



Thurgood TODAY



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

January 2014

Thurgood Marshall School of Law Admitted into AALS



Top Row (left to right): Maurice Hew; Asmara Tekle; Dean Dannye Holley; Faith Jackson; Gabriel Aitsebaomo; and Yolanda Morgan. **Middle Row (left to right):** Kris Chrishon; Kindaka Sanders; Greg Hardmon; Tamara Tabo; Deola Shoyombo; Shaundra Lewis and son; Craig Jackson; Stephanie Ledesma; Derrick Wilson; Lucinda Daniels; and Prudence Smith. **Bottom Row (left to right):** Docia Rudley; James M. Douglas; Anna James; Elsa Ransom; James Beard; Walter Champion; and DeCarlous Spearman.

Thurgood Marshall School of Law has been granted membership in the American Association of Law Schools (AALS). The association's Executive Committee and House of Representatives voted to approve TMSL's membership at the AALS annual meeting in New York, NY, Friday, January 3, 2014. The room was filled with cheer from other member school representatives and over 15 TMSL faculty and staff after the vote was accepted and Dean Holley delivered a riveting acceptance speech. TMSL hosted a "Texas in New York" Reception immediately following the meeting at the Sheraton, New York.

TMSL endured a very arduous review which ultimately resulted in the Executive Committee's recognition of our "historic mission of preparing a diverse group of students for leadership roles in the legal community, business, and

government." The Executive Committee further stated that "(TMSL) consistently rates as one of the most, if not the most, diverse law schools in the nation." The Executive Committee recognized the significant increase in bar passage rate as a result of our advanced academic support program and assessment department. They also commented on the increased "quality and quantity of our faculty scholarship." Membership means that TMSL Faculty can play an even more prominent national role in the academy, and that our students will become eligible for the Order of The Coif.

The TMSL family is extremely proud of this prestigious accomplishment and further shares the congratulatory expressions we received from other colleagues in the legal academy below. To all of our alumni, students, faculty and staff, this is yet another reason for you to be proud of TSU!



Michael A. Olivas
University of Houston Law Center

"I am very happy for you, offer my best wishes, and welcome you to AALS...I am also quite gratified that I was able to assist in the early encouragement of this initiative...I have never been more proud to have been of service."



Dean Hill Rivkin
University of Tennessee College of Law

"I was pleased to witness the admission of TMSL into the AALS and to see the nice turn-out of your faculty, with many of whom I also shared my congratulations...This represents a major accomplishment for you and your colleagues. My team and I keenly know the hard work that went into it."

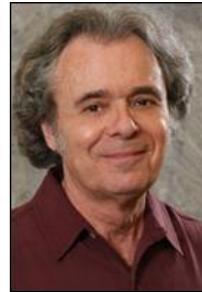


FACULTY and STAFF HIGHLIGHTS



On **January 14, 2014, at 12:00 p.m.** in the Dean’s Conference Room, TMSL hosted the TSU College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences discussion, *Professional School and the Enhancement of Student Learning*, facilitated by **Professor Okezie Chukwumerije**. This discussion is the second of a

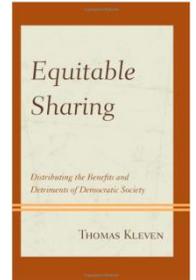
two-part intellectual exchange with the TSU College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. The first occurred in Fall 2013 and centered on professionalism in law and in pharmacy. All law and pharmacy faculty were encouraged to attend.



Professor Tom Kleven’s book, *Equitable Sharing*, published by Lexington Books, is now out in print.

Professor Tom Kleven will give a talk to the faculty at South Texas School

of Law entitled *Equitable Sharing* on January 31, 2014, as part of TMSL’s faculty exchange with South Texas.



Professor Fernando Colon-Navarro and **Dr. Amruthesh Shivachar** of the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, were featured in the “Faculty and Technology Spotlight” for their use of clickers in the classroom in the November 2013 newsletter published by TSU’s Center for Online Education and

Instructional Technology (COLEIT).

