Introducing

2017 New Alumni Board Members

Syonidia "Vonda" M. Bailey
Class of 2014
Law Office of Vonda Bailey, PLLC

Alfred M. Benoit
Class of 2008
Benoit Law, PLLC

Wilvin J. Carter
Class of 2004
The Law Offices of Wilvin J. Carter P.C.

Linda M. Dunson
Class of 2001
Law Offices of Linda M. Dunson

Sarah S. Doezema
Class of 2008
Doezema & Associates, PLLC

Baldemar F. Gutierrez
Class of 1977
The Gutierrez Law Firm, Inc.

Jerome M. Karam
Class of 1990
The Law Office of Jerome Karam

Richard L. Mays, Jr.
Class of 2001
Attorney Mays, Byrd & Associates

Jacqueline Miller
Class of 1984
The Miller Law Firm

Kevin Murray
Class of 1997
Kevin Murray, LLC

Troy J. Pradia
Class of 2000
The Cox Pradia Law Firm, P.L.L.C.

Hon. Monica Purdy
Class of 1992
Associate Judge
Dallas County State District Civil Courts

Susan Onyewuchi
Class of 2013
Attorney at Law

Houston M. Smith
Class of 1988
Law Offices of Houston M. Smith, P.C.

Omar Vargas
Class of 2010
Law Office of Omar O. Vargas, P.C.

* Pamela Pope Johnson (not pictured) - Class of 1991 - Linebarger, Goggan, Blair & Sampson, LLP
2017 — 2108 Alumni Board Members

Dipo Akin-Deko ‘06
Ricky Anderson ‘92
Naomi Cox Andrews ‘83
Sylvondia L. Bailey, JD., MA ‘14
Al Benoit ‘08
Hon. Alice Bonner ‘66
Tiffany Britton ‘01
Chevazz Brown ‘07

Thomas Brown ‘83
Hon. Zinetta A. Burney ‘74
Dominique Calhoun ‘16
Victor Cardenas ‘99
Wilvin Carter ‘04
Robert Collier ‘06
Sarah Doezema ‘08
James M. Douglas ‘70
Linda Dunson ‘01
Dr. Herbert Fain ’75
Khalfani O. Fullerton ‘88
Domingo Garcia ‘83
Hon. Harrison Gregg Jr. ‘71
Baldemar F. Gutierrez ‘76
Carol Guess ‘97
Melvin Houston ‘95
LaMonika Hurst ‘04
Antoinette “Toni” Jackson ‘91
Hon. Claudine James ‘97
Harry Johnson ‘86
Jerome Karam ‘90
Julia Malveaux ‘85
Clive Markland ‘00

McKinley Martin ‘88
Richard L. Mays Jr, Esq ‘01
Andrew McGee ‘85
Jacqueline Miller ‘87
Kevin Murray ‘97
Hon. Valencia Nash ‘99
Vy Nguyen ‘07
Susan Onyewuchi ‘13
Hon. Morris Overstreet ‘75
Ricardo Palacios ‘98
Troy Pradia ‘00
Hon. Monica Purdy ‘92
Marchris G. Robinson ‘92
Pamela Pope Johnson ‘92
*Baltazar Salazar ‘94
Joe Spencer ‘89
Hon. Reedy Spigner ‘75
Houston M. Smith ‘88
Kebharu Smith ‘01
Omar O. Vargas ‘10
Victor Vital ‘95
Tim Adams ‘17
*Alumni Board President

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Professor L. Darnell Weeden’s article entitled, The Supreme Court's Rejection of the Rational Basis Standard in Shelby County v. Holder Invites Voter Suppression, 33 MISS. C. L. REV. 219, 222 (2014) was recently cited by Jesús N. Joslin in a student comment entitled Navigating The Post-Shelby Landscape: Using Universalism To Augment The Remaining Power Of The Voting Rights Act, 19 Scholar: St. Mary's L. Rev. & Soc. Just. 217, 239 (2017). According to Joslin, Weeden is among those commentators who have characterized the Supreme Court's ruling in Shelby a historic disaster because of Shelby the VRA is no longer a very effective tool in prevented the implementation of many restrictive voting laws.

