

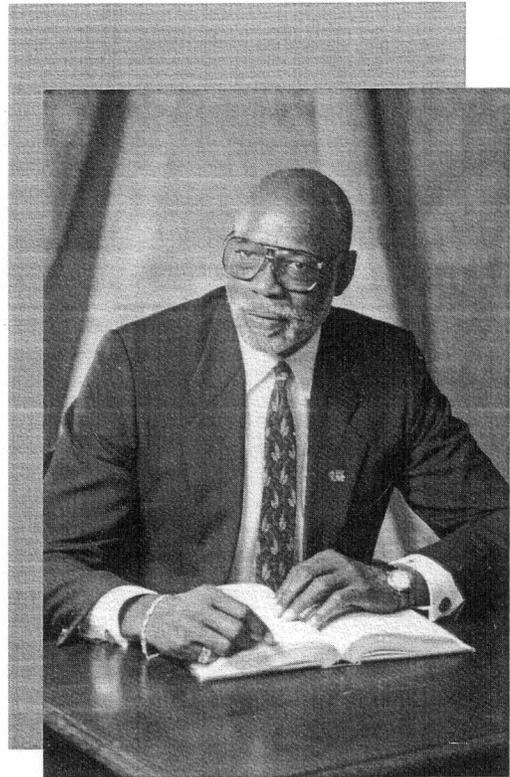
REGUSTUS

Texas Southern University
Thurgood Marshall School of Law

The Dean's Message

I want to report to you about the exciting changes our law school has undergone and the challenges we continue to meet to produce lawyers who are committed to "Justice for All". As you know, the law school's student body is one of the most culturally diverse student bodies in the nation. The future of our law school directly impacts the ability of the legal profession to be representative of and sensitive to the needs of minorities, the poor, and the disenfranchised. Because of the important mission of the law school, we must constantly assess our strengths and weaknesses as we establish and accomplish goals that will allow the law school to remain a dynamic institution.

The renovated law school building is an impressive edifice that has become the pride of our community. While creating a positive learning environment, the law school building has become a host-site for university and community functions. Additionally, we have sponsored numerous C.L.E. courses at the law school for the alumni and legal community at affordable cost. Because we are preparing tomorrow's leaders it is only natural that the law school building become a hub for these kinds of activities.

