The TMSL Legal Entrepreneur Incubator program is an 18-month educational, training and mentorship program for recent Thurgood Marshall School of Law graduates interested in solo or small firm practice. Created from the community and graduate needs seen by Acting TMSL Dean Gary Bledsoe, the TMSL Legal Entrepreneur Incubator’s goal is to expand legal services to low and moderate income clients, while simultaneously, developing new practice models and providing top-notch training and law practice management skills to TMSL graduates. Those accepted into the incubator program, (i.e. fellows), are each linked with a mentor (i.e. experienced attorney/TMSL alumnum) in the fellow’s respective, practice area, who will provide guidance, coaching, solo practitioner and small firm leadership strategies and ongoing support. Other fellow benefits include: a $5,000 stipend for start-up fees and expenses to create respective solo practice firms; shared office space in a collaborative environment (located at 2006 Wheeler Ave., Houston, TX. 77004); CLEs; case referrals; professional networking and pro bono opportunities; and legal research assistance by TMSL students. In addition to being newly admitted attorneys to the State Bar of Texas, these fellows must also complete a Baylor School of Law program, Legal Mapmaker, teaching them how to start a successful law practice with little overhead. The following, inaugural group of seven (7) fellows maintain practice areas ranging from Immigration to family, criminal, probate, entertainment and personal injury law: Jessica Aikode, Lashay Bostick, Brandy Douglas, Marcus Esther, Taren Marsaw, Chigozirim Nwaogwugwu and Eboni Laché Ogunseinde.

An unveiling of TMSL’s Legal Entrepreneur Incubator program, coupled with a formal introduction of Mr. Sam Stolbun (University of Texas Law School classmate of TMSL Acting Dean Gary Bledsoe who along with his wife Dr. Alana Spiwak provided a $100,000.00 investment to Texas Southern University to support the dynamic TMSL start-up), was held on May 29, 2019. Through an MOU with the NAACP Houston Branch, the Incubator Fellows will donate four (4) hours a month, each, to pro bono services under the NAACP Legal Redress program in exchange for free rent. The Incubator program is housed under the TMSL Office of External Affairs (under the leadership of Assistant Dean Prudence Smith). For more info, please visit: http://www.tsulaw.edu/alumni/incubator_application.html.
FACULTY NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS DEAN LEDESMA
The Experiential Education Department
Teaching Trial Advocacy Across Borders

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Lawyers Without Borders and NITA, have appointed Dean Stephanie Ledesma to an International Team of Litigation Training Experts that will travel to Namibia, Africa to teach trial skills to Namibian Attorneys who litigate gender violence crimes.

UNODC
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

LAWYERS WITHOUT BORDERS
Crossing Borders to Make a Difference

NITA
National Institute for Trial Advocacy

EXPLORE THE PRACTICE
Contact Dean Ledesma for More Information Ext. 1105 * The Dean’s Suite

CONGRATULATIONS
Associate Dean Cassandra Hill
For legal pedagogy scholarship that is nationally recognized and utilized at the
Association of American Law Schools
2019 AALS New Law Teachers Workshop
Earl Carl Professor of Law Constance Fain was awarded by President A. Lane, the Presidential Achievement Medal, the highest faculty honor that Texas Southern University bestows, on May 1, 2019. The faculty member selected for this award is one who has demonstrated over the years outstanding teaching, research, scholarship, and service. Fain is donating the monetary gift that accompanies this honor to Texas Southern University to benefit our students. Fain asks those persons who are able to join her and numerous others to also help in providing tuition assistance, scholarships, and employment opportunities. Our students are worthy of our support.

In the spirit of giving honor to whom honor is due, congratulations to Professor Edieth Wu on being elected the 2019-2021 Faculty Senate/Assembly Chair, on April 24, 2019.

In the spirit of giving honor to whom honor is due, congratulations to Professor Faith Jackson on being elected the 2019-2021 Faculty Senate/Assembly Vice Chair, on April 24, 2019.

While providing a critical evaluation of the fundamental theoretical issues in contemporary privilege law in chapter 10, Imwinkelried contends in § 10.3 that there exists a Bias in the Federal Rules against the creation of new privileges or the expansion of existing privileges. Imwinkelried cites to Weeden's article to support the argument that Rule 501 as a contextual matter when considered in light of “the other articles of the Federal Rules-- supplies a substantive policy bias favoring the admission of relevant, probative evidence.”

Professor Shaundra Lewis recently accepted an invitation from the Executive Director of the newly created Center for Firearms Law at Duke Law School, Professor Jacob D. Charles, to present a work-in-progress at the 2019 Firearms Law Works-In-Progress Workshop.


