



# EXPLORE



TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

Thurgood Marshall School of Law

LIFE TRANSFORMING OPPORTUNITIES AT THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW



# *Explore the Advantages of* **Thurgood Marshall School of Law**



**OUR VISION** - We enhance our preeminence as the law school of inclusion and opportunity by continuing to rise on standards of equality and excellence.

**OUR MISSION** - As part of one of the country's largest historically black universities, TMSL maintains its leadership responsibility of ensuring the greatest educational opportunities for its student body who represent all educational, ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds.

**OUR VALUES** - Our values are excellence, integrity, learning, cooperation and fairness.

**OUR CREDO** - **PROTECT, IMPROVE AND PASS ON** our legacy of changing the face of the legal profession in Texas and across our nation.

**Our Diversity** - Since November 2014, TMSL has been heralded as top school for diversity in the country by the National Jurist and PreLaw magazines. Currently, our students represent a dynamic mix of African American, Hispanic, Asian and Anglo cultures and perspectives.



**EXCELLENCE · INTEGRITY · LEARNING · COOPERATION · FAIRNESS**

# Welcome from Acting Dean Gary L. Bledsoe

... "A Lawyer is either a social engineer or he is a parasite on society."

Charles Hamilton Houston (1895-1950) - Lawyer, Educator, Civil Rights Attorney



Texas Southern University Thurgood Marshall School of Law (TMSL) was created in order to foster segregation and to deny diversity at its inception. Nowadays, despite this history, TMSL has become

known as one of the most diverse Law Schools in the country.

At TMSL, we must say enthusiastically that inclusion and diversity matter. Currently, our students and faculty represent a dynamic mix of African-American, Hispanic, Asian and Anglo cultures and perspectives. TMSL has been ranked number one in diversity by the National Jurist and continues to remain in the top 25 around the country, for best law schools for diversity. Recently, I met with one of our distinguished and successful alumni who told me that he loved our Law School because being from a small town in New Mexico, he came to TMSL and learned how to get along with everyone because everyone was here. The University, our faculty and our staff are all truly dedicated to providing a

first-class legal training program to a diverse cadre of students, most of whom we expect to become outstanding members of the legal profession in law, business and public service.

We offer a high quality legal education at a comparatively low cost. We invest heavily in academic support, offering a variety of programs structured to meet the specific needs of the student body.



During the academic year, professors use a holistic approach to support students by monitoring their academic performance and working with the students on issues such as accountability and time management. The growth and success of our experiential learning initiatives and clinical programs; the

continual accolades and achievements by our award-winning moot court and mock trial teams; the scholarly course of appointments and fellowships by our faculty; and the impressive array of professional activities and collaboration with our alumni—many of whom serve in Congress, the state legislature and judiciary in Texas, throughout the United States and abroad—are testament to our Law School's global success.

TMSL is considered an historically black college and university (HBCU), but is also one of the highest in producing Latino lawyers and has even been nationally recognized by the Hispanic Caucus of the United States Congress. We look at our alumni and we see many judges, elected officials, partners in major firms and simply outstanding litigators of all sorts. We truly cover the whole gamut of the legal profession. We care about our students at TMSL. On behalf of our students, faculty, staff and alumni, I sincerely hope you pay us a visit soon to explore just how we care about our students at Thurgood Marshall School of Law and to witness personally the significant impact we continue to make on the legal profession and even society at large, both locally and nationally. ⚖️

# EXPLORE TMSL

Explore the Advantages of Thurgood Marshall School of Law

1 Welcome from Acting Dean Gary L. Bledsoe

## *Table of Contents*

2 Inclusion & Diversity Make All the Difference

3/4 Why TMSL May Be the School for You

5 The Best Way to Learn About TMSL is to Visit Us

6 Admission to the J.D. Program

7 Office of Student Affairs

8 Student Organizations

9/10 Alumni and External Partners

11 The Office of Career and Professional Development (OCPD)

12 Tuition and Financial Aid /Estimated Cost of Attendance



*Explore how Inclusion and Diversity*  
**Make All the Difference**

**T**HURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW, ranked one of the most diverse law schools in the country, enrolls classes that are as diverse as you will find anywhere.

We work hard to create and retain a diverse and inclusive law school community representing all educational, ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds to learn and explore different perspectives and viewpoints, while enriching the educational experience.

