



Thurgood TODAY



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

November 2014

Thurgood Marshall School of Law Recognized for Being the Most Diverse Law School in the Nation

Texas Southern University-Thurgood Marshall School of Law (TMSL) received the top honor by *The National Jurist* as the Most Diverse Law School in the Nation. Because of the historically African-American law school's history of cultivating diversity, this news is not a surprise to many. When the study was done two years ago, the school finished fourth among other top schools, such as The University of the District of Columbia (UDC) School of Law; this year, however, UDC School of Law came in second instead of first.

The National Jurist derived its rankings by calculating the percentage of students and faculty by ethnicity. Each school was given a score from 1-10 for all ethnicities, except for American Indians, for which schools received scores from 1-5. The calculations revealed Texas Southern University with the highest score of 7.1 followed by the UDC School of Law with a score of 6.52.



THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL of LAW

AN EXAMPLE OF DIVERSITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION

“Protect It, Improve It, Pass It on”



Thurgood Marshall School of Law Recognized for Being the Most Diverse Law School in the Nation Cont'd.

Dean Holley was interviewed by the magazine, and most of his comments in the magazine are reported below:

“Holley of Texas Southern is used to his school receiving honors fro diversity. It doesn’t get old either, he said.

His school dates back to the late 1940s when a black postal worker who wanted to enter University of Texas School of Law sued the state of Texas. To thwart the move, the state created a “separate but equal” black-only school for a number of professions, including law. Later, a young African-American lawyer, Thurgood Marshall, would successfully argue before the U.S. Supreme Court that the new school was separate, but certainly not equal. It led to the University of Texas’ ultimate integration.

As the years passed, Texas Southern University became a leader in the training of African-American attorneys. And it still is. From a five-year period ending in 2012, the school produced 43 percent of the newly licensed African-American attorneys in the state of Texas. The school has only 5 percent of the state’s total law school enrollment.

But it also has evolved to become an attractive school for Latino students, given the growth of the Hispanic population in the state. More than 30 percent of the school is Hispanic. Holley also notes that white students find it attractive, given how society is becoming more diverse. During the past several years, between 15 percent to 20 percent of the student body has been white.

Holley shared quotes by students, noting the importance of diversity in making their decision to come to the school.

‘Growing up as a military brat and being in the military myself, I was always used to being around a diverse group of people,’ wrote Ricardo Ramos, Jr., Class of 2014. ‘You won’t find diversity at any other law school the way you will at TMSL. I felt at home. It was where I needed to be.’

Holley notes there are 200 American Bar Association-accredited law schools and each has ‘a different narrative’ when it comes to how theses minority students are being absorbed. Some schools are not seeing gains, while others are improving significantly.

Diversity only goes so far in attracting students, he said. His students want an education that makes them practice-ready and competitive with the best, he said. They may feel more welcome at the school, and their views may be more readily heard, but that’s not the end-all, be-all. They also want clinics and externships and other practical training.”

The National Jurist’s analysis of the drop of law school enrollment shows interesting developments: The number of law students has dropped 15 percent from 2011 to 2013, but the number of minority law students has dropped only 4.2 percent--showing an unmatched decline between races. (The National Jurist, November 2014 vol. 24, No. 2)

To view the full article go to: <http://www.nxtbook.com/nxtbooks/cypress/nationaljurist1114/#/0>



FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS



On November 19, 2014, **Professor Thelma Harmon** gave a faculty talk entitled *Young v. UPS: Will it be Cigars or Pink Slips?* as part of the TMSL Quodlibet.



Professor SpearIt's pieces entitled *Religion and Revolution: The Promise of a Fresh Look* and *ISIS, Latinos & the Brunt of Border Politics* appeared in the Huffington Post in October 2014. In addition, **Professor SpearIt** is featured in the Fall 2014 edition of Insights, a publication of the Institute for Social Policy

& Understanding that is available at http://www.ispu.org/pdfs/ISPU_Insights_Fall_2014_Issue_01.pdf

On October 8, 2014, **Professor Sarah Jenkins of the William H. Bowen School of Law** in Little Rock, Arkansas, presented her work-in-progress, *Contract Formation: UCC, CISG-the Theoretical Distinctions and Resulting Practical Effects*, as part of the 2014-15 Southern Central Association of Law Schools (SCALS) faculty exchange.



