility for the clinics, Professor Cavazos teaches one, two credit course, either Florida Practice or Florida Constitutional Law.

## Academic Support

Page 22 Last Paragraph, Last Line:

There was no compensation dispute involving the hiring of the Director of Academic Success and Bar Preparation.

## Student Affairs/Disability Services

Page 24 Paragraph #1, Line 1:

There is no record of a request by this student for an accommodation on her exams.

## Financial Aid

Beginning with class entering Fall 08, the President of Florida A&M University has authorized 12 merit-based, renewable, full tuition waivers scholarships for high achievement admitted recruits, plus 3 merit-based, full tuition wavier scholarships for

Bethune Cookman University graduates. A copy of an example of the scholarship award letter is attached as part of the appendix.

## Readmission of Students

Page 31 Paragraph #1, Line 8:

The students were reprimanded but were not reported to LSAC for misconduct in the admissions process.

## Administrative Structure

Page 35 Paragraph #1, Line 2 and Page 46, Paragraph #2, Line 8:

The Director of the Law Library did not resign from her tenure track position. During its third-year review of the Director of the Law Library, the RPT Committee recommended non-renewal of her tenure earning contract. That recommendation was accepted by then Dean Percy Luney and the Director of the Law Library was offered a non-tenure track contract for her administrative position.

## Litigation

It should be noted that the three lawsuits that had been filed by students against the Law School have all been resolved in favor of the Law School. (See Appendix)

There are some facts of those cases, as discussed in the Litigation section on pages 31-32 of the ABA Report, that are inaccurate and should be corrected.

**In the first case,** (Page 31 Paragraph #3, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sentence) the student's failure to graduate and sit for the bar exam was not related to her GPA. The degree was not awarded because the course in which the student received an administrative "F" due to her excessive absences was Sales, a required course. The student could not have graduated without having successfully completed all required courses.

**In the second case,** (Page 31 Paragraph #4, Line 4) the student referred to is a female student. Therefore, the reference should be to "she."

**In the third case,** (Page 31 Paragraph #5, 4<sup>th</sup> Sentence) it is stated that "[s]ome students who had used the outside guide for practice in preparation for the Tort's (sic) exam did well while others who had not, performed poorly on the exam." First, the exam was an open book exam. The commercial guide from which the multiple choice questions were taken also contained the answers to the questions. Some students had this commercial guide and used it during the exam. The multiple choice questions were never graded, so it is not possible to say how any student performed on that portion of the exam. In fact, there were several students who indicated that they had not used the commercial guide, but who believed that they had performed well on the multiple choice questions because they had focused their preparation on taking multiple choice exams.

The Report indicates (Page 31 Paragraph #5, 5<sup>th</sup> Sentence) that the fact that the commercial multiple choice questions were used on the exam was not discovered until after the exams had been graded and students' grades were posted. This is incorrect. In fact it was both during the exam and immediately after the exam that several students informed the Associate Dean of the situation. The Associate Dean met with the faculty member about the matter **before** the exams were graded.

The Report also states (Page 31 Paragraph #5, 6<sup>th</sup> Sentence) that "[w]hen the Interim Dean learned about the content of the exam, she decided to exclude the multiple choice portion of the exam..." It was not the decision of the Interim Dean to exclude the multiple choice questions. The decision to exclude the questions was made by the faculty member himself, after consultation with the Associate Dean.

**In yet another case**, (Page 32 Paragraph #2, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Sentences) the facts are as follows: This student was a member of the inaugural class. While in her third year of study, the student was academically dismissed after the fall semester for failure to maintain the required 2.0 GPA. She was readmitted for the Spring semester and was required to achieve the required GPA by the end of the Spring semester in order to graduate. During that final semester, the student (as well as three other students) failed a required course and, for that reason alone, would have been ineligible to graduate. After successfully petitioning the faculty, the students were approved to take another exam with the understanding that if they achieved at least the minimum score required to pass the course, their grade would be changed only from "F" to "D", regardless of the score actually achieved. The student was aware before the administration of the July 2005 bar exam that she did not achieve the GPA required to graduate.

## **Admissions**

The Report states (Page 20, Paragraph #3, 4<sup>th</sup> Sentence) that the Law School does not yet sponsor yield events for admitted students. Since the arrival of the new Assistant Dean for Admissions and Financial Aid in May 2007, the College of Law has sponsored a number of events designed to target both admitted and prospective students. For instance, we have sponsored an Entering / Admitted Students Day Program, Three Open House Programs and a Minority Law Day Program. (See Appendix) During the Fall 2007 recruiting season, the admissions staff participated in 21 recruiting events and met personally with 891 prospective applicants.

