Law Library Receives Large Donations

By: DeCarlous Spearman, Law Library Director

On April 4, 2012, Joseph Jamail in a very gracious move donated his Legal Collection to the Thurgood Marshall School of Law Library. Mr. Jamail kindly took the time to personally show several members of my staff, Evelyn Beard, Patrina Epperson, Danny Norris, and myself his entire collection. The set included a full set of U.S. Supreme Court Reporters, Federal Reporters, Federal Supplements, USCA’s, Federal Rules Decisions, Texas Cases, Vernon’s Civil Statutes, Vernon’s Texas Codes Annotated, and several other primary and secondary sources including: various Shepherds Citations, West Federal Digests, West Texas Digest, A.L.R., American Jurisdiction’s 2nd, Restatements, Proof of Facts, West Texas Digests, Texas Litigation Guide, Texas Pattern Charges, Model Jury Charges and several other small sets were also donated. Each set denoted had full subscriptions that will remain fully updated thru December of 2012. Jamail also provide the lovely conference table and chairs to the library.

Although we did accept this collection he did allow us to do with it as we please. That being said, the law library will take the collection, fill in any missing parts of our collection, and then take the remaining sets and offer each to alumna in exchange for a donation of $1000. Each set that is taken will receive an aisle plank with the name of the donor proudly placed on the range where the books are located. This money will allow the law library to greatly revamp and update the now lacking seating and lounge capacity.

Just a few Saturday’s before we accepted this donation, we received a donation from Attorney Ronald D. Krist from League City who graduated from UT at Austin chose us to donate his collection to the TMSL library. This time Dean Pat Garrison, Danny Norris, Christopher Ogolla, and my children, Deja and DeMarcus Spearman went to pick up the shelving that Krist also donated, seven 8 foot tall nicely compact shelving. This shelving is temporally stored until we finish moving the other donations therein we will have the shelving installed, revamp the state materials, and greatly reduce the print collection. This will also help us as we restructure the collection from the lost periodicals in the flood last semester.

The Law library is extremely grateful for the gifts donated by both Joe Jamail and Ronald Krist. To both we extend a heartfelt thank you. But for your generosity we would not be able to take our library to another level.

Welcome Baby Phoenix Hardmon!

Surprise! No longer do we have to guess we now have a lovely little girl. On Saturday April 1, while some of the librarians were up in San Antonio winding up a three day SWALL conference, Taciana Williams Hardmon didn’t come in on the Thursday and Friday… but by Saturday missy presented herself. Phoenix Hardmon has now entered the scene. Both Phoenix and Taciana are resting well…
The Center for Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction (CALI) offered a free online course called Topics in Digital Law Practice this spring. The Massively Open Online Course (MOOC) was presented through the use of Wikispaces.com. CALI’s course video and slides continue to be available via http://tdlp.wikispaces.com/ and CALI’s Topics in Digital Law Practice MOOC 2012 YouTube site.

According to CALI, “The course is designed to provide an overview of the changes that are occurring in the practice of law today, especially with respect to technology.” The audience for this series is primarily law students and law faculty. The course platform for homework assignments and online discussions are available to read on http://tdlp.wikispaces.com/. Although all of the courses will introduce law students to real-world situations, Virtual Law Practice, Documentation Automation and Technology in the Courts are highly recommended topics. As this year culminates, take time to watch or listen to this helpful series.

The topics addressed are as follows:
- Class #1 - Virtual Law Practice
- Class #2 - Documentation Automation
- Class #3 - Technology in Courts
- Class #4 - Unbundled Legal Services
- Class #5 - Free Legal Research
- Class #6 - Contract Standardization
- Class #7 - Online Legal Aid Forms
- Class #8 - Unauthorized Practice of Law

### Topics in Digital Law Practice

#### Class #1: Virtual Law Practice
- **Description:** Provides an overview of the changes in the practice of law today, especially with respect to technology.
- **Target Audience:** Primarily law students and law faculty.
- **Materials:** Course platform for homework assignments and online discussions are available via the course’s YouTube site.

#### Class #2: Documentation Automation
- **Description:** Focuses on the automation of documentation processes in a law office.
- **Target Audience:** Law students and law faculty.
- **Materials:** Course platform for homework assignments and online discussions.

#### Class #3: Technology in Courts
- **Description:** Discusses the use of technology in legal proceedings.
- **Target Audience:** Law students and law faculty.
- **Materials:** Course platform for homework assignments and online discussions.

#### Class #4: Unbundled Legal Services
- **Description:** Explores the concept of unbundled legal services and their impact on the legal market.
- **Target Audience:** Law students and law faculty.
- **Materials:** Course platform for homework assignments and online discussions.

#### Class #5: Free Legal Research
- **Description:** Introduces students to free resources for legal research.
- **Target Audience:** Law students and law faculty.
- **Materials:** Course platform for homework assignments and online discussions.

#### Class #6: Contract Standardization
- **Description:** Focuses on the standardization of contracts in legal practice.
- **Target Audience:** Law students and law faculty.
- **Materials:** Course platform for homework assignments and online discussions.

#### Class #7: Online Legal Aid Forms
- **Description:** Teaches students how to create and use online legal aid forms.
- **Target Audience:** Law students and law faculty.
- **Materials:** Course platform for homework assignments and online discussions.

#### Class #8: Unauthorized Practice of Law
- **Description:** Discusses the unauthorized practice of law and its legal implications.
- **Target Audience:** Law students and law faculty.
- **Materials:** Course platform for homework assignments and online discussions.

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### TSU History by Former TMSL Dean Otis King

On February 23, 2012, former TMSL Dean and retired professor Otis King presented the history of Texas Southern University (TSU). Professor King mentioned that most people think that TSU came about in 1947 when it became a 4 year institution, but in reality the school’s story really began in the late 1800s. King explained that TSU’s predecessor Houston Colored Junior College absorbed most of its faculty.

