



THURGOOD THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW TODAY

TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2017

Welcome



TMSL Class of 2020

**Dean James M. Douglas and the TMSL family
welcome the Thurgood Marshall School of Law Class of 2020!**

The class of 254 students were drawn from a pool of more than 1351 applicants. The class profile reveals students from 25 states, with the majority from Texas followed by Florida, Louisiana and Georgia. The class members received undergraduate degrees from over 93 institutions with 20 members receiving advanced degrees prior to entering law school. During Orientation week, the class was introduced to the University and law school administration, learned how to brief cases and participated in class simulations. We look forward to the Class of 2020 leaving its mark on the law school and the greater legal community.

TMSL Class of 2020 Profile:

Median Age: 24

Gender: 62% Women; 38% Men

Ethnic Demographics: American Indian (2%); Asian/Pacific Islander (2%); African-American (62%); Caucasian (4%); Hispanic (29%); Unknown (1%)

YOUR MONTHLY THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW ELECTRONIC NEWS & INFORMATION SOURCE FROM
THE OFFICE OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS * ASSISTANT DEAN PRUDENCE SMITH * EMAIL: prsmith@tmslaw.tsu.edu

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Class of 2020 Orientation Cont'd.



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FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS



Professor Fernando Colon-Navarro accepted an invitation to join the Globalization Committee for the Southeastern Association of Law Schools (SEALS). This committee facilitates exchanges of faculty members and students between SEALS-member schools and foreign law schools and introduces U.S. academic programs to foreign law schools. In addition, this month, Professor Colon spoke to students in the pre-law program at the University of Texas at San Antonio on immigration law and the history of TMSL and led a mock class on property law.



Associate Dean Cassandra L. Hill was appointed to serve as the Chair of the Conferences and Programming Committee for the American Bar Association Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar. The appointment is for an initial two-year term. A full list of the committee members may be accessed here: https://www.americanbar.org/groups/legal_education/committees/conferences_committee.html. The Conferences and Programming Committee leads the Section's conceptualization, planning, organization and implementation of workshops and conferences.



Professor Lydia Johnson accepted an appointment as Co-Chair for the Mindfulness in Law Society and as a Board Member of the AALS Mindfulness Affinity Group. Recognizing the trend in legal education, Professor Johnson incorporates mindfulness practices and philosophies into her trial simulation course. Through this instruction, students acquire the tools needed to handle stress and focus on the matter that is before them. Students who were at first skeptical about the practice, now readily use the mindful-

ness strategies learned in trial simulation. Professor Johnson also shared her expertise in mindfulness (including breathing techniques) with the new students in the Criminal Law Clinic as part of the Fall 2017 Law Clinic Boot Camp.



Associate Dean Stephanie Ledesma served as the Program Director of the National Institute for Trial Advocacy (NITA) Deposition Program for Public Service Attorneys hosted by Southern University Law Center in May 2017. Public service attorneys are those who work at

Legal Aid and for other programs that provide direct representation to low-income and middle-income families who need but cannot afford legal services. More information is available at the following link: http://blog.nita.org/2017/06/southern-university-law-center-nita-public-service-program/?utm_source=Bulk&utm_medium=Email&utm_content=Article3&utm_campaign=2017SpringGivingVoice. Also Dean Ledesma was appointed as the Vice-Chair of the State Bar of Texas standing committee on Child Abuse and Neglect. Her appointment began on June 30, 2017, and conclude in July 2018.



Professor Ana Otero served as Co-Director of the Council on Legal Education Opportunity's (CLEO) Regional "Attitude is Essential Program." This program is an intensive pre-law workshop designed to introduce and prepare college graduates who have been accepted into an ABA-accredited law school for the rigors ahead. Professor Otero and Samer Korkor, an attorney at the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, D.C., created the program curriculum and worked with the program facilitators for the six national regions. Notably, the facilitator for the Southeast Region was Christopher Ogolla, a TMSL alumnus who is now a



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FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS *Cont'd.*

professor at Savannah Law School. Additionally, Professor Otero taught the two-day workshop at CLEO's Summer Institute at Mitchell Hamline in Minneapolis and the University of Texas in Austin.



Professor SpearIt published *Not For Free: Exploring the Collateral Costs of Diversity in Legal Education*, 48 U. Pacific L.R. 887 (2017), and “Color Coded Criminal Procedure—Exploring How Law Enables Racism, Disparate Treatment, Violence” on June 19 at Jotwell Criminal Law, <https://crim.jotwell.com/color-coded-criminal-procedure-exploring-how-law-enables-racism-disparate-treatment-violence/>.

