Traditionally, experiential learning opportunities are provided exclusively to 2nd and 3rd year law students in the form of stand-alone clinics, paid or unpaid externships, or courses such as trial simulation. However, with the ever increasing competition in the legal job market, a recent law school graduate with a callow Juris Doctor will find it even more of a necessity to obtain employment. Thus, TMSL Property Professors Asmara Tekle and Fernando Colon have implemented a new forward thinking initiative for first year law students. This initiative comes in the form of providing experiential learning experiences in the 1L property-law classroom. These experiences include students participating in negotiations and being assessed by alumni or upper-level students, followed by a professional networking reception. The negotiation was a “simulation” in which students negotiated the sale in opposing teams of four representing buyers and sellers. Many alumni answered the call to serve as judges and provide a debrief for students, which gave the students real-world assessments of their lawyering skills and professionalism.
The event is a forward movement by the Experiential Learning department to incorporate simulation into courses early in law school. Professor Tekle stated that (simulation) is often not a subject talked about in the first year of law school; but it should be. “Our students need to be able to obtain jobs. You can’t start this process too early,” stated Professor Tekle. The event was held on February 15, 2018.
Thurgood Thursday held on February 15, 2018, was an event for the record books. Across the state TMSL friends and family joined together to experience Black Panther. Adorned in our African Attire and surrounded by the generations, TMSL showed up and showed out in Houston, Dallas and surrounding areas. Specifically, the Office of External Affairs was able to secure a private theatre for the exclusive TMSL screening at AMC Dine–IN 8. Over 81 Students, Alums, friends and family attended. In Dallas, TMSL Alums, Corwyn Davis, class of 2011, and Vonda Bailey, class of 2014, also joined forces to secure a theatre for an exclusive screening. Overall, the event was a successful display of unity and love. #TMSLBlackPanther #Wakanaforever

Professor SpearIt has accepted an invitation to join the AALS Section on Law and Religion, and has accepted an invitation to participate in the conference, Racism, Racialization and African American Islam in Americas, which will take place on April 12, 2018, at George Mason University. On 1/18/18, he spoke at Gonzaga University School of Law on his work in progress, Firepower to the People: Gun Rights and the Law of Self-defense to Curb Police Misconduct, which he also presented to HLSA at TMSL on 1/24/18. Professor SpearIt has accepted a request to serve as a subject matter expert for a Doctor of Juridical Science (J.S.D.) dissertation on gender violence at Thomas Jefferson School of Law. The requesting student is Leslie Harrison-Williams, who is a 2016 graduate of TMSL. Finally, Professor SpearIt was acknowledged in Khaled Beydoun’s book, American Islamophobia: Understanding the Roots and Rise of Fear (University of California Press 2018), and was cited in Restore, Revert, Repeat: Examining the Decompensation Cycle and the Due Process Limitation on the Treatment of Incompetent Defendants, 71 Vanderbilt L. Rev. 319 (2018) and the online article, “Why the Stories of Latinx Muslims Matter,” http://latinomuslim.com.

Professor Peter V. Marchetti’s article entitled, Amending the Flaws in the Safe Harbors of the Bankruptcy Code: Guarding Against Systemic Risk in the Financial Markets and Adding Stability to the System, 31 EMORY BANKR. DEV. J. 305 (2015) was recently cited by the Connecticut Supreme Court in CCT Communications, Inc. v. Zone Telecom, Inc., 327 Conn. 114, 151, 164 (2017). The court cited Professor Marchetti’s article for its analysis of the rights of parties to executory contracts under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code. Additionally, on January 6, 2018, Professor Marchetti presented his work in progress: All About the Students, or All About the Benjamins? -The Need to Regulate For-Profit Law Schools to Prevent Inherent Conflicts of Interest, at the Professional Responsibility Works in Progress Section that took place during the 2018 AALS Annual Meeting in San Diego, California. His paper was selected from a call for papers by the AALS Section on Professional Responsibility.

