



**Florida A&M University College of Law**  
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News Release

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**FAMU College of Law Prepares for Spring Hooding Tradition**

ORLANDO – The Florida A&M University (FAMU) College of Law will hold its annual hooding ceremony on Saturday, May 17, 2008 at Osceola Heritage Park in Kissimmee, Florida. This will be the first FAMU College of Law hooding ceremony officiated by LeRoy Pernel, permanent dean of the school.

The featured speaker will be The Honorable Joseph W. Hatchett, former Chief Judge, United States Court of Appeal for the Eleventh Circuit (retired), and current stakeholder with Akerman Senterfitt. Judge Hatchett, a FAMU alumnus, made history in 1975 when Governor Reubin Askew appointed him to the Supreme Court of Florida. He became the first African-American elected to the highest court in the state when he was required to run to retain his seat in 1976. By winning that statewide election, Judge Hatchett became the first African-American elected to the highest court of any state, and the first African-American to be elected to a statewide office in the South since reconstruction.

Judge Hatchett will address the candidates who had the Juris Doctor degree conferred in Tallahassee, Florida at the University's Commencement Ceremony on April 27, 2008. The hooding ceremony will recognize more than 120 candidates in a prestigious setting with their family, friends and special guests. Among the candidates will be 34 graduating with honors. Candidates will be hooded by College of Law faculty and administrators.

The tradition of hooding the candidates is patterned from medieval customs with the use of academic regalia which reflects the status, scholastic achievement and study disciplines of its wearer. Colors are associated with different academic disciplines as seen in the trimmings of doctoral gowns, the edging of their hoods and the tassels of caps worn by candidates. Distinctions between gowns and hoods indicate the type of degree held by the wearer.

The doctoral gown is faced with a broad strip of velvet and has crossbars of velvet on each sleeve. The bars may be of black velvet or of colored velvet indicative of the degree's discipline and agreeing with the border of the hood. For law, the color is purple.

Hoods are worn by those holding graduate degrees. The doctoral hood is longer and more elaborate than the master's hood. The lining of the hood is silk in the official colors of the institution conferring the degree. For instance, for FAMU, the lining of the hood is orange and green. However, faculty members who hold degrees from another college or university wear the colors of his or her alma mater. The FAMU College of Law faculty represent twenty-one different institutions.

The hooding ceremony will take place in the Exhibition Building at Osceola Heritage Park, located off of US 192 next to the Silver Spurs Arena. Parking is available in grass-lots near the building at \$5.00 per vehicle. The event is open to the public.