## **Faculty Teaching, Scholarship and Development**

Throughout the report a central theme and concern is expressed regarding the development of the faculty as pertaining to scholarship and teaching assignments. An overall concern is also expressed regarding the climate and inter-relationship of senior and junior faculty. While such issues are of concern to all law schools, Florida A&M recognizes the importance of a young school, dedicated to a strong public mission to grow in these important areas. Nevertheless additional information should be recognized

that accurately clarifies both the current status in these areas and notes the significant changes already underway or to be implemented in the near future.

### Faculty Teaching Loads

Throughout the document there are statements referencing faculty teaching loads that are distorted and incorrect. Faculty teaching loads are based on the assignment of responsibility as reported to the Provost. The teaching loads of the faculty average 12 credits per semester. A chart illustrating the accurate teaching loads is attached. The Chart below should replace the chart on page 14 of the ABA Report.

Professors	Fall 2006	Spring 2007	Total 2006- 2007	Sum mer 2007	Fall 2007	Spring 2008	Total 2007 2008
Abrams Robert	3,3	3,3	12		3,3	3,3	12
Bernier, Barbara	3,2	3,3	11		3,3	2,3	11
Blevins, Timothy	3,3	3,2	11		3,3	2,2,2	12
Boothe-Perry, Nicola (clinic)	2,3	2,3	10		2,3	2,3	10
Bridgewater, Pamela							
Broussard, Patricia	3,2	3,3	11		3,3	2,3	11
Bullock, Joan	4,2	2,3	11		3,2	3,2	12
Cato, Rhoda Pierre	3,2	3,2	10		3,2	2,3	10
Caussade, Eunice	4	3,3	6			3,3	6
Cavazos, Ann Marie		2	2		2	2	4
Dawson, Victoria	3	2,2	7		3,3	2	8
Harper, John	3,3	3,2,2	13		3,3	2,2	10
Henslee, William	3,3 (1 MC)	2,3 (1MC)	13		3,4 (1 MC)	2,2 (1 MC)	13
Jones, Hasting	4,2	3,3	12		4,2	3,2	10
Jones, John-Paul	3,3	3,2,3	14		3,2	3,2	10
Langston, Lundy	3,3 (1LR)	2,3 (1 LR)	14		3 (1 LR)	3 (1 LR)	8
Mombrun, Reginald	3,3	3,3	12		3,3	3,3	12
Montgomery, Patricia	3,3	3,2	11		3,3	2,2	10
Moore, Karin	2,4	2,4	12		4,3	3,2	12
Ngov, Eang	4,3	3,4	14		3,3	3,3	12
Perez-Kudzma, Carmenelisa					3,3	2,2,3	13
Poydras, Phebe	3,3	3,2	11		3,3	2,2,2	12
Reaves, Rhonda	3,3	2,3	11		3,3	3,2	12
Saleem, Omar	3,4		7		3,2	3,2	10
Smith, Jennifer	3,3	3,3	12		3,3	3,3	12
Smith, Phyllis	3,3	3,3	12		3,3	2,3	11
Thompson, Robert Washington, KaJuel	3,4	3	10		3,4	3,2	12

LR = Law Review

MC=Moot Court

## Faculty Scholarship

There are statements referencing a faculty member who, allegedly, was informed that credit would be awarded for scholarship that was written prior to hire. There are no records that indicate a faculty was to receive credit for scholarship that was written prior to being hired at the College of Law.

## *Updated Information*

### Faculty Hires

We are in the process of seeking a new law librarian and fill other vacancies in the library. The Law Librarian position has been posted and it is a tenure track position.

We have made several new faculty hires for the upcoming 2008-2009 academic year. Three of the incoming faculty are tenured upon hire positions. They are Kenneth Nunn, Jeremy Levitt, and Markita Cooper. All three of the individuals have considerable teaching experience in the academy and have produced substantial scholarship. In addition to the three tenured hires, the law school has extended offers to five tenure-track professors. All of the incoming tenure-track faculty have some teaching experience and some scholarship. The tenure-track faculty are: Deleso A. Washington, Jonathan Fineman, and Crisarla Houston. Professor Houston will also serve as Director of the Legal Writing Program. Resumes for each of the new hires are attached.

