The Earl Carl Institute for Legal & Social Policy, Inc. (ECI) at Thurgood Marshall School of Law is pleased to announce the addition of Zahra Buck-Whitfield to the ECI family. Mrs. Whitfield will serve as the Associate Director for the ECI’s Center for Government Law. In this role, Whitfield will oversee the Institute’s outreach efforts as we strive to improve outcomes for people of color. In particular, Mrs. Whitfield will serve as ECI’s liaison with elected officials, agencies, and like-minded organizations. Additionally, she will promote ECI’s policy related research and writing by utilizing her keen oral and written advocacy skills.

Mrs. Whitfield possesses over 10 years of experience in the federal government affairs and public policy arenas as a former congressional staffer, lawyer, campaign staffer, and lobbyist serving at Capitol Counsel. She served on Capitol Hill as a professional staffer on the United States House Homeland Security Committee and as a legislative staffer for United States Representative Bennie Thompson (D-MS). In recent years, Mrs. Whitfield was the founder and CEO of Buck Group Government Strategies, a government relations firm in Washington, DC.

Additionally, Mrs. Whitfield has appeared on several national news networks as a political strategist and legal pundit appearing on television and radio shows including: CNN-Headline News; The Fox News Channel; CNN International; Newsmax TV; and Fox News Radio.

Mrs. Whitfield holds a Psychology degree from Jackson State University and a Juris Doctorate from Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University. She has written numerous articles related to legislative and governmental policies.

The Institute welcomes Mrs. Whitfield. We are sure that she will quickly have a positive impact on the mission of the Institute.
ABA Comes to TMSL
Visiting Andrew Jefferson Endowed Chair in Trial Advocacy Professor Andrew Farley gave a talk to the faculty on "Scholarly Impact and How to Get It" on February 25, 2015, as part of the Faculty Series.

Professor Andrew Farley

Professor and Director of Legal Writing Cassandra L. Hill has accepted an offer to serve on a panel entitled "Building an Assessment Plan from the Ground Up" to be held on November 14, 2015 at Whittier Law School in Costa Mesa, California.

Cassandra L. Hill

Professor Michael James gave a talk to the faculty on February 18, 2015, entitled "All Hands on Deck – An Analysis of the Legal Issues Surrounding the Joint Deployment of Intelligence Community Personnel with Military Special Operations Forces" as part of the TMSL Quodlibet.

Michael James

Professor Lydia D. Johnson has been appointed the Works-in-Progress Chair for the 2015 Southeast/Southwest People of Color Legal Scholarship Conference to be held at North Carolina Central University School of Law.

Lydia D. Johnson

Professor Thomas Kleven presented his book "Equitable Sharing" at a panel with the same title at the Southern Political Science Association’s annual conference in New Orleans, Louisiana, on January 15-17, 2015. At the same conference, Professor Kleven also served as Chair of a panel entitled "Justice and Democratic Theory".

Thomas Kleven

Professor Peter Marchetti gave a talk to the faculty of South Texas College of Law on February 20, 2015, entitled "Clarify the Ambiguity of Section 546 of the Bankruptcy Code" as part of TMSL’s local faculty exchange.

Peter Marchetti

Professor SpearIt’s chapter, entitled "Religion in Prisons", has been published in "Religion and American Cultures". In addition, The Islamic Monthly posted Professor SpearIt’s piece, "When Arkansas Muslim Prisoner Wins a Case, It Adds to Legal Legacy", on January 26, 2015. The article is available at http://www.theislamicmonthly.com/when-arkansas-muslim-prisoner-wins-a-case-it-adds-to-legal-legacy/

Professor Katherine Vukadin accepted an offer to publish her article, "Obamacare Interrupted: Obstructive Federalism and the Consumer Information Blockade," in the Buffalo Law Review. Professor Vukadin also was recently interviewed by the U.S. Department of Labor in connection with an initiative designed to improve enforcement of the health care claims processing regulations. The initiative will culminate in a report to Congress later this year.

Katherine Vukadin

Distinguished Professor Deanna Pollard has been honing in on her creative, business and legal sides. Professor Pollard produces a show called “Meet the Professor” (add more info) go to www.meettheprofessors.com. During her travels to California, Professor Pollard invested in prime real estate in Malibu and further developed property she purchased in 2013—she also produced and starred in American Psychologist with Brad Bushmen. Although she is happy to be back, Professor Pollard misses her son that recently turned 18 and is in military school in Virginia.