As a local, regional and national leader in the production of a diverse group of law graduates, we actively seek applicants from all walks of life who possess the potential to become outstanding members of the legal profession.

Our multi-disciplinary approach to legal education, coupled with our close-knit and supportive environment are in place to ensure that our students training to become future lawyers are practice ready, client ready, and embrace their ethical obligations to the community, the profession and the bench.

*Expand your horizons.*

**Find your home at Thurgood Marshall School of Law.**

*For more information on how Thurgood Marshall School of Law can help launch your legal career, visit [www.tsulaw.edu](http://www.tsulaw.edu). *



*Explore Why*

# Thurgood Marshall School of Law May Be The Law School For You



## OUR REPUTATION

For the last seven decades, TMSL has been heralded as an institution of opportunity and inclusion that continues to rise on its standards of equality and excellence.

## OUR NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR DIVERSITY

At TMSL, inclusion and diversity truly matter. Voted “Best Law School for Diversity in the nation by National Jurist 2014 in and ranked “Top School for Diversity” by preLaw Magazine from 2015 through 2018, we tower over the other law schools in mirroring our nation’s mix for racial diversity. We enroll classes that are as diverse as you will find anywhere in the country.

## OUR AFFORDABILITY

TMSL takes pride in the fact that we offer a high quality education at a comparatively low cost. For estimated rates on tuition and fees, visit: [www.tsulaw.edu/fao/tuition\\_info.html](http://www.tsulaw.edu/fao/tuition_info.html)

## OUR SCHOLARSHIPS

We award scholarships annually up to \$1 million. We provide a full scholarship for each 2nd year law student in the top 10% of the class.

## OUR FACULTY

We have engaged faculty dedicated to the pursuit of ensuring each student is armed with the knowledge, skills and values that provide the foundation for success in the legal profession. Our faculty-student ratio allows for a meaningful and individualized learning experience.

## OUR LOCATION

TMSL is located in Houston, known for being the largest city in Texas, the most diverse city in Texas, the fourth largest city in the United States, and one of the nation’s top legal markets.



## OUR ALUMNI

TMSL alumni are high achievers in the legal profession, holding positions as leading members of the U.S. House of Representatives and both the House and Senate of the Texas Legislature; distinguished federal and state trial and appellate judges; key partners in law firms; executive and administrative government attorneys, both federal and state; recognized sports and entertainment attorneys and agents; and top attorneys in civil and criminal practice areas.

## *A Learning-By-Doing Environment is Yours for the Asking* **Explore the practice through our Experiential Education Program**

**Thurgood Marshall School of Law (TMSL) is experiential education.** Embracing the importance of experiential education from its inception, our law school is proud to be home to experiential education programs that model national standards of best practice methodologies. “Best preparing our students” to be the gold standard of the legal profession is the goal of each of the eight experiential education programs: **Externships; Mediation; Street Law (facilitated through the Earl Carl Institute for Legal and Social Policy, Inc. on campus); Clinics; Law Practice; Advocacy; Internal Board of Advocates; and External Board of Advocates.**

**The Externship Program** includes civil, judicial and criminal externship placements that include but are not limited to private law firms; corporate partners like Walmart; judicial placements such as Justices of the Peace, state courts, and federal courts; and criminal externship placements such as District Attorney and County Attorney offices.

**TMSL Live Client Clinical Programs** include the Civil Law Clinic, (Family Law Clinic; Mediation Clinic; Wills and Probate Clinic), the Criminal Law Clinic; and the Administrative Clinic, including but not limited to the Immigration Clinic.

Upon completion of the **TMSL Mediation Experiential Education** course, students receive experiential learning credit, in addition to a 40 hour Mediation Certificate that allows students to serve as trained, and certified mediators.

**The TMSL Trial Simulation Program** is based on The National Institute for Trial Advocacy (NITA) international, award winning, trial advocacy skills program, pioneering the “learning-by-doing methodology” over 40 years ago. As a public service organization, NITA provides, at little or no cost, the same high-caliber training we provide to the nation’s largest firms and agencies to legal service attorneys, public defenders, and attorneys who have chosen to work in child advocacy, tribal law, death penalty defense, immigration, domestic violence and other vital areas of public interest. In addition, the competitive **Moot Court and Mock Trial Programs** prepare students to participate in challenging advocacy competitions across the nation. Since TMSL’s inception, we have embraced our responsibility to equip our graduates with leadership skills learned through best-practice pedagogies, so that they leave our halls as professionals, leaders and socially conscience social pioneers.

