

TSU

YOUR MONTHLY THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW ELECTRONIC NEWS & INFORMATION SOURCE FROM THE OFFICE OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS – (713) 313-1197 November 2016

TMSL Family and Friends Ban Together to Support New Bar Initiatives

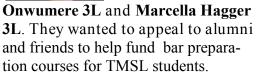
One of the most popular quotes from our namesake, Justice Thurgood Marshall, states "None of us got where we are solely by pulling ourselves up by our **bootstraps**. We got here because somebody - a parent, a teacher, an Ivy League crony or a few nuns - bent down and helped us pick up our boots."

TMSL alumni are the perfect example of a body of people who invest their money and commitment to help ensure the success of our students.



Recently we rolled out the "Bar Bridge Builder Fund," which many of you may have seen; but what you may not know, is

that this idea truly started with two students, **Kelechi**





Onwumere and Hagger stated that they were doing this to build advocate readiness as one investment can change the future.



Like many great visions, TMSL alumni wasted no time supporting this focused and purposeful initiative. At our initial September event for the DC Area Alumni Brunch the charge to support this bar appeal was led by TMSL alumni board member **Marchris Robinson**,

'92, who excited the attendees so much with his zeal and excitement for TMSL, that together \$65,000 was raised in gifts and pledges. Robinson's bar prep appeal was to a large group of alumni and friends, including TSU Board Chairman **Derrick Mitchell**, TSU President **Austin Lane**, and other TSU/TMSL alumni and friends.







The excitement about the Bar Bridge Builder program is spreading, and most rewarding, is that TMSL alumni continue, as they have in the past, to support our bar prep mission through consistently giving back to our students in tangible ways. As you think about how you may support this initiative, keep in mind, that support can come through a range of efforts.



For example, **Larry Taylor**, TMSL Class of 2008, advocated to the board of the Texas Trial Lawyers Association, of which he is a board member, for five \$1000 scholarships, which were awarded to five of our July 2016 Bar Takers.



Omar Vargas, TMSL Class of 2010, started a Facebook appeal for bar scholarships. His firm, the Law Office of Omar Vargas, PC, awarded five TMSL students with \$500 toward bar study expenses. **Vonda Bailey**, TMSL Class of 2014, contacted the school directly to ask how she could help, and ultimately awarded \$3500 in cash to one July 2016 bar taker.



This semester, a group of recent TMSL 2015 grads formed the Mainframe Bar Scholarship. This scholarship is intended to provide financial assistance to 3L students currently enrolled at TMSL that exhibit both financial need and dedication to diligent bar study, while demonstrating how they have been impacted by their time at TMSL—and they, in turn, have left their mark on the law school. \$3000 was awarded to one Feb 2017 bar taker and another Mainframe Bar Scholarship will be awarded to a July 2017 bar taker.











(L to R: Olivia Haigler, Reginald Wilson, Jr., Alexia McWhinney, Vanessa Ramirez, and Helen Ashegbeyeri)

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Our students take advantage of these gifts as the need for financial support in bar taking is a very real concern for them.

For example, most recently, **Peter Clarke**, Class of 1996, received 25 essay applications from our students for only two available \$1500 Bar Scholarships. Clarke not only awarded the two bar scholarships to the top 2 finalists, but also gifted all top four finalists with a \$300 gift certificate. In addition, Clarke invited all the finalists to have 24/7 access to his office for bar studies.



TMSL students are so committed to bar prep that many their student organization initiatives involve raising funds on their own. Through the Office of External Affairs, TMSL alum, Baldemar Gutierrez '77, makes an annual gift to both BLSA and HLSA of \$5000 each. This year, BLSA elected to use the funds of this gift to award its graduating members bar scholarships.

This brings us to a great point. Support does not always look financial, but sometimes it looks like a meal. For example, thank you to TMSL Alumni **Darrell Jordan '06**, **Alexia McWhinney '15**, **Reginald Wilson Jr.'15**, and **Reginald Harris '18**, for donating meals to our July 2016 Bar Takers.