Also, on October 29, 2014, at TMSL, **Professor SpearIt** gave a talk entitled *Sonic Jihad: Muslim Hip Hop in the Age of Mass Incarceration*. On November 12, 2014, **Professor SpearIt** discussed *Nuts and Bolts of Legal Academic Writing* as part of the 2014-15 Faculty Series.

Professor L. Darnell Weeden accepted an offer from the Loyola New Orleans Journal of Public Interest Law to publish his article *May Traditional Deference to State Sovereignty Serve as a Rational Basis to Deny Marriage Equality to Same-Sex Wedding Vows?* in its Fall 2014 edition. The Journal editors believe Weeden's article "would be a great addition" to their Journal.



Thurgood Marshall School of Law is pleased to announce a burgeoning faculty exchange with Concordia School of Law in Boise, Idaho. **Professor Shaundra Kellam Lewis** will present her work-in-progress, *Professional Liability in Mass Shooting Cases*, to the Concordia Law faculty in Spring 2015.



FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS (Cont'd.)



On November 14, 2014, **Professor and Associate Dean Asmara M. Tekle** gave a talk to the faculty of William H. Bowen School of Law at the University of Arkansas in Little Rock, Arkansas, entitled *Rectifying These Mean Streets: Percent for Art Ordinances, Street Furniture and the New Public Art of the Streetscape* as part of the

SCALS exchange.

Professor **Katherine T. Vukadin's** article, *Delayed & Denied: Toward and Effective ERISA Remedy for Improper Processing of Healthcare Claims*, 9 YALE J. HEALTH POL'Y L. & ETHICS 331 (2011), was



quoted three times in Halo v. Yale Health Plan (Dist. Court, D. Connecticut Sept. 30, 2014) and discussing an issue of first impression in the Second Circuit. The opinion is available at [http://scholar.google.com/scholar_case?](http://scholar.google.com/scholar_case?case=9165957187771984369&hl=en&as_sdt=6&as_vis=1&oi=scholar)

http://scholar.google.com/scholar_case?case=9165957187771984369&hl=en&as_sdt=6&as_vis=1&oi=scholar

On October 22, 2014, Professor and Dean's Fellow at Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law Carlton Mark Waterhouse served as a 2014-15 TMSL Scholar-in-Residence. As part of his service, he gave a faculty talk entitled, *Justice and Jim Crow's Children*, and served on a panel together with **Professors Kindaka Sanders (moderator), James Douglas, Michael James, and Instructor Tamara Tabo** discussing *What Role for HBCUs in Rectifying Race-Based Injustices?*





Congratulations to the 2014 Bar Passers

**Glen Austin
Jack Batiste
Shasta Blanton
Kristy Blurton
Marsheldondria Bowman
Brennae Brooks
Jesse Bustillos
Miguel Castillo
Ashley Cedillo
Rocio Certvantes
Bashira Clark
Natalia Cruz
Sholdon Daniels
Sean Darvishi
Courtney Dickey
Erica Dominguez
Thalia Dubose
Courtenay Euton
Kelly Farrell
Faran Foy
Ruben Gandia
Leticia Garza**

**Christoper Gisentanner
Stevens Gregory
Saveon Grenell
Javier Guzman
Casey Handy
Ann Ho
Eric Hopkins
Arthur Huggins
Talisa Jones
Earl Latchley
Jacques Leeds
Christopher Lopez
Daniel Lopez
Matthew McDougal
Nireasha Murray
Gaven Norris
Joy Obiselu
Oluwatosin Oni
Daniel Perez
Jay Pena
Oscar Pena
Ricardo Ramos**

**Martin Reza-Rodriguez
K'Tari Riles
Tasheedah Roberts
Britny Rocha
LaVonda Russell
Derek Salinas
Yvette Salinas
Gabriel Seanez
Penina Sendawula
Andrew Sidaros
Johnathan Silva
Elizabeth Smith
Amir Tavakkoli
Elizabeth Taylor
James Tittle
Effrain Torres
DaVonda Traylor
Kristine Trejo
Kusum Warsi
Anthony Washington
A'Kiesha White
Charles Zavala**





TMSL Newly Admitted Attorneys' Reception
Friday, November 21, 2014—Sullivan's Steakhouse
Co-sponsors: Thurgood Marshall School of Law; Houston Lawyers Association; and Houston Trial Lawyers





STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

Student Spotlight: Reginald Wilson, Jr.