Our **Experiential Education Department** is led by **Stephanie Smith Ledesma, Associate Professor and Associate Dean of Experiential Learning.** Dean Ledesma also serves as a national faculty member and program director of trial skills and deposition skills across the nation and develops curricula for law firms, agencies (*i.e. Catholic Charities, the American Bar Association, Legal Aid of California, to name a few*) and other law school trial programs, for instance, *Emory Law School, Hofstra Law School, SMU Dedman Law School, and University of Houston Law Center.* ⚖️



*Southwest Regional 2018 BLSA Mock Trial Winners (1st Place)*



*The Experiential Education Program Students*



## *The Best Way to Learn About TMSL and Explore is to VISIT*



- **TOUR OUR HISTORIC CAMPUS**, observe a first-year class and learn what it means to study at a diverse institution with a proud legacy of producing leaders in the legal profession, in business and in public service.
- **INQUIRE ABOUT THE ADMISSIONS PROCESS** and learn about our varied scholarship opportunities and how you can get involved in the TMSL community through one of our twenty-five student-driven organizations and two student publications.
- **EXPLORE THE EARL CARL INSTITUTE FOR LEGAL & SOCIAL POLICY, INC.**, an advocacy organization on campus that seeks to identify, address, and offer solutions to issues that affect traditionally urban and disenfranchised communities through four centers: Center for Civil Advocacy; Center for Criminal Justice; Center for Government Law; and Center for Research, Writing and Student Development. Meet with our career and professional development team, who will help you build your relationships between the law school and employers, locally and nationally, for professional development, preparation for the practice of law or the professional career of your choice.
- **EXPLORE HOUSTON, THE MOST RACIALLY AND ETHNICALLY DIVERSE CITY IN AMERICA**  
Nicknamed the Space City, Houston is a global city with strengths in culture, medicine and research. We are home to the Texas Medical Center (the world's largest concentration of healthcare and research institutions), NASA's Johnson Space Center, a thriving Museum District, the renowned Theater District, (Houston Ballet, Houston Grand Opera, Houston Symphony, and Theater Under the Stars) and Historic District showcasing 19th-century architecture and award-winning restaurants.
- **FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE TMSL ADMISSIONS OFFICE** at 713.313.1149 or email: **Dr. Edward Rene**, Assistant Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid at [edward.rene@tmslaw.tsu.edu](mailto:edward.rene@tmslaw.tsu.edu). 



# Admission To The J.D. Program

*Explore why our incoming first-year law students are so much more than the LSAT score.*



Dr. Edward René  
*Assistant Dean of Admissions  
and Financial Aid*

**T**he admission decision is based primarily upon the applicant's motivation and intellectual capacity as demonstrated by the undergraduate record and his or her aptitude for the study of law as measured by the LSAT. The admission decision, however, is more complex than the mere rank ordering of applicants on the basis of a numerical formula. Leadership ability, prior community service, work experience, the student's background, extra-curricular activities, and graduate study in another discipline are all considered.

**The Admissions Committee also seeks to determine the applicant's level of motivation by reviewing personal experience indicating determination, patience and perseverance. The Committee believes that past success in overcoming an economic and/or educational disadvantage is a prime indicator of motivation.**

Thurgood Marshall School of Law Texas Southern University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national or ethnic origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, age or disability in the administration of its academic or employment policies, or other school-administered rights, privileges, programs or activities.

## CHARACTER, FITNESS, AND OTHER QUALIFICATIONS FOR ADMISSION TO THE BAR

In addition to a bar examination, there are character, fitness, and other qualifications for admission to the bar in every U.S. jurisdiction. Applicants are encouraged to determine the requirements for any jurisdiction in which they intend to seek admission by contacting the jurisdiction. Addresses for all relevant agencies are available through the National Conference of Bar Examiners at <http://www.ncbex.org/>.