TMSL’s teams in the 2013-14 ABA Forum on Communications Law First Amendment and Media Law Diversity Moot Court, co-coached by **Professor Stephanie Smith Ledesma**, have advanced to the national quarter-finals.



On **January 21, 2014, at 12:00 p.m.** in the Dean’s Conference Room, **Professor Thelma Harmon** delivered her talk to the faculty, *The Ball and Chain: The Burdensome Restraint on the Supreme Court’s Bright Line Rule in Vance v. Ball State University*, as part of the TMSL Quodlibet. All faculty were encouraged to

attend.



On **January 29, 2014, at 12:00 p.m.** in the Dean’s Conference Room, **Director Docia Rudley** and **Dr. Kristopher Chrishon** of the TMSL Office of Assessment, will present a talk to the faculty on *What We’ve Learned in Five Years of Assessment and How It Can Help Law Teachers*. All faculty are encouraged to attend.

Professor and Associate Dean Asmara Tekle has been appointed to serve on the ABA site team for Valparaiso Law School in Valparaiso, Indiana. The site team visit will occur in Spring 2014.



Professor Craig Jackson will give a talk to the faculty at the University of Memphis Humphries School of Law entitled *The Shelby v. Holder Decision* on January 31, 2014, as part of the Southern Central Association of Law Schools (SCALS) faculty exchange.



TMSL Externship News

The Experiential Learning, Moot Court Program extends CONGRATULATIONS to Anthony Hynes, (2L); David Espinoza, (3L); Carolyn Ng, (2L); and Jonathan Viray, (3L) for advancing to the semi-final rounds of the American Bar Association Forum on Communications Law First Amendment and Media Law Diversity Moot Court Competition.

For semifinalist consideration, the teams submitted briefs regarding a hypothetical appeal to the United States Court of Appeals for the Twelfth Circuit involving qualified First Amendment rights of access to termination review hearings and closure of those proceedings where a college football coach has been accused of child sexual molestation.

Based on the brief scores, and for the first time in TMSL's history, both teams have been selected and invited to compete in an all-expenses paid trip to the 19th Annual Conference for the ABA Forum on Communications, held in Aventura, Florida from February 6-8, 2014. In addition to complimentary registration and meals, each student's biography and resume' will be distributed to all Annual Conference attendants and each student will receive additional coaching from practicing media law attorneys prior to the Annual Conference. The two finalist teams will present their oral arguments on the first day of the Annual Conference, Friday, February 7, 2014, before prominent sitting judges.

Again, CONGRATULATIONS and GOOD LUCK!!!!





TMSL Externship News (*cont'd*)

National ABA Client Counseling Competition Hosted by Thurgood Marshall School of Law

The Experiential Learning Program and Thurgood Marshall School of Law is pleased to announce that it is hosting the *ABA Law Student Division Region 11 Client Counseling Competition* on Saturday, February 8, 2014.

The following schools have registered 12 teams:

Baylor University School of Law
South Texas College of Law
Texas A&M University School of Law
Texas Tech University School of Law
University of Colorado Law School
University of Denver Sturm College of Law
University of Houston Law Center
Thurgood Marshall School of Law

The Client Counseling Competition is designed to promote greater knowledge for our students in the

area of preventive law and counseling functions.

To summarize the flow of the competition, it simulates a law office consultation in which each team of student lawyers will conduct an interview with a (acting) client before a panel of 3 judges, (Two legal professionals and one counseling professional). The judges will evaluate the team based on a number of critical performance areas including but not limited to, problem analysis, teamwork and client orientation.