Reginald Daniel Wilson Jr. is a third year law student at Texas Southern University – Thurgood Marshall School of Law and anticipates graduating in May 2015. Reginald has recently accepted an offer of employment from Norton Rose Fulbright in its Public Finance section. He is currently ranked in the top five percent of

the 2015 class.

Reginald was born in Abbeville, LA, and graduated high school from Plano East Senior High in Plano, TX. He received a full athletic and academic scholarship to attend and play football for Texas Southern University. There he was elected as one of the Co-Captains for the Fighting Tigers Football Team by his coaches and teammates. In addition, he served as the Vice President of the Fredrick Douglass Honors Program in undergraduate school. In the spring 2008, he was inducted into Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated, serving as the sergeant-at-arms. Reginald went on to receive his B.B.A. in Marketing from Texas Southern University.

From spring 2009 to summer 2012, Reginald was employed with Allstate Insurance as a Licensed Sales Producer where he ranked number four in sales in the southern region of Texas. In the fall 2012, during Reginald's first year in law school, he and his co-counsel made it to the semi-final round of the 1L Mock Trial Competition. He was also nominated to participate in the Leadership Counsel on Legal Diversity Program. Concluding his first year, Reginald was selected to serve as a Student Ambassador. He is a recipient of the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 Dean's Scholarship Academy Award. Reginald was appointed as the head Writing Advisor for Cassandra Hill, Professor of Law and Director of Legal Writing for Thurgood Marshall School of Law, from fall 2013 to present. He also served as an Associate Editor for Thurgood's Law Review Team in 2013-2014 and is currently an Editor. In September

2014, Reginald was selected by the Office of External Affairs to speak on behalf of Thurgood's student body in Washington D.C. at the 44th Annual Legislative Conference hosted by the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation. He is a member of the Hispanic Law Student Association and currently the Parliamentarian for the Student Bar Association's Executive Board.

In May 2013, Reginald served as a Law Clerk for Schwartz, Junell, Greenburg & Oathout LLP in Houston, TX, as the first student ever selected from Thurgood Marshall School of Law. He assisted partners and associates in legal research and writing, drafted memorandums and motions, attended depositions, and participated in negotiation training. In July 2013, he served as a Judicial Intern for The Honorable Vanessa D. Gilmore in the Southern District of Texas, Houston Division. He assisted with conducting legal research and writing, preparing for hearings and trials, and drafting orders and opinions.

In May 2014, Reginald served as a Summer Associate for Norton Rose Fulbright in its Public Finance and Employment & Labor sections. While there, he drafted legislation, legal writing, attended deal closings and board meetings, participated in mock trial, gave a presentation, and attended court hearings. In July 2014, he served as a Law Clerk for Coats Rose PC, where he drafted motions, attended meetings, conducted legal research and writing, and participated in a mock deposition. He is currently interning with ExxonMobil as a Law Clerk.



STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS *(Cont'd.)*

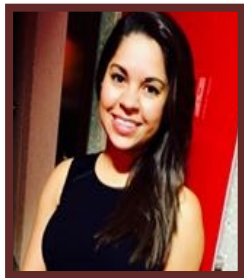
Students Intern with the Immigration Court

Clinical Director and Professor of Law, Maurice Hew, worked his contacts with the immigration courts, and two of our 2L students were offered positions with the immigration courts in the Spring of 2015;

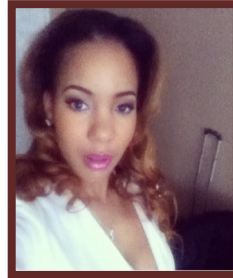
Courtney Porter will be working downtown handling the non-detained court dockets and **Anna Caltabiano** will be working near Bush Airport handling the detained immigration court docket.