His writings were recently cited in a number of works, including the book, *Social Work Practice with Latinos: Social, Economic, Political and Cultural Perspectives* (Oxford 2017), and in *Experiencing Experiential Education: A Faculty-Student Perspective on University of Tennessee’s College of Law’s Adventure in Access to Justice*, 50 J. Marshall L. Rev. 11 (2017), <http://repository.jmls.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=2712&context=lawreview>, *The Growing and Broad Nature of Legal Financial Obligations: Evidence from Alabama Court Records*, 48 Conn. L.Rev. (2016), <https://scholar.harvard.edu/files/morse/files/48connlrev.pdf>, *Black Health Matters: Disparities, Community Health, and Interest Convergence*, 22 Mich. J. Race & L. 53 (2016), <http://repository.law.umich.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1066&context=mjrl>, and *Latino Muslims in the United States: Reversion, Politics and Islamidad*, 8 J. Race Ethnicity & Relig. (2017).

Spotlight on Professor SpearIt’s New Book:

Professor SpearIt’s new book, *American Prisons: A Critical Primer on Culture and Conversion to Islam*, published with First Edition Design Publishing was just released. *American Prisons: A Critical Primer on*

Culture and Conversion to Islam represents over a decade of investigating, researching and writing on prison culture. The overarching message of this anthology is that problems in prison are not isolated from society, and unlike the Las Vegas slogan, what happens in prison doesn’t stay in prison. Prisons are not neatly cornered off from society, but rather, are partners in toxic relationships with the communities to which ex-prisoners return. Against these sinister cultural developments, the book juxtaposes the quest for God and religious conversion. More specifically, conversion to Islam in prison over many generations has made prisons an important factor for the growth of Islam in America. The book includes policy prescriptions based on the notion that prison reform is not just about justice for those on lockdown, but also communities outside as well. You can find additional information about Professor SpearIt’s book at the following link: https://www.amazon.com/American-Prisons-Critical-Culture-Conversion-ebook/dp/B074MJB65/ref=sr_1_12?ie=UTF8&qid=1502391302&sr=8-12&keywords=spearit.





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FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS *Cont'd.*



Professor L. Darnell Weeden's extensive research has been cited recently by several legal scholars. Professor Weeden's article entitled, *The Black Eye of Hurricane Katrina's Post Jim Crow Syndrome is a Basic Human Dignity Challenge for America*, [37 CAP. U. L. REV. 93](#), 106 (2008), was cited by Robert

Rubinson, the Dean Gilbert A. Holmes Professor of Clinical Theory and Practice and Director of Clinical Education at the University of Baltimore School of Law, in his article, *Grids and Gatekeepers: The Socioeconomics of Mediation*, 17 *Cardozo J. of Conflict Resolution* 873, 892 (2016). While discussing the realities of participating in mediation for low-income participants, Professor Rubinson stated many low-income people must rely exclusively on very public transportation to get to mediation or to escape a hurricane. Professor Rubinson then cited to Professor Weeden's article to illustrate the life-and-death implications of transportation issues for low-income people during Hurricane Katrina, when New Orleans residents with resources had flown or driven away from the City while the lower-income population left in the city rode on unreliable buses, which only went to the chaotic and dangerous Super Dome.

Lastly, **Professor Weeden's** article entitled, *The Supremacy Clause Preemption Rationale Reasonably Restrains an Individual State Pursuing its Own Separate but Unequal Immigration Policy*, 14 *Scholar* 679 (2012) was recently cited to by Professor Chad. G. Marzen and Professor William Woodyard II, both of Florida State University College of Business, in their article, *Catholic Social Teaching, the Right to Migrate, and the Right to Regulate Borders: A Proposed Solution for Comprehensive Immigration Reform Based Upon Catholic Social Principles*, 53 *San Diego Law Review* 781, 791 (2016). Professors Marzen and Woodyard identify Professor Weeden as one of nu-

merous academic commentators who have written law review articles concerning the legality and effects of state and local enforcement of immigration.

Several of our professors participated in the **2017 Southeastern Association of Law Schools (SEALS) Conference**, which offers legal educators panels and discussion groups on cutting-edge legal topics, classroom pedagogy and research by junior scholars. **Professor Craig Jackson** shared his research and expertise as part of a discussion group on the law of national security and foreign affairs in the Trump Administration. **Professor Fernando Colon-Navarro** served as a panel discussant for a discussion group on comparative method of legal analysis and moderated a new scholars workshop during which junior faculty presented their works-in-progress on business and commercial law issues. **Associate Dean Stephanie Ledesma** presented her research on teaching cultural competence in law school and moderated a workshop on teaching and designing an effective law school course or seminar. **Professor Deanna Pollard-Sacks** moderated a panel on the Dakota Access Pipeline and the lessons learned and how to address tribal and sovereign interests in such disputes. **Professor Sally Green** served as a moderator for a new scholars workshop that addressed the external reviewer's role in the tenure process and strategies to succeed in the critical part of the process. **Professor Ericka Kelsaw** moderated a panel on regulating immoral and offensive trademarks and the tensions between morality and speech inherent in intellectual property. **Professor Lydia Johnson** moderated the plenary session on mindfulness in law schools, which is a newly added track to the SEALS conference.





