

Texas Southern University
Thurgood Marshall School of Law



INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL
AND IMMIGRATION LAW

PROGRESS REPORT



Professor Craig Jackson, Co-Director

Professor Fernando C3lon-Navarro, Co-Director

3100 Cleburne Street
Houston, Texas 77004
713-313-1098



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February 27, 2004

Hello to all of our colleagues and friends:

We have just completed our first year and a half of existence, and if the last 18 months are any indication, the future for the Institute for International and Immigration Law looks bright. We wanted to take this opportunity to inform you of our activities and accomplishments to date.

In the area of academics, the Institute awarded 8 certificates to students graduating from Thurgood Marshall School of Law who had completed our rigorous international and immigration certification requirements. Students are required to complete 11 hours of course work with a 3.0 average for international and/or immigration courses, and a 2.5 grade point average overall. We anticipate qualifying several students this year for the certification as well.

Our certification program allows students receiving certification to market themselves in the job search as having specialized concentrations in either immigration law or international law, or both. Though our program is new, several students from the first class have indicated that their job prospects were positively affected by the certification. As our program grows we anticipate that the value of a certificate in international and immigration law from our program will grow as well.

One of the reasons our certification program has and will continue being a success is our Turbo Course program of intersession classes. Each year, the Law School offers a variety of courses in international and immigration law over a two and a half week period between the end of the spring semester testing period and the beginning of the summer session. The Turbo Courses allow students course selection flexibility. The program also allows the Law School to offer a variety of specialty courses in the two areas, and to invite scholars from around the nation to the campus to teach our students.

This year, our Turbo Course faculty will include Professors Placido Gomez (International Evidence) and Lee Teran of St. Mary's University Law School (Immigration), and Professor Sherrie Russell Brown of the University of Florida Levin School of Law (War Crime Tribunals—International Criminal Law). We selected several outstanding members from the international, immigration, and alumni communities to serve on our Board of Advisors. This board will provide valuable assistance and advice in a variety of areas and projects undertaken by the Institute. Mr. James Okorafor, a graduate of Thurgood Marshall School of Law, kindly agreed to serve as board chair at a dinner meeting held last October to introduce our board and Institute faculty to each other. Our board consists of the following persons:

The Honorable Gabrielle McDonald Iran-United States Claims Tribunal The Hague The Netherlands	Bill Fong Fong and Associates Houston, Texas 77036
Altaf Adam Law Offices of Altaf Adam Houston, Texas	Doi Heckler 3 Shannon Circle Houston, Texas 77024
Dawn Lin Law Offices of Lin and Associates Houston, Texas	Maurice Hope Thompson News Director - KTSU-FM Radio Houston, Texas 77004
James Okorafor Okorafor and Mgbarahan Houston, Texas	Professor Jeremy Levitt DePaul University School of Law Chicago, Illinois
The Honorable Gordon Quan Houston City Council Quan, Burdette and Perez Houston, Texas	Jose Perez Quan, Burdette and Perez Houston, Texas
Professor Placido Gomez St. Mary's University School of Law San Antonio, Texas	

One of the principal purposes of the Institute was to provide a forum for the discussion, and perhaps, solution to problems in international and immigration law. Last year, we held one of the first conferences in the world on the African Union, the political and economic integration project that went into effect in July of 2002.

Our conference was held on the weekend of February 22-23 of 2003, at Texas Southern University and at the Hyatt Regency Houston. Scholars from the United States, Canada, and South Africa took part. The guest speaker was Thandabantu Nhlapo, the Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of the Republic of South Africa to the United States. Ambassador Nhlapo's remarks and those of the panelists sitting on five separate panels dealt with a variety of issues relating to African development and continental cooperation. Papers from the conference are being published in the next edition of the Iowa Journal of Transnational Law and Contemporary Problems, one of the nation's more prestigious international law journals. Listed below and on the next page are the panel participants and the panels on which they served.

Panel I - Human Rights, Governance and the Rule of Law

John Brittain - Moderator
Professor of Law, Thurgood Marshall School of Law

Mr. Curtis Doebbler
Consultant, International Human Rights

Adrien Wing
Professor of Law, The University of Iowa

Dr. Peter Schroth
Professor of International Finance, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Panel II - Conflict Prevention, Management, and Resolution

Dr. Sanders Anderson - Moderator and Participant
Professor School of Public Affairs, Texas Southern University

Dr. Jeremy Levitt
Professor of Law, DePaul University College of Law

Panel III - Economic Liberalization and Integration: Myth or Reality

Craig Jackson - Moderator and Presenter
Professor of Law, Thurgood Marshall School of Law

Max Chibundu
Professor of Law, University of Maryland College of Law
James Gathii
Professor of Law, Albany University

Panel IV - Political Unionism or Regional Oligarchy

Dr. Jeremy Levitt - Moderator
Professor of Law, DePaul University College of Law

Hank Richardson
Professor of Law, Temple University

Olodejo Olowu
Center for Civil & Human Rights, University of Notre Dame School of Law

Our friends are invited to view our web page, which is part of the Thurgood Marshall School of Law website (www.tsulaw.edu). By clicking on Institutes, one can reach our link. Inside our page is a general description of our programs, the latest activities of the Institute, and a links page, linking visitors to some of the more important links in international and immigration law. Hopefully, our site will become an important research source. This web page in general will continue to grow and develop in order to inform the outside world of the Institute and to provide useful resources for the international and immigration law researcher. In fact, abstracts from last year's African Union Conference are available on the web page.

This year, the Institute will produce a conference on immigration law titled "Immigration Law for the Non-Immigration Lawyer." Stay tuned to our web page for further information on the conference tentatively scheduled for March 19-20, 2004.

Our next project includes the production of a monograph series of occasional papers in the areas of immigration and international law and summer study abroad programs for our students. This includes one program in the works to send our students to The Hague, Netherlands, to study international tribunals with the guidance of our former faculty member, current board member, and former President of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, Judge Gabrielle McDonald. Judge McDonald, who is currently serving on the Iran-US Claims Tribunal, has graciously agreed to help design a summer intern/study program for our international law students. We expect this program to be up and running by summer of 2005.

Our program is new and we have accomplished a lot over the past year and a half. We are excited about the potential for development in the area of immigration law and international law via the Institute, but most importantly, we are focused on the mission of the Institute that includes the following goals:

- Prepare qualified and confident students trained for positions with law firms practicing international or immigration law; U.S. government agencies, foreign governments, and private organizations and foundations working to advance social and economic justice.
- Prepare well-educated students with an understanding of the complex issues related to international and immigration law.
- Provide a scholarly atmosphere for the student of international law and immigration law, and to provide forums for the discussion of problems facing those disciplines.

We welcome your interest and involvement in our programs.

All the best,

Professor Craig L. Jackson
Co-Director

Associate Dean Fernando Colón-Navarro
Co-Director