Professor Hew strongly believes that our students are being selected to these positions due to our strong immigration programs. TMSL graduates and former Immigration students, **Patricia Ventura** and **William Maule** have gone on to work for the government as attorneys. Patricia worked two years as an attorney for the immigration courts, When Patricia's term ended, she opened a successful immigration practice and remained there until she was accepted into the military's JAG program.

William is currently serving as an affirmative asylum officer. TMSL is very proud of both of them.



Anna Caltabiano



Courtney Porter

TMSL Places 2nd in ABA Tournament



This past weekend, the Thurgood Marshall School of Law took second in the region at the coveted ABA tournament in Dallas. This is a national tournament. Of all of the schools in the competition, four broke to the semi-finals. They were South Texas, South Texas, SMU and Thurgood. We defeated South Texas in the semis as did SMU. We hit SMU in the final and lost, though all of the judges commented on how close a round it was. What they didn't know was how many of our advocates were only second years. We are recognizing the coaches and teams this Wednesday at 6 pm in my class in one of the first floor rooms. I hope you can attend and support this tremendous accomplishment. Come to hear the war stories and tears. We couldn't be more proud.



STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS *(Cont'd.)*

Institute for International and Immigration Law



Thurgood Marshall School of Law’s Institute for International and Immigration Law (the “Institute”) has been very active during the Fall semester. Through its objective to inform students regarding opportunities in the area of immigration and international law, the Institute has hosted Professor Fernando Colon, who discussed the LL.M program; Attorneys Kim Vega and Pablo Rodriguez, both informing the students about the practice of immigration law; and Attorneys Luis Salguero, Assistant Corporate Counsel with SA Exploration and Attorney Roselene Alexis, Senior Commercial Negotiator with Noble Energy, Inc. (in collaboration with the TMSL Oil & Gas Society), who informed students about the legal practice of oil and gas.

The Institute was also a guest speaker on the Latino Talk TV with Ben Mendez at the Houston Media Source. On this show, the Institute informed the general public of current topics and events in immigration. If you need additional information about the Institute or its upcoming activities, contact Professor Fernando Colon at (713) 131-1918 or fcolon@tmslaw.tsu.edu

The current board is as follows:

- President - Synthia (Sindy) Santiago
- Vice President - Alexandria Salas
- Secretary - Tanya Fernandez Rodriguez
- Treasurer- Harrison McPherson
- Historian - Mike Nguyen





TSU HOMECOMING PRESIDENT'S GALA Friday, October 24, 2014





TSU HOMECOMING TMSL Class of 1999, 2004 & 2009 Reunion Friday, October 24, 2014





TSU HOMECOMING Tailgating Saturday, October 25, 2014





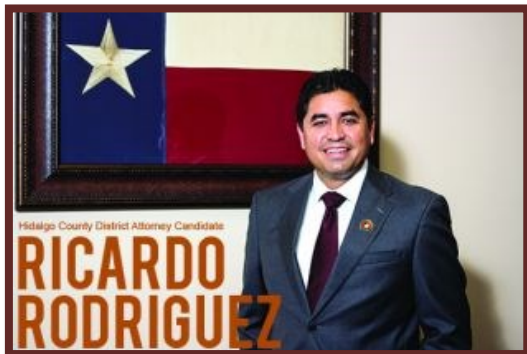
TSU HOMECOMING TAILGATING *Cont'd.*





Alumni News

Thurgood Marshall School of Law Congratulates Ricardo Rodriguez on Becoming District Attorney-Elect for Hidalgo County



This November, the voters of Hidalgo County elected **Ricardo Rodriguez**, TMSL class of 1999 more commonly known as Rick, to be the next District Attorney of Hidalgo County.

Rick was born to a 16-year old mother and a 17-year old father who both only achieved an 8th grade education. Needless to say, as a migrant worker Rick grew up in a life of humble beginnings. Yet, Rick credits his parents for instilling in him the drive and determination to achieve in education, and subsequently life.

Scholastically, Rick has sought to make his parent's proud by attaining the highest levels of academic success. Rick graduated from Edinburg High School in 1990, where he excelled as a scholar and an athlete. As a result of his hard work, he received an academic and athletic scholarship to the University of Texas at San Antonio. There, he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration – Accounting from the University of Texas at San Antonio in 1995. Soon after, Rick chose to enroll in Thurgood Marshall School of Law and earned his Juris Doctorate degree in 1999.

