



Thurgood TODAY



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

November 2012

1 of 10

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE DEAN

Virgie Lemond Mouton

Assistant Dean for Student Development



Dean Mouton returned to TMSL in the fall of 1990, to become the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs. Her assignment was to assist the students in each phase of their matriculation from Orientation to Graduation. She often greets students at Orientation with, “I am the first to see you at Orientation, the last to see you at Graduation and every day in between.” The Office of Student Affairs handles almost all matters regarding students.

Dean Mouton attended TMSL from 1979-1982. She received the highest grade in the class in three courses—Criminal Law, Professional Responsibility, and Conflicts of Law. She wrote and published an article in the TMSL Law Review, “Wife Abuse Legislation in California, Pennsylvania and Texas, 7 T. MARSHALL L. REV. 282 (1982).

Prior to attending law school, Dean Mouton was a teacher for eight years in Houston I.S.D. She received her B.S. and M.Ed., with emphasis in Curriculum and Instruction, in 1971 and 1974 respectively.

When she entered law school in 1979, she was married to Stephen and had two small sons—Matt and Brian. After graduating in 1982, she worked at the First Court of Appeals as the Briefing Attorney for the Honorable Henry Doyle. She passed the Texas Bar the first time she sat, and was licensed to practice law on November 7, 1982. After serving her one year with Judge Doyle she worked as a Research Attorney for the entire nine judges of the First Court, writing numerous proposed opinions. She was a solo practitioner from 1985 – 1988. From 1988-1990 she worked as an Assistant Harris County Attorney, Chief of the Tax Litigation Section.

Dean Mouton was excited to return to the law school. She had added two more children to her family—Christopher and Marissa. Last year her first granddaughter, Mattison Alivia, joined the family.

Dean Mouton looked forward to using all her experiences to assist students—including mothering, teaching/advising, legal researching and writing, and practicing law in both the appellate and trial court level. She enjoys teaching her Advanced Legal Analysis course, assisting students to write papers of law review quality.

She loves talking with people, problem solving, writing, researching, and assisting students, faculty, and staff. She is thankful that she has a top-notch support staff in Student Affairs and the Dean’s Office. The staff members and administrative assistants help make her job easier because of their pleasant personalities and their competencies in their duties. She is very thankful and pleased that she has an opportunity to work at TMSL, and she enjoys her assignments.



EARL CARL INSTITUTE HIGHLIGHTS

ECI Secures Home for Homeless Veteran

The Opal Mitchell Lee Property Preservation Clinic (OMLPPP) is one of three clinics under the Earl Carl Institute for Legal and Social Policy, Inc.(ECI). The purpose of OMLPPP is to preserve and increase the wealth of low income minorities by assisting them in obtaining or maintaining their interest in real property. OMLPPP is funded by a grant from the Texas Access to Justice Foundation which allows ECI to serve those individuals in Harris and contiguous counties who fall within 125% of the federal poverty guidelines. The Project handles probate, adverse possession, partition, mortgage, and tax and property owner's association foreclosure defense cases. **During the 2011-2012 fiscal year ECI was able to preserve or obtain approximately \$787,000.00 in assets for its OMLPPP clients.**



William "Bill" Hawkins is a 63 year old veteran of the Air Force. After serving our country in the Vietnam War, he returned home to Seattle and then moved to Houston to attend Texas Southern University. While attending college he lived at a nearby boarding house with the owner Pearlie Mae and a roommate. Before earning his degree, Bill left school and moved back to Seattle to bury his father and reconnect with his children. On his way back to Texas his venture landed him in California where he stayed for 5 unproductive years. Although he was working with the Parks Department he was unable to afford decent living accommodations. He often slept on the very park benches he worked, local shelters, or the occasional motel room. Despite what most would have seen as a hopeless situation, Bill was determined to get back to Houston and start anew with the help of Ms.

Pearlie Mae. In 1990, he again made it to Houston only to find that Ms. Pearlie had passed away two years prior with her house being abandoned and unattended. By February of 1993, Bill was again in need of a place to stay and made his way to Ms. Pearlie's house. Bill moved in and began fixing up the property as best he could. He relied on some assistance from neighbors until he could afford to turn on the lights, water, and gas.