Coordinator: Professor Stephanie Ledesma, The Experiential Learning Program

Assistant Coordinator: Kristy Blurton, Board of Advocates, Chief Justice

Assistant Coordinator: Andrea Russell

COMPETITION JUDGES NEEDED

Thurgood Marshall School of Law is hosting the ABA Law Student Division Region 11 Client Counseling Competition on Saturday, February 8, 2014. We are looking for attorneys, judges, and counselors to judge the preliminary rounds of the competition on Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., the semifinal round 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. and the final round from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Your help would really contribute to the success of this competition and be greatly appreciated.

For more information on the competition, please contact Prof. Stephanie Ledesma at 713.313.1105 or Ms. Andrea Russell at 713.313.7158.





ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

TMSL Alum Iris Jones named as Chief Marketing Officer of Dykema Gossett PLLC



Dykema Gossett PLLC law firm, Detroit, has named TMSL Alum **Iris Jones** as its chief marketing officer. The position had been vacant for 21 months. Jones had been chief business development and marketing officer for Chadbourne & Parke LLP, New York City.

Jones, 61, earned a bachelor's degree in political science and English from Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio, and a juris doctorate from **Texas Southern University, Thurgood Marshall School of Law**, Houston, Texas.

Jones has extensive experience in strengthening client relationships, discovering opportunities for new business development, and modernizing marketing efforts through the use of analytical tools that drive strategy and client service. She has utilized high-level skills to direct complex projects from concept to fully operational status throughout her entire career.

Jones began her career as an attorney in the Texas Attorney General's Office and also served as the Director of the City of Austin's Law Department, where she managed a multi-million dollar budget, oversaw outside counsel relationships and supervised 50 in-house lawyers. She later held the position of Client Services Advisor for Akin Gump, where she designed and launched the firm's first client service team program and led business expansion and client service plans for all the firm's client teams. At Chadbourne & Parke, she worked closely with the firm's leadership and partners to expand business development efforts and modernize the marketing department with cutting-edge analytical tools.

Awards & Recognition

- One of 100 Most Prominent BGSU Alumni, Bowling Green State University "Centennial Celebration 1910-2010," April, 2010

- Multi-Ethnic Chamber Allianace (M.E.C.A.) Award
- (Asian American, African American, Hispanic Chambers—"In Recognition of your commitment to strengthening relationships in our communities.", Austin, Texas, 2002
- International Municipal Lawyers Association, Local Government Fellow, "In Recognition of Demonstrated Excellence in the field of Local Government Law," 2000
- President's Award, Rotary Club International, "For outstanding service above and beyond,; Northeast Austin, Texas, 1990

TMSL Alum Okorafor Challenges Young Alums to Give Back



Attorney Azuwuike Okorafor challenges TMSL alumni to contribute to bar preparation fund. Okorafor while a student at TMSL, was actively involved in school governance and was the founder of the Thurgood Marshall Journal for Race, Gender, and Equality. Okorafor's strong desire for continuing education and professional development throughout the community is evident in his monetary donations along with his mentorship of current students. These unyielding beliefs are the foundation of his plea to the alumni, along with his strong desire for effectuating change in Texas District 131.

Okorafor has become known in the community for his efforts as a "Plaintiff's Labor and Employment" attorney. He has defended numerous individuals in labor and civil rights violation claims against Fortune 500 corporations as well as government entities. He has been viewed as an advocate for the voiceless in his continued journey to seek justice for the oppressed.

Attorney Azuwuike Okorafor, has qualified as a candidate for Texas State Representative District 131. For more information, visit www.OkoraforForTexas.com.



ECI Staff Attorney Awarded Equal Justice Works Fellowship



Attorney Mani Latifi Nezami has been awarded a 2014 Equal Justice Works fellowship to expand his work at the Earl Carl Institute's Juvenile Justice Project as ECI implements a new, holistic and integrated approach to addressing the issue of disproportionate minority contact (DMC) by providing legal representation to children who are in multiple systems. For over two years, Attorney Nezami has worked as a contract attorney with the Juvenile Justice Project (JJP) and will serve in the same capacity during the duration of his two year fellowship.

