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Center welcomes legal pioneer, former American Bar Association president Martha Barnett as its Knight Fellow in-Residence

GAINESVILLE, Fla.—Martha Barnett, former American Bar Association president and retired senior partner at Holland & Knight law firm; will serve as the Bob Graham Center’s Knight Fellow in-Residence for spring 2015.

After graduating from UF, Barnett became the first female attorney hired by Holland & Knight where she has practiced law for 40 years. Her primary areas of practice were administrative, governmental law and public policy. Barnett was elected president of the American Bar Association in 2000, only the second woman to head the ABA in its history. Barnett also served alongside first lady Hillary Clinton on the inaugural ABA Commission on Women in the Profession which has produced leading research on women in the legal profession.

Considered a groundbreaker for her work championing minorities, Barnett was a member of the legal team that negotiated a legislative settlement for survivors of the 1923 Rosewood massacre.

She has been appointed to several constitutional commissions including the Constitution Revision Commission by Gov. Lawton Chiles and the Taxation & Budget Reform Commission by Governors Bob Martinez and Charlie Crist. In 2004, Barnett was named one of the “Most Influential Floridians” by Florida Trend. In 2006, she was named by the National Law Journal as one of the “100 Most Influential Lawyers in America” and is consistently named to America’s best lawyer lists.

Barnett’s honors also include two recognitions from the University of Florida. She was named an “Alumna of Outstanding Achievement” in 1997 and a “Distinguished Alumnus” in 2006. Barnett

was selected as a Bob Graham Center Citizen of the Year award honoree in 2013 for her distinguished legal career and her efforts to protect the legal rights of all Floridians.

Funded as part of a three-year \$3 million grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the fellowship program enables UF's Bob Graham Center for Public Service to bring public and private sector leaders to campus to work with faculty and students.

While in residence at UF, Barnett will meet with faculty and staff in the Levin College of Law and She will also be available for career advising at the law school and will meet with several student organizations during her stay ranging from the Phi Alpha Delta Pre-law Society to the John Marshall Bar Association and various multicultural associations. She will speak to all first-year law students as part of their Introduction to the Law program.

In addition to her work with the law school, Barnett will also work with the Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research and will serve as a guest lecturer in the Warrington College of Business for Ethics in Global Business and for MBA students in the Poe Center for Business Ethics. Barnett is also scheduled to speak to the university's General Counsel Attorneys.

Among other duties, Barnett will work with the Gainesville community, meeting with Three Rivers Legal Services, the Gainesville Chamber of Commerce, the 8th Judicial Circuit Bar Association, the Josiah T. Walls Bar Association and the two local Inns of Court.