Professor Stephanie Smith Ledesma’s second article, The Vanishing of the African-American Family: “Reasonable Efforts” and Its Connection To the Disproportionality of the Child Welfare System, was published this past fall in the Charleston Law Review, Volume 9, Number 1. The article suggests that until indigent children in the child welfare system are protected from the “master narratives” of the child welfare system that plays out in hundreds of courtrooms across this nation on a daily basis through the inconsistent application of “reasonable efforts,” the number of minority families dismantled by the child welfare system will increase as will the “browning” of the child welfare system, as evidenced by the disproportionate number of African American children who are removed from their families and that subsequently age out of the child welfare system.

Professor Stephanie Smith Ledesma has accepted an invitation to serve as a panelist at the Texas Women Lawyers Annual CLE entitled Define Your Own Success: Charting Your Path in a Changing Legal World: Dallas, February 26-28, 2015. The panel includes Professor Ledesma; Dean Leah Jackson, Baylor Law School; Attorney Angela Burnett, Texas Commission on Environment Quality; and Debra Coleman, Founder of Coleman & Coleman Law Firm. The panel’s focus is on “Success in Confronting Challenges Across the Industry”. Professor Ledesma accepted an invitation to serve as the plenary speaker at Trauma Informed Advocacy in the World of Child Welfare 3.0, co-hosted by the State of Colorado’s Office of the Child’s Representative and the State’s Office of the State Court Administrator, March 3-6, 2015 in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Professor Ledesma’s presentation is entitled Disproportionality in the Child Welfare System: Working Toward Substantive and Procedural Due Process for Parents and Children.

Tamara S. Tabo, Center for Legal Pedagogy Instructor, appeared on MSNBC to discuss her blog posting on Above the Law entitled Fifty Shades of Liability – Legal Risks of Kinky Sex. -- http://abovethelaw.com/2015/02/fifty-shades-of-legal-liability-legal-risks-of-kinky-sex/

A video clip from my appearance is available here: http://www.msnbc.com/msnbc/watch/fifty-shades-of-legal-risk-400451651961
STUDENT NEWS

TMSL Student’s Participating in the 2015 Texas Legislator Internship Program (TLIP) and Their Placements

Mr. Dominique Calhoun placed with Rep. Sylvester Turner’s office

Mr. Alonzo Campos placed with Sen. Sylvia Garcia’s office

Ms. Philesa Torrence placed with AFL-CIO

Mr. Nahom Tesfaselassie placed with Sen. John Whitmire’s office

Mr. Jeron Ravin placed with Rep. Cesar Blanco’s office

Mr. Conrad John placed with Travis County

Ms. Zarinah Cogbill placed with the Innocence Project, New York

Ms. Devin Vickers placed with Rep. Abel Herrero’s office

Mr. Phillip Yates placed with Speaker Joe Straus’s office
Alumni News

Alumni on the Move

TMSL Alum Judge Frizell Elected to Criminal District Court

The Honorable Elizabeth Frizell, TMSL class of 1992 was sworn in on January 1, 2015 as presiding judge of Criminal District Court #7 in Dallas County. She was previously presiding judge of County Criminal Court #11 for the past 8 years.

TMSL Alum Chevazz Brown Named Partner at Jackson Walker LLP

Chevazz Brown, TMSL class of 2007 was named partner in the Houston office of Jackson Walker, LLP-Litigation team. Mr. Brown helps clients from all industries manage and resolve a broad range of business and commercial disputes according to their business objectives. Mr. Brown strives consistently to meet his clients’ needs and exceed their expectations whether assessing liability or potential legal claims, drafting or responding to demands, negotiating favorable settlements, obtaining summary resolution, or successfully taking a dispute to verdict.
Alumni News

TMSL’s Shari Bihms is Houston’s Hometown Champion for the 46th NAACP Image Awards

Shari Bihms, TMSL class of 2012 practices business, criminal and family law for the Law Office of Shari D. Bihms & Associates but her true passion is helping underserved boys and girls. Bihms founded the non-profit Lady League and Gents. Her non-profit provides an annual 6-week summer program for youth with workshops and seminars to educate its members and provide over 260 boys and girls with school supplies and backpacks.

