MOTHER AND SON DUO GRADUATES AT TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

On May 16, 2015, at 9:00 a.m. in the Health & Physical Education building, Texas Southern University will have a unique pair of students walking across the stage together. Mother Debra Wilson (61), will be graduating Magna Cum Laude with her Bachelors in Business Administration with a concentration in Management, and her son Reginald Wilson (28), is graduating Magna Cum Laude from the Thurgood Marshall School of Law.

In August of 2012, Debra and Reginald decided to enroll in school together, to help each other and push each other towards achieving the goal of finishing school together. Debra pursued her childhood dream of graduating from College. She states, “I put my education on hold while I raised four children and worked full-time for thirty-five years as an Executive Assistant in the oil and gas industry.” As a result, Debra enrolled at Texas Southern University in the fall of 2012 after being out of school for seventeen years. She further states, “it was a big step for me to return to college after raising a family and working full-time, but I knew it would take hard work, discipline, determination and self-confidence.” Debra is a 2012-2015 Jesse H. Jones School of Business Scholarship recipient, President’s List Honoree, Dean’s List Honoree, Honor Roll Honoree, and is a member of the Beta Gamma Sigma International Honor Society. In the end, Debra knew attaining her goal of receiving a business degree and graduating at the same time, as her son would be well worth the effort.

Debra gives credit to her son, Reginald for encouraging and supporting her while fulfilling her lifelong dream of graduating with honors. “It is so important to have someone who supports, understands, and believes in what you are doing,” she says. “I’ve always enjoyed learning, and I’ve always encouraged my children to never stop learning. It is one thing to have pride in your children but to share accomplishments with them, well that is beyond a dream come true. I am so proud of Reginald who graduated from Texas Southern University in spring 2009 with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree with a concentration in Marketing.”
In similar fashion, Reginald made the decision to enroll in Thurgood Marshall School of Law in the fall of 2012 after several years in Corporate America. He has accepted an offer of employment from Norton Rose Fulbright in its Public Finance section and is graduating number five in his 2015 law class. He is a recipient of the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 Dean’s Scholarship Academy Award, has served as the head Writing Advisor for Professor Cassandra Hill, director of the Legal Writing Clinic, and is a Senior Editor for the Thurgood Marshall Law Review. In September 2014, he was selected by the Office of External Affairs to speak on behalf of Thurgood’s student body in Washington D.C. at the 44th Annual Legislative Conference hosted by the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation. Reginald is also a member of the Hispanic Law Student Association, he serves as the Parliamentarian for the Student Bar Association and represented the law school at the 2nd Annual National Diversity Pre-Law Conference & Law Fair in Washington, DC. When asked how they feel about it all, the mother and son simply said, “this is truly a blessing, when we look back on what we’ve accomplished, all we can say is, “GOD DID IT!”
Professor L. Darnell Weeden’s article, *May Traditional Deference To State Sovereignty Serve As A Rational Basis To Deny Marriage Equality To Same-Sex Wedding Vows?*, was recently published in the Loyola Journal of Public Interest Law, 16 Loy. J. Pub. Int. L 201 (2014). In the article Weeden examines whether traditional deference to state sovereignty and our historical national tradition of preference for heterosexual marriage may serve as a rational basis to permit a state to deny marriage equality to same-sex wedding vows, without violating either the equal protection principle or the substantive due process fundamental liberty to marry. Before this modern period, as a general rule, most Americans would not even contemplate an option of two people of the same sex getting married and receiving the same legal benefits awarded to a man and woman in a legal, traditional, heterosexual marriage. Similarly, Professor Weeden’s article *Good Public Policy Occurs Under Plyler When In-State College Tuition Rates Are Awarded to Undocumented Bona Fide Resident Immigrants* is now out in print and published by the George Mason University Civil Rights Law Journal.

Professors Ahunanya Anga, Thelma Harmon, Lydia D. Johnson, Shaundra Kellam Lewis, and L. Darnell Weeden served as panelists on TMSL’s Research Week program entitled *Scholarship Beyond These Four Walls: How to Emerge, Engage & Excite*. Professor SpearIt moderated the program, and it was organized by the TMSL Faculty Development Committee, chaired by Professor Katherine T. Vukadin. In addition, TMSL students Noor Ali and Gavin Ellis served as panelists.