Professor L. Darnell Weeden’s article entitled, Employing Race-Neutral Affirmative Action to Create Educational Diversity While Attacking Socio-Economic Status Discrimination, 19 ST. JOHN’S J. LEGAL COMMENT 297, 334 (2005), was recently quoted by Professors Eboni S. Nelson, Ronald Pitner and Carla D. Pratt in their article entitled Assessing The Viability Of Race-Neutral Alternatives In Law School Admissions, 102 Iowa L. Rev. 2187, 2191-92 (2017). Professors Nelson, Pitner and Pratt assert Professor Weeden would like the Supreme Court to reconsider its decision in Grutter because according to Professor Weeden, “the conceptual framework for effective race-neutral educational diversity demonstrated by the success of the Texas Top Ten Percent Plan could be designed to create true educational diversity based on socio-economic status.”

Gonzalez’s article addresses how the framework regulating the commercial bail industry fails to mitigate the wide-ranging variety of harms that bail agents can and often do inflict on their customers. Gonzalez cites to Professor Johnson’s work for its discussion on the widespread legislative efforts to induce decision makers to support policies favorable to the bail industry under the guise of taxpayer savings and public safety propaganda. Mel Gonzalez also cited Professor Johnson’s article on the bail system in *Litigating Money Bail Away: A Dim Future for the Status of the Poor under the 14 Amendment*, 23 n.81 (March 3, 2017), which is available at SSRN: https://ssrn.com/abstract=2927170 or http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.2927170. Gonzalez’s essay is the first to analyze the possibility of ongoing litigation around bail reform to resurface 14th amendment jurisprudence regarding the status of the poor. Gonzalez cited to Professor Johnson’s article for her discussion on the abolishment of the money bail system.

Also, Professor Johnson served as the Opening Plenary Speaker on February 18, 2018, for the 45th Annual TASSP (Texas TRIO) Conference held in League City, Texas. The title of her speech was *The What, Why and How of Building a Mindful Culture—Can We Talk?* Professor Johnson discussed the state of education and the tension academic freedom and the right of free speech.
Students from the Thurgood Marshal School of Law (TMSL) recently competed in the American Bar Association (ABA) Regional Client Counseling Competition that took place at the University of Arkansas School Of Law. TMSL was represented by second year law students, Eleazar Maldonado Jr. and Daniel Chavez, pictured above. The team was coached by Professor of Law and Director of L.L.M. & Immigration Development, Fernando Colon-Navarro. TMSL competed against 11 other law schools from across the nation.

Before Mr. Maldonado and Mr. Chavez had the honor and opportunity to represent TMSL in the ABA Regional competition, they competed in and won the in-school competition hosted by the TMSL Board of Advocates, (BOA). In the on-campus competition, Ms. Anabel Maldonado, above, center served as the client for the team.

The Client Counseling Competition is one of many ways that TMSL in general and in particular, the TMSL Experiential Learning Department headed by Associate Dean Stephanie Ledesma works to inculcate professionalism and provide students training in practical skills that they will be expected to not only be competent in, but have mastered prior to entry into the legal profession. During the Client Counseling Competition, students are judged on their active listening skills, critical thinking skills, critical analysis skills, and effective communication and persuasion skills. Students are also expected to effectively interview their clients while fact gathering key facts, and advising their clients through each step of the process.
EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS ADVOCATES!

