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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

On April 22, 2022, the **Experiential Education Department of Texas Southern University Thurgood Marshall School of Law**, overseen by **Associate Dean Stephanie M. Ledesma**, was awarded a **\$20,000.00 grant** from the **Texas Bar Foundation** for its **Title IX Experiential Education Program**, directed by **Professor Lydia D. Johnson**. The grant funds are intended to be used to support a staff attorney hire for the **Title IX Experiential Education Program** for the June 2022 through May 2023 fiscal year. In addition, the grant funds will be used to acquire professional student and attorney training in the area of Title IX law as it develops, for proceedings, and to purchase required software and other needed office equipment to support the work of the **Title IX Experiential Education Program** at the law school.

The Thurgood Marshall School of Law **Title IX Experiential Education Program** is thoughtfully and intentionally designed with two equally important goals in mind: 1) the continued *administration of justice* for persons who are in need of zealous, best-practice-focused, legal representation in Title IX proceedings, but who do not have access to the financial means required to afford these much needed legal services and protections and 2) the *incorporation of an improved pedagogical model of experiential educational* in law school programs that is less costly than traditional, legal clinical education models, yet more effective in the inculcation of professionalism and practical skills training needed by today's law school graduates.

The *improved pedagogical model of experiential education* developed and utilized by the **Title IX Experiential Education Program** introduces: 1) technologically advanced practical skills training opportunities for law students; 2) immersive student-focused experiences intended to move law students from the introduction of new practical skills, to the development of these practical skills, to ultimately the mastery of these practical skills; and 3) collaborative platforms with innovative approaches to practical skills training for law students that are more receptive to a greater diversity of adult education preferences. Such platforms, in accordance with national best-practices, will best equip law students in the long-term to be successful in the life-and-career-long practice of law; and, in the short-term, law students will be best prepared to successfully pass the, "Next Generation of the Unified Bar Exam", anticipated in 2026, which promises to be more practical in nature, (*decreasing the number of Multiple Bar Examination multiple-choice style questions while increasing the student testers ability to successfully demonstrate higher level critical analysis ability with more focus on problem solving skills*).

The award of the Texas Bar Foundation grant will support **Texas Southern University Thurgood Marshall School of Law Title IX Experiential Education Program** as we work to 1) bridge the gap of legal service assistance provided to financially impoverished members of our community and

otherwise disadvantaged populations within our community; 2) inculcate in our students the responsibility provided through pro bono legal work; 3) improve the quality and nature of practical skills training for our law students; and 4) best prepare our law students for the life and career-long practice of law, in the long-term, and in the short term, increase the probability of our students successfully passing the bar.

Since its inception in 1965, the Texas Bar Foundation has awarded more than \$24 million in grants to law-related programs. Supported by members of the State Bar of Texas, the Texas Bar Foundation is the nation's largest charitably-funded bar foundation.