Visiting Andrew Jefferson Endowed Chair in Trial Advocacy Anthony Farley presented *A Vision for the Jefferson Chair in Trial Advocacy* on April 8, 2015, as part of the TMSL Faculty Series. On April 9, 2015, Professor Farley served as a panelist, together with SpearIt and Instructor Anthony Haughton, in response to U.S. Representative Sheila Jackson Lee’s and Director Charles Samuels’ of the Federal Bureau of Prisons talk entitled *Thoughts on Prison*. On April 17, 2015, Professor Farley gave the keynote speech, entitled *Childhood and the African-American Experience*, at a conference at Lewis and Clark School of Law and entitled *Freedom from Fear: Black Childhood and Other Dangers II*. On April 20, 2015, Professor Farley also gave a public lecture entitled *Child Rights*.

Professor Lydia D. Johnson presented her work-in-progress, *Juvenile Sex Offenders: Should They Be Allowed to go to School with Your Children or Create a Pedophile Academy*, on April 22, 2015, as part of the TMSL Faculty Series and Quodlibet.

Professor and Director of Experiential Learning Stephanie Smith Ledesma presented her work-in-progress, *The D.O.D. and V.A. vs. PTSD and MTBI, the Collateral Damage of “Bad Paper” Discharges*: An Experiential Learning Solution to a Post-War Epidemic, on April 1, 2015, as part of the TMSL Faculty Series and Quodlibet.
Professor Martin Levy, together with Houston Law Professor David Dow and South Texas Law Professor Charles “Rocky” Rhodes, appeared on Houston PBS television show, Red, White, and Blue, on April 17, 2015, to discuss the U.S. Supreme Court’s docket this year.

Professor Ana Otero was selected as Professor of the Year by the Student Bar Association.

Eugene Harrington Professor Lupe S. Salinas’s book, Latinos and Criminal Injustice, is now out in print (Michigan State University Press), and in which Professor SpearIt has published a chapter entitled How Mass Incarceration Underdevelops Latino Communities.

Professor SpearIt presented Recalibrating the Scale: Using Research to Reform Prison Sentencing on April 1, 2015, as part of TSU’s Research Week’s Faculty, Staff, and Student Oral Presentations. In addition, Professor SpearIt has accepted an offer to serve on a November 2015 panel organized by Rice University’s Religion and Public Life Program. Penn Law professor Sarah Barringer Gordon also has agreed to serve as a panelist.

Professor Katherine T. Vukadin gave a talk entitled, An Examination of Affordable Care Act Minority Enrollment Statistics in Texas and Texas’ Policy Efforts to Circumvent the ACA, as part of the April 16, 2015, symposium organized by the Earl Carl Institute for Legal and Social Change, Inc. and entitled “Obamacare” The Affordable Care Act Five Years Later: Its Impact on Communities of Color. Professor Weeden’s talk at the symposium was entitled An Overview of Pending Affordable Care Act Cases – Supreme Court Update.

Professor Walter Champion’s casebook on Baseball and the Law was recently published by Cognella (this is his 8th book). His casebook on Recreational Injuries (Aspen Select) and Entertainment Law (Aspen Select - - with Prof. Ricky Anderson) are completed and will be in print by August. Professor Champion lectured on “A Seasick Blackjack Dealer on a Moored Riverboat Casino is NOT a seaman under the Jones Act” at Northern Kentucky’s Law Review Symposium on Gaming Law on March 20, 2015 (this essay will be published by their law review). He also lectured at TAMU Law School on April 10, 2015, on “the Branding of Johnny Football” in their “IP8 the Modern University Athlete” symposium.

Professor and Associate Dean Asmara M. Tekle has accepted an offer to publish Rectifying These Mean Streets: Percent-for-Art Ordinances, Street Furniture, and the New Streetscape, in volume 104 of the Kentucky Law Journal. The paper may be accessed at http://ssrn.com/abstract=2594778
STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Law Library Selects Danny Norris as the Associate Director

The Thurgood Marshall School of Law Library has selected Danyahel (Danny) Norris, TMSL class of 2007, as its new Associate Director. Danny’s goal is to have the library at TMSL become a greater resource to the TMSL community, as well as the community at large.