As of this date, one faculty member is leaving and another faculty member has requested to visit for one semester at another law school.

In addition the three new tenured hires will each occupy a significant administrative position that will greatly enhance faculty development, opportunity and the quality of the educational experience at Florida A&M University College of Law.

Professor Kenneth Nunn, currently of the faculty at the University of Florida College of Law, will join Florida A&M University College of Law this fall as the newly designated Associate Dean for Research and Faculty development. A description of this new position is as follows:

### **Associate Dean for Research and Faculty Development**

#### **Purpose**

To improve the quality, productivity and visibility of the faculty and scholarship of The Florida A&M College of Law.

## Duties

Promote excellence in scholarship and teaching, facilitate and coordinate scholarly activities, and publicize the scholarly activities of the faculty. These duties shall include but are not limited to:

- To review with the Dean the individual annual scholarship agenda for each tenure-tracked faculty member.
- To review and recommend to the Dean funding requests for summer research grants
- To develop and oversee working groups and workshops within the FAMU LAW faculty designed to encourage and promote works-in-progress. Such groups may include; a monthly works-in-progress discussion group for faculty currently involved with works in progress, a faculty workshop series for the entire faculty to hear more detailed presentations of works previously discussed in the monthly groups, a scholarship exchange program designed for FAMU faculty to hear presentations from law faculty at other law schools while at the same time encouraging presentation of FAMU LAW faculty work to other law schools
- Coordinate the gathering and sharing of information and announcements concerning faculty scholarship accomplishments
- Coordinate annual workshops for faculty on teaching methodology and grading
- Work with the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and the Dean to develop and implement a training manual and assessment tool for Adjunct faculty
- Work with the Dean and the Chair of the Reappointment, Promotion and Tenure Committee to develop and maintain a Promotion and Tenure Expectation Guide for new and junior faculty which incorporates the faculty approved standards for promotion and tenure together with the promotion and tenure requirements of Florida A&M University applicable to the College of Law.

Jeremy Levitt, currently an Associate Professor at Florida International University School of Law, will join the faculty at FAMU as the Distinguished Professor of International Law and as the newly created Associate Dean for International Studies. A description of this new position follows:

### **Associate Dean for International Programs**

#### **Purpose**

Establish and administer international study and scholarship opportunities for students and faculty of The Florida A&M College of Law.

## Duties

These duties shall include but are not limited to:

- Provide advice to the Dean on all international-related issues
- Develop and manage the international and comparative law program
- Manage international law internship program
- Galvanize student interest in international law
- Build and manage institutional partnerships
- Mentor junior faculty interested in international law
- Fundraise and grant writing
- Manage study abroad program
- Interface with internationally-related units at FAMU
- Interface with the ABA to ensure that all international programs comport with ABA rules
- To review policy and provide strategic advice to the Dean and on his/her direction to the university on international matters including –
- The development and implementation of international-related aspects of FAMU's Strategic Plan
- International developments and trends likely to impact upon the implementation of the University's international programs and achievement of its international objectives
- The development and implementation of a series of country/region specific plans for academic, community and entrepreneurial engagement.
- The development of internationally-centered joint-degree programs,
- To monitor the involvement of the University in international consortia,

## New Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

Markita Cooper, former Associate Academic Dean for Golden Gate University College of Law will be the new Associate Dean for Academic Affairs for The Florida A&M University College of Law.

## Faculty Lounge, Student Bookstore and Food Service

Among the facility changes that are underway, the law school is creating a new faculty lounge. The space will be sufficient for faculty gatherings, including space to gather for lunch or a colloquium. The law school is also establishing a bookstore and will provide food service, including "hot" food for students. A diagram of the faculty lounge and a model of the food service are attached as part of the appendix.

## Academic Success and Bar Preparation

During the 07-08 academic year The Florida A&M University College of Law implemented a comprehensive academic support and bar preparation program. A description of those programs is attached.

# Scholarship Award Letter

April 11, 2008

«first\_name\_applicant» «middle\_initial\_applicant» «last\_name\_applicant» «suffix\_applicant»  
«current\_street\_1»  
«current\_street\_2»  
«current\_street\_3»  
«current\_city», «current\_state» «curr\_zip\_code»

Dear «prefix\_applicant» «last\_name\_applicant»:

Congratulations on your admission into the Fall 2008 Entering Class of the Florida A&M University College of Law!