Since graduating from Thurgood, Rick has developed an extensive background in political service. Particularly, he was elected to the City Council for the City of Edinburg, serving two terms from 2002-2005. In 2006, Rick won a special election as presiding judge over the 92nd District Court; he served as judge over 92nd District Court until recently when he elected to be next District Attorney of Hidalgo County.

Rick has continuously said the he wants to be "The People's District Attorney." He is a true believer in the ideals of justice and stands by the principles established by the founders of this great nation—that government is of the people, by the people, and for the people.

Thurgood Marshall School of Law congratulates one of its own; and encourages him to not only continue to fight for justice for citizens of Hidalgo County, but to the live up to the motto of our storied institution by protecting the citizens, improving their access to justice, and establishing ideals that will pass on to the next generation. Attorney Rodriguez has also been selected as the alum featured on TMSL's home page in "*Alumni Spotlight*". Please go to www.tsulaw.edu more information.





Alumni News

Gov. Perry Appoints Jaramillo as Judge of 400th Judicial District Court



Gov. Rick Perry has appointed **Maggie Jaramillo** of Richmond as judge of the 400th Judicial District Court in Fort Bend County for a term to expire at the 2016 general election.

Jaramillo is an attorney in private practice and a past assistant county attorney for Starr County. She is a member of the State Bar of Texas, Fort Bend County Bar Association, Fort Bend County Criminal Defense Attorneys Association and the Fort Bend County Mental Health Board. She is also a member of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #3903, volunteer for the Hispanic Scholarship Fund and a gate keeper for the Fort Bend County Fair.

Jaramillo received a bachelor's degree from Northern Arizona University and a law degree from the Texas Southern University Thurgood Marshall School of Law class of 1997. In case of any query regarding this article or other content needs please contact: editorial@plusmediasolutions.com

Alumni On the Move: Isaac Johnson Leaves Wells Fargo



Attorney Isaac Johnson, IV, TMSL class of 2002, leaves Wells Fargo and accepts a position with TDECU (Texas Dow Employee Credit Union) as Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Chief Risk Officer. TDECU is a financial institution based in Texas with over 50 locations. TDECU is the third largest credit union in Texas.





UPCOMING CLEs

CLE

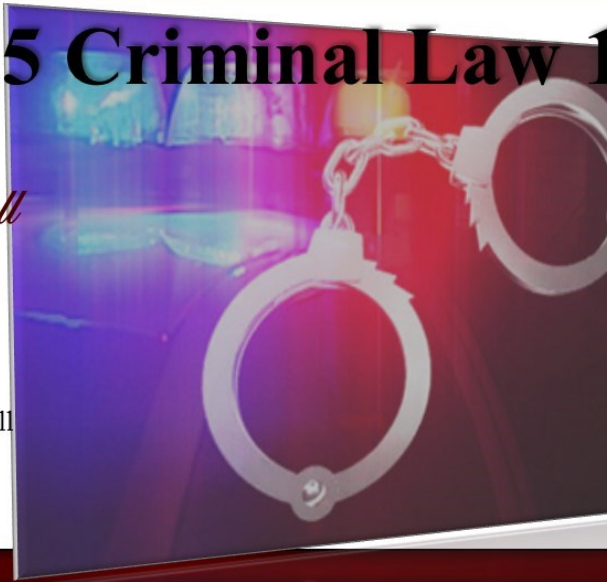
Texas Southern University
THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW



2015 Criminal Law 101

*Thurgood Marshall
School of Law*

3100 Cleburne St.
Houston, TX 77004
For more information, please call
(713) 313-1197



DATE
JANUARY 22, 2015

TIME
9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

COST
\$105.00 attorneys;
\$30.00 gov't attorneys &
non-profit attorneys
Free: non-attorneys
MCLE: 7.0
Ethics: 2.0

Register Online: www.tinyurl.com/tmsleventregistration or Pay on-site

*Texas Southern University, Thurgood Marshall School of Law is an accredited sponsor approved by the State Bar of Texas Committee on MCLE



Texas Southern University Thurgood Marshall School of Law
Immigration & International Law Institute
Present:



Waivers of Removal

Thurgood Marshall School of Law
3100 Cleburne St.
Houston, TX 77004
Rooms: 105-106

Date: January 29, 2015
Cost: **\$60.00** attorneys;
\$30.00 gov't employees
& non-profit attorneys
Complimentary non-attorneys

MCLE Credits: 4.0 hrs.
Ethics Credits: 1.0 hrs.