Kudos to the hard work and dedication of the TMSL Office of Academic Support. **Marsha Griggs**, Assistant Dean of Academic Support / Bar Readiness and her team—**Ronda Harrison** and **Victoria McCoy**, Assistant Directors of Academic Support; **Zel Burns**, Senior Administrative Assistant—Legal; and a group of loyal volunteers are doing a wonderful job!

This semester has seen great excitement in the Office of External Affairs. Our students and our school are strongest, when our TMSL alumni and friends are involved. Thank you for your support!

To make a gift to the TMSL Bar Bridge Builder Fund, go to: https://tsu.thankyou4caring.org/tmslbbb







TO OUR NEWEST ATTORNEYS YOU PASSED!

Akeem Ayinde Alexandria Barrera Linda Aguilera Kyla Baxter Sophie Berain Demaris Betancourt Matthew Bourda Bradley Kendrick Judah Broussard Woodrow Brown Domingue Calhoun Anna Caltabiano David Caraway June Caudill Cecilia Charlton Zarina Cogbill Laurin Compton **Anthony Cornejo** Larandol Cowart **Jennifer Crawford** Kimbrely Dandridge Ashley DeHart Daniel DeLuna Natasha Egharevba

Belinda Ertel

Larry Evans Chigozie Ezirike **Taylor Felton** Tanya Fernandez **Moises Flores** Theressa Ford Shalonda Foster **Alex Fuentes** Jay Garza **Aude Gbassinga** Cynthia Goble Amy Greenbaum Brittani Halliburton **Pilar Hastings-Smith** Ricardo Hernandez Debbie Hernandez **Eunice Hererra** Nichole Herron **Javne Hoffeld** Michelle Hurtado **Crystal Ibe Eboni Issac** Monica Ishak Caroline Island

Caprice Jackson

Roberto Jaramillo Terrance Jewett Conrad John Joy Lara Jeffery Kane Amenah Khalil Sung Kim Glenn Loethen **Derek Loetzerich** Monica Lopez **Donald Malagon** Fernando Mandujano Natasha Martinez **Consuelito Martinez** Pharra McDonald Keidra McGriff Victoria Mendoza Maritza Menjivar Treshaun Meredith **Jason Miller** C. Jamaal Miller Sasha Missick Pamela Moreno Melissa Munoz Dana Nazaraova

Mariah Nolan

Stacy Norris Omoniyi Olayiwola Cyril Omwirhire Heidy Orellana Olasumbo Otulana Rebecca Parker **Jonathan Perez** Leah Pinkard Claudia Pollendo **Courtney Porter Brittany Potvin-Green** Jasmyn Powell Roberto Quijano **Juan Ramirez Ashley Ramos** George Reff **Aaron Rendon Jarvis Rice** Ismaeil Rivera **Ebonie Rocio** Roderick Rodgers Jose Rodriguez **Jacob Salinas Shane Sanders** Synthia Santiago

Anjali Sharma **Juliana Shaw** Sahrish Soleja Sedrick Stagg **Tenton Sims** Sahrish Soleja Alzadia Spires Sedrick Stagg **Newton Tamayo Dontrey Tatum** Nahom Tesfaselassie Jana Thompson Ashley Tizeno Dulce Toledo Paola Tostado **Kelly Tram Evette Ugues** Cecelia Vasquez Leslie Vera Belashia Wallace **Chelsey Watts** Kierra Welch **Stacey Wells Roben West** Phillip Yates



FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS



Professor April Walker was elected the new general counsel for the Texas Southern University Faculty Senate effective October 2016. As a member of the Thurgood Marshall School of Law faculty since 2004, and an experienced counselor at law she brings a wealth of knowledge and experience.

Thurgood

rights concerns. Lastly, during this same visit, Professor Colon taught a mini-course on American immigration law and another on the use of technology in the law school classroom.



Professor Fernando Colon-Navarro co-authored an article in the book *Novos Direitos Privados* titled *Direito Internacional, Imigracao, Vulnerabilidade e Reconhecimento*. This article is a comparative study of immigration law in Brazil and the United States. For publication, this article was published in Portuguese.