In 2002, Harris County sued Pearlie Mae for back taxes. Bill inserted himself in the lawsuit trying to protect his almost ten year interest in the property. Despite his efforts a judgment was entered against her and levied on the property in 2004. The house was put up for public auction four times in 2007 and once in 2008. When the house was put up for public auction in 2010, Bill made an appointment with the Earl Carl Institute. Through the efforts of the ECI staff attorney the foreclosure sale was struck off the list to give Bill an opportunity to get title to the property in his name and repair the tax issues. On July 10, 2010, the Earl Carl Institute filed suit on behalf of Mr. Hawkins to get legal title to the home he had been living in for 17 years. An attorney ad litem was appointed to represent Pearlie Mae and her unknown heirs. She, the ad litem, graciously provided her services pro bono. After her investigation and testimony of one of his neighbors in open court, she found no cause to object to Mr. Hawkins' claims. On August 29, 2011, Mr. Hawkins was granted fee simple title to his

home of nearly 20 years. Now that title is in his name, The OMLPPP is working with Mr. Hawkins on applying for a tax deferral due to his disability.

In his own words, Mr. Hawkins came to us *"after years of homelessness, shelters, and often demeaning public assistance pleas..."* He is now excited about the possibility of transforming his *"property into a house and home that [he] can fix up and enjoy."* Mr. Hawkins has thanked ECI profusely for getting him his title and in response to a recent survey he stated, *"I may never be able to adequately express the gratitude I feel, but I want you to know, God is working through you to the end of bettering the lives of we, the little people struggling against tremendous forces."*

(ECI Staff Attorney Addie Johnson pictured bottom left)



EARL CARL INSTITUTE HIGHLIGHTS

The Earl Carl Institute's Center for Government Law

Recruits TMSL Students for Participation in Senator Rodney Ellis' Texas Legislative Internship Program During the 83rd Texas Legislative Session

On October 25th, at an Earl Carl Institute sponsored student recruitment event, Senator Rodney Ellis spoke to a classroom full of current TMSL students about the benefits of participating in the Texas Legislative Internship Program (TLIP). Senator Ellis was joined by TSU Executive Vice President, Dr. James Douglas, three former TLIP students who are now elected state officials from the Houston area: **Representative Ron Reynolds, Armando Walle and Ana Hernandez Luna**, and two former TLIP students (*pictured below*).

The Texas Legislative Internship Program (TLIP), started in 1990, is sponsored by Senator Ellis. TLIP is administered by the Mickey Leland Center on World Hunger and Peace at Texas Southern University Barbara Jordan/Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs. The participation of law students is coordinated and managed by the Earl Carl Institute's Center for Government Law Associate Director, Leonard Spearman, Jr. The program provides opportunities for undergraduate, graduate, and law students to serve as interns in the Texas Legislature, state agencies, local and federal government, and nonprofit organizations.

Law students receive twelve academic credit hours for participating in TLIP, which combines academic study and research with supervised practical training. The internship lasts for one academic semester, and interns are responsible for their academic admissions and enrollment in the necessary courses. Students who work in TLIP positions outside of the Houston area are given a stipend to assist with living expenses during the semester.

During legislative sessions, TLIP interns are placed in the offices of Texas Legislatures' as well as the offices of the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and the Supreme Court of Texas just to name a few. Between legislative sessions, interns serve in the offices of elected and appointed officials at the municipal, county and state levels, and have been placed in the offices of several U.S. Congressional offices in Washington, DC. Students have also served in the national office of The Innocence Project in New York City.

Interns are involved in all facets of the governmental and legislative process and have been able to use their legal training to draft legislation, analyze legislation and administrative codes, and utilize their persuasive oratory skills in defending their (or the elected officials) position. Students are exposed to the processes of both chambers of the Texas Legislature and the highest state courts in Texas. They get an opportunity to view county and municipal government from the ground up and their experiences often serve as the springboard for selecting public service careers.

