Cynthia Taylor Retires After 30 Years of Exemplary Service to Thurgood Marshall School of Law
Faculty Highlights

**Earl Carl Professor of Law**
Constance Fain and Professor Shaundra Kellam Lewis served as panelists on *Teaching Methodology, Learning and Technology in Higher Education* at the 2014 International Trends in Evidence-Based Research on Teaching, Learning, and STEM Education Conference sponsored by TSU’s Teaching, Learning, and Excellence Center (TLEC).

**Professor Cassandra Hill** has accepted an offer to discuss the role of assessment in curricular reform at a symposium of the Law School Survey of Student Engagement (LSSSE). The symposium is scheduled for November 2014 at Saint Louis University School of Law, and she will be joined by Barry Currier, Managing Director of Accreditation and Legal Education at the American Bar Association, and Catherine Carpenter, Vice Dean and Professor of Law at Southwestern Law School.

**Professor Spear**’s article, *Religion as Rehabilitation? Reflections on Islam in the Correctional Setting*, 34 WHITTIER L. REV. 29 (2012), was cited in three amici curae briefs in the case of GREGORY HOUSTON HOLT A/K/A ABDUL MAALIK MUHAMMAD v. RAY HOBBS, DIRECTOR, ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS, ET AL. The U.S. Supreme Court recently granted a writ of certiorari to hear the case in an appeal from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit.


**Professors Ericka Kelsaw, Stephanie Smith Ledesma, and Associate Dean Asmara M. Tekle** attended and presented their works-in-progress at the 2014 Lutie A. Lytle Writing Workshop for Black Women Law Faculty in Madison, Wisconsin, hosted by the University of Wisconsin School of Law. TMSL was one of the co-sponsors of this event.

Professor L. Darnell Weeden’s article entitled Employing Race-Neutral Affirmative Action to Create Educational Diversity While Attacking Socio-Economic Status Discrimination, 19 ST. JOHN’S J. LEGAL COMMENT. 297 (2005) was recently cited by Professor Omari Scott Simmons of Wake Forest University School of Law in an article published in the Arizona State Law Journal entitled Class Dismissed: Rethinking Socio-Economic Status And Higher Education Attainment, 46 ARIZ. ST. L.J. 231, 236 (2014). Professor Simmons said that Professor Weeden and other higher education observers have anticipated the use of class as an alternative to the use of race in college admissions and beyond.
US Citizenship Granted After 5 ½ Years of Litigation

The Immigration Clinic, under the supervision of Professor Maurice Hew, Jr., procured a United States passport for a Philippine born client to win a deportation/removal court proceeding pending for over 5 1/2 years. When the Immigration clinic encountered the client in late 2008, the client was mandatorily detained without bond in a Houston immigration jail and was scheduled to be removed to the Philippines on account of her worthless check convictions which made her an aggravated felon under the Immigration Act. Under a repealed immigration statute, still made applicable to the Respondent based on the law at the time of her birth, a permanent resident child is automatically a United States citizen upon the naturalization of a United Citizen mother, if the child was born out of wedlock and illegitimate. After researching the family laws of the Philippines and US nationality laws, the clinic prepared and presented a writ of habeas corpus to the local ICE counsel. After convincing ICE officials that they were detaining a US citizen illegally for deportation proceedings, the client was released after nearly 11 months of custody. Despite her release from custody, the client remained in deportation/removal proceedings. The clinic was required to gather facts and supporting documents from the Philippines to establish that the client was born out of wedlock and illegitimate under the laws of the Philippines. The clinic pursued a US passport from the State Department rather than a certificate of naturalization from Homeland Security because the filing fees and processing times were less.

Despite rumors of being soft on immigration, the Obama administration has set deportation records of 400,000 individuals per annum. In their zeal, it is estimated that 1% or nearly 400 of these are United States citizens. The TMSLAW immigration clinic should be congratulated for their hard work in this matter which lasted 5 1/2 years, with appearances before the federal judiciary, three executive administrative agencies (DHS/DOJ/STATE) and included complicated legal research of US and Philippine laws.

The Immigration Clinic Wins It’s Third Appeal

The immigration clinic won its third appeal for the 2013-14 academic year (3 for 3). All three appeals filed by the Immigration Clinic were won by arguing due process violations committed by the government.
Student Highlights
TMSL Summer Exchange Program

Thurgood Marshall School of Law and the University of Puerto Rico Escuela de Derecho successfully completed the second Thurgood Marshall School of Law summer Exchange Program under the supervision of Professor Fernando Colon-Navarro. Once again our students left Puerto Rico exhausted but full of memories (mostly good). The University of Puerto Rico School of Law and its students for the second summer continued being amazing hosts. For that we thank Dean Vivian Neptune, her Associate Deans and support staff.