It is my delight to inform you that, amongst a pool of deserving and talented candidates, you have been designated as a Dean's Scholar to receive the College of Law's most prestigious and lucrative merit-based scholarship award. Dean's Scholars are a select group of admitted students chosen by the Dean of the College of Law based on their records of academic achievement, their outstanding qualifications, and their commitment to the mission of the College of Law.

As a Dean's Scholar, you will receive a *full-tuition* scholarship for the 2008-09 academic year. In order to maintain the scholarship during your years of matriculation at FAMU College of Law, you must remain in good standing academically and conduct-wise. Furthermore, each academic year, you are required to maintain a cumulative grade point average that meets or exceeds the median grade point average of all students in your class year. Renewal of your Dean's Scholar award is contingent upon your satisfactory completion of these conditions.

**To accept this scholarship honor, please complete the enclosed scholarship acceptance form and return it to the Office of Admissions by Friday, April 18, 2008.** If you have any questions or would like additional information regarding this scholarship, please contact Ms. Mweni Ekpo, Assistant Dean for Admissions and Financial Aid, at 407/254-3286. Again, congratulations on your admission into the Florida A&M University College of Law Fall 2008 Entering Class and for having been selected as a Dean's Scholar. I am excited about the prospect of your joining our academic and professional community.

Best regards,

LeRoy Pernel  
Dean

April 11, 2008

«first\_name\_applicant» «middle\_initial\_applicant» «last\_name\_applicant» «suffix\_applicant»  
«current\_street\_1»  
«current\_street\_2»  
«current\_street\_3»  
«current\_city», «current\_state» «curr\_zip\_code»

Dear «prefix\_applicant» «last\_name\_applicant»:

Congratulations! I am pleased to inform you that you have been selected to receive a scholarship award from the Florida A&M University College of Law's Minority Merit Grant. On behalf of our faculty and staff, I commend you for your record of academic achievement which enabled you to receive this award. As a 2008-2009 Minority Merit Grant recipient, you will receive a **one-time** award of **\$5,000.00**. The award will be evenly distributed between the Fall 2008 and Spring 2009 semesters and will be applied to your student account.

*To accept this scholarship honor, please complete the enclosed scholarship acceptance form and return it to the Office of Admissions Friday, April 18, 2008.* If you have any questions about this award, please feel free to contact Ms. Mildred Graham, Director of Development and Alumni Affairs, at 407/254-3206.

Again, congratulations on your admission to the Florida A&M College of Law and for having been selected as a recipient of the College of Law's Minority Merit Grant.

Sincerely,

LeRoy Pernell  
Dean

cc: Lisorie Murray, Coordinator of Financial Aid  
Mildred Graham, Director of Development and Alumni Affairs  
Mweni Ekpo, Assistant Dean for Admissions and Financial Aid

# Litigation

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
IN AND FOR ORANGE COUNTY FLORIDA

CLAYTON HALLFORD,

Plaintiff,

vs.

CASE NO. 2007-CA-0013074-O

FLORIDA AGRICULTURAL AND  
MECHANICAL UNIVERSITY COLLEGE  
OF LAW; FLORIDA AGRICULTURAL  
AND MECHANICAL UNIVERSITY;  
FLORIDA AGRICULTURAL &  
MECHANICAL UNIVERSITY BOARD  
TRUSTEES; RUTH WITHERSPOON,  
an individual; JAMES AMMONS, an  
individual; BOARD OF GOVERNORS,  
STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF  
FLORIDA;

Defendants.

\_\_\_\_\_ /

FINAL JUDGMENT IN FAVOR OF ALL DEFENDANTS

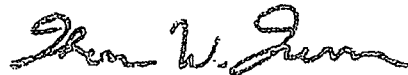
THIS CAUSE came before the Court on the Joint Motion for Entry of Final Judgment filed by Plaintiff CLAYTON HALLFORD (1916 East Jefferson Street, Orlando, Florida, 32803-5924), and Defendants FLORIDA AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LAW (201 Beggs Avenue, Orlando, Florida 32801); FLORIDA AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL UNIVERSITY (1601 S. Martin Luther King Blvd., Ste 300, Tallahassee, Florida 32307-3100); FLORIDA AGRICULTURAL & MECHANICAL UNIVERSITY BOARD TRUSTEES (1601 S. Martin Luther King Blvd., Ste 300, Tallahassee, Florida 32307-3100); RUTH WITHERSPOON (201 Beggs Avenue, Orlando, Florida 32801); JAMES AMMONS (1601 S. Martin Luther King Blvd.,

Ste 300, Tallahassee, Florida 32307-3100) (hereafter "FAMU Defendants"); and the BOARD OF GOVERNORS, STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA (325 W. Gaines Street, Suite 1614, Tallahassee, FL 32399-0400).