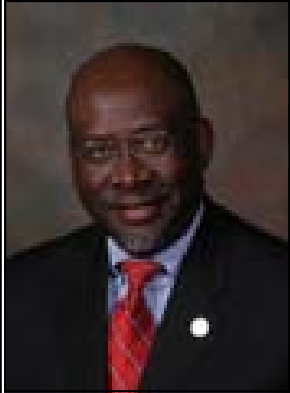
"I had no intentions to run for a public office, until I had the opportunity to experience the importance of how elected officials help their constituencies", Rep. Walle said.

The deadline for students applying for TLIP is October 31, 2012. For further information and applications you can visit Senator's Ellis website at <http://www.rodneyellis.com/tlip/> or you can contact Leonard Spearman at lespearman@tmslaw.tsu.edu or at 713-313-1198.





FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS



Professor McKen Carrington appeared on KTSU's radio show, "A Closer Look" to discuss and to answer questions from the public regarding wills and living trusts.



Professor Charlton Copeland, associate professor of law at University of Miami School of Law and a constitutional and law and theology scholar, will be visiting TMSL on November 15-16, 2012, as part of the law school's external speaker series. Professor Copeland's visit will kick-off with a panel discussion for the entire TMSL community with esteemed alumni, student leaders, and distinguished community leaders entitled, "Beyond Church and State: Spirituality, Law, and Society" in **room 107** on **Thursday, November 15th, 12:00-1:30 p.m.** A reception in the lobby will follow. There will be 1.5 CLE ethics credits offered as part of this panel.

Other panelists include Dr. Herbert Fain, TMSL alumnus and Professor of Legal and Social Ethics and Church and Community Liaison at the Houston Graduate School of Theology, Minister Robert Muhammad, Student Regional Minister, Muhammad Mosque No. 45 and host of KPFT's "Connect the Dots,"

Theresa Ford-Bradley, Vice-President of TMSL's Christian Legal Society, and Julian Frachtman from TMSL's Jewish Law Students Association. The panel will be moderated by Antoinette Jackson, TMSL alumna and director at Coats Rose. This panel is co-sponsored by Christian Legal Society and the Student Bar Association. Join the discussion live and chat your questions and comments at tsu.webex.com (meeting name-TMSL; meeting password-123456)

On Friday, November 16, 2012, 12:00 p.m., in the dean's conference room, **Professor Copeland** will give a talk over lunch to the faculty entitled, "The Warren Court in American Federalism." Also on November 16th, Professor Copeland will join **Professor Craig Jackson** to co-teach a constitutional law class.

New Scholars Writing Workshop News-A big thank you to the following professors who have agreed to serve as 2012-13 writing coaches for new scholars, or faculty with 0-3 years on the tenure-track. The coaches' duties include helping new scholars to hone a research agenda, reviewing drafts and outlines, and serving as a front-line resource to new scholars.

Professor Okezie Chukwumerije

Professor Emeka Duruigbo

Professor Cassandra Hill

Professor Craig Jackson

Professor Tom Kleven

Professor Lupe Salinas

Professor Katherine Vukadin

Please email faculty news to ppendenque@tmslaw.tsu.edu no later than the 25th of each month. The Office of the Dean will collate and edit faculty highlights.



FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

My Testimony DeCarlous Spearman



Dear Family and Friends,

I want to take a few minutes to tell everyone that prayed for me and my family, Thank you!

Many of you know I had a stroke in February 2009. I have some vocabulary, writing and reading deficiencies from that stroke.

In March of this year I went to take my annual mammogram and ultra sound. I then went two three follow-up appointments. It was now June. I was just getting in from a dentist appointment where I went in to get my tooth capped and ended up getting it pulled. I was alarmed when my medical doctor, Dr. Theresa Robinson, called me at home. She informed me that she needed to tell me herself that I had cancer in my right breast. She

gave me names and numbers to call....

I started the treatment process at Hermann Hospital. After three mammographies, three ultrasounds, two biopsies, and an assortment of other test, I was diagnosed with breast cancer and was set to have surgery on July 25th. But then I caught a cold and went to see my primary care doctor, Dr. Farris Blount and he said, "Mrs. Spearman, I know you like Hermann Hospital. They did well for you when you had your stroke, but if you have cancer you need to be at M.D. Anderson. Just wait a moment and like us get this moving."