Dean Stephanie Ledesma was invited to serve as the Keynote Speaker at the 15th annual "Together We Can!" Conference: Making a Difference for Children Who Have Been Abused or Neglected, in Lafayette, Louisiana. The conference was hosted by the Louisiana Supreme Court, the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services, the National Association of Social Workers, and other statewide organizations. This year the conference had close to 1000 attendees, and showcased a theme of "Collaboration Works! improving Outcomes for Children & Families." Dean Ledesma's keynote address was titled, "Cultural Compassion: Addressing Implicit Bias". Dean Ledesma also lead to workshops on Professionalism for Attorneys.
On November 3, 2017, Professors Colon-Navarro’s and Tekle’s first-year property classes of almost 140 students joined forces to conduct a joint experiential learning exercise. The exercise consisted of a negotiation between siblings of land willed to them by their father and who owned it as tenants in common. At eight o’clock in the morning, 33 simultaneous rounds of negotiations took place, judged by 33 different judges, many of whom were alumni, staff, and upper-class students. Each negotiating team was composed of one student from Professor Colon-Navarro’s class and one from Professor Tekle’s class. Prior to the negotiation, Professor Peter Marchetti conducted a special joint session on the lawyering skill of negotiation, drawing from his background negotiating business deals on Wall Street. In addition, upper-class students Jefferson Bell, Nneka Akubeze, and Valerie Salcido conducted a special class for each class discussing the value that employers place on the acquisition of lawyering skills via co-curricular activities and experiential learning as early as possible in law school. Courtney Bowie also assisted students with career guidance and orientation.

Overall, judges were impressed by the rigor, knowledge, and professionalism of the first-year students. Thank you to all of the judges for your feedback and support of the 1Ls. A very special thank you to Alvin Adejei, attorney at Abraham Watkins, Sarah Guidry, Executive Director of the Earl Carl Institute, Sherea A. McKenzie, General Counsel for Harris County Precinct One, and Rodney Ellis, Harris County Commissioner.
Whitney Threadcraft-Walker publishes with ECI as her organizational affiliation

Whitney Threadcraft-Walker, ECI’s policy analyst, was published in a recent article, “Gender, race/ethnicity and prediction: Risk in behavioral assessment” located in the 54 volume of the Journal on Criminal Justice. Threadcraft-Walker is a corresponding author of the article and listed the Earl Carl Institute as her organizational affiliation. The article highlights research on examinations and assessments of predictive minority probation outcomes. Journal is scheduled to be released January—February 2018.

Kelley Austin appointed to the Sugarland Land Use Advisory Committee

TMSL Alum, Kelley Austin, class of 2003, was appointed to the City of Sugarland Land Use Advisory Committee (LUAC). The committee is appointed by City Council and made up of residents of Sugar Land and its extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ). Austin is the only African American appointed to the committee. LUAC works diligently to develop policies that will guide future land use decisions. Austin is currently a staff attorney at the Earl Carl Institute for Legal & Social Policy providing bankruptcy and foreclosure defense representation for the Opal Mitchell Lee Property Preservation Project.
EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING NEWS

THE EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING DEPARTMENT
Is Pleased to Announce A New Clinic for the Spring of 2018

JUVENILE LIFERS WITHOUT PROBATION (JLWOP)

This is an amazing opportunity to represent juvenile defenders
Interested students should contact Dean Ledesma at EXT: 1105 for More Information

THE EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING DEPARTMENT
is happy to announce that:

THE IMMIGRATION LAW CLINIC IS TAKING APPLICATIONS FOR SPRING 2018
Interested students should contact Dean Ledesma
In the Dean's Suite; #1105
In celebration of 25 years of service to Texas Southern University and the greater Houston community, ECI hosted well over 150 attendees at the Earl Carl Institute’s 25th Anniversary Reception and Fundraiser. Attendees included members of the TSU Administration, several elected officials, a past Member of the TSU Board of Regents and a host of supporters, family, and former Earl Carl Institute students. The event gave guests an opportunity to tour ECI’s home location, meet and greet its staff and interact with various individuals that have made ECI what it is today.