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FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS *Cont'd.*


*Thurgood Marshall School of Law
Texas Southern University*

Announces Faculty Promotions and Tenure



Martina Cartwright
AWARDED TENURE and
Promoted to
Associate Professor of Law


Congratulations

Thelma Harmon
Director of Clinical Education
AWARDED TENURE and
Promoted to
Associate Professor of Law



Lydia Johnson
Associate Professor of Law
AWARDED TENURE



Stephanie Ledesma
Assistant Professor of Law
ADMINISTRATIVE PROMOTION
Associate Dean for Experiential
Learning Programs



Kindaka Sanders
AWARDED TENURE and
Promoted to
Associate Professor of Law



SpearIt
Associate Professor of Law
AWARDED TENURE



Katherine Vukadin
Promoted to Professor of Law



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EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING PROGRAM NEWS

2017 Criminal Law Defense Clinic Boot Camp



The 11th Annual Criminal Defense Clinic Boot Camp kicked off on August 8, 2017, under the direction of **Professor Lydia D. Johnson**. The rigorous boot camp is designed to equip the clinic participants with the knowledge and skills needed to navigate through the criminal court system in Harris County. At the end of the boot camp, participants are required to pass a comprehensive exam in order to obtain their 3L Temporary Bar Card.

Professor Johnson introduced the participants to Mindfulness, a practice that reduces stress and promotes mental focus, and extended the practice throughout the week by incorporating a 10 minute meditative session at the beginning of each day. During the course of the week, various presentations were conducted including *State Bar Grievances and Attorney Disciplinary Process*, *Language of the Court*, *How to Conduct a Bond Hearing*, *Interviewing Techniques*, *Active Listening Exercises*, *Motion to Suppress*, *DWI Basics*, *Subpoenas and Petition for Non-Disclosure*. Presenters included TMSL Alums **Jed Silverman**, class of 1999; **Wilvin Carter**, class of 2004; **Kali Morgan**, class of 2004; and **Alan Macias**, class of 2013.



Criminal Law Clinic Students
engaged in Mindfulness

Leslie Ginzel -
Beacon Law
Expunctions



Leah Shapiro -
Public Defender's Office
Juvenile Division



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EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING PROGRAM NEWS *Cont'd.* 2017 Criminal Law Defense Clinic Boot Camp

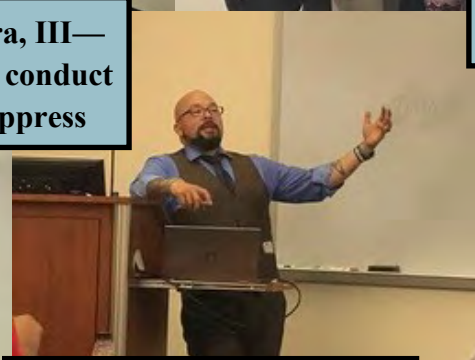
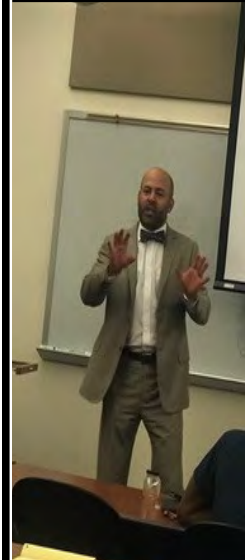
Wilvin Carter-TMSL Alum discussed Client Interviewing techniques



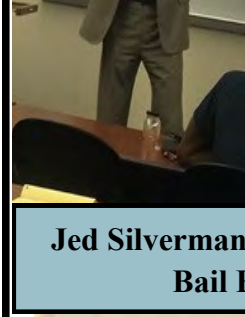
Alan Macias —TMSL Alum discussed the nuts and bolts of DWI cases



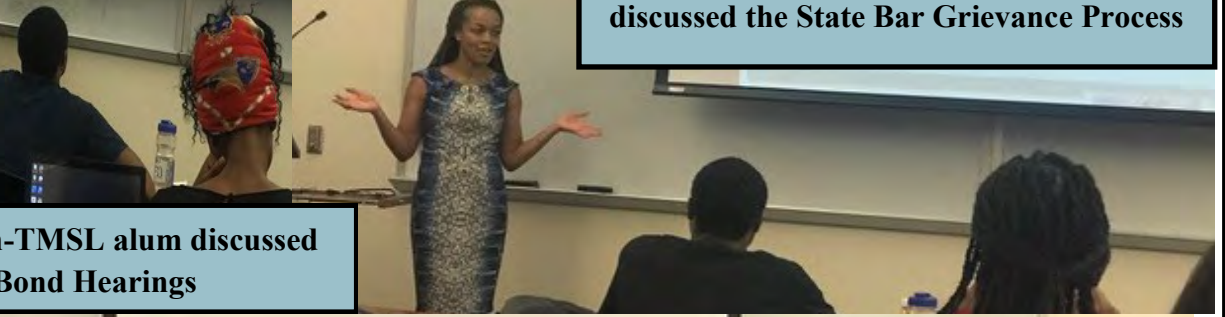
Trinidad Zamora, III— discussed how to conduct a Motion to Suppress



Brent Mayr — discussed defending Domestic Violence cases



Kali Morgan-TMSL Alum discussed the State Bar Grievance Process



Jed Silverman-TMSL alum discussed Bail Bond Hearings





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EARL CARL INSTITUTE NEWS

ECI Announces Newly Designed Website!

