THE HOOTING OF MICHAEL BROWN: NOW WHAT?

“Systemic Maltreatment: Dismantling Disproportionality through Strategic Partnerships”

In light of the recent shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, on October 9, 2014 the Earl Carl Institute and its partners presented a timely discussion on overrepresentation and disparate treatment of minorities in various social systems. The Institute assembled an esteemed group of experts in the area of Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) to present a forum entitled: The Shooting of Michael Brown: Now What? “Systemic Maltreatment: Dismantling Disproportionality through Strategic Partnerships” with the hope of bringing the community together to explore what we as a community of color can do to address the issue of disproportionate minority contact. The programming inquired into “Do we wait on the majority population to act or for another protest following another shooting? What will we do before the next Michael Brown incident?”

The conference was held at Thurgood Marshall School of Law from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM. This event provided over 120 attendees with a statement of the problem of disproportionality through the use of statistical data, presentations from knowledgeable experts, and public discussion. The purpose of this community event was to provide attendees with information about inequities suffered by African Americans in the education, healthcare, foster care and criminal justice systems. The goal of the event was to help form strategic partnerships to try to reduce the overrepresentation of people of color in these systems.

As covered in the program, the criminal justice, juvenile justice, educational disciplinary, child welfare, and healthcare systems all are systems in which the minority community is disproportionally represented. To view more of this article and to get more information on DMC Statistics please visit earlcarlinstitute@tmslaw.tsu.edu or call 713.313.1139.
Professor Cassandra Hill is profiled in this month’s “Faces in LWI [Legal Writing Institute].”

In September 2014, Professor SpearIt delivered one of the keynote speeches at the Seventh International Crime, Media & Popular Culture Studies Conference: A Cross Disciplinary Exploration hosted by the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Indiana State University in Terre Haute, Indiana. On October 23, 2014, Professor SpearIt gave a talk to the faculty of Southern University Law Center on Evolving Standards of Domination: A Case for Killing Doctrine and Reinterpreting Cruel and Unusual as part of the 2014-15 Southern Central Association of Law Schools (SCALS) faculty exchange.

Professor Lydia Johnson presented at a roundtable forum entitled "Exceeding the ABA’s New Accreditation Requirements to Meet the Needs of Current Students and the Communities They Will serve. " Professor Ledesma and SpearIt presented at a roundtable entitled "Faculty-Student Collaboration as Social Justice Pedagogy" and Professor Anthony Haughton gave an outstanding presentation on the panel "The Indigent, the Innocent, and the Clinic: Using Legal Education to Transform Criminal Defense. " Professor SpearIt was also elected to a second term on the Board of Governors.

Professor SpearIt’s and Stephanie Smith Ledesma’s co-authored piece, Experiential Education as Critical Pedagogy: Enhancing the Law School Experience, is now out in print in Nova Law Review.

Professor Katharine T. Vukadin’s proposal has been accepted in the AALS Section on Law, Medicine, and Health Care’s Works-in-Progress for New Law School Teachers program at the 2015 AALS annual meeting in Washington, D.C. Professor Katharine T. Vukadin gave a talk on October 20, 2014, to the faculty of St. Mary’s University School of Law on Obamacare Interrupted: Obstructive Federalism and the Consumer Information Blockade as part of the 2014-15 Southern Central Association of Law Schools (SCALS) faculty exchange.

Professor Stephanie Smith Ledesma has accepted an offer from Charleston Law Review to publish her article, *The Vanishing of the African-American Family: “Reasonable Efforts” and Its Connection to the Disproportionality of the Child Welfare System.*

Professor Stephanie Smith Ledesma co-moderated a panel entitled, “Changing Child Welfare: What Can One Person Do?,” during the 37th National Child Welfare, Juvenile, and Family Law Conference in Denver, Colorado, hosted by the National Association of Counsel for Children on which she serves on the board. At the same conference, Professor Stephanie Smith Ledesma presented her recently accepted piece (see above). Professor Stephanie Smith Ledesma also has accepted an offer to write a piece for the October 2014 issue of *Child Welfare Journal.*


Instructor Tabo’s article “On The Anniversary of His Death: Why Lawyers Love David Foster Wallace” got a very favorable reception. Most notably, legal writing guru Bryan Garner promoted it on his Twitter feed and mailing list. Since Garner is the author/editor of authoritative legal-writing classics like Black’s Law Dictionary, The Elements of Legal Style, Garner’s Modern American Usage, and The Redbook: A Manual on Legal Style – as well as a co-author and friend of Wallace before his death – Bryan Garner’s approval is a pretty high compliment for a lawyer’s writing!