Distinguished Professor of Law James M. Douglas participated in a live on air interview with FOX 26 News Anchor Jose Grinan on May 15, 2019, to discuss the latest ruling on Proposition B. Specifically, the affect of State District Judge Tonya Garrison’s ruling that Proposition B, giving Houston firefighters pay parity with police, is “unconstitutional and void in its entirety.”
TMSL Welcomes New Staff Member

Please welcome to the Texas Southern University Thurgood Marshall School of Law (TMSL) family, Ms. Kristen Taylor, Esq., as the new Assistant Director in the Office of Career and Professional Development. Kristen is a second generation graduate of Florida A&M University (FAMU), where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology. After graduating from FAMU, Kristen worked as a mental health outpatient counselor and then in an administrative role with the Sixth Judicial Circuit of Florida, where she developed a passion for the law. Kristen obtained her Juris Doctor from Stetson University College of Law, where she also completed a certification in trial advocacy and was awarded the William F. Blews Pro Bono Service Award. Most recently, Kristen practiced in-house insurance defense at a Fortune 100 company in Tampa, Florida where she handled first-party and third party complex litigation involving contract disputes, personal injury, and global settlement negotiations. Kristen brings a wealth of diversified experience to TMSL and the Office of Career and Professional Development. Undoubtedly, she will be an asset to the administrative officer team of TMSL.

TMSL’S Danny Norris to Receive NBA Award

Please congratulate Danny Norris, Associate Director of the Thurgood Marshall School of Law Library on receiving the National Bar Association’s “40 Under 40 Nations Best Advocate” award. These awards specifically seek out leaders of the legal industry, looking for those under 40 whose creativity, commitment, experience and strong leadership has helped them achieve success in an increasingly challenging legal climate” said President Drayton. "The awards are given solely on merit and are awarded to commend those most deserving for their legal acumen, ingenuity, hard work, and community service, distinguishing them from their counterparts and proving them worthy of this special peer recognition. “ TMSL’s very own, Danny Norris, ranks 25th on the list.
ECI’s annual governing board meeting was held on Thursday, May 2, 2019 at Thurgood Marshall School of Law in the Dean’s conference room. Please join us in congratulating all of the officers and student board members that were elected. Board officers and student board members are:

- **President** – Dr. James Douglas
- **Vice-President** – Judge Bill Littlejohn
- **Secretary** – Dr. Robert Ford
- **Treasurer** – Dr. Carlton Perkins
- **Student Board Member** – Kesha Amos
- **Student Board Member** – Mariah Grayson

ECI welcomed four new staff members during the month of May. New team members are: Antonio Sangueza, Assistant Director of Youth Initiatives; A.E. Fonsworht, BGI Coordinator and Executive Administrative Assistant; Alisa Harris, Community Engagement Specialist, and Andrea Fulgiam, Fellow.
TMSL Alum, TaKasha Francis, class of 2003, served as the keynote speaker of the TMSL 2019 Hooding Ceremony on May 17, 2019. Her speech was impactful and left an everlasting impression on the Juris Doctor graduates.

Attorney Francis previously served as State of Texas Assistant Attorney General in the Child Support Division. She also founded The Francis Firm P.C., a boutique law firm specializing in family law and civil litigation. She is currently the City of Houston Department of Neighborhoods Director.

Congratulations are extended to Mr. Rodolfo “Rudy” Ruiz for his many accomplishments, including TMSL Class of 2019 Valedictorian!

To review Mr. Ruiz’ full story, please check out the “Student Spotlight” section on our TMSL website: http://www.tsulaw.edu/
Congratulations to the Omar O. Vargas Scholarship Winners

2019 TMSL Graduates, Vernetra Gavin and Elizabeth Opara are the proud scholarship recipients of the Bar Study Scholarship sponsored by the Law Office of Omar O. Vargas, P.C. Applicants were required to submit a document on whether or not Trump's declaration of a national emergency to build a wall was legal. Of the submissions entered, these two students excelled and surpassed all the others, according to Attorney Vargas. TMSL family please congratulate these ladies and wish them well in bar study.

Regent Judge Marc C. Carter, presided over the 228th District Court in Harris County, Texas from December 2003-January 2019. Prior to his appointment to the bench by Governor Rick Perry in 2003, Judge Carter was a law clerk for the Honorable Kenneth M. Hoyt, United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas. Judge Carter is also one of the founding partners of Schaffer, Carter & Associates, a criminal law defense firm.

