FROM THE OFFICE OF THE DEAN:

Season’s Greetings TMSL Family:

The holiday season is upon us! At this time of the year, we will join family and friends to give thanks and share our appreciation for the multitude of blessings we’ve been fortunate to receive throughout the year. As we embrace the holiday season, I’d like to take a moment to express my sincere appreciation to each of you. The Law School is indeed most fortunate to count you among its dedicated and committed supporters and I can’t thank you enough for your past commitment and generosity. It is because of your efforts and continual support of the Law School, we advance our mission of providing excellence in education for our students.

The year 2014 earmarked impressive growth and success at the Law School. We started the year with our admission into the esteemed membership of the Association of American Law Schools (AALS) in January, receiving a national vote of confidence for our direction, faculty, academic and accountability programs and our ability to engage with students to produce competent and capable lawyers. Our membership not only signifies that the Law School reflects the Association’s core values and has met the rigorous requirements specified in the AALS Bylaws and Executive Committee Regulations, but enhances our faculty’s opportunity to play national leadership roles in the academy, while qualifying our Law School to provide further recognition for our students by applying for membership in the Order of the Coif.

For this milestone achievement, the Law School was presented with Certificates of Special Congressional Recognition from Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee and Congressman Al Green on behalf of the 18th Congressional District of Texas and the 9th Congressional District of Texas, respectively, at a Celebratory Luncheon at the Four Seasons Hotel in March 2014.

Also, in March 2014, the entire administrative team and faculty participated in an intensive, two-day Staff and Faculty Retreat, where everyone worked diligently and collectively to implement the Law School’s revamp of its Strategic Plan and initiated preparation of a Self-Study, ultimately involving an enterprise of key stakeholders including faculty, staff, students, alumni and members of our legal community. This labor-intensive process was strategically implemented for the much-anticipated site visit by the American Bar Association in November 2014, as required by the ABA Standards for Approval of Law Schools and organized by the ABA Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar.
Our Strategic Plan included a vision statement, overarching goals, and measures of accountability, whereas our Self Study stated the goals that the Law School has set for itself, identified and analyzed the school’s strengths and weaknesses in light of those goals, and related the present and prospective resources to the stated objectives. We, along with TSU Administration welcomed the ABA Site Team on Sunday, November 2nd, led by ABA Site Team Chair Adrian Wing. For a duration of four days, we made ourselves available and accessible for questions, dialogue and review of the Law School’s data. Although we await the final reporting from the site visit, we remain not only honored by the resounding praise and commendations received from ABA site members during their visit to our campus, but confident that from the ABA Site Visit results, the Law School will rise to the occasion to sustain and enhance its upward arc in advancing our Law School’s mission.

We are very proud of our diverse TMSL faculty. Our faculty has demonstrated their commitment to scholarship and teaching efforts this year. Several members of the faculty published books this year and/or published articles in leading law reviews, covering a wide range of topics. In addition, our faculty has demonstrated a willingness to take controversial positions and speak on topics (locally and nationally) that impact our society. This year for the first time, our faculty has adopted institutional learning outcomes that will guide our teachings as we move forward.

We have had members of our TMSL family retire or move on to other endeavors, but we have been fortunate to have new members of the TMSL faculty and staff join us with solidified professional skill sets necessary to promote growth and achievement in their respective areas of the law school. These new additions are: Assistant Professor Peter Marchetti; Susan Bynam, Assistant Dean for Institutional Advancement; Marsha Griggs, Assistant Dean of Academic Support & Bar Readiness; Cynthia Estrada, Office Administrator; Lewis Little, Network Administrator; Daniel Brackmann, Electronic Resources Librarian; Karim Rand Alridge, Technical Services Director; and Senior Administrative Assistants-Legal - Kathy McKenzie, Toyann Timmons and Carol Stewart.