A couple of weeks later I was entering M.D. Anderson. My first appointments were overwhelming. I felt like I was signing up for more than I bargained for. The entire tests redone: the EKG, the CAT scan, the PET, the MRI.... I eventually got beyond it. The surgery was performed on August 29, 2012. I had my right breast removed and all the lymph nodes in my right arm-pit. The mastectomy was finished. I came home with two drains in my right side.

By the end of September, I had an infection in my right breast; it was still a little there. They finally got the infection resolved. It moved my start time for chemotherapy back a week. I started my first treatment on October 16, 2012. And now I am entering my third week of chemotherapy. I will be taking chemo for six months... until mid April. I was also informed I will be getting radiation every day for 6 weeks....

But know this; God has seen me thru all of that and He will see me thru this! For you see God is not thru with me yet!

Peace!

DeCarlous



STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

TMSL SBA - Decision 2012 Election Kick Off



(Houston, Texas) ... The Thurgood Marshall School of Law Student Bar Association is pleased to announce the completion of a successful "Decision 2012 Election Kick Off" event that took place at the law school. The kick off event coincided with the first day of early voting in Texas and paid tribute to the last televised debate of this election cycle, between President Barack Obama and Governor Mitt Romney.

The event began promptly around 6 PM with a one-hour panel discussion, moderated by 3L Bryan Crosby. Panelists included the Honorable Judge Kyle Carter, Honorable Judge Ruben Guerrero, Honorable Judge Jaclanel McFarland, Honorable Judge Josefina Rendon, and Judicial Candidate Vivian King. The five-member panel answered questions regarding the election, judicial clerkships, their campaign and law school.

After the panel discussion, guests were treated to a three-course dinner at which time law students had the opportunity to meet and greet with the judicial dignitaries.

Finally, at 8 PM, law students congregated in Room 105 to watch President Obama and Governor Romney debate over foreign policy issues in the final debate for the 2012 General Election.

The Student Bar Association ("SBA") is the largest student organization at the Thurgood Marshall School of Law. The primary objective of the SBA is to provide an organization of self-government for all students so that they may sponsor various projects and programs that will enhance their knowledge of and respect for the legal profession, as well as their pride in the Thurgood Marshall School of Law.





ALUMNI NEWS

Craig A. Washington, Thurgood Marshall School of Law alumnus, to be honored as a *Texas Legal Legend* by State Bar of Texas



The State Bar of Texas will honor former United States Congressman Craig Washington in a ceremony on November 13, 2012 at Thurgood Marshall School of Law. The State Bar of Texas is the fifth largest organization of lawyers in the United States. The Texas Legal Legends Series was created in 2008-09 by State Bar of Texas past President Harper Estes. The purpose of the series is to preserve and share the perspectives of legendary Texas lawyers through their backgrounds, interesting stories, and thoughts on the changes in and the future of our profession. Washington is being honored because of his legendary legal contributions to the people of Texas and the United States.

Washington, a native Texan, was born in Longview, Gregg County, Texas on October 12, 1941. He is a product of Texas schools and universities earning his Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Prairie View A&M University in 1966 and his Juris Doctorate from Texas Southern University Law School in 1969 where he graduated number one in his class, with honors. While in law school, Washington was Captain of the Moot Court Team and President of the Student Bar Association. He was the recipient of numerous academic awards for excellence.

After graduating from law school, Washington was appointed to the position of Assistant Dean and Assistant Professor of Law at the law school. In 1970 he left the University to enter private law practice. Washington was elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 1972 where he served for 10 years until he was elected to the Texas Senate. After serving as a Senator, Washington was elected to represent the 18th congressional district in Houston, Texas as a United States Congressman until 1995. During the debate on the Civil Rights Act in the U.S. Congress he chaired full committee and field hearings, led the floor debate on quotas, fought for women and religious minorities to have the ability to sue for damages, and he was a member of the Conference Committee in both the Education and Labor and Judiciary Committees. Washington was also a member of many conference committees on issues such as child care, higher education, elementary education, and energy.