In addition, Professor Colon and his mentoring work with TMSL students was spotlighted in the Houston Lawyer (Volume 54, Number 2, September/October 2016). This issue focused on the importance of mentorship and highlighted those lawyers who are making a difference in the legal profession. In the article, Judge Josefina M. Rendón shared Professor Colon's background and his work with the summer program in Puerto Rico and discussed the special attention, mentoring and instruction Professor Colon provides to TMSL students. You may read the entire article (found on pages 30-31) at the following link: https:// issuu.com/leosur/docs/thl septoct16/1. Professor Colon also visited the Federal University of Ouro Preto in Brazil and met with professors and students in the university's new Master's Program. In this program, students research cultural diversity and new systems of justice. Professor Colon spoke to the group about Thurgood Marshall School of Law's experience with the LL.M. program in Immigration and Naturalization Law, diversity issues, and immigration and human



Professor SpearIt recently published *Growing Support for Restoring Pell Grants to Prisoners*, 22 Corrections Managers' Report 37 (2016) and "Trump Cries, Media Wolves" on 10/31/16, http://theislamicmonthly.com/trump-cries-media-wolves/. On 10/28, he presented on a panel entitled,

"Communities Policing: How Communities Monitor Law Enforcement," at Villanova University School of Law Shachoy Symposium, and on 11/16 he presented "How Prisons Underdevelop Latino Communities," sponsored by HLSA. He and Professor Stephanie Ledesma were recently cited in the book, <u>Management</u> <u>Education: Fragments of an Emancipatory Theory</u> (Springer International Publishing 2016).



Professor L. Darnell Weeden participated in the Thurgood Marshall Lecture Series, on Wednesday October 5, 2016, by discussing his recent article entitled "In Fisher v. University of Texas, Derrick Bell's Interest Convergence Theory is on a Collision Course with the Viewpoint Diversity Rationale in Higher Educa-

tion", 2016 Utah L. Rev. OnLaw 101. According to Professor Weeden, his article's contention that Professor Bell's view of interest convergence in the context of diversity and higher education did not give enough deference to the collaborative elements of interest convergence, generated some very productive intellectual dialogue with his colleagues.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

ONE TO WATCH: TIM ADAMS

After earning his Bachelor's of Arts with honors, Tim decided to leave his position as a detective and pursue law school. As a law student Tim has served as an intern for the Honorable Judge Kenneth Hoyt in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas and the Fort Bend County District Attorney's Office. Currently, Tim is a Law Clerk at Cl<mark>arke</mark> & Associates Law Firm and in his spare time continues to volunteer in the community coaching youth sports. As a 3L student Tim has accepted a position in the Harris County District Attorney's office following graduation in May 2017. As the current Student Bar President, Tim Adams has become the one to watch.

How does your law enforcement background influence your perspective of the law?

My law enforcement experience gives me an sincere appreciation of the law, but it also makes me aware of the potential for negative impacts if the law is misapplied or selectively enforced.

What is one of your most memorable experiences at TMSL?

One of my most memorable experiences at TMSL is participating in our Fall 2016 Back-to-School drive, which benefited area youth. Because of the generosity of TMSL students, staff, and other community sponsors, school supplies were provided to approximately 70 elementary school students in need. This event was especially special to me because I grew up in a low-income, single parent home, and but for the contributions of others, I would not have had the necessary tools to

What advice would you give new law students?

I would advise new law students to maximize their law school experience by getting involved, even during their first year. Whether it be participation in student government, advocacy competitions, or community service, be sure to balance your resume. After all, there will be hundreds of other law students competing for the same jobs and you have to set yourself apart from the pack.

What do you like most about TMSL?