Mrs. Georgia Provost and Judge Bill C. Littlejohn served as program emcees, while words of greetings, appreciation and encouragement were given by several special guests including Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, Congressman Al Green, State Representative Senfronia Thompson, State Representative Ron Reynolds, TSU Provost Dr. Bobby L. Wilson and ECI and NAACP Houston Branch President James M. Douglas. The focal point of ceremony was a video presentation that highlighted the works of the Earl Carl Institute over the last 25 years and provided viewers with a snapshot of the growth that can be expected from ECI over the next 25 years!

Many thanks go out to all those who helped plan this event, including Mrs. Naomi Cox Andrews, Mrs. Georgia Provost, Judge Bill C. Littlejohn, Dr. Denise Oldjei Adeji, Dr. Jay Cummings and Dr. Robert Ford.

The Institute remains steadfast in its original goals of promoting student development through research and writing and to educating public policymakers and the community in a way that improves the quality of life throughout traditionally under represented communities, with the ultimate goal of contributing to positive change and increasing consciousness throughout the world. ECI is committed to increasing its reach by growing its programs.

ECI can only achieve its goals with the assistance of generous donations from members of our community. In celebration of its 25 years of service, ECI has already raised over $15,000 and we ask you to consider a donation to further our cause. For your convenience, donations can be made electronically by visiting our website home page at http://www.tsulaw.edu/centers/ECI/index.html or by visiting our office. We hope that you will help support our efforts. When you make your tax deductible donation you will receive an ECI commemorative t-shirt. Please indicate your t-shirt size at the time of your donation.

For further information regarding this event, please contact Sarah R. Guidry, Executive Director of the Earl Carl Institute for Legal and Social Policy, Inc., at srguidry@tmslaw.tsu.edu or 713.313.1321.
ECI Celebrates 25 Years of Service
ECI Celebrates 25 Years of Service
STUDENT NEWS

Congratulations

December 2017 Graduates

Tiffany Thao Dinh  
B.S., University of Houston

Ashley Taylor Noelle Mullens  
B.A., University of Texas at El Paso

Eric Daniel Flores  
B.A., The University of Texas at Austin

Bolaji Olaoluwa Okunnu  
B.S., University of Texas at San Antonio

Jon Robert Gustin, Jr.  
B.A., Michigan State University

Timothy Donald Rose  
B.S., Excelsior College

Nicole Remitha Lashay Hawkins  
B.A., Clark Atlanta University

Deon Thomas  
B.B.A., University of Houston

Corian Jamaal Johnson  
B.S., Texas Southern University

John Quoc Dai Truong  
B.A., M.A., University of Houston

Cody Travis Jolly  
B.S., Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology

Elvira Margarita Villarreal  
B.S., University of Houston

Zaine Blanché Kasem  
B.S., Louisiana State University

Laymond Pierre Wilburn  
B.S., Xavier University of Louisiana;  
M.S. University of Southern Mississippi

MASTER OF LAWS

Magali Yanali' Garcia Hernandez  
J.D., Universidad Latina de America

Oneka Roach Campbell  
J.D., Florida A&M University

Elizabeth Bonilla Rodriguez
TMSL Environmental Law Society at Work

Thurgood Marshall School of Law’s Environmental Law Society (ELS) is dedicated to educating the school and the local community about anthropogenic impacts on the environment. Over the 2017 Fall semester ELS has participated in three community service events. The last of the events was a trash pickup of Kuhlman Gulley near Gragg Park. This event allowed students to join with attorneys and other members of the community to help clean and beautify part of Brays Bayou. To begin the cleanup, students split into two groups. One group was assigned to cut down invasive plant species that prevented the native plant species from growing. This activity included the use of machetes and bow saws to safely remove those plants. The second group cleaned the banks of the gulley and removed over six trash bags worth of trash. The trash included large pieces of wood, plastic and aluminum bottles, and Styrofoam plates. Our commitment to public service exemplifies the can-do attitude of the organization. We seek to protect, improve and pass along our tradition of ser-
Student Spotlight
Danielle Garcia ....the family trailblazer