After leaving congress Washington returned to his law practice in Houston and Bastrop Texas. Washington is licensed to practice law before the Supreme Court of Texas; the United States District Courts of the Southern, Western, Eastern, and Northern Districts of Texas; the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit; and the United States Supreme Court.

Washington returned to his alma mater as a *Distinguished Visiting Professor* to teach Evidence and Criminal Law during the 2000-2001 academic year. In addition to his legal practice, Washington appears as faculty/panelist at continuing education and legal conferences throughout the United States discussing topics including Race and the Law, Jury Selection in Death Penalty cases, Opening and Closing Statements, and Trying Death Penalty Cases.



UPCOMING EVENTS

November 8th

Reception Honoring: Newly Admitted Texas Lawyers & Newly Elected Officials

Sponsored by: Thurgood Marshall School of Law, TMSL Alumni
Association & Houston Lawyer's Association

Location: Sullivan's Steakhouse

4608 Westheimer Rd. Houston, Texas 77027

Time: 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm

November 8th

SOS – General Interest Meeting (CLSA)

ECI – Innocence Project Recruitment

SOS – Canned Food and Clothing Drive

November 8th-16th

SOS-Canned Food and Clothing Drive

November 9th

Civil Rights -CLE

Thurgood Marshall Law Review

Texas Southern University, Thurgood Marshall School of Law

Location: Thurgood Marshall School of Law

Time: 12:00 noon- 5:00pm

Cost: \$ 70.00 attorneys; complimentary non-attorneys

MCLE: 5.0

Ethics: 1.0

Register and pay online: www.tinyurl.com/tmsleventregistration

November 13th

SOS-Fundraiser Patty Sales (CLSA)

Time: 12:00pm

OD-TMSL Faculty Meeting

Time: 5:00pm

November 14th

FD-TMSL Quodlibet Series

Time: 12:00pm

SOS-Criminal Law 1L Battle of the Sections

Time: 5:00pm-6:00pm

November 15th

Beyond Church & State: Spirituality, Law & Society -CLE

Thurgood Marshall Law Review

Texas Southern University, Thurgood Marshall School of Law

Location: Thurgood Marshall School of Law

Time: 12:00 noon– 1:30pm

Cost: FREE

MCLE: 1.5

Ethics: 1.5

Register and pay online: www.tinyurl.com/tmsleventregistration

November 15th

SOS-SBA General Body Meeting

Time: 12:00pm-1:00pm

FD-Guest Lecture by Charlton Copeland (Univ. of
Miami Law)

Time: 3:00pm-4:00pm

SOS-Fall Caribbean Dinner– Cool Runnings Res-
taurant (CLSA)

Time: 6:00pm

November 16th

FD-Panel on Federalism/Health Care Economics/
Health Care Law and the Affordable Care

Time: 12:00pm-2:00pm

SOS– 2L/3L Charity Basketball Game

Time: 6:00pm-9:00pm

November 16th

Valley Area Alumni & Friends Social Mixer

Location: Home of Rene & Laura Ramirez

1003 Inspiration Drive

Pharr, TX 78577

Time: 5:00pm

November 17th

10th Annual Golf Classic

Location: Monte Cristo Golf & Country Club

1 ½ mi. East of US Hwy 281

Monte Cristo Road

Edinburg, TX 78541

For more information and sponsorship please con-
tact the Office of External
Affairs (713) 313-1142.



UPCOMING EVENTS

November 17th

SOS-Citizenship and Immigration Forum (HLSA)

Thursday, November 22– Friday, November 23, 2012



Thanksgiving Holidays!!!!!!!

