Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University
College of Law

Annual Hooding Ceremony
Spring 2026

Thursday, May 7, 2026
10 a.m.

Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts
Walt Disney Theater
Orlando, Florida

Hooding Program

Cecil Howard, J.D., Presiding
Associate Provost & Interim Dean, College of Law

Processional

Meditation ..... Rev. Robert Spooney, Th.D.
Pastor, Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church

Welcome ..... Dean Cecil Howard

Remarks ..... Victor Young
FAMU Trustee

Remarks ..... Marva Johnson, J.D.
University President

Introduction of Speaker ..... Dean Howard

Featured Speaker ..... Rosalyn "Sia" Baker-Barnes, Esq.
President, The Florida Bar

Special Recognitions ..... Dean Howard

Hooding Ceremony ..... Patricia Broussard, J.D.
Cynthia Ramkellewan, J.D., LL.M.
Professors of Law

Ann Marie Cavazos, J.D.
Interim Associate Dean for Academic Affairs & Professor of Law

Closing Remarks ..... Dean Howard

Reflections ..... Jossie Louis
2025-2026 Student Graduation Chair

Alma Mater

Recessional

(The audience will remain seated during the Processional and Recessional.)

2025 - 2026 Candidates for Hooding

Khaleed Abdul-Haqq

Georgia N. Adams*

AndreenAshley Anderson

Brooke Lee Azar*

Luis David Baltazar

Bengy Baptiste

Aryione' Sherice Bass

Samuel Manuel Bensayan

Kaylee Danielle Blanco

Rashel Marie Bonaparte*

Hailey Jade Borchers-Upchurch+

Amiya Jade Bowers

Enya A. Brackins++

Kesari Elizabeth Bush*^

Kayla-Christie R. Carestia***

Carl Chandlor Cartwright**

Vickie Lee Cartwright**

Ibrahim Ceesay*

Yusimy D. Viltres Ceruto

Anne Therwenda Charles

Kaylah Iyanna Clark**

Alexa Coronado-McClain*+

Richell Steffanny De Jesus*

Brian Evans Dorvil

Carina Belle Draper

Asia Danielle Drisdom

Anelson Christopher Dubuisson

Lauryn Olivia Durrah^+

Crystal Gina Eugene

Sarah Jane Falkowski+

Adia Marie Field-Ridley

Beau A. Fitzgerald

Destiny L. Ford*

Tyler Drew Foster

Julhi Ann Francis-Singh+

Nicole Andrea Garcia

Gregnel Garcon

Faith N. Gaudi

Jephte Sebastian Gauthier*+

Cynthia Rose Germain

James Riley Gibson*

Vincent Gonzalez

Adriana Marie Griffin*

Stefania Grillo Quintero*

Matthew Barry Hamel

Wesley Michael Harris*

Drake Heins

Yanira C. Hernandez

Lineca Honoré^

Shamel M. Jackson+

Jaylnn Gabrielle Jones^

Rana Yahya Kiwan+**

Timothy A. Kratzer

Gabriella Lahens

*** - Summa Cum Laude

** - Magna Cum Laude * - Cum Laude

+ - December 2025 (Fall) Candidate ++ - August 2026 (Summer) Candidate

^ - Veteran/Military

The cumulative grade point average on file at the time of application for graduation (usually the term prior to the term in which the student intends to graduate) will be used to determine eligibility and designate graduation honors in commencement program. However, the student's final cumulative grade point average (usually the last term in which the student graduated) will be used to list the graduation honors on the student's final transcript.

2025 - 2026 Candidates for Hooding

Amie Marie Larosa

Azadeh Larsen+

Kayla Nicole Lee^**

Melissa E. Legrande

Darci Elizabeth Lewis

Taylor Colleen Lindo

Jossie B. Louis*

Teneesha Kawana Lowe

Rogeena Renee Lynch*

Hunter Lynn Maples*

Nestor Philip Clarke Mercado^+

Brooks Chester McConnell

Myka Andrea McFarlane*

Andrew Stuart McMann^

Cami Melson

Kaylyn Mills

Briana Napoleon*

Justice Michael Nasuti

Amber Kiara Newsome

Malia Jonae Nix^

Matthew James Novack

Nicholas James Oropeza

Jeffrey S. Parson

Zurielle Precious Payen

Marco Alejandro Perez

Kevin M. Puldon+

Raymond Jackson Ravis*

Robert Thomas Ray^

Brenden James Rendo

Gabrielle Suzanne Ribeiro*

Angelina G. Ruiz++

Anna Russu+

Yarilix Marie Santos Perez+

Lynnette R. Satterfield*+

Janessa Siegel++

Aaliyah Dechanta Sims

Emily Eugenie Smith

Aaliyah Steward

Clint Jack Streicher*

Jillian Rose Strelitz*

Savitri Chavon Thomas-Nelson

Onexia Thompson

Isabella Diana Tingo*

Tuyet-Nhi Ngoc Tu

Makayla Janelle Vaughns*

Monica Lissette Vazac*

Telisa J. Washington

Angel Autria White^

Bryce Andrew Williams+

Keen Hussen Williams, Jr.

