



THURGOOD THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW TODAY

TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

JANUARY 2021

WISHING YOU A YEAR OF JOY AND PEACE

2021

Dean Joan R.M. Bullock
and the faculty and staff
of Thurgood Marshall School of Law



TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
Thurgood Marshall School of Law



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Farewell Dean Virgie Mouton: Thank you for 30 years of service

A lawyer, educator, administrator, and family matriarch, **Virgie Lemond Mouton** served as assistant dean for student development and taught Independent Research 1 and 2 and Seminar on Advanced Legal Analysis at Thurgood Law for 30 years. Dean Mouton retired at the end of 2020, and we want to congratulate her on all of her success. She has played an integral role in student support and advancement over the years. Dean Mouton not only worked for Thurgood Law, but she is also an alumna of the class of 1982.

Dean Mouton worked in higher education, but she was also a briefing attorney for the Honorable Henry E. Doyle, the first graduate of Thurgood Law, when she was a research attorney for the first court of appeals, State of Texas. Dean Mouton also successfully ran her own law office as a sole practitioner and was an assistant county attorney for Harris County, Texas. Dean Mouton's hard work and passion will forever be cherished by students, faculty, staff, and alumni.

Messages to Dean Mouton:

Ms. Jo Alridge says, "Dean Mouton is a lady that made me feel like I was a diamond in her heart."

Teclesha Blanchard, SBA President, 20-21, says, "Dean Mouton is truly an advocate for the students and believes in each of our success. Understanding, patience, and consideration are just a few words to describe who she was to me. I remember reaching out to her, and her words to me were, "Ms. Blanchard, you handled your business. I am more than willing to lend my support and sign whatever you need." I am a bit jealous of the other classes who had her all 3 years, but more than grateful for the 2 1/2 class of 2021 I was blessed with. I wish you nothing but the best in your future endeavors, Dean; you will be missed."

Bjornrae "BJ" Kemp, former SBA President of 2019, wants Dean Mouton to know "God wants you to know that the battle is not yours, it's the Lord's. Whenever you feel like giving up, or you're down, weak and overwhelmed and can't seem to pick yourself up, remember that your strength comes from the Lord. Don't you dare give up. God has amazing things in store for you."

As you can see, faculty and students love Dean Mouton as she was caring, supportive, and knew how to make everyone feel special. We wish Dean Mouton success in her retirement and future endeavors. Thurgood Law appreciates her hard work and congratulates her!





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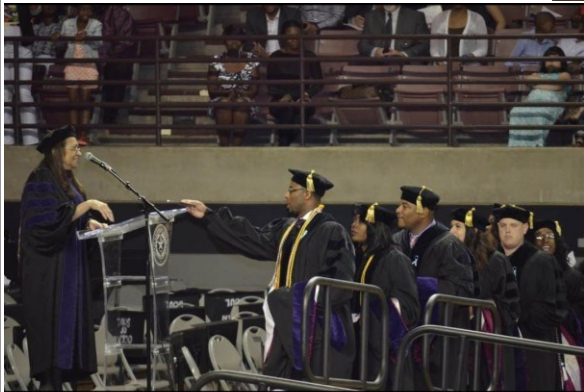
Farewell Dean Mouton



TSU TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
Thurgood Marshall School of Law

After 30 Years of Service
Dean Virgie Mouton
is Retiring
Please join us in a
Virtual Celebration Zoom Reception
on Thursday, December 17th
at 11:30 a.m. **zoom** Meeting ID: 998 4306 6604
Passcode: 444905

Protected It, Improved It, Passing It On!





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STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Thurgood Law welcomes 3 new staff members



Mi Amy L. Ratra

Associate Dean for Student Services and Instructional Support

Mi Amy Ratra serves as the Associate Dean for Student Services and Instructional Support at Thurgood Marshall School of Law. Prior to joining Thurgood Marshall School of Law, Ms. Ratra served in various roles over twenty years in American and international public and private institutions, including Florida A&M University (FAMU) College of Law, Bryant University-BITZH program, University of Nottingham Ningbo, and Southwest University of Political Science and Law, China.