Where is your hometown? Mercedes, TX
What is your graduating class at TMSL? 2018
Undergrad Institution? St. Mary’s University at San Antonio, Texas
Undergrad Major? Political Science, Business Administration - minor

Please list: Jobs/Internships/ Externships
Azhar Chaudhary Law Firm (immigration) - Intern
Shari Goldsberry Law Firm (family law) - Intern
Evidence Law (Professor of Law Ana Otero) - Former Tutor
Commercial Law (Professor of Law Sally Green) - Current Tutor

Organization/ Community Service/ and Extracurricular Activities
Executive Editor of Thurgood Marshall Law Review
Habitat for Humanity

Then your story. Why law school?
I chose law school because I was inspired by my parents who worked in the community. My mother was a 3rd grade teacher for 30 years and my father was the city manager of our city for about 31 years. I grew up seeing my parents help others, inspire others and care for others. I wanted to do the same thing at a young age. To be honest, I got the idea of being a lawyer when I watched an episode of Law and Order SVU with my parents. I saw the attorney stand up and speak for the victims and I told my parents that is exactly what I wanted to be, a lawyer. I want to help and give back to my community like my parents did in their professions for many years. I chose law school because no one in my family is a lawyer. I wanted to challenge myself to be the first in my family to pursue a professional degree. Since I was seven years old when I told my parents I wanted to be a lawyer, I made sure I would reach my goal.

What is one of your most memorable experiences at TMSL?
My most memorable experience was in 1L year with my sectionmates. We were about to take our first test ever, Professor Walker’s Criminal Law exam. Before she walked in the class, we got in a circle and prayed together. We continued to do so for almost every test our 1L year. At TMSL there is a sense of family, we take care of each other and I like that.

What advice would you give new law students? My advice to new law students is that be dedicated, be organized, balance your schedule and surround yourself with people who want to succeed and see you succeed.

What do you plan to do 9 months after graduation?
In 9 months after graduation, I plan to have my Texas Bar Card and working as an associate attorney at Shari Goldsberry Law Firm.
The Black Law Student Association celebrates the 2017 Newly Admitted Attorneys and their annual Wine and Cheese event. The event was held on November 18, 2017, at the home of Distinguished Professor of Law James M. Douglas.
Sylvondia "Vonda" Bailey, class of 2014, is the managing partner of the Law Office of Vonda Bailey. Her law practice was listed amongst the exclusive list of the “10 Best” Law Firms by the American Institute of Family Law Attorneys. To receive such a prestigious honor the attorney/firm must: “Be formally nominated by the Institute, client, and/or fellow Attorney; Have attained the highest degree of professional achievement in his or her field of law; and Having done so with an impeccable Client Satisfaction rating.” Membership is an exclusive honor and extended only to those select few who have reached the top of their profession while doing so with the client’s satisfaction being of the most paramount importance. Congratulations to Attorney Bailey, one of our new alumni board members on this prestigious accomplishment.

Two TMSL Alums to speak at National Bar Association Conference

Julia Malveaux, class of 1985, and the Honorable Morris Overstreet, class of 1975, will be two of the 2018 speakers for the 23rd Annual NBA Small Firms/Solo Practitioners’ Conference. The conference scheduled for March 4-March 18th, 2018, will be held at the JW Marriott Palm Desert California. Julia Malveaux currently manages her own private practice and Judge Overstreet brings his career experience as a trial judge, general counsel, District Attorney, etc. For more information please visit https://www.facebook.com/NatlBarSFSFD/
Texas Senator Sylvia Garcia announces candidacy for Congressional District 29

Senator Sylvia Garcia, class of 1978, announced her candidacy for Congressional District 29 on November 14, 2017. “I want to continue fighting for working families, quality education for Texas children access to healthcare for all & immigration reform. We need a champion for the people in Washington to stand up against Trump & fight for what matters. That’s why I’m running for congress,” said Senator Garcia.