Lauren Rose Woodward

*** - Summa Cum Laude
** - Magna Cum Laude
* - Cum Laude
+ - December 2025 (Fall) Candidate
++ - August 2026 (Summer) Candidate
^ - Veteran/Military

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Faculty

Robert H. Abrams
Professor of Law

Kambria Anderson
Instructor, Academic Success and Bar Preparation Program

Patricia A. Broussard
Professor of Law

Jeffery M. Brown
Associate Professor of Law

Bettie Collazo
Visiting Instructor, Legal Research and Writing

Christopher Carlyle
Visiting Professor of Law

Eunice Caussade-Garcia
Associate Instructor, Legal Clinic and Field Placement

Ann Marie Cavazos
Interim Associate Dean for Academic Affairs & Professor of Law

Denise Cespedes
Assistant Professor of Law

Kara Consalo
Assistant Professor of Law

Markita D. Cooper
Professor of Law

Kim Crag-Chaderton
Associate Instructor, Legal Clinic and Field Placement

Claire Dew
Instructor, Academic Success and Bar Preparation Program

Mark Dorosin
Director, Legal Clinic and Field Placement & Associate Professor of Law

Angela Ferguson
Visiting Instructor, Legal Research and Writing

Jonathan Fineman
Associate Professor of Law

C. Peter Goplerud
Visiting Professor of Law

LaTasha Green-Cobb
Visiting Instructor, Legal Research and Writing

Cassandra Harris-Starks
Interim Director, Legal Research and Writing & Instructor

William D. Henslee
Professor of Law

Areto Imoukhuede
Professor of Law

Darryll K. Jones
Professor of Law

Kafi Kennedy-Swanson
Instructor, Academic Success and Bar Preparation Program

Lundy R. Langston
Professor of Law

Jeremy I. Levitt
Professor of Law &Distinguished Professor of International Law

Reginald Mitchell, Sr.
Director of Strategic Initiatives & Associate Instructor

LeRoy Pernell
Professor of Law

Shiv N. Persaud
Associate Professor of Law

Cynthia Ramkellewan
Assistant Professor of Law

Rhonda Reaves
Professor of Law

Gail Richmond
Visiting Instructor

Linda Rohrbaugh
Assistant Professor of Law

Omar Saleem
Professor of Law

Marlese Wells
Assistant Director & Associate Instructor, Academic Success and Bar Preparation Program

Eurilynne A. Williams
Director, Academic Success and Bar Preparation Program & Associate Professor of Law

Kadean Wilson
Visiting Instructor, Legal Research and Writing

Academic Regalia

Patterned from medieval customs, today's academic regalia reflect the status, scholastic achievement and study discipline of its wearer. Colors are associated with different disciplines as seen in the trimmings of doctoral gowns and the edging of their hoods and in 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. Thus, for law, the border 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, at Florida A&M University, the lining of the hood is orange and green. However, faculty members who hold a degree from another college or university wear the colors of their alma mater. The distinction should be made that the edging of the hood is in colors representing the wearer's discipline, but the lining of the hood is in colors representing the wearer's alma mater.

Members of the law school's faculty hold degrees from several institutions. Some of those institutions and their distinctive hood-linings are represented in the rainbow of colors displayed on the faculty's regalia:

Barry University – Black, Red, Silver;
Columbia University – Light Blue, White Chevron;
Duke University – Royal, White Chevron;
Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University – Orange, Green;
Florida State University – Garnet, Gold Chevron;
University of Florida – Orange, Navy Blue Chevron;
Georgetown University – "Steele" Grey, Navy Blue;
Howard University – Blue, White Chevron;
Indiana University – Cream, Crimson;
Inter-American University – Green, Gold;
University of Kansas – Blue, Crimson;
Mercer University – Orange, Black;
University of Miami – Orange, Forest, White Chevron;
University of Michigan – Maize, Azure Blue Chevron;
University of Minnesota – Antique Gold, Cardinal Chevron;
North Carolina Central University – Cardinal, Gray Chevron;
University of North Carolina – Carolina Blue, White Chevron;
The Ohio State University – Scarlett, Gray Chevron;
Pepperdine University – Royal, Orange Chevron;
Stanford University – Cardinal;
Temple University – White, Red Chevron;
University of Virginia – Navy, Orange Chevron;
University of Wisconsin – Cardinal.

Rosalyn "Sia" Baker-Barnes, Esq.



President, The Florida Bar

Rosalyn "Sia" Baker-Barnes is a Shareholder at Searcy Denney Scarola Barnhart & Shipley, P.A., and the Chairperson of the firm's Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee. Ms. Baker-Barnes is Board-Certified in Civil Trial Law by the Florida Bar, and is recognized by US News & World Report as one of the "Best Lawyers in America," by Lawdragon as one of America's "500 Leading Plaintiff Consumer Lawyers," by Florida Super Lawyers magazine as a top lawyer in the state, by Florida Trend magazine as a "Legal Elite," and by the Daily Business Review as one of South Florida's Inaugural "Top 20 Women in Law."

