

The Florida Bar News

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Briefs

FIVE LAW STUDENTS ENROLLED in Florida A&M University's College of Law's new death penalty clinic attended the June 15 Commission on Capital Cases' Advanced Capital Cases Seminar in Orlando. Mentor and Associate Professor Karin Moore accompanied by students Harold Bacchus, Stephanie Ciesco, Victoria Harmon, Jerry Jenkins, and Laura Klossner attended the one-day seminar, which focused on the judicial perspective of death penalty cases. They were among the 81 lawyers, judges, and others who boned up on the complex issues involved in death penalty trials and appeals. Topics included the perspective from trial courts and the Florida Supreme Court, preparing for federal appeals, writing briefs and preparing for oral argument, and advance legal research techniques. Speakers included Florida Supreme Court Justice Charles Wells, federal district Judge Adalberto Jordon, 18th Circuit Judge O.H. Eaton, Jr., Third District Court of Appeal Judge David M. Gersten, and Kristine Trudeau of WestLaw. The FAMU clinic was formed after an appeal from Commission on Capital Cases Executive Director Roger Maas that asked law school deans for help in preparing new lawyers for the special challenges of death penalty legal work. That in turn came after Supreme Court Justices Barbara Pariente and Raoul Cantero criticized the poor quality of legal work done by some private attorneys handling collateral appeal death penalty work. The commission's annual death penalty seminar also addressed that problem by providing an annual education forum for prosecutors, public defenders, private attorneys, and judges involved in death penalty cases.

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