TMSL Alumna Constance Filley Johnson publicly declares candidacy for Victoria County District Attorney

Constance Filley Johnson, class of December 2005, announced earlier this year plans to face off against Stephen Tyler in the Republican primary on March 6, 2018. Johnson is taking a stand against unfair plea deals that strain assistant district attorneys and other resources. She believes in the effectiveness of specialty courts as they benefit the community and serve the best interest of Justice. Johnson is a proponent of the juvenile detention center and plans to use her experience as an educator in the fight for justice for the youth of Victoria.

TMSL Alum John Fairman announces plans to run for Cook County Sheriff

John Fairman stated the following:

As Sheriff I look forward to placing thousands of new police officers on the street by certifying correctional officers and making them peace officers. I’ll implement a Video Conferencing for inmates thereby significantly reducing safety concerns and transportation issues between the jails and court houses. Community Policing would be increased around the county, including working with our schools and community centers to help teach, train, and motivate our children.
TMSL Alums receive “Not Guilty” Verdicts

Audwin Samuel, class of 1992 and his son Sean Villery—Samuel, class of 2009, secured a “not guilty” verdict for a client wrongfully accused of sexual assault. Their client faced a punishment range of two—twenty years in prison if convicted. This father and son duo, obtained the verdict after a mere twenty-five minute deliberation from a Jefferson County Jury. Congratulations on this victory and winning in the name of justice.

Harris County ADA Jules Johnson receives unexpected Indictments

Jules Johnson, class of 2003, is currently employed by the Harris County District Attorney’s Office in the Civil Rights Division. Recently, the DA’s Office indicted five Harris County Detention Officer’s for beating an inmate. This comes after the DA’s Office received an indictment from the Grand Jury on a Harris County Sheriff’s Deputy and two Harris County Sheriff’s Office jailers in earlier October 2017. The Deputy and Jailers are accused of crimes ranging from assault, causing serious bodily injuries to slamming a shackled inmate on his head. These indictments are welcomed news to an ever growing community frustrated with police brutality.

Toni Jones is making moves in the Houston area community

Toni Jones, class of 1999, was elected to the 2017 YWCA of Houston Board of Directors in November. YWCA of Houston states the board members are trustees of their vision and mission. YWCA Houston is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women, and promoting peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all.

In addition, Jones received a “not guilty” verdict on a high profile case. An Alief ISD trustee’s son was acquitted by reason of insanity after having zealous representation by our alum, Toni Jones. Both of these momentous events are overshadowed by her recent marriage to Stacey Holley. TMSL congratulations Toni Jones on her personal and professional achievements.
TMSL Alum, Reginald Wilson Jr. appointed to TYLA Board of Directors

Reginald Wilson Jr., class of 2015, was appointed to the Texas Young Lawyers Association Board of Directors in November of this year. Reginald will serve a two-year term representing the Houston area as TYLA Director for District 6, Place 5. Reginald is currently employed at Norton Rose Fulbright US, LLP as an associate attorney and acts as Bond Counsel, Disclosure Counsel, and Underwriter’s Counsel in various transactions. Congratulations to Mr. Wilson on his appointment as he assists TYLA facilitate the administration of justice and serve the public.

Toysha Jones Martin - Panelist at Austin Bar Association

Toysha Jones (TJ) Martin, class of 1997, was featured as a panelist at the Austin Bar Association on “Taking a knee in the NFL: The Legal and Social Implications”. The event was a hit and included discussions about criminal prosecution and employment concerns about NFL players. Ms. Martin currently has a private practice that serves as a Privacy and Compliance Attorney with the Texas Health and Human Services. With 20 years of legal experience, it is no surprise that Ms. Martin’s participation on the panel contributed to the panel being a success.