It is hereby **ORDERED AND ADJUDGED** that:

1. Plaintiff CLAYTON HALLFORD's Complaint and Amendment thereto are dismissed with prejudice as to all Defendants.
2. Plaintiff CLAYTON HALLFORD shall pay and deliver five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) to Counsel for the FAMU Defendants, Richard E. Mitchell, or before June 30, 2008, as reimbursement for the FAMU Defendants' attorneys' fees and costs in this matter.
3. Plaintiff CLAYTON HALLFORD shall pay and deliver one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) to Counsel for the BOARD OF GOVERNORS, STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA, Vikki Shirley, on or before June 30, 2008, as reimbursement for the BOARD OF GOVERNORS' attorneys' fees and costs in this matter.
4. Plaintiff CLAYTON HALLFORD shall take nothing by this action.
5. All Defendants shall go hence without day.
6. The Court hereby retains personal and subject matter jurisdiction over this matter and Clayton Hallford to enforce the terms of this Final Judgment.

**DONE AND ORDERED**, in Chambers, at Orlando, Florida on this 25 day of March, 2008.



\_\_\_\_\_  
THOMAS W. TURNER  
CIRCUIT JUDGE

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of this Final Judgment has been furnished to the following via U.S. mail on this 26 day of March, 2008: **RICHARD E. MITCHELL, ESQ.**, Post Office Box 3068, Orlando, FL 32802-3068; **DAVID MAXWELL, ESQ.**, Law Offices of David Maxwell, P.A., 538 E. Washington Street, Orlando, Florida 32801; **VIKKI R. SHIRLEY, ESQ.**, Board of Governors, 325 W. Gaines Street, Suite 1614, Tallahassee, FL 32399-0400; and **CLAYTON HALLFORD**, 1916 East Jefferson Street, Orlando, Florida, 32803-5924.

/s/ Sheryl Sharp  
Judicial Assistant

## **Academic Success and Bar Preparation**

# ACADEMIC SUCCESS

## & BAR PREP PROGRAM

WHO WE ARE

Page 2

WHAT WE DO

Page 3

HOW WE DO IT

Page 4

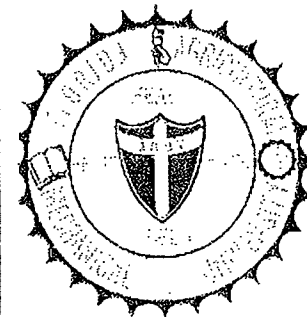
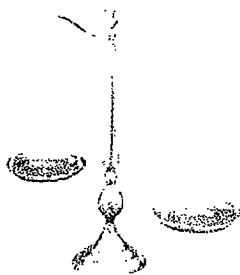
WHEN WE DO IT

Page 5

### THE ACADEMIC SUCCESS PROGRAM

The Academic Success Program is an integral part of the College of Law's commitment to provide all students the opportunity to succeed at FAMU College of Law.

The Academic Success Program is a collaborative effort involving law school administration, faculty and students with the goal of assisting students in developing and enhancing the critical skills necessary for academic success in law school. The Program's structured focus is on recognizing the importance of writing as a tool for thinking and its practical application will make students aware of the intimate relationship between legal reasoning and legal writing. This program will offer a curriculum for day and evening students.



#### MISSION STATEMENT

To provide a law program with high academic standards that produces excellent legal professionals who demonstrate professionalism, provide public service, enhance justice and promote scholarship; to provide a program that offers both full-time and part-time learning opportunities to students and consistent with the enabling legislation, to increase representation of minorities within the legal profession.

# ACADEMIC SUCCESS & BAR PREPARATION

## Mission Statement

The Office of Academic Success and Bar Preparation is dedicated to serving as a Resource Center during the law student's entire career. Its mission is to enhance the necessary skills and tools, through disciplined study and professional development, to ensure academic and professional success.

ABA Standard 301

- Critical thinking
- Analytical skills
- Legal writing
- Time management
- Outlining
- Exam taking tips
- Professionalism
- Bar Preparation
- Lawyering Skills

The Offices of Academic Success are located in Rooms 335F and 342C.