ECI is proud to launch our newly redesigned website. The primary objectives of our redesign efforts were focused on aesthetics, simplifying our content, and increasing the visibility of our programs. The new design also allows for streamlined menus, clear navigation, and a responsive layout for all platforms.

We will be constantly updating our content with helpful information, event information, announcements, articles and newsletters. We hope you find the new website helpful as you seek the latest in information about ECI and our ongoing research and advocacy efforts.

The screenshot shows the website interface for The Earl Carl Institute for Legal & Social Policy, Inc. The browser address bar displays www.tsulaw.edu/centers/ECI/. The navigation menu includes: Home, LL.M. Program, Students, Faculty & Staff, External Affairs, Library, Career Services, Institutes, Centers & Clinic, and Quick Links. The header features the ECI logo and a group photo of staff. Below the header is a row of program icons: Legal Services and Self-Help Legal Forms, Innocence Project, Juvenile Justice Project, Property Preservation Project, Community Education, The Bridge: Intergroup Respect, Employment, Volunteer, Organization & Student Resources, and ECI Publications. The main content area features a "Message from the Director Sarah R. Guidry" with a quote: *"Be the change that you wish to see in the world."* attributed to Mahatma Gandhi. A photo of Sarah R. Guidry is shown next to her message. The text describes the institute's mission to identify implementable solutions to legal and social issues. To the right, there are social media icons (Facebook, Twitter, RSS, YouTube) and a "Make a One-time Donation" section with a "Donate" button and logos for American Express, Mastercard, Visa, Discover, and PayPal. Below that is a "Monthly Support" section with a "Subscribe" button and the same logos. At the bottom, there is a Google Custom Search bar and a "Sign-up waiting list!" graphic.

Current ECI free legal services programs include the Obal Mitchell Lee Property

Visit the new site at www.earlcarlinstitute.org.



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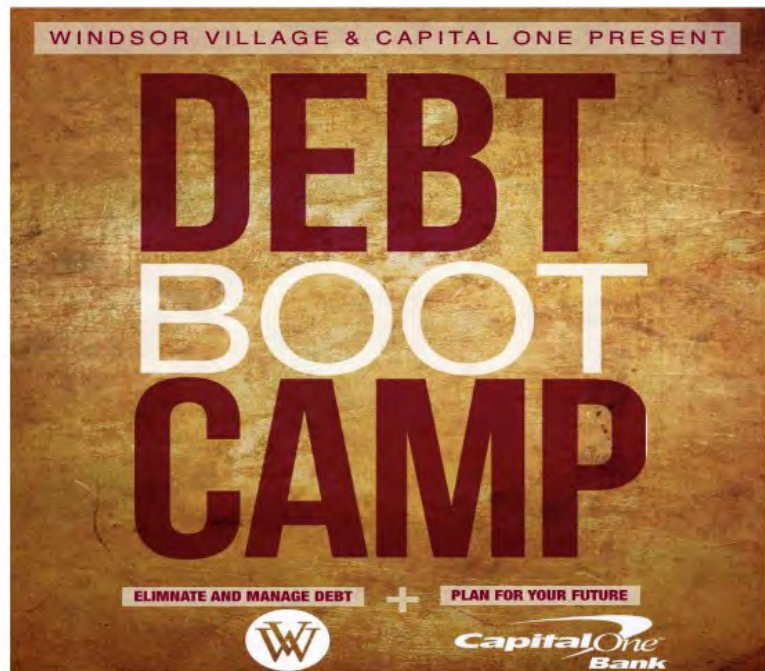
EARL CARL INSTITUTE NEWS *Cont'd.*

The Earl Carl Institute is a proud Partner of the Debt Boot Camp

The Earl Carl Institute partnered with Windsor Village and Capital One for the Debt Boot Camp. The Camp is a 7 month course designed for persons who are committed to getting out of debt and building a long term sustainable financial foundation with the assistance of professional coaches, mentors and resources. As a partner ECI will instruct lessons on "How to deal with creditors"; "How to develop a Spending Plan" and "The ABC's of Investing".

Participant benefits include:

- Free Capital One Savings Account & Savings Match of \$100 if you save \$500
- One on One Financial Counseling & Coaching
- Individual Development Account Match up to \$2,000 for College & Homeownership
- Free Estate Planning Package Worth \$500 and Legal Consultations on Probate and Real Estate Matters



PARTNERS



Windsor Village United Methodist Church
Kirbyjon H. Caldwell, Senior Pastor



Remember!