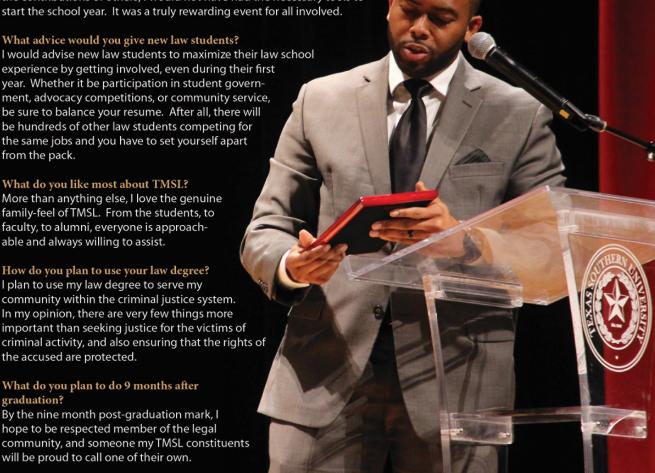
More than anything else, I love the genuine family-feel of TMSL. From the students, to faculty, to alumni, everyone is approachable and always willing to assist.

How do you plan to use your law degree?

I plan to use my law degree to serve my community within the criminal justice system. In my opinion, there are very few things more important than seeking justice for the victims of criminal activity, and also ensuring that the rights of the accused are protected.

What do you plan to do 9 months after graduation?

By the nine month post-graduation mark, I hope to be respected member of the legal community, and someone my TMSL constituents will be proud to call one of their own.





STUDENT NEWS

TMSL Mock Trial Advocacy Team Wins ABA Competition

Congratulations to **Smaranda Draghia, Jordyn Emmert** (both 3Ls) and **Cody Jolly and Nisha King** (both 2Ls) for winning the 2016 American Bar Association's Regional Labor and Employment Law Trial Advocacy Competition!

The competition was held at the Earle Cabell Federal Building and US District Courthouse in Dallas, Texas November 5-6, 2016, against the top law schools in the southern United States. This qualifies our Team to compete in the ABA LEL Trial Advocacy National Championship in New Orleans, Louisiana January 27-29, 2017. Special thanks to **Jason Casey** and the coaches for all their hard work. This is the first time a TMSL Trial Advocacy Team has ever won this prestigious competition. We wish them best of luck at the National Championship!

Trial Advocates: Smaranda Draghia, Jordyn Emmert, Nisha King, Cody Jolly, and Jason Casey. (shown below)



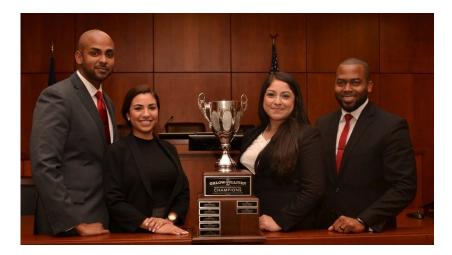
Coaches: Valerie Jewett (Class of 98'), Joey Washburn (Class of 13'), Ahad Khan (Class of 14'), and Christopher Bloom.



STUDENT NEWS Cont'd.

TMSL Board of Advocates 2L/3L Mock Trial Competition

Congratulations to Timothy Adams, Alya Vasquez (both 3Ls), Maurice Rice and Miriah Soliz (both 2Ls) for making it to the final round of the Mock Trial Competition held November 17, 2016.



The competition, judged by TMSL Alum and other attorneys, concerned a criminal law murder case problem. Four teams competed with two TMSL teams competing against one another in the final round. Congratulations to Timothy Adams and Alya Vasquez for obtaining the overall win!





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STUDENT NEWS Cont'd.

TMSL Supports Veterans

The Veterans Law Students Association (VLSA) is an active advocate organization for veterans and their families. General membership is composed of forty mostly active duty, reserve, national guard, and veterans from all branches of services. Also, some of our members are spouses or dependents of military veterans or active duty. This year, to do their part, student leaders of VLSA decided to provide shoes for homeless veterans, their spouses and dependents.



One of the greatest needs homeless veterans have this time of year, is shoes. As the weather gets colder and rainy, many veterans do not have adequate shoes. VLSA began its quest in late September to collect 100 pairs of shoes. We are grateful to have had the support of the TMSL administration, faculty, staff and student body, who donated 162 pairs of shoes in our efforts. Thank you to all who participated and gave selflessly. We hope to make this a tradition in years to come.



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STUDENT NEWS Cont'd.