We have study aids and law books available for students to check out in our interactive library. Please sign up for an appointment today!



*"The program has given me the tools and individual assistance I need to pass the bar the first time."*

*-Leslie Lesperance, 31.*

*"The Academic Success Program has given me confidence to succeed throughout my matriculation in law school."*

*-Joy Anakhu, 21.*



## About our Director

*Director Parson comes to us from the University of Wisconsin School of Law, where he was a faculty member teaching Legal Writing, Advanced Legal Writing and Research, and Bar Prep workshops for foreign attorneys and Asian LLM students intending to practice law in the United States. He is a former Assistant Attorney General, Solicitor General, and Administrative Law Judge. His scholarship concentration is in the areas of constitutional critical reasoning, voting race neutrality and the emerging issues regarding jury reform and practices.*

*Most recently, Director Parson was published in the Wayne State University Law School, "The Journal of Law in Society," Vol. 8, Summer 2007, pages 75-104. The article, "The Persistence of Racial Bias in Voting: Voter ID, The New Battleground for Pretextual Race Neutrality" was cited in an amicus brief to the United States Supreme Court on the Indiana Voter ID case recently heard by the Court. As a noted scholar on the issue of jury reform, Director Parson will speak and be a panelist at the 17th Annual Northern Illinois Law Review Symposium, "The Modern American Jury," to be held in early April 2008 at the Northern Illinois University School of Law. As part of his participation on race-based preemptory strikes, his article, "Black Striking: The Cultural Strike Zone and the Modern Manifestation on the Jury System and the Effect of Race Based Preemptory Challenges" will be published in the NIU Law Review Journal Summer 2008 Symposium edition. Director Parson is also completing a legal text book on "Full Citizenship".*

## ACADEMIC SUCCESS & BAR PREPARATION

### Program Orientation for Incoming 1L Students

This program, for all incoming students, provides a broad overview of topics critical to new law students, which includes the basic skills necessary to succeed in law school.

### Alumni Mentoring Program

In this pilot program, first year students may choose to be matched with a FAMU College of Law alumni, who will provide support, advice, and guidance as the student navigates through law school.

### Tracking for Success Student Program

This program is designed to track each student's progress within the designated program to measure ways to continue to develop the student's analytical and writing skills. More importantly, the tracking method will be used to evaluate how the program can meet the necessary needs of each student.

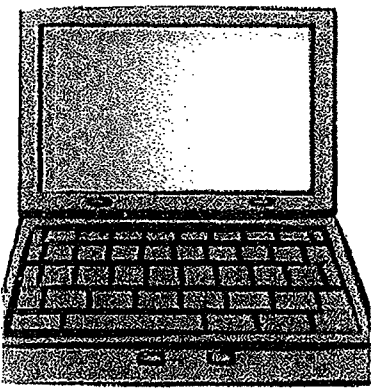
### Academic Success Library

The Academic Success library offers students the opportunity to check out practice questions, sample essays, commercial outlines and other materials that will be beneficial to their academic and bar preparation success.

### *Program Methodology*

Critical thinking is designed to achieve an understanding of the relationship of language to logic, which should lead to the ability to analyze, criticize, and advocate ideas, to reason inductively and deductively, and to reach factual or judgmental conclusions based on sound inferences drawn from unambiguous statements of knowledge or belief. Critical thinking is a paramount requirement for evaluative pedagogical analysis. The objective is to inculcate in students the habit of rigorous writing as well as the practice of assessing and revising their own ideas and approaches to new information. Students should apply critical thinking and reasoning skills to the application of writing analytically. Critical thinking allows students to advocate their ideas with logical force connecting human discourse, both oral and written.

*-Director Parson*



### Electronic Information Center

The electronic information center provides students access to information about the Academic Success & Bar Prep Program through TWEN and The Record. A student can retrieve information about workshops, events, practice exams, and overall information about the program.

In order to access TWEN, students should:

- login to their account at [www.lawschool.westlaw.com](http://www.lawschool.westlaw.com)
- add the **Academic Success & Bar Prep** course
- access information from the program and interact with participants and the Director of the program

## ACADEMIC SUCCESS & BAR PREPARATION

### Teaching Assistants

The teaching assistants will help 1Ls in case reading, note taking, and exam preparation.