Ricky Anderson—Panelist at the HGAG Music Video and Film Festival

Adjunct Professor and TMSL Alum, Ricky Anderson, class of 1992, was a featured panelist during the HGAG Music Video and Film Festival at the TSU Barbara Jordan Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs building. The inaugural festival was held by the Houston Gospel Announcers Guild (HGAG) on November 17-18, 2017. The festival was a call for faith based, inspirational film and video makers. The weekend of events included a feature screening, film industry forum and award recognitions. We know that Mr. Anderson’s depth of knowledge and experience was an asset during this momentous event.
Congratulations to the 2017 Super lawyers of TMSL

Bruce A. Ashworth—Class of 1982
Richard E. Banks—
David P. Baugh—Class of 1975
Brock Morgan Benjamin - Class of 2005
Alfred Benoit—Class of 2008
Ryan B. Bormaster - Class of 2000
Marigold Bridgeman—Class of 2012
Chevazz G. Brown—Class of 2007
Oliver J. Brown—Class of 2012
Walter M. Brown—Class of 1998
E. Leon Carter—Class of 1986
Kelly Castor—Class of 2008
Rafael De La Garza II—Class of 1993
Marco A. De Luna—Class of 2008
George Farah—Class of 2003
William D. Fong—Class of 1994
L. Leona Frank—Class of 2002
Michael M. Guerra—Class of 1993
Juan L. Guerra, Jr.—Class of 2003
Cori A. Harbour-Valdez—Class of 1997
Thomas J. “Jeff” Hendrickson, III—Class of 2009
Tomekia Lee-Chaney—Class of 2004
Andrew J. Lehrman—Class of 1976
James E. McMillian—Class of 1997
Tyrone C. Moncriffe—Class of 1982
Rachel C. Moreno—Class of 2011
Doug Murphy—Class of 1999
Charlie Naegle—Class of 2006
Victoria Neave—Class of 2009
Alla K. Nowowiejski—Class of 2009
Barbara D. Nunneley—Class of 1979
Chance Oliver—Class of 1997
Maria E. Orozco—Class of 2008
Patrick K. O’Rourke—Class of 2008
Gabriel Ozel—Class of 2008
Johnny P. Papantonakis—Class of 2000
Christopher B. Payne—Class of 2004
Jose R. Perez, Jr.—Class of 1984
Soleimani K. Raie—Class of 2006
Nindiya G. Ramchandani—Class of 2007
Hon. Derrick Reed—Class of 2007
Lorie M. Robinson—Class of 2007
David J. Romagosa—Class of 2004
Herman H. Segovia—Class of 1977
Jed R. Sliverman—Class of 1999
Todd Slobin—Class of 1997
Joshua C. Spencer—Class of 2008
Jonathan R. Spivey—Class of 1997
Rabeea Sultan Collier—Class of 2006
Justin T. Surginer—Class of 2009
Paul F. Tu—Class of 2005
Amanda Tucker—Class of 2008
Carlos A. Velasquez—Class of 1987
Isaac Villarreal—Class of 2008
Victor Vital—Class of 1995
Lance Walters—Class of 2012
A. Martin Wickliff, Jr.—Class of 1974
Kirk D. Willis—Class of 1988
Charles H. Wilson—Class of 1996
IN MEMORIAM

Robert Cruz, class of 1984, was laid into eternal rest on December 3, 2017. Cruz, an avid golfer, was the president and head attorney for the legal battle at Gus Wortham Golf Course. A celebration of his life was held on December 16, 2017, amongst a host of family and friends. TMSL family extends our condolences to the Cruz family.
UPCOMING EVENT

THE EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING DEPARTMENT

Is Pleased to Announce A New Fellowship Opportunity

NAACP SUMMER LAW FELLOW PROGRAM
OPEN TO ALL STUDENTS; 3L’S QUALIFY FOR EXTERNSHIP CREDIT
Deadline is January 12, 2018

Interested students should contact Dean Ledesma at 713.313.1105 for More Information
January Birthdays

Maurice Hew 1st
Emeka Duruigbo 4th
Marcia Johnson 19th

Recycle reminder
Go Green! Let’s remember to recycle our used bottles! The recycle bins are located in two areas of the law school and emptied every morning!
Let’s do our part!

Forward Together
Wishing You and Yours a Joyful Holiday Season
Gary L. Bledsoe, Acting Dean