Committed to professionalism, civility and service, Ms. Baker-Barnes is the President of The Florida Bar, the first African-American female to serve in this role in The Florida Bar's history, dating back to 1889. The Florida Bar is the organization governing all lawyers licensed by the Florida Supreme Court to practice law in the State, comprising over 114,000 members. In her six years of service on The Florida Bar Board of Governors, she served as Chairperson of the board's Strategic Planning, Legislation, and Program Evaluation Committees and Co-Chair of the COVID-19 Pandemic Recovery Task Force. She is a three-time recipient of the Florida Bar President's Award of Merit for exemplary service on the board. Ms. Baker-Barnes is also active in The Florida Bar's Trial Lawyers Section, where she served for many years as a member of its Executive Council.

Ms. Baker-Barnes earned her law degree from the Florida State University College of Law, where she was awarded the prestigious Virgil Hawkins Fellowship, a full scholarship for academic achievement. At the College of Law, she earned membership on the Moot Court Team. Selected as one of the "Final Four," as a first-year law student she argued before the justices of the Florida Supreme Court. In recognition of her excellence in advocacy, she was inducted into the Order of the Barristers. Ms. Baker-Barnes earned her undergraduate degree in Communication from The Florida State University, where she achieved Dean's List recognition. She interned for Governor Lawton Chiles in his Executive Office of Communication and completed an undergraduate cooperative program in Journalism at Florida A&M University.

History of the FAMU College of Law

The College of Law's rich tradition of excellence dates back to its original founding. On December 21, 1949, a division of law was established at the then Florida A&M College, and the first class was admitted in 1951. In 1966 the Florida Board of Control (later known as the Board of Regents) withdrew its permission for the institution to admit law students, and two years later, the law school graduated its last class and closed its doors. Between 1954 and 1968, the law school graduated 57 students -- men and women who have gone on to make significant contributions to the legal profession both within the state and throughout the nation.

The 2000 Florida Legislature unanimously passed legislation establishing a law school at Florida A&M University and on June 14, 2000, Governor Jeb Bush signed the bill into law. The College of Law admitted its first class in fall 2002. The degree of Juris Doctor was conferred upon members of the first class of the reestablished law school on April 30, 2005 in Tallahassee, Florida.

The College of Law opened at its permanent location in January 2006. The $30 million building was designed by Rhodes + Brito Architects, where partners Max Brito and Ruffin Rhodes are FAMU alumni. The four-story building includes 160,000 gross square feet, has 20 classrooms and 50 faculty offices, and an elaborate Moot Court Room used for mock trials, competitions and special events. The Law Library occupies half of the space and features over 300,000 volumes, one of the largest civil rights collections in the Southeast, and volumes from the original College of Law that were given to Florida State University in the late 1960's.

The FAMU College of Law received full accreditation from the American Bar Association in July 2009 and was re-accredited in 2014. During the 2025-2026 academic year, the College of Law had an enrollment of 387 students in its day and evening programs.



Acknowledgements

2026 Hooding Ceremony Committee

Omonze Adun
Claudine Beale
Sabrina Childress
Mildred Graham
Gwen Hayslip
Robin Holmes
Jossie Louis ('26, SBA Graduation Chair)

2026 Hooding Ceremony Volunteers

Dr. Loletha Akins
Sharron Cuningham
Destiny Chappell
Evett Collins
Monica De La Cruz
Alexis Flowers
Briya Flowers
Theodore Greer
Dr. Tocoa Hampton
Aubrey Hayslip
Dr. Kelsey Holland
Deborah Holmes
Calandra Jackson
Ayinde Johnson
Kayla Joseph
Schella Legros
Joseph Magloire
Michael Mclean
Anna Mercado
Christopher Miller
DaeXia Modeste
Teresa Mulé
Alex Oquendo
Leanna O'Sullivan
Rachel Petrarca
Serena Sampson
Gregory Saunders
Achara Stone
Tré Wade
Jordan Williams

Faculty Hooders

Patricia Broussard, Professor of Law
Cynthia Ramkellewan, Assistant Professor of Law

Hooding Announcer

Ann Marie Cavazos, Interim Associate Dean for Academic Affairs & Professor of Law

The FAMU College of Law also thanks the following individuals and organizations for their contributions to this event:

Angela Williams, FAMU Barnes & Noble Bookstore
DunbarWalker Productions
Grad Images

Alma Mater

College of love and charity
We gather 'round thy noble shrine;
We lift our voice in praise to thee,
And ask a blessing all divine.

CHORUS
FAM-U! FAM-U! I love thee!
I'll fight and win whate'er the battle be,
The Orange and the Green thy sons shall e'er defend
And loyal to thy voice of love attend
FAM-U! FAM-U! I love thee!

On gridiron, diamond, track and field,
Thy sons the vict'ry never yield,
And while they tread a broader life
Thy love shall stay them in the strife.

(repeat chorus)

God ever keep us true to thee;
Thy faith that truth shall make men free,
Shall guide thy loyal sons aright
And fend them thru the skeptic night.

(repeat chorus)