(left to right) Co-Coordinator Antonio Cabrera, 2nd place winner Kristine Chivers,
2nd place winner Jessica Lowery, Co-Coordinator Daniel Chavez

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLIENT NEGOTIATIONS WINNERS

1st Place

Mr. Jupiter Howard and Ms. Staci Childs

If you would like more information on the Experiential Learning Department at TMSL, please contact Associate Dean Stephanie Ledesma at 1-713-313-1105.
TMSL Hosts the National Institute of Trial Advocacy Roundtable

Associate Dean Stephanie Ledesma co-hosted a round table event with the National Institute of Trial Advocacy, (NITA) here at TMSL on February 14, 2018. The members of the round table included the Executive Directive of the National Institute of Trial Advocacy, the Managing Attorney of the Harris County Attorney's Office-Child Protection Division, and partners from the Law Firm of Vinson & Elkins LLP; One LLP; Duane Morris LLP; Jones Day; and the Goss Law firm. The purpose of the round table event was to review and evaluate the role and focus of NITA and find strategic ways NITA could partner with members of the legal community, (law firms, law schools and legal professionals), for the best benefit of law students.

Associate Dean Stephanie Ledesma has been a NITA faculty member for almost a decade; and with NITA as a partner, Associate Dean Ledesma co-created the Client Counseling and Fact Investigation Law Student Module that has been adopted by TMSL and other law school across the nation. In addition, Dean Ledesma was named NITA volunteer last year, donating more than 100 hours of her time to the training of public service attorneys and judges who try cases involving parties who are indigent but in need of legal protections. As a result of Dean Ledesma’s work with NITA, the Juvenile Lifers Without Parole legal clinic was established here at the TMSL as the only clinic of its kind in the nation.

Spring 2018 Family Law Clinic Success

Lakisha Alomaja, class of 2018, achieved victory for the Family Law Clinic in what has been a very contested case. LaKisha successfully argued a Motion to Compel Discovery and Motion for Continuance on behalf of their client. This success resulted in the granting of both Motions and the award of $750.00 in attorney fees as a sanction. Congratulations to Lakisha and the Family Law Clinic on this outstanding achievement.
The Thurgood Marshall School of Law Gender, Race, and Justice Law Journal is a student-run organization whose primary purpose is to publish a journal of legal scholarship. Accordingly, each issue contains scholarly works by student editors as well as outside authors. Student editors make all editorial and organizational decisions and, together with faculty advisors, carry out day-to-day operations.

The Journal held its 5th Annual Pinning Ceremony on February 23, 2018. The event featured the pinning of 16 new members. The newly installed members inducted as Associate Editors included:

Student Spotlight

Autumn Humphreys … a heart for the community

Where is your hometown? Dallas, Texas
What is your graduating class at TMSL? Class of 2019
Undergrad Institution? University of Texas at Dallas
Undergrad Major? Bachelors of Science in Psychology, Minor in Criminology
What advice would you give new law students? READ YOUR BOOKS, ALL OF THEM!

Most Recent Internships:
Clark and Associates, LLC. June 2017-November 2017
Legal Intern/Law Clerk, Houston, TX

Organizations/ Community Service/ and Extracurricular Activities
• Leadership Committee 2L SBA, Director, 2017-2018
• Completed two full terms of AmeriCorps assisting at-risk populations through community service
• Coordinated Help the Homeless Project: served 120 warm meals and provided 150 hygiene bags
• Recipient for The Community Leadership Award recognizing dedication to the community
• Coordinated various community service events, including supply drive for victims of genocide in Darfur
• Volunteered with disaster relief efforts during Hurricanes Katrina and Harvey

Then your story. Why law school?
I became a ward of the state when I was 13 and remained so until I aged out of the system. Fortunately, growing up in the foster care system I experienced the impact a single action taken by an attorney can have in a child’s life. Texas Child Protective Services did not want to allow accelerated graduation because finding specialized treatment would be difficult for a foster youth who finished high school as a minor. However, my guardian ad litem succeeded in advocating for early graduation. As a result, I moved from a high security residential facility (essentially a nice juvenile justice center) to a group home that fostered higher education. I started college and gained employment, before aging out of the foster system. If I didn’t graduate early I would have remained in the residential treatment facility until I turned 18; then released to the streets with no means of support. As most wards of the state are pushed to the streets upon turning 18. The butterfly effect is apparent; my guardian ad litem impacted my life, which enabled me to start adulthood with a solid foundation. There are many at risk populations (like foster youth) that are not adequately represented in the legal system. My personal experiences and those faint voices are the driving forces of my determination to advocate for at-risk populations. The most effective advocates of legal inequality are those charged with defending against such injustice - attorneys.

