



# Thurgood TODAY



YOUR MONTHLY THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW ELECTRONIC NEWS & INFORMATION  
SOURCE FROM THE OFFICE OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS – (713) 313-1197 February 2015

## THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW AND THE EARL CARL INSTITUTE WELCOME ZAHRA BUCK-WHITFIELD AS THE NEW ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR FOR GOVERNMENT LAW



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





## FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS



**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.

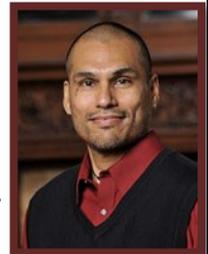
also served as Chair of a panel entitled *Justice and Democratic Theory*.

**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.

**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.



**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 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.



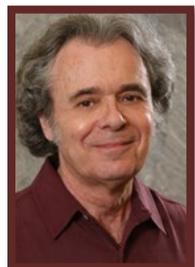
**Professor Lydia D. Johnson** has been appointed the Works-in-Progress Chair for the 2015 Southeast/Southwest People of Color Legal Scholarship Conference to be held at North Carolina Central University School of Law.



**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.



**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**



**Professor L. Darnell Weeden's** symposium piece, *The Supreme Court's Rejection of the Rational Basis Standard in Shelby County v. Holder Invites Voter Suppression*, was published in the *Mississippi College Law Review*, 33 MISS. C. L. REV. 219 (2014).





## FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS (Cont'd.)



**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](http://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. Philesha 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 Sepulveda 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

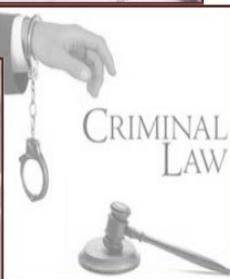
**April 1st**  
**Criminal Law –CLE**  
Location: TMSL  
Time: 6:00 pm-9:00 pm

**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





## UPCOMING EVENTS

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/>



## UPCOMING EVENTS

TMSL BARRISTERS' BALL 2015  
**CARNIVAL**  
**NIGHT IN**  
**RIO**

**SAVE THE DATE**  
Saturday, April 18, 2015

SPONSORED BY *Attorney Baldemar Quiñeroz*

Tickets and Tables Available for Purchase  
[www.tinyurl.com/tmsleventregistration](http://www.tinyurl.com/tmsleventregistration)





## UPCOMING EVENTS



2015 LAW WEEK

# Student Activities



*Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup>*

History Day - TMSL Trivia

*Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup>*

Faculty/ Staff Appreciation Day  
Faculty Roast

*Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>*

Community Service Day

*Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup>*

Alumni/ Student Speed Networking  
Welcome Back Reception (Students Welcome)

*Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup>*

Organizational Day - TMSL Step Show  
ONE TMSL Crawfish Boil

*Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>*

Barristers' Ball  
(sponsored by Attorney Baldemar Guitierrez)



## UPCOMING EVENTS

*Save the Date- Inaugural Thurgood Alumni Weekend*



April 16-19, 2015

**Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup>**

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

**Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup>**

Building Tours  
ONE TMSL Crawfish Boil  
TMSL Step Show  
Class Events

**Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>**

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

[www.tinyurl.com/tmsleventregistration](http://www.tinyurl.com/tmsleventregistration)



## UPCOMING EVENTS



### *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



## OFFICE OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

### 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](http://www.tinyurl.com/tmsleventregistration)

**February 28<sup>th</sup> – March 2nd**

**2015 Texas Legislative Summit**

Location: J.W. Marriott – Austin, TX

### MARCH 2015

**March 10<sup>th</sup> – 15th**

**BLSA National Convention**

Location: Portland, OR

**March 26<sup>th</sup>**

**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: 7.00  
Ethics 3.0  
Register online: [www.earlcarlinstitute.com](http://www.earlcarlinstitute.com)

**March 28<sup>th</sup>**

**External Affairs, ECI, Clinics, & Institutes- Community Day**

Location: Sunnyside Park Baseball Area  
Time: 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

### MARCH 2015

**March 30<sup>th</sup> – April 7th**

**The Experiential Learning Program’s Solo Practice CLE Series\***

**March 30th**

**Family Law Day One –CLE\***

**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](http://www.tinyurl.com/tmsleventregistration)

**March 31st**

**Family Law Day Two –CLE\***

**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](http://www.tinyurl.com/tmsleventregistration)

### APRIL 2015

**April 1st**

**Criminal Law –CLE\***

**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](http://www.tinyurl.com/tmsleventregistration)

**April 2nd**

**Federal Bar Practice and Judicial Panel –CLE\***

**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](http://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!



**THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL of LAW**  
AN EXAMPLE OF DIVERSITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION  
"Protect It, Improve It, Pass It on"