Barbara C. Jordan Chapter of Black Law Students Association
Annual Wine and Cheese
at the home of Dean and Mrs. James M. Douglas



















ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS ALUMNI ON THE MOVE

TMSL Alums Announce New Practice



Fitzgerald & McElroy, P.C. Attorneys and Counselors At Law

TMSL alums announce the formation of a new law practice, Fitzgerald & McElroy P.C. Veteran trial lawyers and advocates, **Warren Fitzgerald Muhammad**, class of 1979, and **Jacqueline Bostic McElroy**, class of 1998, have joined forces to create this powerful boutique law firm. Visit www.fitzgeraldmcelroy.com to learn more about Fitzgerald & McElroy P.C. or call at 713-360-7091. TMSL lets congratulate them on their success and we wish them the best.



TMSL Alum Ronald Green named shareholder at Greenberg Traurig, LLP

The Honorable Ronald Green, TMSL class of 1996, has joined Greenberg Traurig, LLP in the Houston office as a shareholder specializing in public finance and government affairs. Green has practiced law for twenty years and term limited in each of his elected city positions as a Houston City Council Member and most recently as Houston City Controller – the elected chief financial officer. Green was chosen for his understanding of public finance, government law and policy, budgeting and fiscal project management. Many TMSL alums also remember Green as part of the duo (Green,

3L Class President and Ray Jackson, SBA President) that brought the famous trial attorney, the late Johnnie Cochran to TMSL. TMSL family lets congratulate the Honorable Ronald Green in his new position.



ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS Cont'd. ALUMNI ON THE MOVE

TMSL Alumna Olivia Haigler Named Special Victims' Counsel



Olivia Haigler, TMSL class of 2015, valedictorian, is a Captain in the United States Army. Stationed at Fort Sill in Oklahoma, Haigler serves as one of the Fort Sill's Special Victim Counselor liaisons. She has been in her position since May 2016 and serves those who may be victims of sexual assault within the Fort Sill community. As a SVC of the Fires Center of Excellence, Haigler helps her clients mitigate the risks of the attack by either facilitating counseling or litigation. Though Haigler is not directly involved in the prosecution of any of the cases, her enthusiasm and strong advocacy skills, work to create a welcoming environment where victims find help and support.



TMSL Alumna Tiffany Britton Making Moves

TMSL Alumni Board President, **Tiffany Britton**, Class of 2001, has moved from her position as Senior Executive Advisor to the Miami Parking Authority and is now the First Assistant City Attorney for the City of North Miami Beach. Please join the TMSL family in congratulating Tiffany Britton!



ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS Cont'd. ALUMNI IN THE NEWS

Congratulations to Our Newly Elected TMSL Alums



Hilary Green
Justice of the Peace Precinct
7, Place 1



Al Green
U.S. House of Representatives
9th District of Texas



Shawn Thierry
Texas State Representative
District 146



Victoria Neave State Representative District 107 (Dallas)



James B. "Jim" Hicks III District Attorney Taylor County



Nikita "Nikki" Harmon 176th District Court Houston



Darrell Jordan County Criminal Court at Law No. 16



Sylvia Garcia
The Senate of Texas
District 6



Javan Patton 10th Judicial Circuit, Seat 4 Alabama



Terrence Holmes Jefferson County Court at Law #2



Robert Johnson 177th Criminal District Court Houston



George Powell 351st Judicial District Houston

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ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS Cont'd.

Newly Admitted Attorney Reception at the home of Dean and Mrs. James M. Douglas Saturday, November 5, 2016

















ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS Cont'd.

IN MEMORIAM



Douglas Bryant III, TMSL class of 1999, passed away Sunday, November 13, 2016, at the age of 47. Douglas was born in Ft. Benning, GA and was a 1987 graduate of Kendrick High School. He then attended Georgia Tech and graduated from Columbus State University in 1995. He was employed as an investment adviser/financial planner at Merrill Lynch Wealth Management with the Bryant Cate Houser Group. He was also a Business Law Professor at Troy University. He served on the boards of the Association of Clinical Research Professionals, Thurgood Marshall Alumni, and the Columbus Regional Health Foundation. He was also a member of Sigma Pi Phi (Boule) Fraternity and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. In lieu of floral tributes, the family request that donations are made in loving care to the Kaela Bryant Scholarship Fund at Wells Fargo Bank.