And, we couldn’t be more proud of our students! Our TMSL Mock Trial and Moot Court Teams continue to emerge victorious and leave marks of success in competitions around the country. The TMSL Mock Trial Team reigned as champion of the National Trial Competition (NTC) Regional, the 2014 Rocky Mountain Mock Trial Program Competition sponsored by NBLSA and took 2nd Place at the 2014 ABA Labor and Employment Law Trial Advocacy Regional Competition. Additionally, the Experiential Learning, TMSL Moot Court Program received national recognition for advancing to semi-final rounds of the ABA Forum for Communications Law First Amendment and Media Law Diversity Moot Court Competition.

And, as we neared the end of a productive semester at the Law School, we received yet more great news. In November 2014, the National Jurist Magazine ranked the Law School #1 in the nation as “Best Law School for Diversity” out of approximately 200 ABA accredited law schools in the country.

As we reflect on our approach of 2015, it is my hope that you are excited as I am about what the year will unfold for our Law School! We appreciate your continued support and commitment to the University and Thurgood Marshall School of Law.

Happy Holidays to you and your family!

Sincerely,

Dannye Holley
Dean and Professor of Law
Dean Dannye Holley visited the Rio Grande Valley where TMSL has its largest Hispanic constituency. The first event was held on November 13, 2014 at the home of Ricardo Rodriguez, TMSL class of 1999 (Edinburg, TX) and newly elected District Attorney for Hidalgo County. The reception was hosted by Ricardo Rodriguez, Rene Flores, Ricardo Palacios, and Artemio De La Fuente. The following evening, TMSL alum Noe Garza, Jr. hosted a reception at his ranch in Brownsville, Texas.

Both events were well attended with over 35 alumni and friends at each. Dean Holley provided each group with a state of the law school address and emphasized the importance of all TMSL alumni giving back. He also discussed the experiential opportunities offered at the law school and stressed the importance of preparing practice-ready law students. He went on to mention the law school’s recent ranking as #1 in the nation for diversity.

Attorney Jerry Galow, made a special appeal to the Brownsville group for support of the TMSL Mock Trial Program. Under Galow’s leadership, TMSL’s mock trial teams have risen to the top and become a force to be reckoned with.

The two events raised almost $20,000 in support to TMSL. A very special thanks goes out to the hosts and attendees of both events!
Rio Grande Valley Fundraising Reception
Edinburg, Texas - November 13, 2014

Rio Grande Valley Fundraising Reception
Brownsville, Texas - November 14, 2014
On November 19, 2014, Professor SpearIt gave a talk at TMSL sponsored by the Hispanic Law Student Association entitled *Convictions, Corrections & Communities: How Imprisonment Underdevelops Latino Communities*. On November 21, 2014, Professor SpearIt spoke at the 2014 Lassiter Conference at the University of Kentucky College of Law about *Structural Harm in the Age of Mass Incarceration*. In addition, Professor SpearIt was featured in the American Society of Criminology Critical Criminology Fall 2014 newsletter as a result of his talk entitled *Sonic Jihad: Muslim Hip Hop in the Age of Mass Incarceration* at the International Crime, Media and Popular Culture Studies Conference. Professor SpearIt was also featured in the University of Denver Sturm College of Law blog in connection with his work in SALT.

In October 16-17, 2014, Professor Fernando Colon-Navarro served as a Special Lecturer at the *São Paulo Law School of the Getulio Vargas Foundation* in São Paulo, Brazil. While there, Professor Fernando Colon-Navarro gave a talk on the use of technology in the law school classroom, lectured on the fundamentals of U.S. immigration law, and discussed the forthcoming LL.M program at TMSL. In November 2014, Professor Fernando Colon-Navarro was interviewed on *Derecho al Derecho*, a Puerto Rico-based program, on President Obama’s recent executive order regarding immigration. The podcast may be accessed at [http://derechoaldercro.org/2014/11/24/episodio-20-fernando-colon-navarro-y-la-orden-ejecutiva-sobre-inmigracion/](http://derechoaldercro.org/2014/11/24/episodio-20-fernando-colon-navarro-y-la-orden-ejecutiva-sobre-inmigracion/).