Professor L. Darnell Weeden’s article entitled *How to Establish Flying the Confederate Flag with the State As Sponsor Violates the Equal Protection Clause,* 34 AKRON L. REV. 521 (2001); was recently cited by Professor Kyle Langvardt of the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law in an article published in the Washington and Lee Journal of Civil Rights and Social Justice entitled *The Lawless Rule Of The Norm In The Government Religious Speech Cases,* 20 WASH. & LEE J. CIVIL RTS. & SOC. JUST. 405, 455 (2014). Professor Langvardt cited to Weeden’s article while criticizing the application of Justice O’Connor's endorsement test to cases involving religiously-themed public displays. Professor Langvardt cited to Weeden’s article to support the argument that when black plaintiffs challenged on Equal Protection grounds the incorporation of the Confederate battle flag into official state symbols the Confederate flag plaintiffs appear to have a significantly stronger case under the endorsement test than Ten Commandments plaintiffs.

Dr. Docia Rudley, Executive Director for Academic Assessment received the Top 30 Influential Women of Houston Award.
Thurgood Marshall School of Law for many years has provided continuing legal education (CLE) credit. We are now registered with the Texas State Board of Public Accountancy to provide CPE credits to Texas CPAs. Look for new specialized courses in this area to be offered Spring 2015.

List of offered courses shall include:

- Recent Developments in Estate and Gift Tax
- Bankruptcy
- Real Estate
- Corporate Transactions and Tax Implications
- Transactional Law

For more information regarding our new CPE offered courses, contact the TMSL Center for Continuing Legal Education at (713) 313-1197.
The Office of Admissions Needs Your Help

TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW

Dannye Holley
Dean & Professor of Law

October 29, 2014

Dear Distinguished Alumni:

Thurgood Marshall School of Law, Texas Southern University (TMSL) continues its legacy of admitting, educating, and graduating the most diverse group of law students in the nation. With more than 5,000 alumni nationwide, the Law School is working to preserve and enhance its rich history through achievement of a key goal within its strategic plan. This goal is to improve the requisite credentials for admission to the Law School within the next several years, while remaining true to its mission to expand opportunities for the underserved citizens of the state of Texas and the United States.

As Dean, I would like to enlist your help in achieving this goal by having you identify prospective applicants with strong potential to succeed in law school and in the profession. Our specific target recruitment group consists of applicants who possess an Undergraduate Grade Point Average (UGPA) in the range of 3.0 and a Law School Admissions Test (LSAT) score in the range of 145, which in combination approximates a predicted first year grade point average of 2.5. From our experience, such an applicant has an excellent chance to excel in law school while contributing to our communities. We have scholarship funds and an excellent academic and academic support program to assist us in recruiting, retaining, and providing students an opportunity to excel while at TMSL. A person with such credentials may be offered admission to another law school, but we firmly believe that the best opportunity to excel for such a student is at TMSL. If you know of a prospective applicant, you can either fax the enclosed “Alumni Recruit Prospect” document to the Admissions Office at (713) 313-7297 or email Dr. Edward W. Rene, Assistant Dean of Admissions/Financial Aid at erene@tmslaw.tsu.edu.

I thank each of you in advance for reviewing this request and for any assistance you provide. As TMSL family members, we are excited about this venture’s anticipated success, as we join forces with our alumni to further uphold our motto: “Protect It; Improve It; and Pass It On.”

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Dannye Holley
Dean and Professor of Law

dholley@tmslaw.tsu.edu | (713) 313-1071 TEL | (713) 313-1057 FAX | 3100 CLEBURNE | HOUSTON, TX 77004
Office of Academic Support: Letter to TMSL Future Lawyers

Texas Southern University
Thurgood Marshall School of Law

October 29, 2014

Future TMSL Lawyers,

Very shortly, the Board of Law Examiners will release the results from the July 2014 Bar Exam. Not only will the pending announcement shape your future plans, but it is also one that you have waited with paralyzing anticipation and trepidation. We remember the anxiety, the fear, and the dread that shadows you each and every day since you submitted your final essay answer.

You are part of the Thurgood family of future lawyers and we want to send this note of comfort and encouragement. We want you to know that we will proudly celebrate your bar passage and welcome you to the brotherhood of the practice of law. In the event that your results are less than hoped for, we will be here to support and assist you to identify problems or areas for correction in your bar study plan. TMSL Academic Support will have sample answers to the Texas Essay questions and MPT for those who wish to review.