Danny has served as the TMSL Faculty Services Librarian since 2007 and has served as a Legal Research Instructor since 2008. Danny has published several articles on a variety of topics covering both international and domestic issues. Notably, Danny, along with his is 2010 law review article discussing Houston gentrification, was featured in the Houston Press in July 2011.

Outside of his work at TMSL, Danny is licensed to practice before the State Bar of Texas and the United States Patent & Trademark Office. Danny is also an active member in the local, statewide, and national bar communities. He is currently the President of the Houston Lawyers Association and the Treasurer of the African-American Lawyers Section for the State Bar of Texas.

Kenyon Moore to Receive His LL.M in Health Law

Kenyon Moore, TMSL Assistant Director of Admissions and former SBA President Class of 2009 will receive his LL.M in Health Law from the University of Houston Law Center on May 16, 2015. Join us in congratulating Ken on his accomplishment!!!
Professor Stephanie Ledesma’s Experiential Learning Program, along with the Office of External Affairs, hosted the 2nd Annual evening “Solo Practice Series” CLE’s. This year’s topics included, two nights of Family law, The Federal Bar Practice and Judicial Panel, Legal Implications of Marketing Your Law Practice and Personal Injury.

A Special thanks to this year’s course instructors:

Thurgood Marshall School of Law has become one of the newest members of the prestigious Institute for Energy Law in Dallas Texas. Membership of the Institute brings the law school for the first time into fellowship with leading energy-oriented law schools across the world. The admission resulted from ground work by Professor Emeka Duruigbo (on behalf of TMSL’s Institute for International and Immigration Law) and the president of the Oil and Gas Law Society at TMSL, Ms. Dana Nazarova.


“`The Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University and the Energy and Natural Resources Law Institute at Queen Mary University of London have recently become law school members of the IEL. This brings the number of law school members to 24, including four from outside the United States. Membership entitles a school to considerable benefits, including participation in IEL advisory board and practice committee activities, and two free places for students at every IEL conference. Membership is by invitation, and restricted to schools with a substantial oil and gas law curriculum.”`

5th Annual 2015 Immigration Symposium

The Institute for Immigration and International Law presented its 5th Annual Immigration Symposium on April 9, 2015. The symposium speakers and topics included,

- **Naturalization** — **Professor Maurice Hew**
- **Former Immigration Judges Expectations of Practicing Attorneys** — **The Honorable Jimmie Benton and The Honorable William Zimmer**
- **A labor of Law (and Consequence): Employment-based Immigration** — **Attorney William Fong**
- **Lunch Presentation: What Asylum Officers Do** — **Attorney William T. Maule**
- **SIJS** — **The Honorable Angela Ellis and Attorney Dan Phi Nguyen**
- **Immigration Updates on Drug Offenses** — **Attorney Imran Mirza**
- **Statutory Constraints (Sylva-Trevino)** — **Attorney Robert Hinojosa and Attorney Enrique Salinas**

The program was organized and directed by Professor Fernando Colon-Navarro, Professor of Law and Director of LL.M and Immigration Law Development and Professor Maurice Hew, Jr. Professor of Law and Director of Clinical Legal Studies. 
On April 10 and 11, 2015, Thelma Anderson, Marcos Soto, and Reginald Wilson represented Thurgood Marshall School of Law at the 2nd Annual National Diversity Pre-Law Conference and Law Fair in Washington D.C. The National Diversity Pre-Law Conference and Law Fair was created to provide a national outreach and empowerment event designed specifically to go further than most pre-law events, by not only providing general information about law school and the legal profession, but by directly addressing the very real and difficult issues and concerns facing diverse law school aspirants, law students and lawyers. Diversity includes people who are members of historically underrepresented racial and ethnic minority groups (Blacks/African Americans, Native Americans, Hispanics/Latinos, Asians), women, LGBT or Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender individuals, and those with disabilities. It also includes people who are socioeconomically/educationally disadvantaged, older in age, have children or are primary caregivers to family members, and those who have multiple social identities.

