

FROM THE STAFF
OF THE
THURGOOD
MARSHALL
SCHOOL OF LAW
LIBRARY



Marshall News

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Marshall News is the newsletter of record for the Thurgood Marshall School of Law Library. It serves the campus of Texas Southern University and the surrounding community. TMSL Library boasts a staff of 8 professional librarians and 7 support staff.

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Black History Month Salute: Harris County District Courts By: DeCarlous Spearman and Danny Norris

On February 10, 2012, Danny Norris and I attended the "Harris County District Courts Commemoration of Black History Month" held at the charming renovated First Court of Appeals Courtroom at 301 Fannin. This program was both inspiring and alarming, because it dealt with many stories of the inhumane treatment of African-Americans in Harris County. The program had six judges and the District Clerk from the Houston area that came in and gave us many of the detailed enactments of the findings. Judge Alexandra Smoots Hogan shared the case of *Moore v. Violet Hamlet*. She explained, how this was the 46th cause ever in Harris County, involving a woman of color who was brought to court on a balance she owed in connection with her linen shop. Hogan further explained that as Texas gained its independence from Mexico, who had already abandoned slavery in the 1820s, Hamlet most likely faced the

reality of going from a business owner to a slave. Judge Al Bennett brought the case of *In re Bob Allen*, where a free black man petitioned to be returned to slavery, most likely due to family ties and Texas laws which required freed blacks to leave the State. Harris County District Clerk Chris Daniel talked about the *Tilley v. Scranton* case, which involved a breach of warranty issue surrounding the death of slave who was allegedly sick upon purchase. Judge Kyle Carter explored the criminal case of *State of Texas v. William Wilson*, which involved the death of a slave due to being tortured, but ultimately led to no convictions. Judge Hazel Jones discussed the criminal case of *State of Texas v. John Kent*, which involved a lynching in 1928 during the time when the Democratic National Convention was in held in Houston, which led to embarrassing press for Houston but no convictions.

Here the accused men, a white man named John Kent lynched the black man was not found guilty although everyone knew he had lynched the man. And finally the program was rounded up with Judge George C. Hanks telling the story of *Heman Sweatt v. Theophilus Painter*. This was the story that I knew something about. Sweatt was denied admission to the UT law school and therein he filed suit. The court eventually agreed and he entered law school later to drop out after he suffered two heart attacks and a divorce. Judge Hanks relied many details about Sweatt that I had not seen although I have read many articles about him. He told of hoe Sweatt always wanted to be a doctor. He explained that Sweatt's daughter and son became doctors and his nephew was the first to finish from UT in 1968 who Afterwards we spoke and I told him that I was the librari

Important Upcoming Dates

- March 5th - 9th - Mid- Terms
- March 10th - 11th - Library Closed
- March 14th - 18th - Spring Break
- March 17th - 18th - Library Closed
- March 19th- Poetry Contest Begins
- March 24th - Crash Course in Legal Research

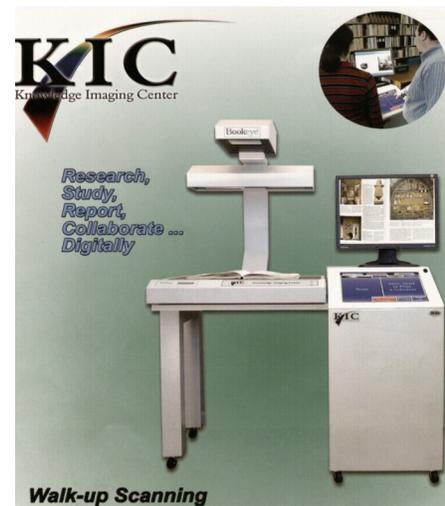
March 2012

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Get A KICK out of our KIC!