**To apply online, visit: <https://os.lsac.org/Release/Logon/Access.aspx>**

The Office of Admissions and Financial Aid consists of the Assistant Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid, the Assistant Director of Admissions, a Financial Aid Counselor and two Administrative Assistants. The staff in the Office of Admissions and Financial Aid is committed to providing accurate information as well as friendly and efficient customer service. ⚖️



# Student Development at Its Best

Explore Our Office of Student Affairs at Thurgood Marshall School of Law

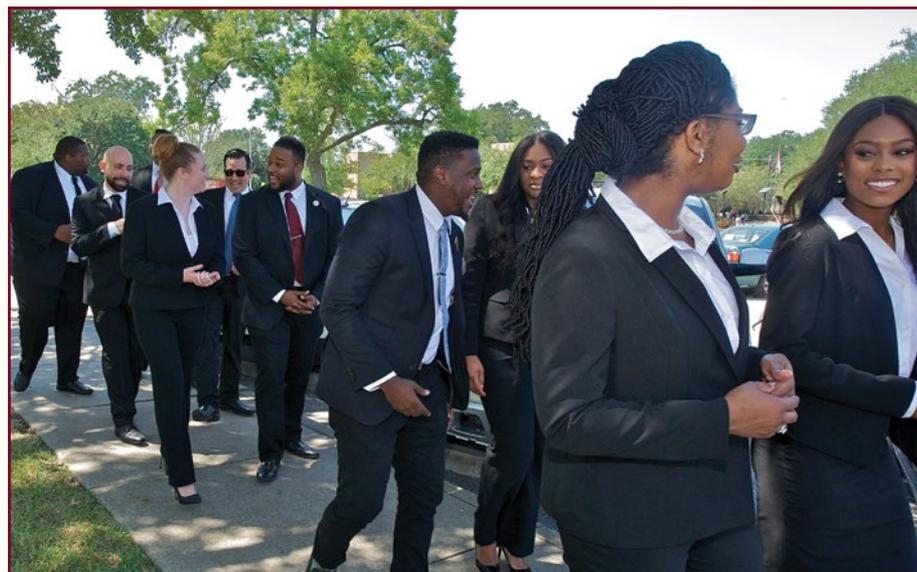


## Virgie Mouton

*Assistant Dean for Student Development and Instructor of Law*

**T**he Office of Student Affairs (OSA) serves as the primary clearing-house for facilitating customer relations with the law school's primary clients, our students. OSA offers the following services:

- Acts as the primary liaison between students, the law school, the university, and the community
  - Supervises and coordinates 1L Fall Orientation, 2L Pinning Ceremony, and 3L Hooding/Commencement Ceremonies
  - Maintains student records
  - Arranges accommodations for students with disabilities
- Provides academic and personal counseling
  - Coordinates registration of all law school organizations
  - Certifies students to sit for the bar exam
  - Provides records for students regarding employment or further graduate school applications



## Trudy Green

*Registrar*

**T**he Office of the Registrar is designed to assist students, faculty, and alumni in obtaining information as it relates to grades, transcripts, rosters, diplomas, letters of good standing and class ranking. The Registrar is also designed to ensure that during the students' tenure at the Law School, all University and Law School academic rules and regulations are enforced. Verifications of attendance are provided to former students, as well. TMSL's Office of the Registrar acts as a liaison between the University's Registrar's office and the Law School. ⚖️

Office of TMSL Student Affairs • (713) 313.4468 • [virgie.mouton@tmslaw.tsu.edu](mailto:virgie.mouton@tmslaw.tsu.edu)

Office of the TMSL Registrar • (713) 313.1141 • [trudy.green@tmslaw.tsu.edu](mailto:trudy.green@tmslaw.tsu.edu)

# Enrich Your Academic Experience

*Explore Our Student Organizations at Thurgood Marshall School of Law*

- **Advocates for Justice**
- **African Law Students Association**
- **American Constitution Society at TMSL**
- **Black Law Students Association**
- **Board of Advocates**
- **Christian Legal Society**
- **Civil Rights Law Society**
- **Death Penalty Awareness Society**
- **Environmental Law Society**
- **Hispanic Law Student Association**
- **Honor Court**
- **Institute for Immigration and International Law**
- **Intellectual Property Law Society**
- **Lawyers Acquiring Wealth Society**
- **Oil and Gas Law Society AIPN**
- **OUTLaw**
- **Parents Attending Law School**
- **Sports and Entertainment Law Society**
- **Student Ambassadors**
- **Student Bar Association**
- **The Federalist Society for Law and Public Policy Studies**
- **TMSL Law Journal on Gender, Race and Justice**
- **TMSL Law Review**
- **Veterans Law Student Association**