SBA President, Marcos Soto, participated in a panel discussion composed of prestigious law students from around that nation focusing on “Life as a Diverse Law Student: The Experiences of Diverse Law Students and Success Strategies for Making the Most of the Law School Experience.” The panel was devised of current law students representing various areas of diversity and different law schools that shared the realities of the risks and rewards of being a law student. The panel shed light on the additional stresses that diverse law students must be prepared to face, and ways to effectively deal with them. The panel’s discussion shared strategies for making the most of the law school experience, and explained how to make one’s diversity work for, as opposed to, against them. Marcos was able to personally give students great insight as to the importance of being diverse, as Pre-Law Magazine has voted Thurgood Marshall the number one school in the nation for diversity over the last two years. In addition, Professor Ricky Anderson was appointed as a special guest speaker to give the opening remarks for the Conference, encourage students to attend law school.

Thelma, Marcos, and Reginald also represented Thurgood Marshall at the law fair conference. They received numerous inquiries about attending Thurgood Marshall. The trio left student saying things like, “Meeting you really gave me a ‘can do’ attitude that helps me to welcome this new season of my life with great expectation!” and “One day, I hope to BE JUST LIKE YOU. And by this, I mean I hope to pour into the lives of another Pre Law student as I approach the last few days of my Law School graduation.”
The Executive Board of the TMSL Student Bar Association proudly hosted the Annual TMSL Barrister’s Ball at the new J.W. Marriott Downtown Houston. Mistress of Ceremony and Event Chair Alexia McWhinney and her team did an excellent job and gave TMSL one of its most spectacular events to date. Outgoing SBA President, Marcos Soto, reflected on his tenure as SBA President stating that, “this whole year’s work could not have been possible without all of your support.” As SBA President, Soto passed the torch to the new 2015-16 SBA Executive Board, he addressed the group with a challenge and quote from our namesake Justice Thurgood Marshall, “what is the quality of your intent...because your intent will be evident in the results.”

The new board took the Oath of Office and we congratulated the new 2015-2016 Executive Board listed below.

**SBA Board:**

President – Dominique Calhoun  
Vice President – Tre Meredith  
Secretary – Roben West  
Treasurer – Alexandria Barrera  
Parliamentarian – Conrad John  
Historian – Ashley DeHart  
Sergeant – at Arms – Juliana Shaw

Mr. TMSL: Eric Durojaiye  
Miss TMSL: Sasha Missick  
Professor of the Year  
Prof. Ana Otero  
Staff of the Year  
Derrick Wilson
THURGOOD MARSHALL LAW REVIEW

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

I. MARSHALL L. REV.

Law Review Names New Editorial Board and Associate Editors

The Thurgood Marshall Law Review is pleased to announce that the 2015-16 Editorial Board and Associate Editors have been selected. Please feel free to congratulate the following students on this outstanding accomplishment!

Editor In Chief - Matthew Bourda
Executive Editor - Kiera Welch
Managing Editor - Ricardo Hernandez
Lead Articles Editor – Ashley Tizeno
Digital Content Editor – Jay Garza
Articles Editor (1) – Ashley DeHart
Articles Editor (2) – Taylor Felton
Articles Editor (3) – Leah Pinkard
Business Editor (1) – Juliana Shaw
Business Editor (2) – Roben West
Symposium Editor – Sedrick Stagg
Research Editor – Brittany Potvin-Green

Associate Editors
Ashley Tizeno
Kiera Welch
Roben West
Juliana Shaw
Gavin Ellis
Matthew Bourda
Bianca Duenas
Pilar Hastings-Smith
Crystal Ndidi Ibe
Jay Garza
Leah Pinkard