Professor L. Darnell Weeden accepted an offer of publication from the Whittier Law Review to publish his article entitled “Leadership Matters: Saving Judge Scheindlin’s NYPD Racial Profiling Remedy in Floyd V. City of New York.” Weeden’s article addresses the issue of whether the Fourth Amendment and Fourteenth Amendment prohibit the police from engaging in a racially biased stop and frisk policy, with race being either the predominant or only factor utilized. Weeden supports the contention that racial bias has a chilling effect on the rights of minorities in the criminal justice system. The Black experience of many African Americans and the Brown experience of many Latino Americans support the conclusion that racial profiling occurs every time a police officer suspects criminal activity based predominantly on any widespread negative racial stereotype. Weeden asserts there are a number of good reasons for rejecting the police practice of racial profiling in stop-and-frisk cases and promoting the position that the practice is a violation of both the Fourth Amendment right against unreasonable searches and seizures, and the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. In the article Weeden argues that laws or policies permitting racial profiling should be considered unconstitutional as well as poor public policy.
Professor April Walker was recently invited to interview with Keneilwe Sebola, producer for Power FM Radio in Johannesburg, South Africa, to discuss racial profiling in America and how incidents such as the Ferguson-Michael Brown story and racial profiling continue to impact communities and policy globally. Power FM Radio in Johannesburg (aka Power 98.7FM) is a South African commercial, talk radio station based in the Gauteng province.

Distinguished Professor James M. Douglas was elected President of the NAACP-Houston Branch in November. His term begins January 2015.
Dean Griggs in the Hall of Fame

Our very own TMSL Assistant Dean of Academic Support and Bar Readiness Marsha Griggs was recently inducted into the Texas Verdicts Hall of Fame. She was inducted for her outstanding verdict in City of Dallas v. TCI West End Inc., a case that she successfully tried to a jury in 2010. After a 10 day trial, a Dallas County jury awarded $2,250,619.50 to Plaintiffs the City of Dallas and the Texas Historical Commission. The award was one of the largest fraud verdicts in the state.

The case was brought against a single-asset subsidiary holding company established by a real estate investment firm, that demolished a historic building, which is both a city historic district and a district listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The 30,000 square foot brick building was built around 1925 and was a key part of Dallas’ emergence as a rail center. Facts presented at trial showed that Defendant TCI sought and obtained a demolition permit from the City, but deceptively stated in the permit application that the company’s intentions were to demolish a “500 square-foot guard shack” on the premises, but failed to disclose that its intentions to raze a historic building that had sat on the lot for over 80 years. Griggs was the lead attorney in the case, representing the City of Dallas. At the time of trial, the case had been pending for four years. Former Dallas Mayor Tom Leppert commented that the verdict was significant victory that “reaffirm[ed] the importance of the City's historic structures and the established processes that must be respected -- the kind that sends a message that you don't violate the city's historic preservation ordinance and get away with it.”

The 2014 Texas Verdicts Hall of Fame case summaries and attorney information may be found in the December 2014 special issue of Texas Lawyer magazine.

Below is a link to the publication [http://viewer.zmags.com/publication/688658a3/#/688658a3/1](http://viewer.zmags.com/publication/688658a3/#/688658a3/1), a summary of Dean Griggs’ case is found on page 31. We are very proud of Dean Griggs for this stellar achievement!

Danny Norris Featured on Fox 26 News

TMSL Faculty Research Librarian and Legal Research Instructor, Danny Norris was recently featured on Fox 26 News as part of local coverage of concerned citizens in the Galleria Houston area, expressing their thoughts on the recent grand jury verdicts in Ferguson, Missouri and Staten Island, New York.