The Thurgood Marshall School of Law Library has a Knowledge Imaging Center (KIC). What is a KIC? A KIC is a digitize on demand system which allows library patrons to scan documents, pictures, and books face-up. Once items are scanned, patrons conveniently insert their USB flash drive to save scanned items or e-mail to personal e-mail addresses. Our KIC has several copy-

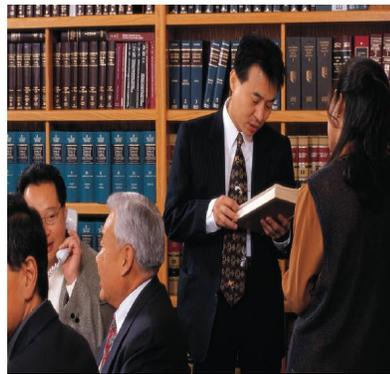
enhancing features available to manipulate and increase the visual quality of electronic copies. Patrons are welcome to independently browse the KIC Touch Screen Guide or ask any available library staff for guidance in using the KIC. The KIC is located adjacent to the Texas Room across from the copy machines. You will get a "KIC" out of your experience.



We Are Updating.....

Here at the Thurgood Marshall School of Law Library we are in the process of updating our collection. Keeping an updated collection is something we strive as we achieve excellence.

Missing titles? This is where you can help us. If there is a book or a title you would like to request



to be added to our library feel free to contact us and let us know. To submit title request simply contact a librarian and let them know of the title you would like ordered for the library's collection. You may also submit requests through the online catalog ALEX.

Index To Foreign Legal Periodicals (IFLP) is Available Thru HeinOnline By Shante Clark-Davis



Are you ready to utilize a multilingual index to articles and book reviews appearing in more than 500 legal journals published world wide? Yes? The Index To Foreign Legal Periodicals (IFLP) is ready and available for use via HeinOnline. IFLP covers public and international law, com-

parative and foreign law and the law of all jurisdictions other than the United States, the UK, Canada, and Australia. For in-depth step-by-step help and training, please refer to HeinOnline's YouTube Channel at <http://www.youtube.com/HeinOnline08>. If you prefer help from a librarian, please

stop by Thurgood Marshall School of Law (TMSL) Library's Reference desk. We will assist you by using the HeinOnline Training and Support Wiki or Live Chat offered thru Hein (screenshot image left).

Document Drafting Made Simple, By Nanette Collins, Reference Librarian

A large part of an attorney's time is spent on paperwork such as drafting pleadings and letters. ProDoc is a document assembly program which was created to cut down the time lawyers spend on pleadings and paperwork.

ProDoc provides forms for Texas, Louisiana, New York, Massachusetts, Florida and California in the area of Family Law, Wills and Probate, Real Estate, Criminal Law, and Business Organizations to name a few. Pro Doc contains the

forms attorneys need every day for handling matters in each of those areas of law. The forms are updated as legislation, case law and agency rules change. It enables users to save time, reduce errors and malpractice exposure, and better serve their clients.

ProDoc enables you to complete multiple documents simultaneously. Once you have selected the form(s), ProDoc will prompt you with several questions to finish filling in the form. Each question has a help

screen you can view if you are not sure about what the question means. Once your document is complete, it saves your work under your client's name in a Microsoft Word File. You can make further changes, print the document or save until a later date. You can access ProDoc on all computers in the lab. If you need assistance, ask a Librarian or review the ProDoc Quick Reference Card located on the Media Rack near the Circulation Desk. .



Crash Course in Legal Reseach Coming In March

The Law Library will host its Sixth Annual Clerkship Crash Course in Legal Research (CCLR) on Saturday, March 24, 2012 at 9 a.m. The purpose of CCLR is to sharpen students' research skills in preparation for summer clerkships and jobs.

CCLR will review techniques taught during the law students' first year and pro-

vide detailed legal analysis of specific legal research strategies and given resources. The Course will present a legal problem and solve it using Texas law. So, if you have a job this summer or plan or hope to get one, do not miss CCLR. Breakfast and lunch will be served. Librarians give away door prizes and host give-

aways. Come out, have fun and learn. And let us give you the tools of the trade. Sign-up for the course at the Circulation Desk in March.

Remember research is the key to success when practicing.

