



### ECI Honors 2017 Marcia Johnson Outstanding Public Service Award Recipients

ECI hosted the Marcia Johnson Outstanding Public Service Award Reception to honor this year's honorees: Georgia Provost, Community Leader; Natasha Malone, TSU Student Leader; and Annam Community Development Corporation, Community Organization. Ms. Opal Mitchell Lee, ECI Property Preservation Project's namesake, also received an award of special recognition for her work as a civil rights activist. The purpose of the Marcia Johnson Outstanding Public Service Award is to, among other things, recognize TSU students, community leaders and organizations that are committed to service in support of traditionally disenfranchised communities. The award recognizes their "strong voices at the table," which serve to improve the lives of individuals in our communities. The award is named after Professor Marcia Johnson, founder of ECI, who exemplifies what it means to be that voice at the table. She is a mentor many and an inspiration to us all.



### ECI Participates in Emancipation Park Grand Opening and Juneteenth Celebrations

On June 17, 2017 and June 19, 2017 the Earl Carl Institute was among the many community resource organizations who participated in the Grand re-opening and Juneteenth Celebrations at the newly renovated Emancipation Park. As a participating organization, staff and students distributed information on programs and legal services offered by ECI. Emancipation Park, located in the heart of Houston's Third Ward, is the oldest park site in the City of Houston. The parcel was purchased for \$800 in 1872 by a group of black community leaders (Jack Yates, Elias Dibble, Richard Allen & Richard Brock) in celebration of Juneteenth (the anniversary of the emancipation of African-Americans in Texas on June 19, 1865). Today, Emancipation Park, has plans to serve as ground-zero for a variety of programs serving all ages in the areas of education, wellness, fitness, and sports. In addition to programming, Emancipation Park will also host seminars, town hall meetings, conferences, concerts, plays, exhibitions, festivals and the Juneteenth Festival.



### TMSL Street Law Program Conducts Four Day Program at Teen Drop-In Center

The TMSL Street Law Program partnered with Ambassadors for Christ Youth Ministries (AFC) to conduct a four day law-related education program at a local teen drop-in center for underserved minority youth. AFC is a non-profit organization that focuses on providing youth-centered solutions to at-risk youth populations residing in Houston's inner city. AFC provides youth development mentoring and counseling services to at-risk, underprivileged and displaced youth in partnership with community schools, churches, businesses and other youth serving organizations. TMSL Street Law students taught daily interactive lessons on law that culminated in an award ceremony where participating youth received certificates of participation in the TMSL Street Law program. A total of 20 youth ages 13-18 participated in the week long program.



### ECI Awarded Simmons Foundation Grant

ECI recently received a \$60,000 grant for a 24 month period from the Simmons Foundation for general operations. The purpose of the grant is to support ECI's youth focused work. Specifically, ECI proposed to reduce disproportionality in systems where disenfranchised populations are overrepresented, through research, education and advocacy that promotes systemic change. The funds will allow the Earl Carl Institute's Juvenile Justice Project (JJP) to expand its policy work by funding a Research and Writing Policy Analyst to assist with work on improving juvenile justice and education through even more systemic and impactful efforts.

The mission of the Simmons Foundation is to partner with organizations that strengthen women, youth and families while building an educated, tolerant and resilient community. The goal of the Foundation's Youth portfolio is to support holistic and equitable approaches to improve the lives of vulnerable youth. In particular, juveniles of color, involved in foster care, over disciplines and LGBT youth will benefit from these efforts to increase equity across populations.

### ECI Supported Legislation Passes Texas House of Representatives in HB 7

As part of the 2017 legislative session work, ECI recommended providing stricter rules on CPS and the Courts to improve kinship placement practices in CPS cases as a means of reducing disproportionality. African American children are overrepresented in CPS removals, foster care placement and length of stay in the child welfare system.

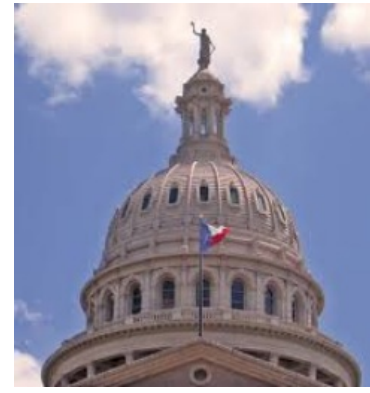
#### FACTS:

As compared to traditional foster care placements--

- Kinship placements have a 70% lower rate of disruption
- Children in parental or relative care have higher scores in communication and daily living
- Children placed in kinship care have a lower risk of behavior problems



JUVENILE JUSTICE PROJECT  
EARL CARL INSTITUTE



#### ECI Recommended:

1. Requiring that the court make an affirmative finding at each CPS hearing that placement with a relative would significantly impair the child's physical or emotional wellbeing.
2. Remove expenses associated with qualifying for relative placement and impediments for qualifying for a monthly stipend to serve as a relative placement.

#### Results:

1. Though not quite as stringent as what was proposed--findings are now required as to evidence to support placement with a relative.
2. More funding was provided to improve opportunities for relative placements.

Forward

Follow Us



Earl Carl Institute for Legal & Social Policy, Inc.  
3100 Cleburne St.  
Houston, Texas 77004  
713.313.1139

Update your [Email Preferences](#) or [Unsubscribe](#)

vertical  
response  
A DELUXE COMPANY  
Free Email Marketing >>