Boise Leaves TMSL but Still in the TSU Family

After almost 12 years of service as the Career Services Coordinator, Andreaus Boise leaves the Law School to join the Texas Southern University Office of Career Services. Ms. Boise says that leaving is “bittersweet.” She says that she “will miss the students, present and past more than anything but looks forward to new opportunities.” She is extremely enthusiastic about her new position. Although it is sad to see her go, at least Ms. Boise is still a part of the TSU Family!
From the Earl Carl Institute for Legal and Social Policy Inc.

ECI Seeks New Associate Director, Center for Government Law

Under the direction of the Law School’s Dean, Earl Carl Institute Executive Director, faculty and administration the Associate Director of the ECI Center for Government Law (CGL) will supervise the center’s day-to-day operations and staff members. The director will be responsible for the development of alliances with various governmental agencies on a local, state and federal level and developing student programs and opportunities.

The CGL Associate Director will develop programs to advance the Center’s mission and the mission of ECI. The Associate Director position will assist students as well as other ECI staff with research and writing projects. The position serves as the primary source for the research and development of government law and public policy articles, studies, papers, and reports in related areas. The candidate selected will act as liaison for various committees and executives in other State government organizations.

Position Requirements: Must have substantial experience in the area of governmental law and public policy. Requires more than seven years of related experience. Requires a Juris Doctorate Degree from an ABA accredited law school.

The Earl Carl Institute’s Center for Government Law was established to provide integrated academic and practical skills training in government administration and regulation to law students. Preparing students for the practice of law in the public sector is a primary goal of the Center. The Center works with numerous governmental organizations on the local, state and federal level. The Center also serves as a bridge between government and academia by providing practical experience to students who assist government leaders in advancing research in a multitude of law and public policy arenas.

In addition, the Center is responsible for a report on each Legislative session on the impact of new legislation on TSU and the urban community. It is the goal of the center to become an authority and resource on urban issues for legislators and other policy organizations.

To view this job opportunity and to apply please visit https://jobs.tsu.edu/postings/557.
Alumni News

Professor William D. Fong Recognized in “Best Lawyers in America, 2015 Edition”

We are pleased to announce that Professor William D. Fong has been noted in “Best Lawyers in America, 2015 edition” and that the law firm of Fong & Associates, LLP has been selected as a “Best Law Firms in America, Houston-Metroplex area for 2015.” Listed below is original notice from Best Law Firms.

William Fong is the founder and managing partner of Fong & Associates, LLP a firm specializing in corporate immigration law. Fong & Associates' clients include oil and gas companies (integrated, operations and oil well services), hospitals, medical schools and universities, research institutes, high tech manufacturers, software companies, and international businesses.

William Fong’s practice includes: Employment-based nonimmigrant petitions; Employment-based and family-based permanent residence; PERM labor certification; I-9 compliance and audits; and Department of Labor LCA and WHD investigations.

William Fong is board certified in Immigration and Nationality Law by the State Bar of Texas Board of Legal Specialization. William has earned the distinction of being listed in “The Best Lawyers in America” since 2012 and will again be noted in the 2015 edition. William is also listed as a Texas Best Lawyers and is regularly recognized as a Texas Super Lawyer by Texas Monthly Magazine.

Born and raised in Washington D.C., William Fong graduated from the University of Maryland and received his Juris Doctor degree from the Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University. He is an adjunct professor at the Thurgood Marshall School of Law teaching employment-based and family-based immigration law and is a co-founder of the Institute for International and Immigration Law (IIIL) at the Thurgood Marshall School of Law.

