

7th ANNUAL



March 9, 2018
8:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW
3100 Cleburne Street, Houston, Texas 77004



Honorable Craig Washington & Honorable Rodney Ellis
EXCELLENCE IN INDIGENT DEFENSE SERIES

REGISTRATION

- Attorneys: \$175
- Government and Non-Profit Attorneys: \$125
- Public Defenders and Non-Attorneys- Complimentary
- Students/Faculty/Judges: Complimentary

Breakfast, lunch and parking validation included

Receive MCLE: 7.75 • Ethics: 1.5
Register Online at: <https://7thannualindigentdefenseseries.eventbrite.com>

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THE EARL CARL INSTITUTE FOR LEGAL AND SOCIAL POLICY, INC.
AND TEXAS CRIMINAL DEFENSE LAWYERS ASSOCIATION



ECI Hosts Successful 7th Annual Honorable Craig Washington and Honorable Rodney Ellis Excellence in Indigent Defense CLE

On Friday, March 9, 2018, ECI and Thurgood Marshall School of Law in collaboration with the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association and the Criminal Defense Lawyers Project hosted the 7th Annual Honorable Craig Washington and Honorable Rodney Ellis Excellence in Indigent Defense Series CLE. The annual CLE, named after the Honorable Craig Washington and Commissioner Rodney Ellis, because of their instrumental and ongoing efforts in the fight for fair trials and effective representation for the indigent, was attended by over 100 attorneys, law students and members of the general public. Attendees enjoyed a day long program focused on training lawyers who serve indigent defendants, included remarks by both the Honorable Craig Washington and Commissioner Rodney Ellis as well as presentations on the following topics:

- What You Need to Know to Challenge Juvenile Life Without Parole Sentences
- What You Need to Know About Harris County Bond Practices
- The Work of the Timothy Cole Commission
- Representation at the Police Station
- Advanced Forensics
- How to E-File, From A-Z
- Critical Law Changes of the 85th Legislative Session



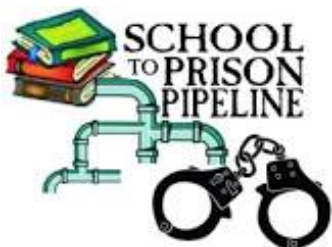
LEADERSHIP FOR
EDUCATIONAL EQUITY



ECI to Host Leadership for Educational Equity Policy & Advocacy Summer Fellow

Through a grant award made possible by the Rockwell Fund, ECI will host a Leadership for Educational Equity (LEE) Policy & Advocacy Summer Fellow during the summer of 2018. LEE is a nonpartisan, nonprofit leadership development organization with the goal to end injustice of educational inequity by inspiring and supporting a diverse set of leaders with classroom experience to engage civically and politically. The highly competitive Policy & Advocacy Summer Fellowship connects LEE members, who are Teach For America corps members and alumni, with high-impact policy and advocacy leaders and organizations focused on education, children, youth and communities for an eight-week, full-time placement.

Criminalization of in-school behaviors continues to perpetuate the effects of the school to prison pipeline on children of color in Texas. As part of ECI's ongoing work to reduce school criminalization of students, this summer the ECI will be reviewing existing data to determine what policy proposals we might educate Texas lawmakers about that would reduce the disproportionate impact of school disciplinary actions. The LEE Fellow will be responsible for reviewing court statistical data and ISD police data, examining best practices around the country for decriminalizing in-school incidents, and drafting a policy paper and legislation as well as preparing a high quality slide presentation to be used in the future when discussing the policy recommendations.



ECI Executive Director Selected to Serve as Advisory Member of the Texas Judicial Council's Juvenile Justice Committee

ECI Executive Director, Sarah Guidry, was selected to serve as an Advisory Member of the Texas Judicial Council's Juvenile Justice Committee. The Texas Judicial Council (TJC) was created in 1929 by the 41st Legislature to continuously study and report on the organization and practices of the Texas Judicial Branch. TJC is the policy-making body for the state judiciary.

The Council studies methods to simplify judicial procedures, expedite court business, and better administer justice. It examines the work accomplished by the courts and submits recommendations for improvement of the system to the Legislature, the Governor and the Supreme Court. The Council receives and considers input from judges, public officials, members of the bar, and citizens.

The Council's Juvenile Justice Committee is charged with considering best practices and necessary reforms to the juvenile justice system to improve the adjudication of delinquent conduct cases. The Juvenile Justice Committee is also charged with the oversight of the study required by HB 1204 regarding the use of the terms child, minor, and juvenile in statute for fine-only offenses and the adjudication of those offenses, including recommendation of any necessary reforms to improve the adjudication of those offenses.

The Committee is chaired by TMSL Alumni, the Honorable Valencia Nash.



ECI Hosts Community Forum on the Preservation of the Black Family

On Thursday, March 22, 2018, ECI in collaboration with the Coalition for the Preservation of the Black Family, Houston Black Child Development Institute, TMSL Black Law Students Association and the PVAMU Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center hosted a community forum entitled Foster Care to Prison Pipeline: A Call to Action. The forum addressed, through presentations and dialogue, the issues faced by Black families who become involved in the child welfare system and the need to support kinship placements.

Associate Dean Stephanie Ledesma discussed the racial genocide that has resulted from removal of Black children from their families and the need to increase efforts to stop this phenomena. More than 50 attendees joined us to hear from experts and to express your concerns and recommendations for change.



ECI to Host End of Semester Student Presentations

ECI greatly values the work of our students! On Thursday, April 19, 2018, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., ECI will showcase the hard work of our students in the Thurgood Marshall School of Law Dean's Conference Room.

Student presentations will include an overview of the various research, writing and clinical projects that they have been a part of for the spring semester.

Each semester ECI hires several students to assist as student attorneys in the ECI Juvenile Justice Project, the Opal Mitchell Lee Property Preservation Project, and the TMSL Innocence Project. In these clinical programs, students assist with actual cases participating in all aspects of litigation from the initial intake and client interview, to investigation, to document preparation, discovery and trial.

ECI also trains students in legal research and writing. This semester topics included the "Foster Care to Prison Pipeline", and a review of the Texas Mandate to videotape interrogations.



ECI Launches New Black Girls Initiative

A recently published report by the Georgetown Law Center on Poverty and Inequality presented compelling data finding that the "adultrification" of Black girls- the perception that Black girls are less innocent and more adult-like than their white peers- has resulted in the disparate treatment of Black girls across public systems. This phenomenon has resulted in the disparate treatment and overrepresentation of Black girls in education, School Discipline and low STEM participation, the juvenile justice system (including status offenses), Human sex trafficking, violence, trauma & harassment, single parenting & early pregnancy, homelessness (in particular LGBTQ), and child welfare.

To address the issue of significant bias against Black girls that results in the above inequities ECI has launched the ECI Black Girls Initiative (BGI). ECI's BGI is a research and advocacy project that examines the slate of issues that disproportionately impact black girls through a race-gender equity lens using a three point approach that includes direct legal representation, community education and policy advocacy. ECI is currently beginning a campaign to find **Black Women Inspiring our Girls**. Stay tuned for more to learn more about ECI's Black Girls Initiative!



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