November 25th

SOS-1L and 2L Final Exam Reviews (HLSA)

November 28th

Last Day to Drop a Class

Last Class Day

First Year Professors' Grades Due

SOS– Hanukkah/End of the Semester Party/Present Drive-Jewish Law Students Association (JLSA)

Time: 7:00pm

November 29th

Reading Period (NO CLASSES)

-RED events will be hosted outside of Houston

-BLUE events indicate CLE's



Thurgood Marshall School of Law
and Dean Dannya Holley Congratulates the
NAACP on its 103rd National Convention

Thurgood Marshall School of Law

"One of the Nation's Most Important Law Schools"

- Consistently at the top of the *U.S. News & World Report* Diversity Index
- Joint degree programs in business & public administration
- Among national leaders in graduating minority lawyers
- State-of-the-art academic support & assessment programs
- Over \$1 million in merit scholarships
- Located in Houston, Texas, a strong job market for the legal profession



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- OD Office of the Dean
- FD Faculty Development
- SOS Student Organization Sponsored
- ECI Earl Carl Institute



CAREER SERVICES OFFICE

The Career Services Office wrapped up its' final On Campus Interview on Friday, October 26, 2012 with the Dallas County Public Defender's Office. The Office also hosted its' annual Speed Networking Reception on Tuesday, October 23, 2012. The first half of the program consisted of law students rotating from each table every five minutes speaking with attorney volunteers. The second half of the event was a group networking mixer that allowed students the opportunity to interact with volunteer attorneys in a reception setting while enjoying hor dourves and refreshments. After the Speed Networking Event, the volunteer attorneys were invited to a reception at Café 5015 hosted by the Office of External Affairs in appreciation of their services to the Office of Career Services. Both the students and volunteer attorneys had a wonderful time and agreed to attend next year.

The office is now getting ready for the 1L Career Services Orientation, "Ask the Experts-Judicial Edition" and the 1L HBA Minority Clerkship Information Session. The remaining November Calendar of Events are included below:

November 8 1L HBA Minority Clerkship Information Session, 12 Noon – 1:00pm, Room 202

November 9 Ask the Experts – Judicial Edition, 12 Noon – 1:00pm, Rm TBA

November 14 Resume Blitz/Satellite Counseling, 9:30 am -11:30am, Law School Atrium

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!



INSIDE THURGOOD NEWS REQUEST

Please submit your news, events and announcements in email text or word documents to Brittani Halliburton by the 25th of the PRIOR month, bmhalliburton@tmslaw.tsu.edu. Please be brief, but ensure that important details and information are included.

NOVEMBER CONFIRMED ROOM RESERVATIONS

11/8/2012 Thu 5:00 PM 6:30 Rm. 105 - Moot Court
PHI ALPHA DELTACERMONY

11/9/2012 Fri 8:00AM-3:30PM Dean's Conference Rm.
CANDIDATE
INTERVIEW/HIL

11/9/2012 Fri 5:00PM-6:30PM 105-106 Auditorium PHI
INTRODUCTION

11/9/2012 Fri 6:30PM-9:00PM Rm. 208 ATLANTIC TEAM

11/10/2012 Sat 10:00AM-2:00PM Rm. 105 Moot Court
ATLANTIC TEAM

11/10/2012 Sat 3:00PM-5:30PM Rm. 206 GROOVE MEETING

11/11/2012 Sun 6:00PM-10:00PM Rm. 212 SBA GENERAL-
BODY MEETING

11/13/2012 Tue 12:00PM-12:50PM Rm. 212 CLS BIBLE STUD-
IES

11/13/2012 Tue 5:00PM- 7:00PM Dean's Conference Rm.
FACULTY MEETING

11/14/2012 Wed 5:00PM-6:30PM Rm. 202 CRIMINAL LAW 1L
BATTLE OF THE SECTION

11/15/2012 Thu 12:00PM-1:00PM Rm. 208 SBA General Body

11/15/2012 Thu 12:00PM-12:50PM Rm. 212 CLS BIBLE STUD-
IES

11/15/2012 Thu 2:00PM-3:00PM Rm. 210 PILA GENERAL-
MEETIN

11/16/2012 Fri 11:00AM-2:00PM Rm. 203 SBA MEETING

11/16/2012 Fri 12:00PM-2:00PM Dean's Conference Rm.
Charleston Copeland Meeting

11/17/2012 Sat 9:00AM-1:00PM Rm. 105 Moot Court BLSA
MEETING

11/29/2012 Thu 5:00PM-9:00PM Rm. 105 - Moot Court Room

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Candice Palacios 11th

Andrience Hines 15th

Walter Champion 22nd

Maia Ford 25th

Christopher Ogolla 30th

James Muldrew 30th