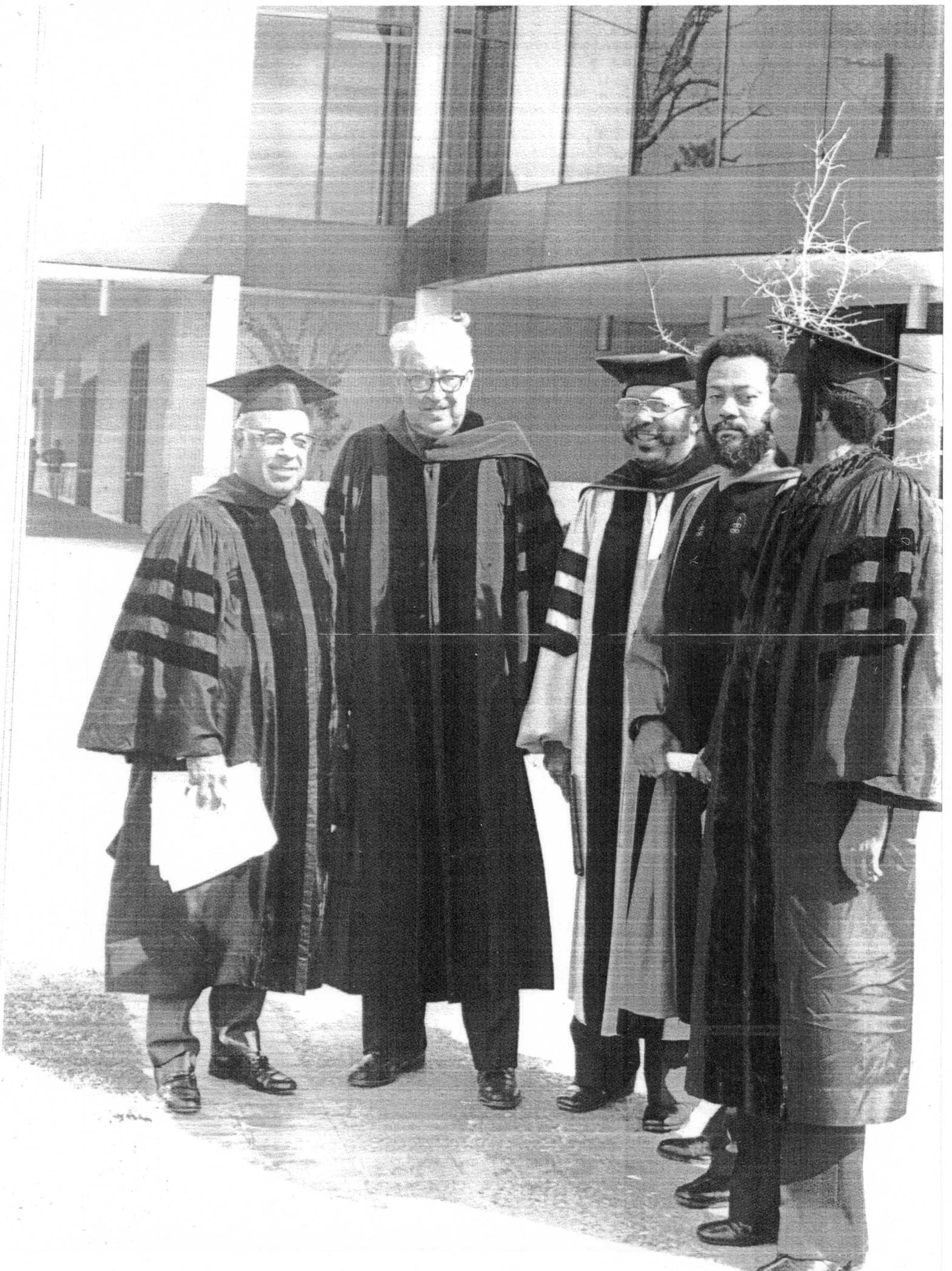


The law school has seen a dramatic increase in the number of qualified applicants and the number of students admitted. At the same time, faculty salaries have increased and scholarly publications by faculty members are being recognized around the country. Several faculty members have contracts to publish books in the areas of sports law, tort law and civil rights.

A source of real pride has been the significant increase in employment placement for our recent graduates. Our law students and graduates are becoming serious competitors in the tight job market and are landing lucrative and prestigious positions. Gift-giving by our alumni has reached record levels, with regular contributors digging deeper and new contributors responding in high numbers.

While the law school has accomplished much, several concerns remain which we must address. While gift-giving has increased, the law school lacks adequate financial resources for student scholarships and endowed faculty chairs. And, although our students are obtaining significant employment opportunities, our bar passage rate is still not at the level we desire. The law school's support staff plays a meaningful role in the success of the law school. However, salaries for support staff remain low. Finally, the law library needs additional resources for its staff, and the law school continues to pursue endowed funds for faculty chairs.

These concerns are all areas where alumni can make the difference. We need your financial support to continue to produce lawyers who achieve "Justice for All."



A Personal Appreciation for Justice Thurgood Marshall

By James M. Douglas

As I dressed to go to school, I had no reason to know that this day would be unlike any of my other days. It's not that my days were not always good; but, rather, I would soon find out that this day would not just be great, this day would be excellent. And so, I dressed as normal, ate breakfast, took the short five minute drive from my apartment to the school of law.

On this not so special day, I went as always to check my messages. As I opened the first message and began to read, this not so special day came to be one of the most important days of my life. The message began very simply "Dear Mr. Douglas". It was what followed that made it so special. The message was short and simple, "The Honorable Thurgood Marshall would like to have lunch with you and a few other students following the finals of the Moot Court Competition." It was only a year earlier, that I met my first Supreme Court Justice, my name sake brethren in legal and political view, Judge William O. Douglas. But this

would be different. This would be an opportunity to spend some quality time with the only African-American to ascend to one of the nine top judicial positions in this nation, the United States Supreme Court.

The important day arrived much faster than even I expected. It seems that time either races or creeps--when something important is about to happen, and for this event, time seemed to fly. When the important moment arrived, it was well worth the wait. To meet the great Thurgood Marshall is to meet an individual who is bigger than life. As we -I and a few of my fellow students - sat at a table in a small restaurant, in walked this imposing figure. He moved smoothly across the floor and took a seat at our table. All of the conversations that were in progress immediately stopped, and everyone's attention turned to Justice Marshall.

It was easy to understand how this man managed to rise to such a



Justice Thurgood Marshall at the Dedication Service of the Thurgood Marshall School of Law Building in 1976.

position of power. At once, he made it clear to all of us "want-a-be" future African-American leaders that we would discuss his agenda rather than our own. We wanted to talk about the latest big legal and political issue, "Affirmative Action". Mr. Marshall wanted to talk about our responsibilities as African-Americans who had been given an opportunity to make a contribution to this society of ours. It should be made clear that we talked about our responsibilities.

What Justice Marshall said that day will always stay with me. He said that basically not many African-Americans would be in positions similar to ours; that in this country only a few African-Americans have a chance to rise to the top and that we were among that few. He challenged us to work as hard as humanly possible, to tap all the skills God had given us, and to develop fully all of our talents. He believed we owed that to ourselves, to all African-Americans, and to every other member of the American society.

After almost three hours he rose, said goodbye, and was gone. But his words have always remained with me. Even though I had always believed in excellence, his words gave me even more resolve. Maybe in some way it was that three hour lunch that changed the direction of my life. For only 10 years later I would be rewarded, challenged, or given an opportunity when I was named Dean of the Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University. Mr. Justice Thurgood Marshall, I can only hope that I can meet the challenge you made to me and my fellow students on that Spring day in 1971.