This year for two weeks 43 TMSL students joined approximately 40 students from PR during three intensive two credit immigration courses. We are proud to announce that over the past two summers Thurgood Marshall School of Law offered six different immigration courses (12 credits) ranging from Family Immigration, Refugee Law, Basic Practice and Employment Law. But they also had fun! Once again TMSL students filled the streets, beaches, dining venues and bars for two weeks of fun. They kayaked in the florescent bay in the dark of night, they hiked the rainforest, they snorkeled and enjoyed a day of swimming in Culebra. In short, partied and studied. All the initial feedback from them suggests that they left Puerto Rico satisfied and more interested in their education and that Puerto Rico is now in their hearts forever. So to TMSL students Puerto Rico says "hasta luego."

Special thanks to Ms. Trudy Green for all her work in the registration process, Ms. Karen Percival for all her work preparing the summer stipends and to all the support staff at Thurgood Marshall School of Law for all their assistance in making this program not only possible but also a success.
ALUMNI NEWS

TMSL Alumni on the Move

TMSL Alum, Monique Alexander Accepted a Position with Dell

TMSL alum, Monique Alexander, Class of 2008, accepted a position with Dell as Counsel in its services division acting as a transactional attorney negotiating and supporting large complex outsourcing agreements. Monique previously served as a Corporate and Securities associate at Thompson & Knight, Dallas, Texas for 3 years.

Greenberg Traurig’s Victor D. Vital Appointed to Dallas Housing Authority Board of Commissioners

Victor D. Vital, a shareholder in the Dallas office of the international law firm Greenberg Traurig, LLP and TMSL graduate of the Class of 1995, has been appointed to the Dallas Housing Authority (DHA) Board of Commissioners by Mayor Mike Rawlings. Vital’s two-year term began on July 1. The DHA has a stated mission of providing Dallas families with safe, affordable housing of the highest quality consistent with available funding. The board is composed of five members appointed by the mayor of Dallas and is responsible for establishing policies, as well as providing leadership and oversight to the organization.

“We support Victor in this new endeavor and are proud of his continued commitment to serving the city of Dallas and the DHA Board of Commissioners,” said Stephen C. Carlin, managing shareholder of the firm’s Dallas office. “As a firm, we care so deeply about the communities in which we live and work, and welcome the opportunity to give back.”

About his appointment of Vital, Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings said, “We are pleased to have Victor on board. He is a proven advocate who has a reputation for assessing and solving problems in a way that will certainly benefit the DHA and the families who rely on this agency for a safe place to call home.”

Vital is trial lawyer and focuses his trial practice on difficult and high stakes courtroom matters. Vital has tried more than 100 cases in his civil and white collar criminal defense practice and as a former state prosecutor. Vital is also active in the Dallas community, and serves in leadership roles in several bar and civic organizations.

Recent TMSL Graduate Accepts Clerkship

TMSL alum, Shanisha Smith, Class of 2013 recently accepted an offer of a federal clerkship with the Honorable George C. Hanks, Jr. She is also the recipient of the following awards:

- Association of International Petroleum Negotiators Scholarship
- The Energy Association Spring 2014 Azerbaijan Case Competition Winner
- State Bar of Texas – Environmental & Natural Resources Law Section Award to work at the Texas Railroad Commission
- Fellow at Comisión Nacional de Hidrocarburos
STATE BAR OF TEXAS~TMSL ALUMNI AND FRIENDS RECEPTION
UPCOMING EVENTS

Give to the 2013-2014 Annual Fund Today!!!

First, I would like to thank you for your previous support of the law school. But we need your help again. As you know, annual alumni support has always been crucial to helping the law school accomplish our mission of Protecting It, Improving It and Passing It On. Your donations are used to support student scholarship and law school operations. We are coming to the end of our campaign in less than 60 days (Aug. 1st) and we are $60,000 behind our goal. If you have supported the Law School before we are asking that you renew your support again this year.

We are asking that you make a gift of $100, $250, $500, or $1000 to this year’s Share Your Success Annual Fund.

You can do so by going to www.tsulaw.edu and clicking “Make a Donation” or by sending a check in the name of “Thurgood Marshall School of Law” to the returning address. We thank you in advance for your support and look forward to you coming back to the Law School and Sharing Your Success.
UPCOMING EVENTS (Cont’d.)