Debt Boot Camp dates to remember:

- Debt Boot Camp Program- every 3rd Saturday from October 21, 2017 through May 19, 2018



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STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

TMSL Hosts the Top 10% of the Class of 2019

The Office of Admissions hosted a reception on July 18, 2017, for the top 10% of the class of 2019. The reception held for friends and family acknowledged those named below who excelled after their 1L year and received an academic scholarship. The TMSL family salutes these individuals and congratulates them on their success.

Wesley Nash

Rodolfo Ruiz

George Oginni

Aylia Naqvi

Eduardo Sierra

Benjamin Neece

Jacob Schiffer

Arron Sonnier

Sintia Solis

John Leo

Ryann Brown

Elton Igunbor

Olen Manning, III

Stacey Morgan

Ryan Dahlquist

Victoriano Flores

Miguel Sarkis

Sabrina Morales

Ricardo Galvan II

Lucas Wilson

Ronak Chokhani

Stormy Clark

Anabel Maldonado





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STUDENT NEWS *Cont'd.*

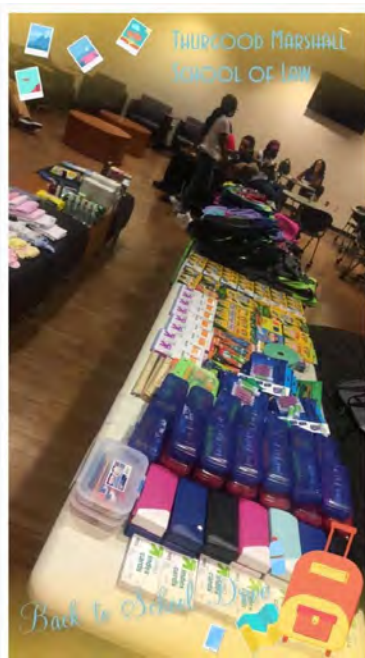
Miss Thurgood Marshall School of Law
Alpha Eta Lambda Chapter of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Black Law Students Association Hispanic Law Students Association African Law Students Association

3rd Ward

Back to School Drive

August 24, 2017
12:00-1:00pm
Law School Commons



This year Ms. TMSL, **Staci Childs** hosted the 2017 Back to School Drive. TMSL organizations: The Black Law Students Association, The African Law Students Association, and The Hispanic Law Students Association joined Ms. TMSL and participated in the effort. Nearly \$750 dollars in monetary gifts and school supplies were donated. In addition, The Alpha Eta Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. volunteered and gave 30 backpacks filled with supplies which totaled to about \$300 in donations. Mr. TMSL, Nick Perez and 2nd year law student, Jupiter Howard also gave generous monetary donations. In total, roughly 40 volunteers worked to provide 100 backpacks full of school supplies to approximately 100 students in the 3rd Ward area.





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STUDENT NEWS *Cont'd.*

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Hannah Johannes more than just a Beauty...



TMSL Graduating Class: May 2019

Undergraduate Institution: Texas Christian University

Undergraduate Major: Broadcast Journalism

Law School Activities: Houston Young Lawyers Association, TMSL Student Ambassador, Sports & Entertainment Law Society, Student Bar Association and JMUMC- Young Adult Ministry.

Internships: Texas Christian University Media Relations, Disney– ABC Television Group channel 13

A second-year law student at 24 years old, Hannah has achieved many accomplishments. She began figure skating at age three and was a competitive figure skater for 13 years. In her spare time Hannah coaches young skaters and also enjoys fitness training, modeling, church activities, traveling, and volunteering. She has traveled all over the United States, Eritrea - her father's homeland, and various other countries. She recently (summer 2017) completed a course of study in international entertainment law at the University of London. Hannah is active in her community and volunteers with the Ronald McDonald House, the Houston Food Bank, Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, Hope Through Grace colorectal cancer organization, and the United Methodist Army - volunteer home repair for the elderly and disabled. She has been a counselor at the Lakeview Methodist Church Summer Camp for youth and is a facilitator for Bo's Place. In addition, Hannah Gabrielle Johannes is our Miss Houston 2017. Seven years ago, Hannah was also crowned Miss Houston Teen 2010 and was the first and only African American to win that title. Now she is the first African American to be a Houston double crown winner.

What is one of your most memorable experiences at TMSL?

My most memorable experience occurred after my contracts final exam 1L year. My classmates and I were all celebrating the completion of our first semester of law school, when I became aware of a huge mistake that would cost me 50% of my grade on the exam. I was extremely devastated and heartbroken. I vividly remember my section-mates and I sitting in my car when one of them began to pray. I learned so much from that entire experience, such as God can and will get you through any struggle; my classmates are like family; and mistakes will be made along the way in law school, some more detrimental than others, but it is not the end of your career. We cannot give up because of one or two mistakes. We have to recover and overcome becoming stronger than before.