Prior to joining the Juvenile Justice Project, Attorney Nezami volunteered fulltime with the Thurgood Marshall School of Law Innocence Project for 6 months. For his pro bono work with the Innocence Project, Attorney Nezami was recognized by the State Bar of Texas Pro Bono College with more than 500 volunteer hours.

This expansion of the JJP will address disproportionality and disparity affecting youth of color. The expansion will provide representation for children in foster care who may have involvement or need assistance in multiple systems, including the (1) foster care, (2) criminal justice system, (3) mental health care system, and (4) educational system.

Over the past two years, the JJP's main focus had been to provide representation to students in Justice of the Peace and Municipal Courts charged with Class C Misdemeanor tickets for in-school behaviors. The JJP has been quite successful on behalf of the students and in policy advocacy, with like-minded stakeholders to push legislation that would bring about systemic changes.

Through this fellowship, Attorney Nezami will provide services in the following areas:

- 1) *School Disciplinary/Special Education Hearings*
- 2) *Sealing of Criminal Records*
- 3) *Direct Legal Representation in Delinquency, Justice of the Peace and Municipal Courts*
- 4) *Create and Compile Educational Materials*





What's Going On In the Career Services Office?

The Career Services Office is gearing up for several Spring programs for the month of January. We are also coordinating our annual **Spring Mock Interview Program** that takes place on January 21-23, 2014 and would love faculty support. Interviews are conducted between the hours of 10:00a.m. – 2:30p.m. on the event days. Many of our students have never experienced a professional interview prior to entering law school. The purpose of the program is to give students a chance to practice their interviewing skills and receive insight into the factors potential employers consider in an actual interview. We all know that practice makes perfect, which is why the CSO is soliciting faculty volunteers who are willing to conduct one or more mock interviews during the Mock Interview Program. Interviews are conducted in 20 minute increments with 10 additional minutes reserved for the critique period. Although the CSO staff conducts mock interviews year round, this is an opportunity for faculty members to join us in improving our students interviewing skills.

Each volunteer interviewer will receive a final interview schedule with resumes, sample interview questions, and critique forms prior to your actual interviews. The CSO staff will also be available during your scheduled interview time to answer questions regarding the interview format. Please stop by CSO as soon as your schedule permits in order to secure a time slot indicating your availability to assist us in our efforts. A sign-up sheet will be available in the lobby area near Mrs. Russell's desk. Alternatively, please e-mail your availability to our coordinator at ANBOISE@TMSLAW.TSU.EDU no later than Friday, January 17, 2014 at 10 a.m. to volunteer. Remember to include the specific days and timeslots that you are available. The remaining CSO Calendar of events is below. Thank you in advance for your continued support of the Career Services Office.

CSO EVENT CALENDAR JANUARY 2014

January 6-17

Student Mock Interview Sign Up Period (sign up in CSO Resource Room)

Faculty Mock Interview Volunteer Sign-Up Period (sign up in CSO Resource Room)

January 14

Dress for Success Program, 12pm – 1:00pm (Room 210)

January 15

Resume Review Blitz/Satellite Counseling, 9:30 am – 11:30am (Law School Atrium)

January 21-23

Mock Interview Program (10:00am – 2:00pm – CSO Suite)

January 27

HBA 1L Minority Clerkship Program - Student deadline to bid for employers

January 25

State Bar of Texas, General Practice, Solo & Small Firm Section Presentation:

How to Go Solo Workshop: 12:00pm – 1:00pm (Room 210)

Jan. 30-31

Public Service Career Day Job Fair, Austin, TX





THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW
STUDENT BAR ASSOCIATION
PRESENTS



LAW WEEK



APRIL 7-12, 2014

MONDAY: HISTORY DAY-NOW AND THEN

WHAT CHANGES WOULD MARSHALL MAKE?
PANEL LEAD BY DR. JAMES M. DOUGLAS ON THE LAW SCHOOL AND THE
CHANGES OF TMSL.