What do you like most about TMSL?
As a result of growing up in foster care, words like “love”, “family”, and “unity” were rare experiences with unconventional conations. I did not fully understand those three words until I had my son. However, it is these three words- “love”, “family”, and “unity”- that are The Thurgood Marshall School of Law. During law school, as a single mother of a 5year-old with little family support, there were times I lived out of my trunk; nevertheless those driving forces enabled my success. Despite all odds, I finished my first year of law school in the top 25%. My personal experience at TMSL has been filled with struggles and triumphs that I have shared with colleagues and faculty. Yet, each time I wanted to give up there was someone, mostly faculty, at TMSL who encouraged me to hang on.
On February 17, 2018, TMSL students activated the “Help The Homeless Project”. The project, a brain child of 2L, Autumn Humphreys, was organized by the 2L class board and executed through partnerships with the Black Law Students Association and the TMSL Student Ambassadors. Together students raised over $1000 in donations. The monetary and product donations allowed students to provide over 120 chickens and 150 hygiene bags to more than 3 homeless camps in the Houston area. Congratulations to these students on a successful community service event.
Kierra Powell Joins prestigious firm

Kierra Powell, class of 2017, recently accepted a position at the prestigious law firm, Shook, Hardy & Bacon L.L.P., a Houston front runner in global complex litigation. Upon the completion of her federal judicial clerkship in the United States District Court – Western District of Missouri in August 2018, she will relocate and take her position in the Houston Office. Congratulations to Kierra on career advancement and we wish her continued success.

Kadian Blanson named Partner at Rivero Mestre LLP

Kadian Blanson, class of 2009, was announced Partner at Rivero Mestre LLP in a January press release. Kadian focuses on business disputes in the areas of commercial, insurance, construction and energy. In addition, she represents clients during litigation and while under criminal investigation for white collar crimes. Congratulations to Kadian on this prestigious accomplishment.

Maegan Bradley joins Harris County District Attorney’s Office

Maegan Bradley, class of 2017, recently accepted a position a new Assistant District Attorney in the Harris County District Attorney’s Office. This comes as no surprise to those that know her. Maegan during law school was a force to be reckoned with in the Criminal Law Defense Clinic. Congratulations to ADA Maegan Bradley.

Attorney Mark Harris makes Managing Partner

Mark Harris, Class of 2000, was promoted to managing partners Linebarger Goggan Sampson & Blair Philadelphia. His relocation from Dallas, Texas to Philadelphia was met with enthusiasm and promise. TMSL congratulates Attorney Harris on this triumphant career move.

(TMSL Alum celebrating Mark Harris’ promotion at Eddie V’s. DeAnne, Mark, Judge Nash, Evelyn, Tshombe and Pam)
Attorney Ricky Anderson’s Entertainment Law Institute

Congratulations to attorney Ricky Anderson, class of 1992, on the launched of the Attorney Ricky Anderson Entertainment Law Institute, a customized, self-paced program dedicated to the entertainment industry. The institute features extensive curriculum that includes courses such as artist promotion and representation management, music publishing, production and distribution, recording, performance agreements, merchandising, touring, film and television agreements, and music in cyberspace. For more information please visit, https://www.atty-raeli.com/

Attorney Ricky Anderson Receives 2 prestigious awards

In addition, Attorney Ricky Anderson has received numerous accolades and awards over the years. Most recently, Houston Community College awarded Attorney Anderson the Black History Month "UNSTOPPABLE" Award on February 27, 2018. Also, the International Black Broadcasters Association (IBBA) honored Attorney Anderson as the recipient of the IBBA 2018 Lifetime Achievement Award on February 24, 2018.