From law school to bar passage your Academic Support team is behind you every step of the way.

Sincerely,

Marsha Griggs
Gregory Hardmon
Robert Morales
Deola Shoyombo
STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

Congratulations TMSL Moot Court Teams

Please join us in congratulating Anthony Hynes, Carolyn Ng, Amanda Hawkins, Kristin Robinson, Derek Loetzerich, and Roberto Quijano for being selected as national quarterfinalists in the ABA Forum on Communications Law First Amendment and Media Law Diversity Moot Court Competition. Only eight teams were selected from law schools across the country, and three of those teams are from TMSL!

The top four teams, as determined from these brief scores, will be invited to compete at the 20th Annual Conference for the ABA Forum on Communications, held in Scottsdale, Arizona from February 5-7, 2015. The TMSL teams will be coached by Joseph Tung.

We are proud of Mr. Hynes, Ms. Ng, Ms. Hawkins, Ms. Robinson, Mr. Loetzerich, and Mr. Quijano, and wish them the best of luck throughout the rest of the competition!

For more information regarding TMSL's moot court program, please contact Professor Stephanie Ledesma at ssledesma@tsu.edu.

TMSL Law Review Reception
ALUMNI NEWS

33 TMSL Alums Designated Super Lawyers*

Peter Barrett- ’93
David Baugh- ’75
Walter Brown- ’98
Haroen Calehr- ’01
E. Leon Carter- ‘86

Judith Colbert– 86
Charles Cole– ’94
Rafael De La Garza, II- ’93
William Fong- ‘94
Judge Barry Ford- ‘77

Juan Guerra, Jr.- ’03
Michael Guerra- ’93
R.D. Guerra- ‘85
Baldemar F. Gutierrez– ’77
Cori Harbour-Valdez- ’98

Vivian King- ‘92
Andrew J. Lehrman- ’76
Tyrone Moncriff– ’82
Monica Morales- ’99
Doug Murphy- ‘99

*Super Lawyers is a rating service of outstanding lawyers from more than 70 practice areas who have attained a high-degree of peer recognition and professional achievement. http://www.superlawyers.com/
ALUMNI NEWS

TMSL 2014 SUPER LAWYERS

Barbara D. Nunneley- ’79
Chance Oliver- ’97
Jose Perez, Jr.- ’94
Mary Richardson-Lowry- ’85
Herman Segovia- ’77

Jed Silverman- ’99
Todd Slobin- ’77
Victor Vital- ’95
Carlos A. Velasquez- ’87
Judge Craig Washington- ’69

A. Martin Wickliff, Jr.- ’73
Kirk Willis- ’88
Charles Wilson- ’96

*Super Lawyers is a rating service of outstanding lawyers from more than 70 practice areas who have attained a high-degree of peer recognition and professional achievement. http://www.superlawyers.com/
ALUMNI NEWS

TMSL Alumni Recognized in the Houston Lawyer

The September/October edition of The Houston Lawyer was dedicated to veterans’ law. In this edition, several TMSL alums were featured, including an article entitled “Harris County Veteran’s Court Continues Mission to Help Veterans” written by TMSL 2013 graduate, Raymond Panneton featuring the TMSL alum, class of 1993, The Honorable Marc Carter, which featured his Veterans Court Program.

The Law School and TMSL alum, Bernie Aldape, III, class of 2012 were also featured in the article entitled “Veterans in Our Law Schools Giving and Receiving Services.” For more information go to www.thehoustonlawyer.com.

Attorney Ricky Anderson Inducted into BESLA’s Hall of Fame

TSML alum Attorney Ricky Anderson, class of 1992 was inducted into the Black Entertainment Sports Lawyers Association Hall of Fame on Friday, October 24, 2014. Join us in congratulating Ricky for this achievement and recognizing his excellence in Sports and Entertainment Law.
TMSL SUPPORTS TSU FOOTBALL

Labor Day Classic — August 31, 2014-TSU WINS!!!!!!