Lameka Anne Trahan, TMSL class of 2004, passed away in Baytown, TX October 31, 2016, at the age of 40. Lameka was born June 18, 1976, in Baytown, TX and she graduated from Liberty High School in 1994. Lameka then received a bachelor's degree from McNeese State University. Lameka graduated *cum laude* from TMSL. Following law school she graduated *summa cum laude* from Prairie View A&M University with her master's degree in Juvenile Forensic Psychology. Lameka was a member of the Rotary Club, Chambers of Commerce, President of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and a member of the Liberty Independent School District Education Foundation Board. She loved spending time with her CPS kids, education and her law work. Lameka was also a founding member of TAU Beta Sigma at McNeese State University. It was said that Lameka was a tenacious and passionate

attorney, as well as a beautiful, compassionate and loving friend. Her presence in the courtroom will be greatly missed.



Marion L. Ruben, the mother of current TMSL student Francis Ruben, passed away on October 23, 2016, in Beaumont, TX. TMSL family please join us as we send our condolences to Francis and the Ruben family.

CAREER SERVICES OFFICE

ALUMNIAND FRIENDS:

How Can You Help?

- SPONSOR A CSO PROGRAM
 - SPEAK ON A CSO PANEL
- DONATE TO THE CAREER WARDROBE
 - MENTOR A TMSL STUDENT
 - HIRE A TMSL STUDENT

Suggestions?

Let us know how the CSO can help you! We are open to feedback and suggestions on how to betterserve our TMSL students and alumni. We invite you to share your thoughts with us!

Contact Us:

Room 213

M, T, TH, F: 8a-5p

W: 8a-6p

(713) 313-1014

careerservices@tmslaw.tsu.edu



EARL CARL INSTITUTE

The Earl Carl Institute for Legal and Social Policy is now accepting applications for the Marcia Johnson Outstanding Public Service Award (MJOPSA). The Earl Carl Institute's Annual Marcia Johnson Public Service Award provides a \$1,000 award to a TSU student, a community servant, and a local community organization in recognition of outstanding public service. ECI is seeking nominees for each category that demonstrates an outstanding level of commitment, passion, innovation and achievement resulting in substantial contribution to public service that has made a real difference to people's lives among communities of color and the traditionally disenfranchised.

The MJOPSA was established to recognize and promote broad spectrum public service that places a voice at the decision-making table that advocates for the interest of disenfranchised communities. Potential recipients will have performed and/or supported outstanding public service in support of these communities. The award seeks to recognize those who serve without glory, under the radar, doing the kind of work the Earl Carl Institute aspires to do. For more about the award and the Earl Carl Institute visit www.earlcarlinstitute.org.

Please do not hesitate to contact me directly if you have questions regarding the application process or award. Please note that the application deadline is January 3, 2017.



is now accepting applications for the Marcia Johnson Outstanding Public Service Award (MJOPSA)

Categories Awarded

- TSU student
- Community Servant
- Local Community Organization

For complete information and application go to: www.earlcarlinstitute.org













We Are ECI

Creating a new vision for legal & social justice

Because truth matters: Freeing the Innocent

Helping Children Today to Have a Better Future Tomorrow

Taking it to the streets: TMSL Street Law Program

Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Legal & Social Policy: The Bridge

Increasing wealth through homeownership

Advocacy through academic and grassroots efforts

Creating opportunities to promote policy changes

Student Development

Reducing disproportionality & disparity

Serving the community

Educational programming

LEGENDS AND LEADERS WE ARE

The Earl Carl Institute for Legal & Social Policy, Inc. www.earlcarlinstitute.org

Become a part of the movement... Apply to volunteer or to work at the Institute today! For more information call 713.313.1139.

November Birthdays

Kristopher Chrishon 2nd

Walter Champion 22nd

Maia Ford 25th

Daniel Brackmann 30th

James Muldrew 30th



Recycle reminder

Go Green! Let's remember to recycle our used bottles! The recycle bins are located in two areas of the law school and emptied every morning!

Let's do our part!