INVITED GUESTS INCLUDED:

- THE OLDEST LIVING DEAN
- DR. JOHN RUDLEY, TSU PRESIDENT
- TMSL'S OLDEST ALUM

TUESDAY: ORGANIZATION/UNDERGRAD DAY

PARTICIPATING STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS WILL SET UP A TABLE IN THE LAW SCHOOL LOBBY
AND PROVIDE ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION
ALL STUDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO WEAR THEIR SCHOOL ORGANIZATION GEAR

WEDNESDAY: FACULTY ROAST

ENJOY A COMEDIC SHOW ABOUT TMSL'S FACULTY/STAFF!
COCKTAIL RECEPTION FOLLOWING - LOBBY

THURSDAY: COMMUNITY SERVICE DAY

FRIDAY: ONE TMSL DAY

GREEK STEP SHOW
BBQ WILL BE SERVED

SATURDAY: ANNUAL LAW DAY BANQUET

BARRISTER'S BALL

@ST. REGIS HOTEL

COCKTAIL HOUR STARTS AT 6:30PM

STUDENT TICKETS PRE-SALE \$20/WEEK OF \$25/ FACULTY/STAFF \$40
ALUMNI \$75, TABLE \$750, SPONSORSHIP \$1000.



OFFICE OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

2014 SPRING CLE CALENDAR

JANUARY 2014

January 17th

2014 Criminal Law-CLE (Dallas)

Texas Southern University, Thurgood
Marshall School of Law

Location: Papadeaux Oaklawn - Dallas,
Texas

Time: 12:00 noon – 4:00 pm

Cost: \$100.00 attorneys; \$25.00 gov't
and non-profit attorneys

MCLE: 4.0

Ethics 1.0

Register online: www.tinyurl.com/tmsleventregistration

January 23rd

Criminal Law 101-CLE

A Hands On Interactive Course for the
Practicing Criminal Defense Lawyer

TMSL Criminal Law Clinic

Texas Southern University, Thurgood
Marshall School of Law

Location: Thurgood Marshall School of Law

Time: 9:00am- 4:00 pm

Cost: \$105.00 attorneys; \$30.00 gov't
and non-profit attorneys complimentary
non-attorneys

MCLE: 7.0

Ethics: 2.0

Lunch Included

Register online: www.tinyurl.com/tmsleventregistration

FEBRUARY 2014

February 13th

Civil Rights -CLE

Thurgood Marshall Law Review

Texas Southern University, Thurgood
Marshall School of Law

Location: Thurgood Marshall School of Law

Time: 9:00 am- 12:30pm

Cost: \$ 50.00 attorneys; \$30.00 gov't and
non-profit attorneys complimentary non-
attorneys

MCLE: 3.5

Ethics: .50

Register online: www.tinyurl.com/tmsleventregistration

February 20th & 21st

2014 Indigent Defense

3rd Annual Craig Washington & Senator

Rodney Ellis Indigent Defense-CLE

The Earl Carl Institute of Legal & Social
Policy, Inc.

Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association,

Texas Southern University, Thurgood

Marshall School of Law

Location: Thurgood Marshall School of Law

Time: 8:30 am – 4:30 pm (each day)

Cost: \$70.00 for Thursday's Course
(Before February 14, 2014) \$100.00 for
Thursday's Course (After February 14,
2014) \$25.00 Friday's Course (Before
February 14, 2013) \$75.00 for Friday's
Course (After February 14, 2014);
complimentary for non-attorneys

MCLE: 14.0 (7.0 each day)

Ethics: 2.0 (1.0 each day)