William is active in the immigration legal community as a national and international speaker at American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) conferences, Texas Chapter immigration seminars and Houston section meetings. He served as the Consular Liaison for AILA Texas Chapter and speaks at IIIL immigration CLE conferences. He served 3 terms as a Vice-President of the Asian American Bar Association, as a Committee member of the State Bar of Texas, Opportunities for Minorities Committee and Committee to Elect Minority Directors, and has been recognized by the State Bar of Texas for his immigration pro bono work. William Fong serves as an AILA employment-based immigration and ethics mentor.
C. Gibson, a 1999 graduate of Thurgood Marshall School of Law (TMSL) is currently serving as Vice President and In-House counsel for Discount Power. Discount Power is a Houston-based Retail Electricity Provider servicing homes and businesses for electricity needs throughout de-regulated areas of Texas. Discount Power has a special rate for all TMSL students, faculty, staff and alumni. Visit www.discountpowertx.com and enroll using promotion code TMSL to receive a preferred rate and for a limited time receive $50 off your first month’s bill when you use promotion code TMSL.

The Honorable Elizabeth Davis Frizell, TMSL class of 1992 will be sworn in as Judge of Criminal District Court #7 on January 1, 2015. Her last day presiding over County Criminal Court 11 is December 31, 2014.

Victor D. Vital, TMSL class of 1995 was highlighted in the Texas Verdict Hall of Fame 2014 for having the #1 Texas Employment Law Verdict. The 2014 Texas Verdicts Hall of Fame case summaries and attorney information may be found in the December 2014 special issue of Texas Lawyer magazine.

Shelton Sparks, TMSL class of 1984 was highlighted in the Texas Verdict Hall of Fame 2014 for his $6 million + verdict in a civil suit. Recently, Shelton Sparks was awarded a not guilty verdict for his client who was facing a murder charge. To view more information the case click this link http://www.houstonpress.com/2013-07-18/news/innocent-bystander/.
Upcoming Events

Save the Date

ABA Judicial Division Standing Committee on Diversity in the Judiciary and Texas Southern University, Thurgood Marshall School of Law

Present

2015 ABA Judicial Panel: “Path to the Bench – How to Become a Judge”

Location: Thurgood Marshall School of Law
3100 Cleburne St
Houston, TX 77004
Rooms 105-107

Date: Wednesday, February 04, 2015
Time: 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Join the Judicial Division Standing Committee on Diversity in the Judiciary during the ABA Annual Meeting for an inspiring discussion with several prestigious judges, talking about their experiences and legal and judicial careers.

This event is FREE of charge. To RSVP, contact the TMSL Office of External Affairs at 713.313.1197 or email Ms. Andreience Hines at anhines@tmsl-law.tsu.edu
UPCOMING CLEs

Texas Southern University Thurgood Marshall School of Law
Immigration & International Law Institute
Present:

Creating the Record of Criminal Convictions for Immigration Purposes
Thurgood Marshall School of Law
3100 Cleburne St.
Houston, TX 77004
Rooms: 105-106
January 29, 2015

Cost: $60.00 attorneys;
$30.00 gov’t employees
& non-profit attorneys
Complimentary non-attorneys

MCLE Credits: 4.0 hrs.
Ethics Credits: 1.0 hrs.

Register online today by visiting
www.tinyurl.com/tmslevtenregistrtion

*Texas Southern University, Thurgood Marshall School of Law
is an accredited sponsor approved by the State Bar of Texas
Committee on MCLE

Texas Southern University
THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW

Criminal Law CLE ~ Dallas, TX

DATE
JANUARY 30, 2015

TIME
12:00 noon—4:00 pm

COST
$60.00 attorneys;
$25.00 gov’t attorneys & non-profit
attorneys
Free: non-attorneys
MCLE: 4.0
Ethics: 1.0

Register Online: www.tinyurl.com/tmsleventregistration or Pay on-site

*Texas Southern University, Thurgood Marshall School of Law is an accredited sponsor approved by the State Bar of Texas Committee on MCLE
UPCOMING CLEs

EARL CARL INSTITUTE FOR LEGAL & SOCIAL POLICY, INC.
THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW

4th Annual Honorable Craig Washington & Senator Rodney Ellis Excellence in Indigent Defense Series
February 6-7, 2015 – 8:30 a.m.-5:15 p.m. (each day)
Thurgood Marshall School of Law, 3100 Cleburne St., Houston, TX 77004

Day 1: Best Practices in Indigent Defense
Day 2: The ABA 10th Annual Summit on Indigent Defense Improvement
Early Registration before 01/30/2015
Attorneys: $100
Public Defenders and Non-Attorneys: Complimentary
Register for one day and attend the 2nd day free!