“We can’t get too big, too important or too successful where we become too far removed from what’s too small or too real. Groundwork is needed during these times.” Shari Bihms

TMSL Alumna, Jessica Sepulvada Named Partner

Jessica Sepulveda, TMSL class of 2009 was named partner of AM Law Group PLLC Dallas Office. Attorney Sepulveda’s primary practice area is personal injury litigation, family and consumer law.

TMSL’s Maria Jaimes-Salgado Board Certified in Immigration

Maria Jaimes-Salgado, TMSL class of 2009, is now board certified in immigration and nationality law and works for the Law Office of Isaias D. Torres. Attorney Jaimes-Salgado knew from the age of 15 years old that she wanted to become an immigration lawyer. She has not only completed this goal but also has become an expert in this area of law.
UPCOMING CLEs

Texas Southern University, Thurgood Marshall School of Law
SOLO PRACTITIONER & NEWLY ADMITTED ATTORNEY
INSTITUTE OF LEGAL EXCELLENCE MOCK TRIAL SPEAKER SERIES
Sponsored by the Experiential Learning Department and Office of External Affairs

March 30th-31st
Family Law –CLE
Location: TMSL
Time: 6:00 pm-9:00 pm

April 1st
Criminal Law –CLE
Location: TMSL
Time: 6:00 pm-9:00 pm

April 2nd
Federal Bar Practice and Judicial Panel
Location: TMSL
Time: 6:00 pm-9:00 pm

April 6th
Legal Implications of Marketing Your Law Practice
Location: TMSL
Time: 6:00 pm-9:00 pm

April 7th
Personal Injury –CLE
Location: TMSL
Time: 6:00 pm-9:00 pm

Cost:
Each course cost $25.00
Complimentary for Students and non-attorneys

Course Location:
The CLE courses will be held in room 106

Credit:
MCLE: 3.00 - Ethics: 1.00

Complimentary parking, food, beverages and course materials are included

Texas Southern University, Thurgood Marshall School of Law is an accredited sponsor approved by the State Bar of Texas Committee on MCLE
The Earl Carl Institute for Legal & Social Policy, Inc., Texas Criminal Justice Coalition & University of Houston Law Center
In partnership with the NAACP Houston Branch, Houston Area Urban League, the TSU BJ-ML School of Public Affairs, Thurgood Marshall School of Law PRESENTS:

**HOUSTON WE HAVE A PROBLEM!**

A Community Forum
Introducing a Blueprint for Criminal Justice Policy Solutions for Reducing Overcrowding in the Harris County Jail

This community forum is designed to examine various aspects of the criminal justice system and make recommendations for improvement in Harris County. The forum will include brief discussions about the topics specified below and an opportunity for Q & A with our distinguished panelist and comments by audience participants. If you or someone you know has been impacted by the criminal justice system we want to hear from you. This is your opportunity to have your voice heard! Join us in supporting policy solutions to address these issues which have a disproportionate impact on communities of color.

**March 5, 2015 from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.**

Location: The Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs McCoy Auditorium
Texas Southern University, 3100 Cleburne St., Houston, Texas 77004

**Topics & Presenters:**
- Bail Issues & Appointment of Counsel at Magistrate Hearings, Alex Bunin, Harris County Public Defender, Pretrial Services, Reentry Services, Jennifer Herring, HCJ Reentry Services Director, Disproportionate Impact on Minorities
- Dr. James Douglas, Thurgood Marshall School of Law Distinguished Professor/NAACP President, Jay Jenkins, Texas Criminal Justice Coalition

To ensure adequate space and refreshments, please REGISTER TO ATTEND at [https://eventbrite.com/event/15930072275/](https://eventbrite.com/event/15930072275/)
UPCOMING EVENTS

TMSL Barristers' Ball 2015
Carnival Night in Rio

Save the Date
Saturday, April 18, 2015

Sponsored by Attorney Baldemar Gutierrez

Tickets and Tables Available for Purchase
www.tinyurl.com/tmsleventregistration
UPCOMING EVENTS

2015 LAW WEEK

Student Activities

Monday, April 13th
History Day - TMSL Trivia

Tuesday, April 14th
Faculty/ Staff Appreciation Day
Faculty Roast

Wednesday, April 15th
Community Service Day

Thursday, April 16th
Alumni/ Student Speed Networking
Welcome Back Reception (Students Welcome)