### Analytical Skills Workshops

These workshops will be offered weekly. The focus areas will be study skills, legal analysis and exam preparation strategies. The workshops are participatory, engaging students in their own learning process.

### Topic Workshops

Topic Workshops will be conducted in areas such as: case reading and briefing, course outlining, taking exams, time management and several doctrinal topics.

### Summer Program

The Academic Success Summer Program is designed to introduce students who have shown academic promise but require additional preparation before their first year at FAMU College of Law. The program will emphasize an entirely new learning experience. The program's curriculum will

include: legal writing, legal reasoning and critical thinking techniques, by and through a doctrinal subject. The instructional delivery will be done by staff and 3L teaching assistants/teaching fellows. Students also will attend sessions on time management, study skills and legal vocabulary. The goal of the program is to familiarize students with the stringent demands of law school so that they can prepare for their first year.

### Instructional Services and Writing Clinics

This program will allow one on one or small groups in the areas of writing, sentence structure, grammar and blending the law with the facts. The individual conferences will be tailored to the student's learning style and is a confidential place to address questions of organization, structure and increased readability.

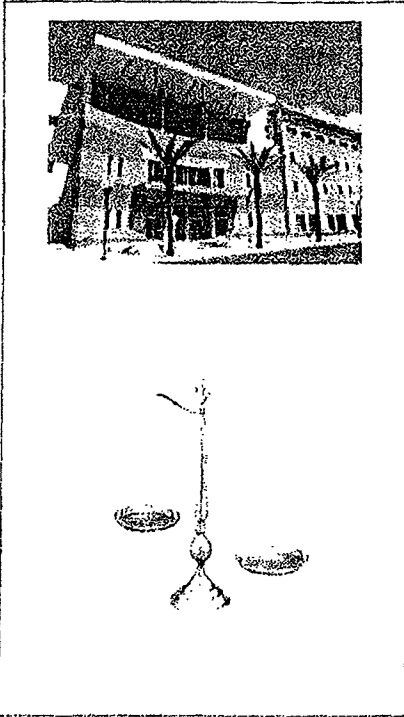
### Individualized Instructional Services (IIS)

The Individualized Instructional Services (IIS) provides additional instructions for law students tailored to their learning style.

### Tutorial and Instructional Delivery Student-to-Student Program

This program will allow tutors to provide one on one tutoring, and or small group workshops, on a variety of subjects. Tutoring will be available for day and evening students. This one on one program will be strictly supervised and monitored for effectiveness by the Director of Academic Success and Bar Prep. Prior to any tutorial sessions, each tutor must attend several mandatory subject-matter training sessions conducted by the Director.

# ACADEMIC SUCCESS & BAR PREPARATION



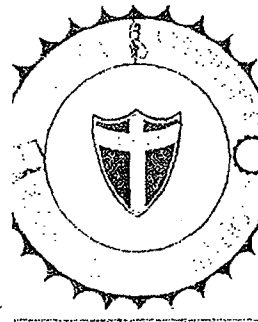
## BAR Preparation and fundamental lawyering skills

In conjunction with the Bar Preparation Program, a fundamental lawyering skills program will also be added. This section will offer a collaborative, multifaceted curriculum that engages students in critical thinking about work in the law. It will allow students an opportunity to broaden and deepen their understanding of legal concepts on their journey to preparing for the bar examination. Emphasis will be placed on intensive small group learning. The study of lawyering skills is especially valuable in legal education and bar preparation. Law, and or, studying for a bar examination cannot be understood fully without a sense of the

processes by which it is constructed and interpreted.

## The Evaluation BAR Examination (EBE)

An evaluation bar examination will be given in early April of each year. It is designed to improve the FAMU College of Law bar exam pass rate. This is a two day exam covering Florida essays and all MBE subjects.



## BAR Review Interactive Workshops

These workshops will allow students full participation on all essays and MBE questions.

## Writing for the BAR

This workshop will focus on essay writing for *any* bar examination.

## WORKSHOP CALENDAR

**MARCH**  
(See TWEN page and the Record for specific dates and times)

Class preparation, note-taking, time management, speed reading and comprehension	Learning Styles: one size does not fit all	Outlining/ Preparing for finals	Tips for essay exams
Bar prep Essay & MBE	Tips for multiple choice exams	Core Courses Contracts Civil Procedure	Essay writing for core courses
Core Courses Torts Crim Pro	Professionalism	Making the most of finals week (Review)	Tips for review