



TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL *of* LAW

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INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Featured left to right: Congressman Henry Cuellar (TX-28); TMSL Dean, Dr. James M. Douglas; Congressman Vicente Gonzalez (TX-15); and TMSL Alum ('73), Congressman Al Green (TX-09)

Texas Southern University Thurgood Marshall School of Law revered by United States Congressman Vicente Gonzalez (TX-15) during a private reception held in law school's honor, for significant contributions in supporting the Hispanic community earn Juris Doctor degrees

In commemoration of National Hispanic Heritage Month, **Congressman Vicente Gonzalez (15th Congressional District of Texas)** hosted a reception to honor the contributions of Texas Southern University Thurgood Marshall School of Law (TMSL) to the Hispanic community. The reception was held on Tuesday, September 12, 2017 at 4 p.m. (EST) inside the Rayburn House Office Building at the United States Capitol in Washington, D.C., during the **Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (CHCI) 2017 Leadership Conference**. Congressman Gonzalez presented an honorary plaque to **TMSL Interim Dean and Distinguished Professor Dr. James M. Douglas** to commend the law school for its efforts in educating and preparing Hispanic students for the legal profession. **Honorary hosts included TMSL Alum ('73), Congressman Al Green (TX-09); Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee (TX-18); Congressman Gene Green (TX-29) and TMSL Alum ('79), Congressman Hank Johnson (GA-04)**. Also, joining TSU and TMSL alumni and friends in the celebration included **Congressman Henry Cuellar (TX-28)**.

Per Gonzalez, "As we celebrated the achievements and contributions of the Hispanic community during Hispanic Heritage Month, I wanted to honor Texas Southern University by applauding Thurgood Marshall School of Law amongst a host of the law school's alumni and friends, for its unwavering commitment to aspiring and practicing Hispanic lawyers in Texas and across the nation."

Per Douglas, "We were humbled by the recognition, as well as the event and award bestowed upon our law school by Congressman Gonzalez and were delighted to see so many of our TMSL alumni and friends during this commemorative occasion. Thurgood Marshall School of Law has long-standing history of fostering diversity and continues to receive top honors for being ranked as one of the most diverse law schools in the nation. When I became a law professor, one of my top priorities was to increase the number of minority lawyers. Just this past spring, at least a quarter of our graduating class was Hispanic and approximately 26% of those graduating with honors were also Hispanic. Our persistence in producing a substantial number of attorneys who either practice, bring honor to the judiciary bench or take on public service roles in South Texas and even around this country are highly commendable."

The CHCI Leadership Conference convenes the largest gathering of Latino leaders, annually. Aside from members of Congress and other elected officials, thousands of engaged individuals and change agents from all sectors and industries—including corporate executives, educators, community activists, celebrities, media personalities and nonprofit leaders—come together to examine critical areas affecting the Latino community and the nation.