*Texas Southern University, Thurgood Marshall School of Law
is an accredited sponsor approved by the State Bar of Texas
Committee on MCLE

Register online today by visiting
www.tinyurl.com/tmsleventregistration



UPCOMING CLEs

CLE

Texas Southern University
THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW



Criminal Law CLE ~ Dallas, TX

Pappadeaus Every Case
Oak Lawn is Defensible

3520 Oak Lawn Ave.
Dallas, TX 75219

For more information, please call
(713) 313-1197

DATE
JANUARY 30, 2015

TIME
12:00 noon—4:00 pm

COST
\$60.00 attorneys;
\$25.00 gov't attorneys & non-profit
attorneys

Free: non-attorneys
MCLE: 4.0
Ethics: 1.0

Register Online: www.tinyurl.com/tmsleventregistration or Pay on-site

*Texas Southern University, Thurgood Marshall School of Law is an accredited sponsor approved by the State Bar of Texas Committee on MCLE



EARL CARL INSTITUTE FOR LEGAL & SOCIAL POLICY, INC.
THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW



4th Annual Honorable Craig Washington & Senator Rodney Ellis
Excellence in Indigent Defense Series

Thurgood Marshall School of Law, 3100 Cleburne St., Houston, TX 77004
February 6-7, 2015 ~ 8:30 a.m.-5:15 p.m. (each day)



MCLE: 14.0 (7.0 each day)–Ethics: 2.0 (1.0 each day)
Breakfast & Lunch provided each day

Day 1: Best Practices in Indigent Defense
Day 2: The ABA 10th Annual Summit on
Indigent Defense Improvement

Early Registration before 01/30/2015
Attorneys: \$100
Public Defenders and Non-Attorneys: Complimentary

Register for one day and attend
the 2nd day free!

Register Online: www.earlcarlinstitute.org or Pay on-site



OFFICE OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

JANUARY 2015

January 2nd – 5th

2015 AALS Annual Conference

Location: Washington, D.C.

January 22nd

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

January 29th

Waivers of Removal – Immigration CLE

Immigration & International Law Institute

Texas Southern University, Thurgood Marshall School of Law

Location: Thurgood Marshall School of Law

Time: 12:00 noon-4:00pm

Cost: \$ 60.00 attorneys; complimentary non-attorneys

MCLE: 4.0

Ethics: 1.0

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

January 30th

2015 Criminal Law-CLE (Dallas)

Texas Southern University, Thurgood Marshall School of Law

Location: Dallas, Texas

Time: 12:00 noon – 4:00 pm

Cost: \$60.00

MCLE: 4.0

Ethics: 1.0

Register online: www.tinyurl.com/tmsleventregistration

FEBRUARY 2015

February 4th

2015 ABA Judicial Panel – “ Path to the Bench – How to Become a Judge”

ABA Judiciary Committee

Texas Southern University, Thurgood Marshall School of Law

Location: TMSL Rooms 105, 106, 107

Time: 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Reception Following at the TSU School of Public Affairs Lobby – 7:30 – 8:30 pm

February 6th & 7th

2015 Indigent Defense - 4th Annual Craig Washington & Senator Rodney Ellis Indigent Defense-CLE

10th Annual ABA Midyear Summit on Indigent Defense Improvement

Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association

Harris County Public Defenders’ Office

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: \$25.00 each day (Before February 12, 2015)
\$75.00 each day (After February 12, 2015);
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

February 6th or 13th

Thurgood Marshall Law Review Spring Pinning Ceremony and Reception

Location: TBD

Time: TBD

Sponsorship Opportunities- contact the Office of External Affairs (713) 313-1142

February 19th – 21st

ABA 2015 Dean’s Workshop

Location: Washington, DC



November Birthdays



Kristopher Chrison	2nd
Andreience Hines	15th
Robert Morales	19th
Walter Champion	22nd
Maia Ford	25th
James Muldrew	30th



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!