King would go on to highlight the Sweat v. Painter case, in which the State of Texas was charged with creating a separate law school for African-Americans to keep the plaintiff from attending the University of Texas. King mentioned how the low school needed a university to attach itself to, and the State considered Prairie View A&M University (PV). However, King noted that since PV was an affiliate of Texas A&M University and did not want to get involved with bailing out the University of Texas, they looked to Houston instead. King told of how this caused Texas State University for Negroes to gain the status of university in 1947, becoming the first state university in Houston, and would eventually be renamed to Texas Southern University in 1951.

King highlighted that the movie “The Great Debaters”, while inspired by the debate team at Wiley College, also drew inspiration from the debate team at TSU. King mentioned how Dr. Freeman, who has for the last 60 years and still serves as the debate team coach at TSU, served as a mentor to Denzel Washington when he was preparing for his role in the movie. King mentioned how the movie depicts the debate team at Wiley beating Harvard’s debate team in the 1930s, but claims that in reality Wiley beat the team from the University of Southern California. Although King noted that the debate team from TSU in 1956, which included him and the late Congresswoman Barbra Jordan, did in fact beat Harvard.

King also noted that after Heman Sweatt was later ordered by the US Supreme Court to be admitted to UT, the State’s attitude towards TSU would decline dramatically. Since the school was not able to fulfill its purpose of keeping African-Americans out of UT’s law school, he mentioned that it became a “bastard” child of the State and a “black bastard at that.” He said this was most evident by the preferential treatment of TSU’s close neighbor University of Houston (UH). He mentioned how the state legislature campaigned to pour state resources to UH, because it claimed (in error) there was no state institution in Houston. He mentioned that the institution has survived on donations from a number of sources over the years, but the comparison to its neighbor UH has served a source of tension between TSU and the state legislature over the years.

King closed by saying that TSU like the bumble bee, who according to some shouldn’t be able to fly, has kept flying despite the challenges that it has faced. After King closed, he answered a number of questions from both faculty and the students.
Poetry Contest Winner is........... Joy Thomas

Ms. Thomas is a native Houstonian and received her Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science from the University of Houston-Downtown where she was a member of Pi Gamma Mu International Honor Society in Social Sciences. She is a former Special Agent with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Ms. Thomas returned to school to become a lawyer after 11 years as a law enforcement officer. She has interned for State Senator Rodney Ellis’s TLIP Program, Houston City Controller Ronald Green during his tenure in Houston City Council, the honorable Judge Zinetta Burney, Fort Bend County District Attorney’s Office and Harris County District Attorney’s Office. Upon completing law school, she looks forward to a promising career as a criminal litigator and serving her community by offering civil rights awareness to the underprivileged.

See Mrs. Thomas’s winning poem on page 5.

My First SWALL

By: Joseph K. Plumbar, Esq.

This year I had the opportunity to attend the SWALL Conference in San Antonio, Texas. I wasted little time getting my feet wet and joined a panel for newer law librarians. Ms. Michelle Rigual, Director of the Texas Wesleyan’s Law School Library hosted a panel that initiated the discussion of where law libraries should move in the future.

There was also discussion between panelist and conference attendees about bridging the gap between newer librarians and the seasoned professionals. At first I was a little nervous to be around such seasoned profession-
Letter Long Overdue, By: Joy Thomas

Dear non-voters and uninvolved community members,

To those of you who don’t appreciate the struggle from which we came
And those who use nigger or nigga instead of someone’s name
Please take heed to my sacrifice
The ultimate price I paid for your civil rights
My dedication to the movement was unwavering
Unrelenting, unselfish and cost me everything
Still I contributed all my time
Putting my life on the line
Time, after time, after time, after time
I never asked when or why or for how long
I just did what I had to do to right the wrongs
A rally here, a boycott there or an occasional church bomb
A fire set to a cross in my lawn
I endured it all in the name of justice
Making sure you and yours will enjoy the fresh air
Of a world that would treat you fair
I gave up my rights to ensure yours were there
The right I had to be left alone
The right to simplicity, peace and calm
Instead I chose the struggle...danger...harm
It was indeed my conscious choice to carry
The struggle “by any means necessary”
“The gifts from God should be enjoyed by all”
But why should I alone have to answer the call
You see, I too “had a dream”
To be a normal family
Go out to dinner on date night
To be a husband and a wife
Go see a movie with the kids
The way other families did
That was my innate right
To enjoy the simple life
Instead I chose to fight
For your civil rights
That choice ultimately left me alone
I fought for your rights more than I fought for my own
I exhibited an abundance of tolerance, patience and grace
Knowing that the success of achievement would not bear my face
And still I died with no regrets
For the ultimate sacrifice I could never forget
I am so thankful that we gained equality in freedom
And I knew he was the perfect man to get the job done
But please be mindful of the fact
That while he was fighting for your rights
I was keeping everything else in tact
And while you may have lost your leader in the fight
I lost the love of my life
Remember me the next time your acknowledge your rights
Or choose not to vote on Tuesday night
I paid a price beyond the price
For you to even have that right.
Sincerely,

Coretta Scott King, Betty Shabazz and Myrlie Evers
Thurgood Marshall School of Law Library

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Library Summer Hours

General Library Hours:
Mon. - Thurs. (7:00 am - 10:00 p.m.)
Friday - (7:00 am - 8:00 p.m.)
Saturday (9:00 am - 8:00 p.m.)
Sunday (12:00 noon - 8:00 p.m.)

Summer Reference Hours:
Mon. - Thurs. (8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.)
Friday - (8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)
Sat. & Sun. (no reference)