How do you plan to use your law degree after graduation? After I have passed the Texas and California bar exams, I plan to relocate to California to practice sports and entertainment law. I plan to incorporate my background in journalism and pageantry into my legal career. My goal is to negotiate and draft contracts for top talents in the field. I want to help talents achieve their goals and be represented to their full-potential.



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ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

TMSL/TSU Women receive Houston Area Honors

The Top 30 Influential Women of Houston are celebrating four of TMSL/TSU's own at their 2017 Awards Gala. These women were honored on September 29, 2017, for their perseverance and leadership in their respective fields.



Texas State Representative **Senfronia Thompson**, TMSL alumna, has represented the 141st District since 1972. She has been fighting for approximately 45 years to pass legislation for the benefit of Texas residents. This year State Representative Senfronia Thompson is named as an icon honoree.



Antoinette "Toni" Jackson, TMSL class of 1991, practices in the area of real estate including commercial development and affordable housing. Additionally she services as counsel to various public housing authorities providing expertise in U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and other issues. This year Attorney Jackson is honored as one of the top 30 influential women of Houston.



Texas State Representative **Shawn Thierry**, TMSL class of 1996, represents District 146 since 2016 after winning the election by 97%. She sits on the committees for county affairs, juvenile justice and family issues. Additionally, she maintains her private practice in the Houston area focusing on commercial litigation and personal injury. State Representative Thierry is honored this year as one of the top 30 influential women of Houston.



Mary Young, a veteran of the Houston Police Department, became the first female police chief of Texas Southern University earlier this year. Her accolades include community initiative programs for seniors, and the youth and bridge building between the police and the community. TSU Police Chief, Mary Young, is honored this year as one of the top 30 influential women of Houston.



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ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS *Cont'd.* ALUMNI ON THE MOVE

Alumna Trina L. Moore appointed Administrative Law Judge



TMSL Alumna, **Trina L. Moore**, class of 2000, was appointed administrative law judge of the Social Security Administration's Office of Disability Adjudication and Review in Valparaiso, Indiana on April 16, 2017. Moore has over ten years of experience as a litigator and lead counsel. Moore has served as Executive Agency Counsel for the New York City Transit Authority, a former Brooklyn Assistant District Attorney and as a clerk with a New Jersey State Justice. Moore also has defense experience in various tort lawsuits and has accumulated over 45 jury trial verdicts. Please join the TMSL family in congratulating Administrative Law Judge Trina Moore on her new judicial appointment.

TMSL Alum Earl Wilson takes command of Army JAG BTC



Captain Earl Wilson, class of 2008, took command of the Student Detachment of the Judge Advocate Officer Basic Training Course on July 21, 2017. The Detachment are students of the Army Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School. Capt. Wilson is currently a contract and fiscal law attorney with the 82nd Airborne Division. TMSL family please congratulate Captain Earl Wilson on this huge honor.



TMSL Alumna Brennae Brooks Making Moves



Brennae Brooks, class of 2014, has served in the United States Army Corps of Engineers as an Engineer Technician and served as a Law Clerk with Technologists Inc. Brooks' success in these positions led to a major contract dispute settlement and proof of human error within the data in question. These experiences have propelled her to the forefront of her career. Accordingly, TMSL please congratulate Brennae Brooks on her new position with the United States Department of Veteran Affairs.



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ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS *Cont'd.* MORE ALUMNI IN ELECTIONS

TMSL Alumna Judge Lela Mays makes moves in the spirit of change



Lela Mays, class of 1988, has served as a Dallas County Magistrate Judge for the past seventeen years. As a Magistrate she has seen the needs of the community and states "...it's time for a change." Thus, Judge Mays announces her candidacy for the 283rd District Court.

"The future service of the 283rd Judicial District Court will require experience, demonstrated leadership, dedication and a thorough knowledge of Dallas County, its laws, its courts and its culture." - Judge Mays



TMSL Alumna Toria J. Finch seeks a position on the bench



Toria J. Finch, class of 2006, has worked with the State of Texas Attorney General's Office; as an Assistant Juvenile Public Defender; as an Adjunct Professor at the University of Texas at Austin School of Law; and as an Assistant District Attorney for the Harris County District Attorney's Office. Attorney Finch dedicates herself to fighting for the rights, privileges, and protections of the people. As a true champion for the people, Finch seeks a seat on the bench as Judge of Harris County Criminal Court at Law No. 9.

VOTE TORIA J. FINCH
FOR JUDGE OF HARRIS COUNTY
CRIMINAL COURT AT LAW NO. 9



TRUTH * JUSTICE * FAIRNESS



TMSL Alumna Gloria Lopez announces candidacy

Gloria Elizabeth Lopez, class of 2010, has announced her candidacy for the 308th Family District Court in Harris County, Texas. Lopez plans to serve families as a Judge with fairness, compassion, competence and excellence.