Register online: www.tinyurl.com/tmsleventregistration

Breakfast & Lunch Provided Each Day





2014 SPRING EVENTS CALENDAR

JANUARY 2014

January 16th

Administrative Staff Meeting

Location: Dean's Conference Room

Time: 3pm

January 17th

2013 Criminal Law-CLE (Dallas)

Texas Southern University, Thurgood Marshall School of Law

Location: Papadeaux Oak Lawn - Dallas, Texas

Time: 12:00 noon – 4:00 pm

Cost: \$100.00 attorneys; \$25.00 gov't and non-profit attorneys

MCLE: 4.0

Ethics 1.0

Lunch Included

Register online: www.tinyurl.com/tmsleventregistration

January 17th

Dallas Area Alumni Reception

Location: Omni Dallas Hotel

555 S. Lamar

Dallas, Texas 75202

Time: 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

January 20th

MLK Holiday

January 23rd

Criminal Law 101-CLE

Texas Southern University, Thurgood Marshall School of Law

Location: Thurgood Marshall School of Law

Time: 9:00 am- 4:00 pm

Cost: \$ 105.00 attorneys; \$30.00 gov't and non-profit attorneys; complimentary non-attorneys

MCLE: 7.0

Ethics: 2.0

Lunch included

Register online: www.tinyurl.com/tmsleventregistration

FEBRUARY 2014

February 4th

Faculty Meeting

Location: Dean's Conference Room

Time: 5pm

February 5th

Purge of all unpaid course selections

February 8th

Client Counseling Competition

Location: Thurgood Marshall School of Law

Time: 8:30 a.m.

February 8th

TV & Film with Entertainment Attorney Ricky Anderson

& Wendy Raquel Robinson Event and Reception

SELS, Intellectual Property Society, and MPAC

Location: MLBJ Building, Texas Southern University

Time: 12:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m.

CLE pending

FEBRUARY 2014 (cont'd)

February 13th

Civil Rights – CLE

Thurgood Marshall Law Review

Texas Southern University, Thurgood Marshall School of Law

Location: Thurgood Marshall School of Law

Time: 9:00 am- 12:00 pm

Cost: \$ 50.00 attorneys; \$30.00 gov't and non-profit attorneys; complimentary non-attorneys

MCLE: 3.0

Ethics: .50

Register online: www.tinyurl.com/tmsleventregistration

February 13th

Administrative Staff Meeting

Location: Dean's Conference Room

Time: 3pm

February 17th

President's Day (No Classes)

February 19th

Indigent Defense Symposium Dinner

Location: Vic & Anthony's – Wine Room

1510 Texas St.

Houston, TX 77002

Time: 6:00 pm

February 20th & 21st

2014 Indigent Defense

3rd Annual Craig Washington & Senator Rodney Ellis Indigent

Defense CLE

The Earl Carl Institute of Legal & Social Policy, Inc.

Texas Southern University, Thurgood Marshall School of Law

Location: TMSL

Time: 8:30 am – 4:30 pm (each day)

Cost: \$70.00 for Thursday's Course (Before February 14, 2014) \$100.00 for Thursday's Course (After February 14, 2014); \$25.00 for Friday's Course (Before February 14, 2014) \$75.00 for Friday's Course (After February 14, 2014); complimentary both days for non-attorneys

MCLE: 14.0 (7.0 each day)

Ethics: 2.0 (1.0 each day)

Register online: www.tinyurl.com/tmsleventregistration

Breakfast & Lunch Provided Each Day

February 27th – March 2nd

2014 SE/SW People of Color Conference

Civil Rights As Human Rights: Still Struggling 50 Years After the Civil Rights Act"

Host: Thurgood Marshall School of Law

Location: Hyatt Regency Houston

1200 Louisiana Street

Houston, Texas 77002

For more information go to: www.sesepocc.org or

www.tsulaw.edu



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



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"

INSIDE THURGOOD NEWS REQUEST

Please submit your news, events and announcements in email text or word documents to Andreience Hines, Sr. Administrative Assistant of External Affairs by the 25th of the PRIOR month, anhines@tmslaw.tsu.edu. Please be brief, but ensure that important details and information are included.