Student Bar Association Welcomes Graduates and Families During Annual Hooding Reception



The Florida A&M University College of Law Student Bar Association (SBA) hosted its signature Hooding Reception on Wednesday, May 6, 2026, welcoming graduates and their families for an evening dedicated to celebrating academic achievement, reflecting on the law school journey, and recognizing the community of support that contributed to each student's success.

Held in the College of Law Atrium, the reception honored Juris Doctor graduates and degree candidates from the Fall 2025, Spring 2026, and Summer 2026 classes. Faculty, administrators, staff, alumni, and family members gathered alongside the graduates to commemorate the milestone occasion ahead of the College's 21st Hooding Ceremony.

The evening began with guided tours of the College of Law for visiting family members and guests who had not previously experienced the campus. Attendees then enjoyed light refreshments while viewing the traditional “Then and Now” presentation, a sentimental showcase featuring childhood photographs of graduates displayed alongside their current professional headshots.

Second-year law student and incoming Graduation Chair Michael McLean served as master of ceremonies for the event. Special remarks were delivered by Associate Provost and Interim Dean Cecil Howard and Associate Dean for Student Services and College of Law alumna Marjorie Thomas. Outgoing Law Review Editor-in-Chief Kayla Clark delivered the keynote address, offering reflections on leadership, perseverance, and the shared experiences of the graduating class.

During the program, the SBA also recognized several individuals and departments for their continued support and contributions throughout the academic year. Honorees included the Offices of Advancement, Information Technology, Financial Aid, Student Affairs, Administrative Services, Custodial Services, and Security. The organization additionally recognized its faculty advisor, Professor Patricia Broussard, for her mentorship and dedication to student leadership initiatives.

One of the evening's most anticipated moments was the unveiling of the printed and framed Class of 2026 Composite, continuing a tradition first established in 2009. The composite was

permanently installed in the Hall of Students the following week, marking one of the fastest installation turnarounds in recent years.

The reception also featured the Class Video presentation, a tradition that has become a meaningful hallmark of the graduation season. Coordinated by the Graduation Chair, the video included scenes of graduates symbolically “signing off” by writing their signatures across plexiglass panels while a heartfelt farewell message played in the background. The presentation also incorporated images from the first-year orientation in 2023, offering a full-circle reflection on the graduates' journey through law school.