Please visit us at TMLawreview.org

Celebrating the Road to 45 Years of Publication in 2015
STUDENT NEWS

2015 Hooding Ceremony
Friday, May 15, 2015
6:30 P.M.

H&PE Arena
3100 Cleburne Street (@Ennis and Blodgett)
Houston, TX 77004

Guest Speaker:
Sandra Phillips, General Counsel and Chief Legal Officer
Toyota Motor North America (TMNA)
2015 Law Week/Alumni Weekend
TMSL Alumni Welcome Back Reception
Co-Sponsored by Attorney Ricky Anderson and Attorney Melvin Houston

Go to: http://www.tsulaw.edu/photo/index.html and click on “2015 Alumni Reception @ Hotel ZaZa.”
Go to: [http://www.tsulaw.edu/photo/index.html](http://www.tsulaw.edu/photo/index.html) and click on “2015 Barristers’ Ball.”
The TMSL Alumni Board selected two outstanding alums as the alumnus of the year. This year the Alumni Board selected its award recipients based on their positive contributions to the law school, active support of TMSL programs and activities and their length of committed service through active involvement within TMSL, TSU and the legal community.

At the annual TMSL Barrister’s Ball (formally known as the Law Day Banquet) TMSL Alumni Board president, Attorney Toni Jackson presented this distinguished award to The Honorable Alice Bonner, TMSL class of 1966 and Mrs. Naomi Cox Andrews, TMSL class of 1983. Both recipients have continuously demonstrated a positive impact on the university, its law school and the alumni of both.
ANTOINETTE M. JACKSON PRESENTS LAW SCHOOL WITH AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT LAW BOOKS

Antoinette M. “Toni” Jackson presented the Thurgood Marshall School of Law (TMSL) Library at Texas Southern University with a set of books on Affordable Housing and Community Development Law on February 26, 2015. The books, published by the ABA Forum on Affordable Housing and Community Development Law (“Forum”), cover a variety of topics in the specialized practice area. Ms. Jackson, along with industry colleagues presented a seminar at TMSL, sponsored by the Forum, to introduce students to the variety of opportunities in this niche practice area. The seminar piqued the interest of the students, and Ms. Jackson committed to place the books in the library so that the students could learn more information about the practice of affordable housing and community development.

Ms. Jackson is a partner with Jones Walker LLP and is a member of the firm’s Affordable Housing practice. She is also a 1991 graduate of Thurgood Marshall School of Law, Texas Southern University.

In Memoriam…

The TMSL faculty, administration, staff, students, and alumni express our deepest sympathy to the Bethune Family in the loss of our alum, Attorney Milton Bethune, to Council Member Larry Green and the Green Family in the loss of Mrs. Catherine Geraldine Green and to the Bonner Family in the loss of our alum Alfred Bonner.

Milton Bethune graduated from Thurgood Marshall School of Law in 1985; and was revered as a very active alum, and compassionate attorney who loved life and TMSL. Milton resided in Montgomery, AL and passed away on Friday, April 17, 2015. He was laid to rest on Saturday, April 25, 2015.

Alfred J. Bonner graduated from TSU School of Law in 1963. He resided and practiced law for many years in Houston, TX. Alfred passed away Friday, April 24, 2015. Funeral arrangements are forthcoming.
ALUMNI NEWS

Class of 1995
20 year Reunion
July 10-11, 2015

Save the Date
Friday, July 10, 2015
Reception
Thurgood Marshall School of Law
3100 Cleburne St., Houston, TX 77004
Time: 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, July 11, 2015
Dinner at Eddie V’s at The City Centre
(I-10 and Beltway 8)
Time: 6:00 p.m.

Please scan and send photos of us during law school as well as current photos of you with your family, classmates, at work or on vacation to Trina Perkins Mouton at attorneyperkins@yahoo.com

RSVP Required. Contact Angela Matthews, Chairperson- msangehesq@hotmail.com

Host Committee: Michelle Beck, Tonya Holt, Melvin Houston, Scott Mitchell, Trina Perkins Mouton, Leroy Simmons and DeCarious Spearman
UPCOMING EVENT

You are cordially invited to the Earl Carl Institute’s Legends & Leaders Celebration Honoring:

Earl Lawrence Carl, LLM, JD (Posthumously)
James W. Beard, Jr., LLM, JD
Jay Cummings, PhD
Robert L Ford, PhD
James M. Douglas, JSM, JD
Marcia Johnson, JD

Join us at the Earl Carl Institute offices on Friday, May 8, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. for a reception followed by the formal unveiling of the portraits of our namesake and past presidents at 6:30 p.m.