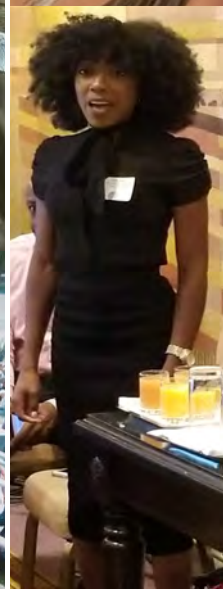
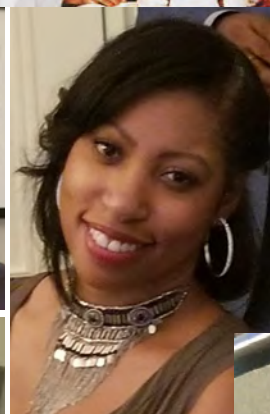


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ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS *Cont'd.*

*Thurgood Marshall School of Law Reception
Toronto, Canada - August 1, 2017*





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ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS *Cont'd.*

*Thurgood Marshall School of Law Breakfast
Toronto, Canada - August 2, 2017*





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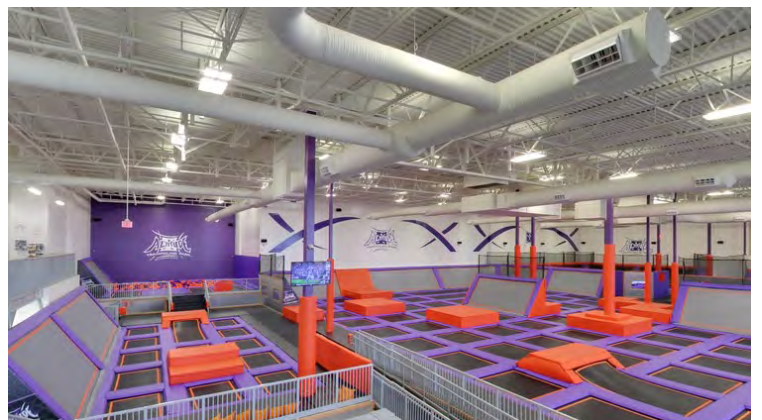
TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS *Cont'd.* ALUMNI ON THE MOVE

TMSL Alum Jerome Karam opens the Largest Trampoline Park in the U.S.



Jerome Karam, class of 1990, opened “The Largest Trampoline Park in the country” in August of this year. The park is the latest addition to the Mall of Mainland in Texas City. The Park encompasses over 55, 000 square feet of trampolines, a foam pit, basketball area, dodgeball area and other amenities. Altitude Trampoline Park Texas City as it is formally named is the 30th location to open of the family Altitude Trampoline Parks located nation wide. We congratulate Mr. Karam on this major accomplishment and wish him continued success.





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ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS *Cont'd.* ALUMNI ON THE MOVE

Three TMSL Powerhouses are Co-Owners of Bud's BBQ



Bud's Pitmaster BBQ, located in Houston's new restaurant row downtown on Avenida de las Americas, hails the over 4 generations of family recipes of friend to TSU/TMSL, Theldon Branch III. Branch, who serves on the Board of the Port of Houston, "dreamed of reopening Bud's as a modern, urban barbeque destination using the same centuries-old recipes and methods for preparing smoked meat." Branch's dream came into fruition during Super Bowl LI. TMSL Alums, **Harry Johnson, Marchris Robinson, and Norman Nelson** (not pictured) are also co-owners of Bud's BBQ.

TMSL Alumna Antoinette "Toni" Jackson published and receives another honor



Antoinette "Toni" Jackson, TMSL class of 1991, practices in the area of real estate including commercial development and affordable housing. Her career story was recently featured in the American Bar Association's latest publication, "GRIT, The Secret to Advancement" as an essay. Jackson's essay is included in the book as a story from which other women can derive career lessons are on how to use grit and growth for their own professional advancement.

In addition, Jackson is being honored as the Carl Umland Award. This award is presented to an individual who demonstrates the compassion, tenacity and dedication as the founder of Houston Habitat for Humanity has exhibited. Jackson will receive this honor for her work in the community on October 25th at Habitat's 30th Anniversary Luncheon "Building a Dream."



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ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS *Cont'd.* ALUMNI IN THE NEWS

TMSL Alumna crowned Mrs. Plus America



TMSL alumna, **Meahgan Dickerson-Barrett**, class of 2007, was announced 2017 Mrs. Plus America on July 24, 2017. Mrs. Dickerson-Barrett is a solo practitioner with her own firm specializing in personal injury, criminal law and auto accidents. Mrs. Dickerson-Barrett ran as a 2017 Mrs. Plus America delegate from the Yellow Rose State. She will reign as the national Mrs. Plus America until the national competition in 2018. TMSL family please congratulate her on this esteemed accomplishment.