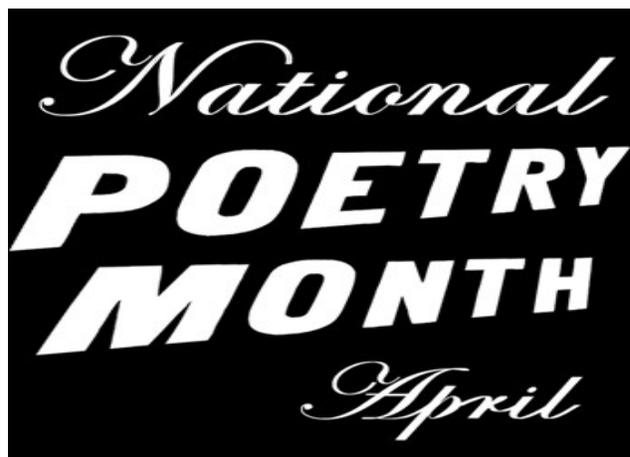
**“Remember
research is the
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Wax Poetic—Law Library Poetry Contest

The Law Library will hold its annual poetry contest in April to celebrate National Poetry Month. All are encouraged to apply and participate in the poetry contest. Last year's winner, Kimberley Evans won a 7 days combination course to assist her with her bar studies. The poetry contest will begin on March 19th and run through April 16th. All submissions will be due by 5:00 p.m. on April 16th, 2012. Judging will take place at Poetry Night which

will be held on April 23, 2012 in the school the cafeteria located in the basement of the law school at 5:30 p.m. There will be plenty of prizes given away so do not miss your chance to receive one of the great prizes the contest has to offer.

So get your pen and paper ready because we are looking for the next great Thurgood Marshall School of Law poet.

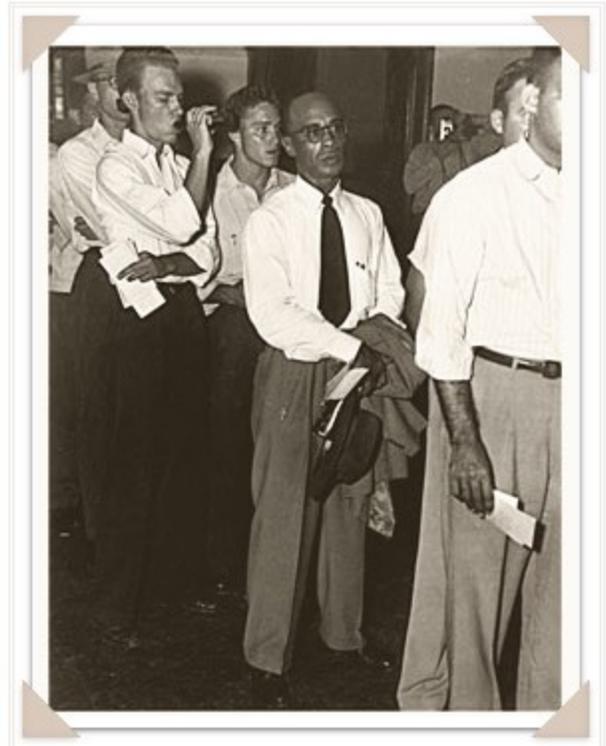


Black History Salute (Cont. from page 1)

librarian at TMSL and was amazed of the depth of information he retained.

Just before Mark Davidson, the Master of Ceremony, closed the program he misty eyed told us referring back to a picture taken with Sweatt in line his first days at UT and announced the man standing behind Sweatt with the coke can in his hand was his father. This was a befitting climax with the singing of the old spiritual "We Shall Overcome."

As the event came to a close, the court allowed the participants to look at the displays of historic court records reflecting the African-American experience in Houston. As I reviewed the original documents it was both inspiring and alarming. Inspiring because I remembered how motive I became when we began the process digitizing our law school history. Those pieces of paper that would otherwise would have faded away. Alarmed because of what I looked at: bill of sale of human beings, indictments, original petitions... all against blacks who either lost their rights or their life. This was indeed the climax of a story that needs to be told.



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