Regent Pamela Medina is the Vice President and Business Development Officer of Cadence Bank (trust services). Attorney Medina specializes in wills, trusts and probate law.

Additionally, Regent Hasan K. Mack ("Mack") was appointed to the Texas Southern University Board of Regents by Governor Greg Abbott for a six-year term and will serve through February 1, 2023. He was recently named the Chairman of the Texas Southern University Board of Regents. Regent Mack is an attorney for McCall, Parkhurst & Horton L.L.P., a firm that focuses exclusively on public finance law. Today, Regent Mack serves as bond counsel, disclosure counsel and underwriter's counsel for various cities, political subdivisions and state agencies in Texas. He received a Juris Doctorate, Magna Cum Laude, from the Thurgood Marshall School of Law in 2010.
The Houston Lawyers Association (HLA) hosted its 2019 Scholarship and Awards Gala on Saturday, May 4, 2019. At the Gala, HLA honored Attorney **Chevazz Brown** for his outstanding contribution to the legal profession with the *Aloysius M. Wickliff Sr. Community Service Award*. Attorney Brown, TMSL class of 2007, is the founder of the Coalition of Diverse Bar Association and was named a visionary. Additionally, HLA bestowed the Inaugural *Judge Alice Bonner Outstanding Trailblazer Award*. The award commemorates service and contribution to the legal field by Judge Alice Bonner. Judge Bonner, class of 1966, was the first African—American female Judge for Harris County. Finally, HLA also bestowed upon acting Dean **Gary L. Bledsoe** the *Roberson L. King Award for Excellence in Education* because he has empowered the community through education and service to today’s legal scholars and tomorrow’s legal icons.
The Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association (TDCLA) in San Antonio, Texas honored State Representative Senfronia Thompson on June 13, 2019, at their annual awards banquet. Representative Thompson was awarded the Rodney Ellis Award for her exceptional commitment to advocacy; demonstration of specific endeavors related to criminal defense; spreading awareness of TCDLA initiatives and endeavors; and having a positive impact on criminal defense. The award was named after Senator Rodney Ellis for serving as the voice and/or advocate to TCDLA.

State Representative Senfronia Thompson was also named in the Best of the Texas Legislature 2019 by the Capitol Inside. She thanks her staff for their support in reaching the "All-Star" status. For more information: http://capitolinside.com/members/best2019-legislature2.html...
TMSL Alums Partner Up

TMSL Alum, the Honorable Derrick Reed, class of 2007, and Mark Armstrong of Smith Reed & Armstrong PLLC have merged with TMSL Alum Kenneth Stevens, class of 2012, of Stephens PLLC to form Stephens Reed & Armstrong PLLC. The firm handles a wide variety of litigation matters. However, the attorneys have a great deal of expertise in contract litigation, Employment Law, Construction Law, and Personal Injury.

Hon. Derrick Reed, a former Harris County prosecutor, is currently a Pearland City Councilman and the former Mayor Pro Tem of Pearland. He is a founding partner of the firm and his practice focuses on employment law, civil litigation and general business matters.

Kenneth E. Stephens Jr., a recognized entrepreneur is also a respected construction law advocate. He was featured by Black Enterprise and recently selected as a Black Enterprise Modern Man. He specializes in commercial litigation, liens and nonpayment litigation, defect litigation and change order disputes.
TMSL Alums become published scholars

Ty Stimpson, class of 2012, had his first legal article published in The Texas Prosecutor, the official journal of the Texas District and County Attorneys Association. The article entitled, “Depositions in a criminal case” was published in the May—June 2019 edition of the Journal. Attorney Stimpson is an Assistant Criminal District Attorney in Tarrant County, Texas. For more information http://www.tdcca.com

Fallon Hamilton, class of 2008, is the author of "An Ode," a collection of poetry released in November 2018. Since its release, the book has spent significant time on the Amazon best-sellers list for African-American poetry. It is described as the perfect lyrics to accompany relationships past and present. Hamilton will be a participating author at the 2019 National Black Book Festival (Oct. 24-26 in Houston). Visit her website for more info: www.freneehamilton.com
ALUMNI NEWS

Upcoming Elections

The Honorable Robert Johnson of the 177th Harris County Criminal Court is up for re-election in 2020.