Thurgood Marshall School of Law
NBA 89th Annual Convention Alumni & Friends Breakfast

DATE: Monday, JULY 28, 2014
LOCATION: ATLANTA MARRIOTT MARQUIS
ROOM A602
265 PEACHTREE CENTER AVENUE
ATLANTA, GA 30303
TIME: 7:30 AM

Thurgood Marshall School of Law, Houston Lawyers Association, Region V
and
Southern University Law Center
Present
ABSOLUTELY ATLANTA
Vodka & Varsity
NBA 89TH ANNUAL CONVENTION
DATE: TUESDAY, JULY 29, 2014
LOCATION: ATLANTA MARRIOTT MARQUIS
265 PEACHTREE CENTER AVENUE
ATLANTA, GA 30303
TIME: 8:00 PM – 12 MIDNIGHT
OFFICE OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
2014 SPRING EVENTS CALENDAR

JULY 2014

July 26th – August 1st
NBA 89th Annual Convention & Exhibits
Location: The Atlanta Marriott Marquis
Peachtree Center Avenue
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
For more information go to: www.nationalbar.org

July 28th
NBA 89th Annual Convention
Alumni & Friends Breakfast
Location: The Atlanta Marriott Marquis
Room A602
Peachtree Center Avenue
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
Time: 7:30 am

July 29th
NBA 89th Annual Convention
Alumni & Friends Reception – Absolutely Atlanta!
Co-Sponsored by: Houston Lawyers’ Association,
Southern Law Center & NBA Region V
Location: The Atlanta Marriott Marquis
Time: 8:00 p.m. - Midnight

July 31st – August 3rd
TSU National Alumni Association Convention
Location: Hilton Anatole Hotel
Dallas, Texas
For more information go to: www.tsunaa.com

AUGUST 2014

August 27th
Touchdown Club Luncheon
Location: Power Center
Time: 12noon

August 31st
Labor Day Classic – TSU v. PVU
Location: Reliant Stadium
Time: 4:00pm
Enjoy tailgating, barbeque, entertainment, and concert
For more information contact TSU Athletics – www.tsu.edu

SAVE THE DATE

2014 Homecoming/Reunion
(Classes ending in “4” and “9”)
October 23rd-26th
Ten Reasons to Support Thurgood Marshall School of Law

"I decided to come to TMSL because of the many schools I was accepted to, something about TMSL just felt right. In addition to its location in Texas and the historic significance of the school. Affordable tuition was also major factor in my decision to attend TMSL. Throughout my academic tenure at TMSL I’ve experienced incredible professors and great intern/externship opportunities. I am glad that I decided to attend TMSL." — Gaven Norris, '14

1. **Our Reputation**
   We are one of 15 law schools nationwide that has notably improved its reputation with lawyers and judges since 2012.

2. **Our Advocacy Programs**
   In the last three years, our Mock Trial and Moot Court Teams have gained national recognition for the quality of their preparation and performance. Both teams have advanced to final rounds in national and regional competitions.

3. **Our Valued Externships**
   Many of our third year students have successfully completed externships with the state supreme court, district judges, state legislators, First Lady of the United States Michelle Obama, and district and county attorney's offices.

4. **Our National Recognition**
   Thurgood Marshall School of Law was admitted into the esteemed membership of the Associate of American Law Schools (AALS) in January 2014. The Law School received a national vote of confidence from the AALS in its direction, faculty, academic and accountability programs and most importantly, in its ability to engage with students to produce competitive and capable lawyers.

5. **Our Bar Performance**
   In the last four years, our graduates have twice posted the best July bar exam performance in the history of our law school. The performance exceeds the national standard established as an accreditation requirement by the American Bar Association.

6. **Our Regional Impact**
   With only 5% of total Texas law school enrollment, Thurgood Marshall School of Law, in the last five years, has produced 43% of all the newly licensed African-American attorneys in the state of Texas who are graduates from one of the nine Texas law schools.

7. **Our Alumni**
   In 2011, we graduated our 1000th Hispanic-American. Our persistence in producing a substantial number of the attorneys who either practice, bring honor to the judiciary bench, or take on public service roles in South Texas is highly commendable.

8. **Our Student Accomplishments**
   Our students continue to win and receive recognition for their participation and performance in legal writing competitions and other scholarly activities.

9. **Our Diversity**
   For more than a decade, our Law School has been firmly established as one of the nation’s most diverse law schools.

10. **Our Mission, Our Vision, Our Values**
    For the last seven decades, Thurgood Marshall School of Law has been heralded as an institution of opportunity and inclusion that continues to rise on its standards of equality and excellence.
JULY BIRTHDAYS

Katherine Vaukadin 3rd
Karen Percival 6th
Cassandra Hill 14th
Martin Levy 19th
Dannye Holley 23rd
Lupe Salinas 29th
Kenyon Moore 31st

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!

INSIDE THURGOOD NEWS REQUEST

Please submit your news, events and announcements in email text or word documents to Andrianece Hines, Sr. Administrative Assistant of External Affairs by the 23rd of the PRIOR month, ahines@mslaw.twu.edu. Please be brief, but ensure that important details and information are included.