TSU v. Alabama A&M — September 20, 2014-TSU WINS!!!!!!
Alumni News

Law School Dinners

Dallas Donors Alumni Dinner—September 9, 2014
Bob’s Steak House

Dinner with the Dean—September 30, 2014
Lead Alum-Troy Pradia ‘00
Alumni News

TMSL at Congressional Black Caucus

TMSL D.C. Area Alumni Breakfast—CBC

Dinner for Congressman Al Green
UPCOMING EVENTS

Save the Date
Rio Grande Valley Fundraising Receptions for
Thurgood Marshall School of Law

Thursday, November 13, 2014
Home of Rick Rodriguez
3010 North Roegiers
Edinburg, TX 78541
6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

Friday, November 14, 2014
Home of Noe Garza
La Gloria Ranch
Tejon Road
(Right hand side from expressway)
5:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

Make a Donation to Support the Law School
Over $5,000—Platinum
$4,999-$2,000—Gold
$1,999-$1,000—Silver
$999-$250—Bronze

Pay online at www.tsulaw.edu or mail checks to Thurgood Marshall School of Law—Office of External Affairs, 3100 Cleburne St., Houston, TX 77004

For more information contact Prudence Smith at 713-313-1142
Reception Honoring

Newly Admitted Texas Lawyers & Newly Elected Officials

Sullivan’s Steakhouse

4608 Westheimer Rd.
Houston, TX 77027
5:30p.m.-8:30p.m.
Friday, November 21, 2014

Sponsored by
Thurgood Marshall School of Law, TMSL Alumni Association, Texas Trial Lawyers Association & Houston Lawyer’s Association

For more information contact the Office of External Affairs 713.313.1197
UPCOMING CLEs

TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY, DEFENDER SERVICES
THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW &
EARL CARL INSTITUTE

Presents

THE DEATH PENALTY!

Cutting Edge Litigation in Death Penalty Practice

FRIDAY
NOVEMBER 7, 2014

Location: Thurgood Marshall School of Law

Time: 12:00 pm—4:00 pm

COST
$60 - Attorneys
Complimentary Non-attorneys

MCLE 4.0
Ethics: 1.0

Thurgood Marshall School of Law —3100 Cleburne St. — Houston, TX 77004

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

Register and Pay online: www.tinyurl.com/tmsleventregistration

GUARDIANSHIP AD-LITEM
WILLS & PROBATE

Thurgood Marshall School of Law
3100 Cleburne St.
Houston, TX 77004

Rooms 105-106
Friday, November 21, 2014
9:00a.m.—5:00p.m.

Cost: $103.00, attorneys;
$55.00 gov’t employees
& non-profit attorneys
Complimentary non-attorneys

Breakfast and Lunch provided
MCLE Credits: 8.0 hr.
Ethics Credits: 2.0 hrs.
Guardianship Ad-Litem Certification Available

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

*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

NOVEMBER 2014

November 1st

TSU vs. Grambling
Location: BBVA Stadium
Time: 2:00 pm

November 2nd – 5th

ABA Site Team Visit
Location: Thurgood Marshall School of Law

November 4th

ABA Site Team Reception
Location: President’s Lounge
Student Center
Time: 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

November 7th

Death Penalty: Cutting Edge in Death Penalty Litigation -CLE
The Earl Carl Institute of Legal & Social Policy, Inc.
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

November 13th

Valley Area Alumni & Friends Reception
Location: Home of Rick Rodriguez
3010 North Roegiers
Edinburg, TX 78541
Time: 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

November 14th

Brownsville/Harlingen Alumni & Friends Reception
Location: Home of Noe Garza
Time: 5:30 pm – 8:00 pm

November 15th

TSU vs. Jackson State
Location: BBVA Stadium
Time: 2:00 pm

November 20th

ECI Board Meeting
Location: Thurgood Marshall School of Law
Time: 12:00 noon

November 21st

Guardianship Ad-Litem, Wills, & Probate -CLE
Texas Southern University, Thurgood Marshall School of Law
TMSL Wills Clinic
Location: Thurgood Marshall School of Law
Time: 9:00 am- 5:00pm
Cost: $ 105.00 attorneys; complimentary non-attorneys
MCLE: 8.0
Ethics: 2.0
Register and pay online: www.tinyurl.com/tmsleventregistration

November 21st

Reception Honoring: Newly Admitted Texas Lawyers & Newly Elected Judges
Sponsored by: Thurgood Marshall School of Law, TMSL Alumni Association, Texas Trial Lawyers Association & Houston Lawyer’s Association
Location: Sullivan’s Steakhouse
4608 Westheimer Rd.
Houston, Texas 77027
Time: 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm

JANUARY 2015

January 2nd – 5th

2015 AALS Annual Conference
Location: Washington, D.C.

January 16th

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
October Birthdays

Fernando Colon-Navarro 8th
Trudy Green 10th
Marguerite Butler 19th
Pearly Pendenque 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!