Ms. Ratra has a wide spectrum of experience in registration, academic services, student affairs, international programs, and assessment. Her outstanding services have been widely recognized. She is the recipient of the Spirit of Services Special Thanks Award 2013-2014 from FAMU College of Law Black Law Student Association. She had also received the Excellent University Senior Administrator Award by Ningbo City Council in 2008. She has been appraised as a distinguished staff member and innovative leader in the University of Nottingham Ningbo.

Ms. Ratra has an LL.M degree with Commendation in International Law from the University of Aberdeen, a Master Degree of Laws from Southwest University of Political Science and Law, China, and a B.A. degree in English Language and Education from Southwest Normal University, China.



Lauren Fedele

Admissions Coordinator

Lauren Fedele is a first-generation graduate of the University of Texas at Austin (UT), where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Geography and Urban Studies. After graduation, Lauren worked at UT Athletics as the Assistant Sustainability Coordinator, continuing her work as a student employee to enhance the university's sustainability goals. After a couple of years, Lauren switched career focus towards student advising, admissions, and program management by working at a study abroad company called WorldStrides. This is where Lauren's passion for helping students achieve their academic goals flourished. Lauren brings a wealth of knowledge and commitment to TMSL's Office of Admissions as the Admissions Coordinator.



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STAFF HIGHLIGHTS *cont'd*

Thurgood Law welcomes new staff members



Antoinette McCardell

Executive Assistant to the Executive Director of ECI

Antoinette McCardell is the Executive Assistant to the Earl Carl Institute for Legal & Social Policy Executive Director. Ms. McCardell is a local Houstonian who graduated from the University of Houston with a bachelor's in psychology. She is an ambitious and dedicated professional with 10+ years of experience providing comprehensive administrative and operational support for senior-level staff and department management. Throughout the course of her career, she has diligently used communication and collaboration to build effective work relationships and a productive professional work environment while driving optimal office efficiency and success. Ms. McCardell has extensive experience with administrative tasks such as identifying areas of process improvement, project management, event coordination, employee engagement, and ensuring adherence to organizational procedures and policies to ensure outstanding productivity and performance, all with an ownership mentality.

Ms. McCardell also holds a master's in Marriage and Family Therapy from Capella University, where she graduated with distinction and is a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist Associate in Texas. As a therapist, she has worked in disenfranchised communities and schools, disaster relief, and the domestic relations office to help reunite families. She cares deeply about helping those in need and mental health. In some of her spare time, she volunteers as a crisis counselor for an online support platform. She has extensive training in collaborative dialogical practices and uses this training professionally and personally to work with others to achieve goals and wellness.

Please join us in welcoming these 3 professionals to our Thurgood Law staff !!





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STUDENT NEWS

Student Spotlight: Brianna Stark



Brianna Antoinette Stark, TMSL class of 2022, is our January 2021 Thurgood Student Spotlight. Brianna has a sweet tooth for baking head-turning desserts while working toward her dream of becoming an attorney. Brianna started “Brianna’s Bakery” in May of 2020 during the pandemic. With the extra time on her hands, she decided to turn her personal love into a fun side hustle while in law school. Brianna is known by her family as “the family baker” and says she’s always enjoyed baking as it puts her in a happy place. Brianna bakes eye capturing desserts that are decorated beautifully for any theme the customer desires. Brianna has decorated skittles themed cakes, crown royal alcohol-themed cakes, various birthday cakes, and she’s great at making delicious bread such as brioche bread.

Not only does Brianna have a passion for baking, but she has also dreamed of being a prosecutor since she was a young girl. Summer 2020 Brianna interned at the Harris County District Attorney’s office; she says this internship allowed her to feel for the profession. Brianna plans to heat up the courtroom after law school, but she’s open to expanding her bakery businesses in retirement. Law school comes with its challenges, but Brianna finds a way to make time for her baking every week. Brianna said she usually requires a week’s notice on orders to carve out time in her school schedule to fulfill them.