## Benefits of a Student Organization

- Self-Awareness and Personal Development
- Professional Development
- Networking Opportunities
- Advance Legal Skills & Gain Practical Experience
- Team-Building Opportunities
- Leadership Skills Training
- Student-Faculty-Staff-Alumni-External Partner Engagement Opportunities



*Association of International Petroleum Negotiators (AIPN) – TMSL Chapter, represents the future in international energy negotiators and offers a range of benefits and programs to assist student members with career development and growth in one of the most respected industries.*



# Inspiration, Motivation and Professional Dreams Realized

*Explore Thoughts From our Alumni and External Partners of Thurgood Marshall School of Law*



“I like hiring Thurgood Marshall School of Law candidates because they are smart, hard-working, community minded, and resourceful team players who are dedicated to the practice of law and focused on obtaining excellent results for our clients”.

**Bruce J. Ruzinsky, Esq.**  
Jackson Walker LLP – Houston  
TMSL Friend and Supporter



“Thurgood Marshall School of Law is the most cost-efficient, diverse and inclusive law school you can attend, if your goal is to be a lawyer. When I was deciding on attending law school, initially, I heavily weighed the risk and the cost, but in choosing TMSL, I gained much more than I bargained for. Today I am not only a lawyer, but part of a family that paves the way for more students like me to become lawyers.”

**Monica A. Lopez, Esq.**  
Jackson Walker LLP – Houston  
TMSL ‘16



**Jackson Walker, LLP**  
Downtown Houston, Texas



“As a result of attending Texas Southern University and Thurgood Marshall School of Law, I am living beyond my dreams. I never dreamed of being a Congressman, but I am in this position because Texas Southern and Thurgood Marshall School of Law are here; not only for public servants like myself, but for anyone who desires to receive the best education and experience great opportunities in life.”

**Congressman Alexander “Al” Green**  
U.S. House of Representatives  
9th Congressional District of Texas

“One of the big factors in my choosing TMSL was the opportunity to attend a HBCU and have faces teaching me that looked like mine. I needed a reflection of myself because I realized that most of my working career, that reflection may not exist. Because of Thurgood, I carry with me the confidence that was built during my law school experience that taught me that I could compete against anyone and succeed. TMSL provided me with an incredible foundation. I was challenged to do the hard work but encouraged to dream big. I was taught to seek answers, work hard and do my best representing my clients, my community, my alma mater and myself. I graduated from TMSL knowing that I was well prepared and could accomplish whatever I set out to do.”



**Antoinette M. “Toni” Jackson, Esq.**  
Partner  
Jones Walker LLP  
TMSL ‘91

# Career Strategy and Professional Development Begin When You Walk Through Our Doors

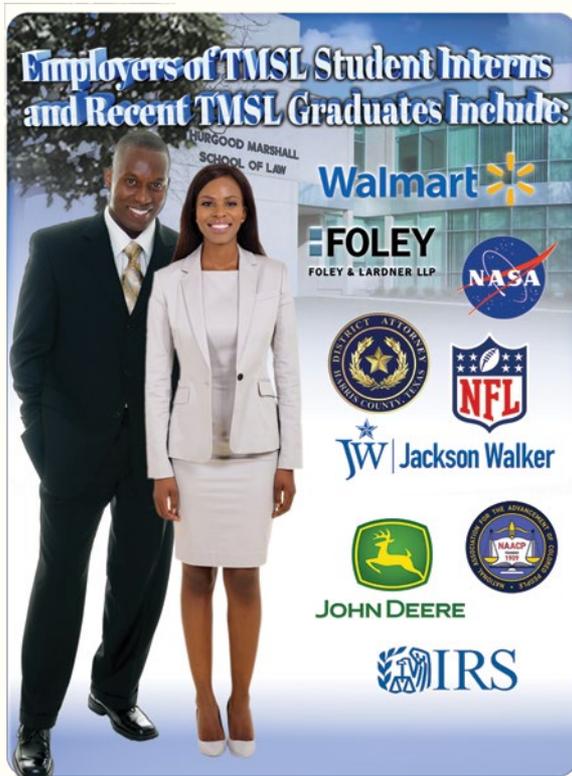
## Explore Our Office of Career and Professional Development (OCPD)

**The Office of Career and Professional Development (OCPD)** assists students and alumni of Thurgood Marshall School of Law (TMSL) with comprehensive career strategy and professional development. The mission of the office is to equip students and graduates with the requisite skills, resources, and professional development tools needed to succeed in the legal industry. The OCPD offers students and graduates one-on-one career counseling, instructions on preparing application materials, and interview and networking techniques, enabling our students to obtain the most sought-after positions in the legal industry. We work hard to ensure that our students understand how to navigate and explore the legal profession and ultimately find a successful and satisfying career.

