

## **FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LAW TO OFFER GRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAM FOR FOREIGN LAWYERS**

The American Bar Association has approved a new LL.M. program for foreign lawyers at the Florida State University College of Law. The program, which will offer FSU's first graduate level law degree, will begin in fall 2003.

The one-year program will admit up to seven foreign students with legal degrees from their native countries. The students will take courses from the College of Law curriculum to gain a better understanding of the U.S. legal system.

According to Donna Christie, Associate Dean for International Programs, the LL.M. program recognizes the importance of the U.S. legal system in the era of globalization. "U.S. constitutional and administrative law have served as models for many emerging nations," she says, "and U.S. commercial and transactional law and documentation are used in many commercial centers of the world."

Each LL.M. candidate will work with a faculty advisor to design a program of courses tailored to his or her personal and professional interests. LL.M. students will be encouraged to develop relationships with the faculty and J.D. students at the law school. According to Christie, such interaction will enrich the learning environment of the law school, particularly for students with an interest in international law.

The foreign students who complete the program requirements will be awarded a Master of Law degree (LL.M.) in American Law for Foreign Lawyers.

The LL.M. program is College of Law's second major venture into international law in two years. The law school launched its Certificate Program in International Law in the fall 2002.

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