Rosewood Massacre: The Enduring Legacy Then and Now

Saturday, October 23, 2021, 8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.
Florida Bar Course Number 5635

OVERVIEW
Rosewood, once a small, self-sufficient Black community in rural Florida became the site of a racially motivated massacre in January of 1923 that resulted in the deaths of several its residents and the destruction of the town. The survivors of Rosewood fled, never to return, and Rosewood faded into history.

In 1994, the Florida Legislature enacted the Rosewood Claims bill appropriating $2.1 million to compensate former residents for their losses and to establish the Rosewood Family Scholarship Fund. The State of Florida specifically recognized “an equitable obligation to the redress the injuries sustained as a result of the destruction of Rosewood.”

Today, Rosewood is more than a story of lynching and destruction. It is about the decades’ long road to recognition and compensation and the courage of “living witnesses” and their descendants to tell their story. Almost a century after the massacre, as the country deals with its legacy of slavery and racial discrimination, the lessons of Rosewood are important benchmarks of what is possible when dealing with issues such as reparations, intergenerational transfers of wealth, riots, policing and others.

FEATURED SPEAKER
Martha Walters Barnett, now retired from the active practice of law, lives in Tallahassee, Florida with her architect husband Rick. Ms. Barnett was a partner in the firm of Holland & Knight, LLP for over four decades, serving as the chair of the Public Law Section and of the firm’s Directors Committee. She has extensive associations in the Bar including serving as the chair of the American Bar Association House of Delegates – the first woman to hold this position, as president of the American Bar Association in 2000-2001, and as president of the American Bar Endowment.
Ms. Barnett was a member of several constitutional commissions in the Florida. She was the chair of the Florida Commission on Ethics, a member of the 1998 Florida Constitution Revision Commission, and the 1994 and 2008 Florida Taxation & Budget Reform Commissions, among others. She received the Medal of Honor from the Florida Bar Foundation.

Ms. Barnett is a graduate of Tulane University (B.A. American Studies, cum laude) and the University of Florida Levin College of Law (J.D. cum laude). She was a member of the Tulane University Board of Administrators and in 2001 was honored with its Distinguished Alumni Award. In 2006 Ms. Barnett received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the University of Florida.

She continues to be involved in the community and the legal profession, currently serving on the Board of Directors and as board chair of the Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare and the UF Graham Center Council of Advisors.

### CLE Credit

- General: 1.5 hours
- Bias Elimination: 1.5 hours

### Certification Credit

- City, County and Local Government Law: 1.5 hours