



**Texas Southern University  
Thurgood Marshall School of Law**

*TMSL Office of Communications*

### **TMSL Alumnus to Speak at TSU Charter Day Convocation**

**Former U.S. Congressman, Craig A. Washington** will serve as the keynote speaker at Texas Southern University's Convocation on Wednesday, March 4, 2009, at 10:00 a.m. in Sawyer Auditorium.

A graduate of Prairie View A&M University, Washington was originally interested in becoming a doctor, but decided to apply at Texas Southern University's law school because admissions to medical school had ceased. He graduated from Thurgood Marshall School of Law in May 1969.

In 1972, the State of Texas began electing members of the State House of Representatives and State Senate, for the first time, by single member districts. Washington, along with four other minority candidates: Anthony Hall, George T. "Mickey" Leland, Benny Reyes, and Cecil Bush (dubbed the "People's Five"), ran for seats in the House of Representatives in Texas. Washington was elected, and served as Texas state representative, Rep. District 86, from 1973 to 1982. He was then a Texas state senator, Senatorial District 13, from 1983 until 1989.

Washington was elected as a Democrat to the 101<sup>st</sup> United States Congress for Texas's 18<sup>th</sup> congressional district, by special election, December 9, 1989, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mickey Leland. He was reelected to the 102<sup>nd</sup> United States Congress and 103<sup>rd</sup> United States Congress and served from December 9, 1989, to January 3, 1995.

Currently, Washington is a practicing attorney in Houston and Bastrop, Texas.