### **We look forward to exploring career options and professional development with you!**

Throughout the year, the OCPD hosts a variety of professional development programs, recruiting events, and skills-building workshops to enhance the employment opportunities of students and alumni. TMSL graduates can be found throughout the United States and abroad practicing in a wide array of legal and non-legal arenas, including small, mid-size and large law firms, corporations, governmental agencies, public interest organizations, and academic and judicial sectors. ⚖️

The OCPD hosts over thirty (30) programs and events on practice areas within the legal industry, on J.D. advantage careers and career skills workshops throughout the year. TMSL graduates can be found throughout the United States and abroad practicing in a wide gamut of legal and non-legal arenas, including small, mid-size and large law firms, governmental agencies, non-profits, and public interest, academic and judicial sectors.



The OCPD remains deeply committed to supporting our students and graduates make the best decisions concerning their desired career path. For more information, email us at: [tmslcareers@tmslaw.tsu.edu](mailto:tmslcareers@tmslaw.tsu.edu)

### **Contact Us Directly**

**Nikki Wright Smith**

*Assistant Dean of the Office of Career and Professional Development*

Email: [nikki.smith@tmslaw.tsu.edu](mailto:nikki.smith@tmslaw.tsu.edu)

Office: 713.313.7372

# Seeking More Money in Your Pocket?

*Explore Our Affordable Tuition and Financial Aid Options*

## RESIDENT

Tuition & Fees ..... \$ 20,418.30

## NON-RESIDENT

Tuition & Fees .....\$27,618.30

Thurgood Marshall School of Law is a state-assisted institution, with tuition and fees set by the Texas Legislature and the Texas Southern University Board of Regents that are subject to change without notice. Consult the Fee schedule for the latest fees.



## Financial Aid Office

Thurgood Marshall School of Law recognizes that financing a legal education represents a sizeable investment in your future. While the primary responsibilities of financing your legal education rests with you and your family, the Office of Admissions and Financial Aid is available to assist you in financing your legal education at Thurgood Marshall School of Law. Financial aid may consist of funding from a variety of sources and may include loans, scholarships, grants and work-study. Our staff is available to meet with you to assist in the application process and counsel you on the variety of financing options available. Call (713) 313-7243 today to learn if

you are eligible for one of our TMSL merit-based scholarships. ⚖️

*Assistant Dean of Admissions/Financial Aid*

**Dr. Edward René**

713.313.7114

edward.rene@tmslaw.tsu.edu

*Assistant Director of Admissions*

**Kenyon K. Moore**

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kenyon.moore@tmslaw.tsu.edu

*Financial Aid Counselor*

**Karen Percival**

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karen.percival@tmslaw.tsu.edu

## Office of Admissions and Financial Aid Contacts



*Admissions Coordinator*

**Raqui Daniels**

713.313.7115

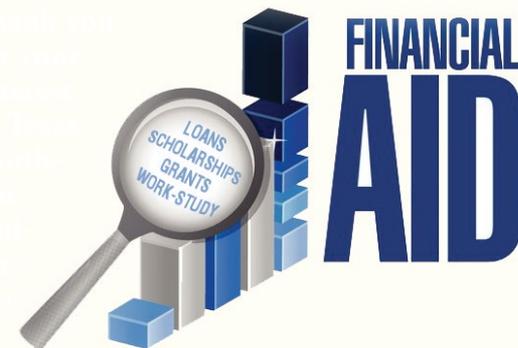
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Thank you for your interest in Texas Southern University Thurgood Marshall School of Law. To schedule a visit, your personal campus tour or for more information on admission to our law school, please visit us at [www.tsulaw.edu/admissions](http://www.tsulaw.edu/admissions) or contact us at 713.313.1149. ⚖️



**PROTECT, IMPROVE AND PASS ON OUR LEGACY OF CHANGING THE FACE OF  
THE LEGAL PROFESSION IN TEXAS AND ACROSS THE NATION.**



TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

Thurgood Marshall School of Law

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