AFTER 01/30/2015
Attorney: $125.00–Public Defenders: $50.00
Non-Attorneys: Complimentary

MCLE: 14.5 (Day 1: 7.5 Day 2: 7.0)-Ethics: 2.0 (1.0 each day)
Breakfast & Lunch provided each day

Register Online: www.earlcarlinstitute.org or Pay on-site

CLE

Texas Southern University
THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW

2015 Criminal Law 101

Thurgood Marshall School of Law
3100 Cleburne St.
Houston, TX 77004
For more information, please call (713) 313-1197

DATE
FEBRUARY 27, 2015

TIME
9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

COST
$105.00 attorneys;
$30.00 gov’t attorneys & non-profit attorneys
Free: non-attorneys
MCLE: 7.0
Ethics: 2.0

Register Online: www.tinyurl.com/tmsleventregistration or Pay on-site
*Texas Southern University, Thurgood Marshall School of Law is an accredited sponsor approved by the State Bar of Texas Committee on MCLE
OFFICE OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

JANUARY 2015

January 2nd – 5th
2015 AALS Annual Conference
Location: Washington, D.C.

January 29th
Creating the Record of Criminal Convictions for Immigration Purposes - CLE
Immigration & International Law Institute
Texas Southern University, Thurgood Marshall School of Law
Location: Thurgood Marshall School of Law
Time: 12:00 noon - 4:00pm
Cost: $60.00 attorneys; complimentary non-attorneys
MCLE: 4.0
Ethics: 1.0
Register and pay online: www.tinyurl.com/tmsleventregistration

January 30th
2015 Criminal Law-CLE (Dallas)
Texas Southern University, Thurgood Marshall School of Law
Location: Dallas, Texas
Time: 12:00 noon – 4:00 pm
Cost: $60.00
MCLE: 4.0
Ethics: 1.0
Register online: www.tinyurl.com/tmsleventregistration

FEBRUARY 2015

February 6th & 7th
10th Annual ABA Midyear Summit on Indigent Defense Improvement
Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association
Harris County Public Defenders’ Office
The Earl Carl Institute of Legal & Social Policy, Inc.
Texas Southern University, Thurgood Marshall School of Law
Location: TMSL
Time: 8:30 am – 5:15 pm (each day)
Cost: $100.00 attorneys and complimentary public defenders and non-attorneys (Before January 30, 2015); and $125.00 attorneys, $50.00 public defenders (After January 30, 2015); complimentary for non-attorneys each day.
Register for one day and attend the 2nd day FREE!!
MCLE: 14.5 (Day 1-7.5 and Day 2-7.0)
Ethics: 2.0 (1.0 each day)
Register online: www.earlcarlinstitute.org or pay on-site
Breakfast & Lunch Provided Each Day

February 6th or 13th
Thurgood Marshall Law Review Spring Pinning Ceremony and Reception
Location: TBD
Time: TBD
Sponsorship Opportunities- contact the Office of External Affairs (713) 313-1142

February 19th – 21st
ABA 2015 Dean’s Workshop
Location: Washington, DC

February 27th
2015 Criminal Law 101 – CLE
Criminal Law Clinic
Texas Southern University, Thurgood Marshall School of Law
Location: Thurgood Marshall School of Law
Time: 9:00 am-4:00pm
Cost: $105.00 attorneys; complimentary non-attorneys
MCLE: 7.0
Ethics: 2.0
Register and pay online: www.tinyurl.com/tmsleventregistration
December Birthdays

Nannette Collins 1st
Edward Rene 3rd
Robert Morales 19th
Mosetta Moy 17th

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!