



# Thurgood TODAY

TSU

YOUR MONTHLY THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW ELECTRONIC NEWS & INFORMATION SOURCE  
FROM THE OFFICE OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS – (713) 313-1197 July 2014

## 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 SpearIt** published "Twenty Years after the Education Apocalypse: The Ongoing Fall Out from the 1994 Omnibus Crime Bill" in the *Saint Louis University Public Law Review*. The paper can be downloaded at [http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=2460531](http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2460531)

**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 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 SpearIt'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.





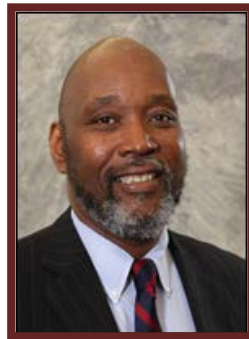
## Faculty Highlights (Cont.'d)



**Professor Walter T. Champion** recently published a new book with ABC-CLIO - - “Intellectual Property Law in the Sports and Entertainment Industries.” Also, my 2013 Summer Research Stipend article,

“The Rise and Fall of Kirk Wright: the NFLPA’s Fiduciary Obligation as Third-Party Guarantor of ‘Certified Financial Advisors’” was accepted for publication by the Mississippi sports Law Review. Most importantly, I have contracted to write “Baseball and the Law: Cases and Comments” with Cognella Press.

**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.



## Photos from the 1st Annual International Teaching and Learning Conference





## Clinic News

### Immigration Clinic Successes!

#### 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.





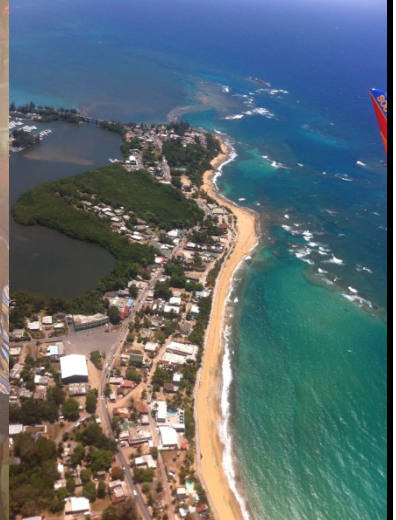
## Student Highlights TMSL Summer Exchange Program

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 fluorescent 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.

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



“We support Victor in this new endeavor and are proud of his continued commitment to serving the



## STATE BAR OF TEXAS~TMSL ALUMNI AND FRIENDS RECEPTION





## UPCOMING EVENTS

# 60 IN SIXTY



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

**\$60,000  
IN 60 DAYS**

### **TMSL** Share Your Success Annual Fund

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. 31st) 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](http://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

**ABSOLUTLY 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 26<sup>th</sup> – 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](http://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 – *Absolute-ly 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](http://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](http://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.



TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY  
THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW  
OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT

Susan Bynam, Assistant Dean

3100 Cleburne Street Houston, Texas 77004 Phone: 713.313.4273 Fax: 713.313.7268



## JULY BIRTHDAYS

 Katherine Vaukadin	 3rd
 Karen Percival	 6th
 Cassandra Hill	 14th
 Martin Levy	 19th
 Danye 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!



**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@trnslaw.tsu.edu](mailto:anhines@trnslaw.tsu.edu). Please be brief, but ensure that important details and information are included.