Not only is Brianna balancing schoolwork and desserts, but she’s also an editor on the Thurgood Marshall Law Review, on the Mock Trial team, a Civil Procedure tutor, a member of the Board of Advocates, a member of Black Law Student Association, and a Lexis Nexis Student Associate. As you can see, Brianna loves being involved and says she found a healthy balance between working towards her lifelong dream of becoming a successful attorney and perfecting her craft. School is Brianna’s top priority, and she tries to put her best “food” forward in everything that she does, which rang true as she made the TMSL Dean’s List 2020.

Brianna credits her success to her hard work and dedication, and she believes every law student can manage a heavy workload and still be a successful student. Brianna says, “there are 24 hours in the day, and you get to choose how you use them. You can always find time for the things that you love, and I love baking. I LOVE decorating cakes and watching videos of people decorating desserts. I also LOVE law school. Yes, you read that right. I absolutely love law school. Find something that you love doing, and you’ll too be able to make money while doing it.”

Follow Brianna on Instagram @thebriannabakery and contact her via text to place an order (409)789-1481.



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STUDENT NEWS - Omar Vargas Bar Scholarship Winners



Wesley Okereke
First Place
\$2000

Undisclosed
Second Place
\$1500

Yesenia Rios
Third Place
\$750





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STUDENT NEWS - EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

THE EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

The Experiential Education Department congratulates the
Fall, 2020 Class of Certified Mediators.
Welcome to the Profession.



Jacqueline Bily
Sydney Brown
Tonjula Carey
Jordaon Coleman
Lauren Coler
William Crayton
Lauren Dorman
Daniela Fuentes
Gerardo Garcia
Darian Shonte Marie Hannah
Ronny Varughese George
Javier Gonzalez
D'Anthony Graham

Jeffrey Guyot
Stephanie Gutierrez
Keydra Jones
Lauren Jones
Shaquita D. Jones
Connor Ann Lasater
Tyler Lee
Ranjit Singh Lidhar
Morteza Karimi
Kayla Lattimore
Sydney Merrell
Ashton Moore
Sarbjit Nagi

Mariah Noyola
Cynthia Offordile
Laiza Palma
Nikita Parbhu
Landalynn Haley M. Ramirez
Elayne Robinson
Erica Johnson
Jose Salazar
Rashonda Shaw
Tasha Thomson
Tamika D. Temple
Trevon J. Watson
Michael Wong



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If you have any questions about the Experiential Education Department, please contact Associate Dean Stephanie Ledesma, Stephanie.Ledesma@tmslaw.tsu.edu

THE EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT,
Adjunct Professor Christopher Self, and 3L externship students
= 8 exonerations for 8 juvenile offenders.

CONGRATULATIONS Professor Self and the students of the Juvenile Lifers Without Parole Externship:

LeOtis Johnson	Tasha Byrd Thompson
Keydra Jones	Albert Treviño
Shay'la Lyles	Michelle Villagomez
Ayanna Pierre	Lindsay West

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EXPLORE THE PRACTICE

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, PLEASE CONTACT DEAN STEPHANIE LEDESMA, DEAN'S SUITE



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ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS ALUMNI IN THE NEWS

*Meredith Lilly TMSL Alumna and Senior Advisor to
Newly Appointed U.S. Senator Raphael Warnock.*



Historically Black Colleges and Universities inspire the nation after the success of their alumni in the 2020 election. Thurgood Law has a star of our own, Meredith Lilly, who is headed to the United States Senate in her new role as State Director for newly appointed Georgia Senator Raphael Warnock. Meredith graduated from Thurgood Law in 2005 and has since then been a trailblazer in politics, community organizing, and campaign strategy. She served as the Director of External Affairs for Dekalb County, Georgia, and worked as the Regional Political Director on the Obama for America Campaign in 2007. Meredith's success in these roles prepared her to take on Senator Warnock's senior advisor's role, who was sworn in on January 20, 2021.

Meredith says her experience on the campaign has been intense from the moment she joined the team. She says, "As much as this race was about winning for Georgians, it was about impacting and advancing our communities for generations to come. With the nation watching and arguably being on the world stage every day of this campaign which called for intentional and strategic actions to galvanize Georgians to the polls." Meredith did just that, as voter turnout was at an all-time high in Georgia this year, and the results of the election stirred conversation in the homes of many Americans. However, Senator Warnock made history as the first African American elected to the Senate from Georgia, and he is also an HBCU alum from Morehouse College.