Friday, April 17th
Organizational Day - TMSL Step Show
ONE TMSL Crawfish Boil

Saturday, April 18th
Barristers’ Ball
(sponsored by Attorney Baldemar Guitierrez)
UPCOMING EVENTS

Save the Date- Inaugural Thurgood Alumni Weekend

April 16-19, 2015

Thursday, April 16th

Alumni/ Student Speed Networking
Welcome Back Reception @ Hotel ZaZa
(sponsored by Attorneys Ricky Anderson and Melvin Houston)

Friday, April 17th

Building Tours
ONE TMSL Crawfish Boil
TMSL Step Show
Class Events

Saturday, April 18th

Alumni Golf Tournament
Barristers’ Ball - Law Day Banquet
(sponsored by Attorney: Baldemar Gutierrez)

www.tinyurl.com/tmsleventregistration
UPCOMING EVENTS

THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW

Alumni & Friends Golf Classic

SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2015 • HERMANN PARK GOLF COURSE

Tournament Sponsor $1,500
RECOGNITION IN ALL TOURNAMENT PRINTING
AND AT THE TOURNAMENT LUNCHEON
RECOGNITION ON ONE (1) HOLE SIGN
ONE (1) FOURSOME
TWO (2) TICKETS TO THE BARRISTERS’ BALL

Registration
TEAM FOURSOME $600
INDIVIDUAL GOLFER $160

Hole Sponsor $200
RECOGNITION ON ONE (1) HOLE SIGN

OFFICE OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
PRSMITH@TMSLAW.TSU.EDU
(713) 313-1142
**FEBRUARY 2015**

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

February 28th – March 2nd
2015 Texas Legislative Summit
Location: J.W. Marriott – Austin, TX

**MARCH 2015**

March 10th – 15th
BLSA National Convention
Location: Portland, OR

March 26th
Child Welfare Forensics Conference – CLE
Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association
The Earl Carl Institute of Legal & Social Policy, Inc.
The Experiential Learning Program
Texas Southern University, Thurgood Marshall School of Law
Location: Thurgood Marshall School of Law
Time: 8:30 am-5:10 pm
Cost: $120.00 attorneys; complimentary non-attorneys
MCLE: 7.0
Ethics: 3.0
Register online: www.earlcarlinstitute.com

March 28th
External Affairs, ECI, Clinics, & Institutes- Community Day
Location: Sunnyside Park Baseball Area
Time: 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

March 30th – April 7th
The Experiential Learning Program’s Solo Practice CLE Series*
March 30th
Family Law Day One –CLE*
The Experiential Learning Program
Texas Southern University, Thurgood Marshall School of Law
Location: Thurgood Marshall School of Law
Time: 6:00 pm-9:00 pm
Cost: $25.00 attorneys; complimentary non-attorneys
MCLE: 3.00
Ethics: 1.00
Register online: www.tinyurl.com/tmsleventregistration

March 31st
Family Law Day Two –CLE*
The Experiential Learning Program
Texas Southern University, Thurgood Marshall School of Law
Location: Thurgood Marshall School of Law
Time: 6:00 pm-9:00 pm
Cost: $25.00 attorneys; complimentary non-attorneys
MCLE: 3.00
Ethics: 1.00
Register online: www.tinyurl.com/tmsleventregistration

**APRIL 2015**

April 1st
Criminal Law –CLE*
The Experiential Learning Program
Texas Southern University, Thurgood Marshall School of Law
Location: Thurgood Marshall School of Law
Time: 6:00 pm-9:00 pm
Cost: $25.00 attorneys; complimentary non-attorneys
MCLE: 3.00
Ethics: 1.00
Register online: www.tinyurl.com/tmsleventregistration

April 2nd
Federal Bar Practice and Judicial Panel –CLE*
The Experiential Learning Program
Texas Southern University, Thurgood Marshall School of Law
Location: Thurgood Marshall School of Law
Time: 6:00 pm-9:00 pm
Cost: $25.00 attorneys; complimentary non-attorneys
MCLE: 3.00
Ethics: 1.00
Register online: www.tinyurl.com/tmsleventregistration
February Birthdays

Anna James 8th
Tamara Tabo 9th
James Douglas 11th
Constance Fain 11th
Trina Leach 22nd
Leonard Spearman 22nd

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!