

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER

**Post Office Box 9294
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70813-9294**

**Office of Publications and Electronic Media
[225] 771-5815
FAX [225] 771-6257**

News from the Southern University Law Center

**June 3, 2010
For immediate release**

**Contact: Rachel L. Emanuel, Director
Publications and Electronic Media**

SULC Alum Confirmed As First Female U.S. Attorney in Louisiana

Lafayette attorney Stephanie Finley, '91, was recently selected by President Barack Obama and confirmed by the United States Senate, to serve as the United States Attorney for the Western District of Louisiana.

Finley is the first woman in the state of Louisiana appointed as a U.S. Attorney

In this capacity, she is the chief law enforcement officer for 42 of the 64 parishes in the state and is charged with the prosecution of criminal cases brought by the Federal government and the prosecution and defense of civil cases in which the United States is a party

Prior to her appointment, she served as the senior litigation counsel for the district as well as the acting deputy criminal chief for the Lafayette Office. In her fourteen and a half years with the Department of Justice, Finley has prosecuted cases involving white-collar crimes, violent crimes, environmental crimes, drug trafficking, public corruption, and tax evasion. She was also responsible for the training and mentoring program for the district.

In addition, Finley is also a Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Air Force. As a judge advocate in the Air Force, she is currently assigned to Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana, where she serves as an assistant staff judge advocate and the senior individual

mobilization augmentee. Her duties include serving as a hearing officer for criminal cases and administrative discharge boards. She also provides legal assistance services for active duty, reservists and dependants of the military as well as working in the areas of contract and labor law and military justice. Prior to being assigned to Barksdale AFB, Finley served four years on active duty at England Air Force Base and Shaw Air Force Base.

Finley is a magna cum laude graduate of Grambling State University, where she received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and was selected as one of the nation's Distinguished Graduates of the Reserve Officer Training Corps. She is a cum laude graduate of Southern University Law Center, where she was the editor-in-chief of the *Southern University Law Review*.

Finley has been recognized for her longstanding dedication and commitment to the community and was honored as a 2006 "Top 20 Under 40" recipient, one of Lafayette's "Women Who Means Business," and recently honored by the National Association of University Women as a 2010 "Person of Excellence." She serves as the criminal bar examiner for the Louisiana Bar and is a frequent youth conference lecturer on the local and state level, sharing with young adults and students the perils of drug involvement.

Finley is also a member of numerous service organizations, including Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, where she has served as a past president of the Eta Chi Omega Chapter, a member of the South Central Regional Heritage Committee, and various other regional conference committees.

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