Cedric Joubert announces his Retirement

Cedric Joubert, class of 1974, announces his retirement from the United States Department of Justice after 35 years of serving as an Assistant United States Attorney. He prosecuted cases in the areas of criminal law, intellectual property, healthcare and fraud investigation. Attorney Joubert, a graduate of Morehouse College and Thurgood Marshall School of Law has practiced law for over 41 years. TMSL wishes Attorney Joubert continued success on the next chapter of his career.
ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS Cont’d.
FEBRUARY THURGOOD THURSDAY

San Antonio

Dallas
IN MEMORIAM

Mother of TMSL Alum Makes Her Heavenly Transition

Mrs. Doretha Loeb, mother of TMSL Alum Cedric Loeb, class of 1984, was called home to her heavenly resting place this past week. The funeral for our beloved Mrs. Doretha Loeb will be on March 1, at St. Paul A.M.E. Church 3320 Waverly Street, Beaumont, Texas 77705 At 11:00AM. Visitation 9:00– 11:00AM prior to the service. Visitation also welcomed on Wednesday at Community Funeral Home, Beaumont, Texas.

Sister of Leslie Coleman Passes

The TMSL family extends its condolences to the family of Leslie Coleman, TMSL Senior Administrative Assistant, Law Library, for her sister. Ms. Wanda Coleman arose on February 15, 1964, and transitioned into eternal rest on February 22, 2018. Ms. Coleman will be celebrated at Norton Temple Church of God in Christ, 5008 Lucille Street, Houston, Texas on Thursday March 1, 2018 at 11:00AM. A burial will follow at Cemetery Beautiful, 8401 Wheatley Street, Houston, Texas.
Summer Federal Judicial Internship Opportunity

The Honorable Brian Wimes of the United States District Court – Western District of Missouri invites law students to apply for the 2018 summer Federal Judicial Internship. Law students will be given the opportunity to obtain courtroom experience and may be asked to demonstrate their writing skills. This position is unpaid and will require travel to 600 East 9th St., Kansas City, MO 64130.

If any student is interested please email a resume to: Kierra.powell@mow.uscourts.gov

2018 Bar Scholarship Opportunity

The Law Office of Omar Vargas, P.C. has just announced its 2018 Bar Study Scholarship. This opportunity is open only to Thurgood Marshall School of Law students sitting for the February or July 2018 bar. Please take advantage of this opportunity. Details are below:

ESSAY TOPIC:
On October 9, 2017, Representative Briscoe Cain, was asked to leave the Thurgood Marshall School of law campus after having been invited to speak by the Federalist Society, a student organization. Under what circumstances, if any, may public schools ban/remove people/organizations from exercising their right to free speech?

Assume the speaker had been allowed to continue speaking and students/staff continued to shout/chant over him. Under what circumstances, if any, may public schools remove members of the audience who are exercising their right to free speech/protest?

This is a strictly constitutional question, so please disregard any handbook/procedural errors that the Federalist Society may have overlooked.

Please cite relevant case law and limit this essay to fifteen (15) pages or less. The deadline for this scholarship is March 25th, 2018. There will be two (2) $1,000.00 scholarships, one (1) $700.00 scholarship, and one (1) $500.00 scholarship.

Please email your essays to: omar@oovlaw.com
UPCOMING EVENTS

TMSL 2017-18 FACULTY SERIES SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
All Events are on Wednesdays 12pm-1pm in the Dean’s Conference Room at TMSL unless otherwise noted.