Nyanza Moore for U.S. Congress (TX-Congressional District 22)
IN MEMORIAM

TMSL mourns the loss of Alum Anthony “Tony” Cogswell

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of TMSL Alum Anthony Cogswell, affectionately known as Tony, class of 1984. Attorney Cogswell was born in Savannah, Georgia on April 11, 1959. He peacefully passed away in Alexandria, Virginia on May 8, 2019, at age 60. Tony is a graduate of Morehouse College (Bachelor of Arts, cum laude) Atlanta University (Master of Public Administration) and Texas Southern University Thurgood Marshall School of Law (Juris Doctorate). Tony was a proud and faithful member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. After graduating from law school, Tony was employed from 1984-1989 by the United States Department of the Navy, Office of General Counsel as an Attorney specializing in government contracts with the Naval Regional Contracting Center in Washington, D.C. This is where he met a contract specialist who became the love of his life, Isabel. Tony successfully defended a number of large protests for the Navy which allowed mission critical contracts to move forward. From 1989-2008 he was Senior Corporate Counsel for Sprint Communications Corporation. Tony then entered private practice as a Consultant specializing in Government Contracting from 2008 - 2018. Throughout his career Tony established a reputation as a sharp expert on legal issues and always provided exceptional legal advice and service. Tony will forever be remembered by his wife, Isabel Roman-Cogswell, and his daughter, Sydney Cogswell. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to St. Coletta of Greater Washington, 1901 Independence Avenue, SE, Washington, D.C. 20003.

TMSL Family mourns loss of Dean Mouton’s Brother

The TMSL family extends their condolences to Dean Virgie Mouton on the passing of her brother, Raphael Lemond. Mr. Lemond expectantly departed from this earth on April 26, 2019 at his home in Galena Park, Texas. He retired from the Facilities & Property Management department of Harris County (“FPM”) in 2014 and was active in numerous church affairs and organizations during his lifetime. He is preceded in death by his wife Rita and his brother Xavier. He is survived by his daughter Regina Jefferson, 9 brothers and sisters and scores of other relatives.
UPCOMING CLE’s

86th Texas Legislative Session Update: From the Capital to the Community: What Happens Next? An Urban Perspective

August 6, 2019
12:00 noon – 5:00 pm
Thurgood Marshall School of Law, on the campus of Texas Southern University
3100 Cleburne Street • Houston, Texas 77004
Sponsored by:
The Earl Carl Institute for Legal & Social Policy, Inc

Event partners:
Prairie View A&M Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center
Port City Chapter of the Links, Inc.
Alpha Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.
Houston Lawyers Association
NAACP Houston Branch

MCLE: 5.0 Ethics: 1.0 • CLE and CEU credits are available
Register on-line: https://eci2019legupdate.eventbrite.com

Building and Maintaining a Billion Dollar Law Practice - Pre-Trial, Trial, and Law Practice Management (LAW 804)

LEAD INSTRUCTOR
Attorney Willie Gary
Fall 2019 Turbo Class

Monday – Friday, August 5th – 16th ★ 5:00 pm – 7:30 pm ★ TMSL Rooms 105-107

Cost if paid in full on or before 8/5: $500 attorney; $350 gov’t and non-profit attorneys; $250 if licensed 3 years or less; complimentary to TMSL Legal Entrepreneur Incubator attorneys

Cost after 8/5 or paid per day: $600 attorney; $400 gov’t and non-profit attorneys; $250 if licensed 3 years or less
$60/day attorneys; $40/day gov’t and non-profit attorneys; $25/day attorneys licensed 3 years or less

Texas MCLE (CLE credit available for other states) MCLE: 25.0 (2.50/day) Ethics: 5.0

* Get all of your required TX MCLE credit and ethics credit in one (1) course. Limited to 100 attorneys. Scholarships are available for ten (10) attorneys. For scholarship information, go to www.tmscle.com

Register and pay online: www.tmscle.com

For more information please call Prudence N. Smith, Assistant Dean of External Affairs (713) 313-1142 or prudence.smith@tmslaw.tsu.edu
UPCOMING EVENT

TMSL LUNCHEON
Honoring our Family Law Judges

August 14, 2019
12:00 noon – 1:15 pm
Marriott San Antonio Rivercenter-Riverwalk
101 Bowie Street
San Antonio, Texas 78205

RSVP - prudence.smith@tmslaw.tsu.edu

Other TMSL sponsored events during the Advanced Family Law Conference: TMSL Hospitality Suite: Monday 8/12 - sponsored by TMSL Alumni Board 6p-10p
Tuesday 8/13 - sponsored by TMSL Young Attorneys “Taco Tuesday” 5p-6p - Wednesday 8/14 - sponsored by TMSL Dallas Attorney 5p-until
THURGOOD
ALUMNI
PROTECT IT
IMPROVE IT
PASS IT ON

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