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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Award-Winning Attorney Salesia Smith-Gordon Makes History with Largest Endowment Gift to FSU Law



August 18, 2022 - (West Palm Beach, FL) - Florida State University College of Law Alumna Salesia V. Smith Gordon, Esq. ('92) gifts \$200,000 to the college, making her the first Black alumna to donate a gift of this magnitude in the law school's history. In honor of her gift, Attorney Smith-Gordon, an award-winning personal injury trial attorney and legal analyst on Dan Abram's Law & Crime Network, will have her portrait installed in the Law School Rotunda in September.

The \$200,000 endowed gift will be used to support cultural diversity programs and scholarships for Black law students who will attend FSU College of Law for years to come. "I have benefited greatly from the education I received while a student at FSU Law and opportunities as an alumna," said Smith-Gordon, who is also one of the few African American female Florida Supreme Court Certified Circuit Civil Mediators. "As an African American female lawyer, I felt it was of the utmost importance to find a way to help ensure that Black students, especially women, had the support and resources needed for academic success."

Smith-Gordon's portrait will be painted and unveiled on Thursday, September 29, 2022, at 3 p.m. in the Law School Rotunda. She will be the first Black law alumna to grace the walls of the college. This legacy of excellence began with her mother, Attorney Jeraldine Williams (Smith), a 1981 law alumna, becoming the first mother-daughter duo to graduate from FSU's College of Law.

"I couldn't think of a better way to end my tenure as president of the FSU College of Law's Black Alumni Network than to give back in such a meaningful way," she stated. Smith-Gordon, who graduated in 1992, will join other distinguished Black alumni, including nationally recognized attorneys Benjamin Crump, Daryl Parks, and Sean Pittman.

The accomplished solo practitioner and public speaker, Smith-Gordon says, "she enjoys her work and hopes to influence others to join the legal profession." A life member of the National Bar Association, a Florida Justice Association Eagle, and an American Bar Association Fellow, Salesia Smith-Gordon serves the legal profession in a myriad of ways, including co-founding and serving as inaugural President of the FSU College of Law Black Alumni Network, Florida's first law school alumni network for black graduates. She has earned many awards and recognitions for her legal advocacy, community activities, and philanthropy.

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ABOUT SALESIA SMITH-GORDON, ESQ.

As founder of her boutique personal injury law firm, Salesia Smith-Gordon has multiple layers of success. For more than 28 years, she has served as an advocate of justice for her clients, a support system for her professional peers, and a trusted advisor within the community. The Law Office of Salesia V. Smith-Gordon, headquartered in downtown West Palm Beach, has won several multimillion-dollar awards for her injured clients by repeatedly demonstrating persistent dedication inside and outside the courtroom. A resident of Palm Beach County, FL, this adventure-seeking philanthropist sits on multiple local and state boards, serving as a trailblazer for civil justice and policy changes for the community. She is married to Town of Haverhill Vice Mayor, Lawrence Gordon. Learn more at SmithGordonLaw.com.

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