SPRING 2018

1/29/18
Faculty Research Series
Diane J. Klein, Professor of Law, University of La Verne College of Law
“The Other-Worldliness of Dying Men”, Death, Testamentary Incapacity, and Vulnerability Theory Avant La Lettre

2/7/18
Thurgood Marshall Law Review Student Research Presentations (Room 106)

2/14/18
Faculty Roundtable Series
Nikki Wright-Smith, Assistant Dean, and Ashley C. Scott, Assistant Director, Office of Career and Professional Development
“The Faculty Member’s Role in Enhancing a Student’s Career Opportunities”

2/21/18
Faculty Research Series
Speareit, Associate Professor of Law, Thurgood Marshall School of Law
“Repackaging Abolition: Targeting Christians, Conservatives”

2/28/18
Faculty Roundtable Series (Teaching)
Moderator: Asmara M. Tekle, Professor of Law, Thurgood Marshall School of Law
“Collaborative Experiential Learning in the 1L Doctrinal Classroom”

3/21/18
Faculty Roundtable Series (Research)
Law Library Director and Staff
“Library Resources for Faculty Research and Training”

3/28/18
Student Independent Research Paper Presentations

4/4/17-4/5/17
TMSL Scholar-in-Residence
Julian Cook, Professor of Law
University of Georgia School of Law
“Policing and the Exclusionary Rule”
UPCOMING CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION COURSES

Friday, March 2, 2018

Criminal Law CLE

Pappadeaux Seafood Kitchen
3520 Oak Lawn Ave.,
Dallas, TX 75219
12 - 4 p.m.

Registration available online: www.tmslcle.com

4 hrs. • MCLE • 1 hr. Ethics

$80.00 attorneys; $30.00 gov’t and non-profit attorneys; complimentary non attorneys

THE EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING PROGRAM’S
Solo Practice CLE SERIES

Monday, March 26, 2018
Family Law

Tuesday, March 27, 2018
Personal Injury

Wednesday, March 28, 2018
Criminal Law

Monday, April 2, 2018 *
(Ethics for this course is 3.0)

The State Bar Grievance Process:
What You Should Know to Protect Your License

Tuesday, April 3, 2018
Intellectual Property

Wednesday, April 4, 2018
Legal Implications of Marketing

All Solo Practice CLE Series
Time: 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Location: Thurgood Marshall School of Law
Cost: $25.00
MCLE: 3.00 • Ethics: 1.00

$25.00 attorneys; complimentary for non attorneys
Registration available online: www.tmslcle.com

TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW
713.313.1142 or prsmith@tmslaw.tsu.edu
UPCOMING CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION COURSES

ADVOCACY SKILLS TRAINING ACADEMY:
DISCOVERY - CAN YOU AFFORD NOT TO DO IT?
WINNING AND LOSING BY VOIR DIRE

Saturday, March 3, 2018
9 AM - 4:30 PM

MCLE: 7.0
Ethics: 1.00

Cost: $105.00 attorneys; $30.00 gov’t attorneys and non-profit attorneys;
complimentary non-attorneys

Registration available online: www.tmslcle.com

March 9, 2018
8:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW
3100 Cleburne Street, Houston, Texas 77004

Honorable Craig Washington & Honorable Rodney Ellis
EXCELLENCE IN INDIGENT DEFENSE SERIES

REGISTRATION
• Attorneys: $175
• Government and Non-Profit Attorneys: $125
• Public Defenders and Non-Attorneys- Complimentary
• Students/Faculty/Judges: Complimentary
Breakfast, lunch and parking validation included
Receive MCLE: 7.75 • Ethics: 1.5
Register Online at: https://7thannualindigentdefenseseries.eventbrite.com

SPONSORED BY
THE EARL CARL INSTITUTE FOR LEGAL AND SOCIAL POLICY, INC.
AND TEXAS CRIMINAL DEFENSE LAWYERS ASSOCIATION
UPCOMING EVENTS

A Conversation with Dean Gary L. Bledsoe
Thursday, March 1, 2018
5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Bob's
Steak & Chop House
555 S Lamar St. · Dallas, Texas 75202

THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW
THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW
March Birthdays

Deana Pollard Sacks 5th
Sarah Guidry 8th
Mary Kelly 9th
Sally Green 17th
Shaundra Lewis 18th
Jeanetta Washington 19th
Docia Rudley 21st
Anya Ahunanya 23rd
Martina Cartwright 31st

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!