TMSL Alumna Imrana Manzanares gets published



TMSL Alumna, **Imrana Manzanares**, class of 2006, was recently published in the Fall 2017 report from the State Bar of Texas. Currently, a Nurse Attorney with Abraham Watkins, Manzanares was published an article entitled "Evaluating Potential Medical Malpractice Claims", The Advocate - the State Bar of Texas Litigation Report. TMSL family congratulates Imrana Manzanares.

TMSL Alumna Julie Wenah honored as Top 40 Under 40



TMSL Alumna, **Julie Wenah**, class of 2012, was recognized the National Bar Association recipient of the 2017 "40 Under 40 Nation's Best Advocates" award. Wenah is currently employed as Counsel at Airbnb and previously, served in the Obama Administration as Counselor and Community Operations Policy Advisor at the U.S. Department of Commerce and a NASA Legal Fellow on Intellectual Property and K-12 STEM education. This year's recipients were honored at the National Bar Association's 40 Under 40 Awards Gala on August 2, 2017, held in Toronto Canada during the NBA's 92nd Annual Convention. TMSL family congratulates Julie Wenah on this prestigious honor.



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ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS *Cont'd.* ALUMNI IN THE NEWS

TMSL Alum Morris Overstreet announces candidacy



TMSL alum, **Judge Morris Overstreet**, class of 1975, announced during the NBA Convention in Toronto that he will run for NBA President-Elect in New Orleans 2018. Judge Overstreet, the first African American elected to a statewide office in the history of Texas, was elected twice to the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals. In addition, Judge Overstreet is a life member of the National Bar Association (NBA), and the NAACP, a former Chair of the NBA Judicial Council Division, and formerly served as the Distinguished Visiting Professor of Law at TMSL, and Director of the TMSL Legal Clinic.

TMSL Alum Phillip Yates celebrates several “new” positions in his life



TMSL Alum, **Phillip Yates**, class of 2006, recently accepted a seat on the Board of Directors of the Lone Star Justice Alliance. Yates states that “since entering the legal profession, (he has) made it [his] purpose to find a balance between private practice, advocacy work, and doing [his] part as a member of the bar to improve the profession. In this role, Yates will assist in developing alternatives to incarcerating juveniles through prevention, rehabilitation, and fair & equal justice.

Please join the TMSL family in congratulating Phillip Yates on his new board position.

TMSL Alum Kevin Satterfield is guest speaker



Attorney **Kevin Satterfield**, Class of 1995, is an attorney with the New York City Department of Correction, Correction Intelligence Bureau.

He was the Guest Speaker at the National Bar Association Regional Conference in New York City. His topic was titled: *Did President Trump's First 100 Days Set Back African American Advancement 100 Years?*



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ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS *Cont'd.*

IN MEMORIAM



Opal Laverne Mitchell Lee, a loving wife, mother of six children, and grandmother has continued her journey beyond this earthly realm on September 2, 2017. She always strived to live a life of advocacy to those around her, especially her children and always acted to benefit others.

Majority of her life she was a civil rights activist, championing the causes of those in need; an accomplished writer, and the author of *Enduring and Overcoming*, a book on display in the National Museum of African American History. She enriched the lives of her family and friends who will remember her fondly as a caring, distinguished and loving individual.

Opal Laverne Mitchell Lee is the namesake and inspiration for the Earl Carl Institute's Opal Mitchell Lee Property Preservation Project, a project to preserve wealth and reduce property loss in communities of color. We extend to Opal Laverne Mitchell Lee's family our profound pride in being afforded this opportunity to convey our gratitude for a woman who left a profound impact on our community, and who immensely enriched TSU, TMSL and the ECI family.



Dr. Lamore Joseph Carter, the father of TMSL alum **E. Leon Carter, Class of 1986**, and the uncle of TMSL alumna **Rhonda Arnold**, passed away on August 30, 2017. Dr. Lamore Joseph Carter, dedicated his life to service and academia. He was a Dean of facilities, and a professor of psychology and education at Texas Southern University. Dr. Carter served as the President of Wiley College during which time the college achieved its highest enrollment in two decades. He was also the Vice President of Grambling University and the Coordinator of the Louisiana Consent Decree Program for the desegregation of higher education in Louisiana. The TMSL family sends our condolences to the family and expresses our gratitude for his service.



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August Birthdays

September Birthdays

Stephanie Ledesma	5th
Jimmy Walker	6th
Thelma Harman	11th
Elsa Ransom	12th
Rebecca Stewart	12th
Gabriel Aitsebaomo	13th
Paul Stein	15th
Ericka Kelsaw	17th
Misty Bishop	20th
Asmara Tekle	25th
Carolyn Gardner	27th
Thomas Kleven	30th

Jo Alridge	1st
Virgie Mouton	4th
Susan Bynam	10th
James Beard	16th
Itunu Sofidiya	18th
Craig Jackson	21st
Prudence Smith	23rd