Please RSVP by Friday, May 1, 2015 at https://ecilegendsandleaders.eventbrite.com or by email at earlcarlinstitute@tmslaw.tsu.edu or by telephone at 713.313.1139.

The ECI offices are not located at the law school. We are in building 116 (the old Mechanics Shop and the same building as the TSU Post Office). Please see directions below.

Call 713.313.1139 for additional information.

ALL PARKING IS COMPLIMENTARY

Texas Southern University is located just southeast of Downtown Houston. The Earl Carl Institute is closest to the Visitor/Student West Parking Garage on the corner of Blodgett St. & Ennis St. The entrance to the garage is on Blodgett St. If other closer parking becomes available if you rsvp’d for this event you will be emailed additional instructions.

Walking Directions from the West Garage:

Once Parked walk down to the first floor and exit from the back of the garage (between the garage and the gymnasium). You will want to walk to your left towards the Tiger Walk (a brick path down the center of the university). Take a right on the Tiger Walk and a short distance ahead on your left you will see a post office partially painted blue. Walk towards and past the post office and continue past the Airway Science entrance to the far end of the building. You will see the Earl Carl Institute maroon awning above our main entry at the farthest end of the building housing the post office and Airway Science. Enter the lobby and someone will direct you to the appropriate location.
MAY 2015

May 8th
Legends & Leaders Celebration
Location: Earl Carl Institute
3100 Cleburne St.
Houston, TX 77004
Time: 5:30pm-7:00pm

May 15th
TMSL Hooding Ceremony
Reception Following
Location: H&PE
3100 Cleburne St. (@Ennis and Blodgett)
Houston, TX 77004
Time: 6:30pm

May 22nd
TMSL Alumni & Friends Valley Area Social
Location: Hillbilly’s
Time: 5:00 pm – 7:30 pm

May 23rd
11th Annual Valley Golf Classic
Location: Monte Cristo Golf & Country Club
1 ½ mi. East of U.S. Hwy 281
Monte Cristo Road
Edinburg, TX 78541
Time: 5:00 pm – 9:00 pm

JUNE 2015

June 18th – 19th
State Bar of Texas Annual Meeting
Location: San Antonio, Texas

June 18th
Alumni & Friends Reception
Location: San Antonio, Texas
Time: 5:00 – 7:00 pm

June 26th
Corpus Christi Area Alumni Cultivation Event
Location: The Hooks @ Whataburger Field
Time: TBD

JULY 2015

July 10th – July 11th
Class of 1995 20 Year Reunion – Houston, TX
Friday, July 10th
Reception
Thurgood Marshall School of Law
Time: 6:00 pm
Saturday, July 11th
Dinner at Eddie V’s at the City Centre
(1-10 and Beltway 8)
Time: 6:00 pm
RSVP required. Contact Angela Matthews 0 msangelaedq@hotmail.com

July 19th – 24th
NBA 90th Annual Convention & Exhibits
Location: Los Angeles, California
For more information go to: www.nationalbar.org

July 21st
NBA 90th Annual Convention
Reception “Hennessy In Hollywood: Sips & Stogies”
Co-Sponsored by: Houston Lawyers’ Association & Region V
Location: Los Angeles, California
Time: 8:00 p.m. - Midnight

July 23rd
NBA 90th Annual Convention
Alumni & Friends Breakfast
Location: Los Angeles, California
Time: 7:00 am

AUGUST 2015

August 28th
Dallas Lead Donors Reception
Location: Home of Attorney Domingo Garcia
Time: 5:30 pm

August 29th
Dallas Fundraiser
Location: Bank of America Building
400 S. Zang Blvd.
Dallas, TX 75208
Time: 5:00 pm
April Birthdays

Ana Otero    5th
April Walker 12th
Susan Thomas 20th
L. Darnell Weeden 20th
Chukwumerije Okezie 27th

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!