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ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS ALUMNI IN THE NEWS CONT.



Meredith Lilly (cont.)

The 2020 election opened the door for many firsts, and Meredith says the election means equality and service to this country. “Georgia’s new Senatorial representation reflects Georgia. Senator Warnock is the 11th of 12 children raised in the deep south during one of the most transformative and challenging times in American history. Senator Warnock was raised in public housing in Savannah, Georgia, and he used education as a vehicle for a better tomorrow. Warnock is a true American story, and this election is reflective of the pursuit of equity and sustainable growth for all Georgians and Americans alike.”

Meredith is making her dream come true today, working to create more opportunities for her community. Meredith says Thurgood Law influenced her career path by ensuring that she was well equipped with foundational knowledge related to American history and laws. She says, “Thurgood gave me discipline and taught me to be tenacious and to be confident of who I am and the communities that I represent.” Meredith encourages all Thurgood Law students to find their why and sow into it. She says social capital coupled with good character will open doors you didn’t know existed, so be sure to invest your time in honing skills both academically and socially. “At every level you reach, do two things: 1. Be mentored, and 2. Reach back and pour into someone coming up the ranks,” says Meredith Lilly.





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ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

Alum, Victor Vital (class of 1995) named Thurgood's January Trailblazer.



Victor Vital is this month's trailblazer as he was recognized on Super Lawyers' cover for being a powerful litigator in Dallas. Vital graduated from Thurgood Law in 1995 summa cum laude; he's known for his diverse experience as a trial attorney from cases ranging in patent litigation, unfair competition, contract disputes, business tort cases, and so many others.

Vital says he is honored to be covered by Super Lawyers and is proud to see himself on the cover. "I feel gratified that my professional accomplishments led to this," says Vital. As a trial lawyer at Barnes and Thornburg LLP, clients turn to Vital to handle high-profile and high-stakes jury trials of virtually all types.

Vital believes that each case he's handled has incrementally led to the success and reputation that he now enjoys. Even though Vital has reached this high level of success, he's not done yet as he now has a goal to become an established legal commentator and correspondent on a national news TV channel. Vital credits his success to Thurgood Law, "I loved my experience at Thurgood, I loved my courses, and my experiences in mock trial and trial simulation, these experiences prepared me for my life as a trial lawyer," says Vital. He encourages Thurgood Law students to study hard and dream big and discover their passion and pursue it vigorously.





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ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS *cont.* ALUMNI IN THE NEWS

Alum, Jerome Mansour Karam (class of 1990): Developing Galveston County



Jerome M. Karam is a Thurgood Law alum who has his hands in real estate and personal injury law. His company is bringing family fun to Galveston county. Karam is the founder and operator of JMK5 Holdings LLC, a real estate development company constructing a 125,000 square foot family entertainment center called the Mainland City Centre, previously known as the Mall of the Mainland. Karam graduated from TMSL in 1990 and originally began his career in personal injury law, which he still practices today. Still, over the years, he chose to follow his lifelong passion for real estate development. Karam is

known around Galveston county to buy old and vacated buildings and lots of lands and repurpose them. Karam believes that “we have to turn properties into businesses that feed a lot of space.” This enticed him to purchase the Mall of the Mainland and turn it into a large center for family entertainment. The center will house a trampoline park, race car track, skating rink, 150 video games including virtual reality games, ziplining, a ropes course, and six restaurants will cater to it. Karam said, “retail is dead, which is why the mall closed; for this to be successful, I have to repurpose it into an entertainment center.” Karam says it’s important for kids to exercise and play so that kids can form a sense of community, which he hopes to bring back to Galveston county. The Mainland City Centre is set to be the largest family entertainment center in Texas. The center will open in mid-February, and the restaurants will open in the spring.

Not only is Karam interested in family fun, but he’s also developing a gym called “Worlds Gym,” which will offer family discounts for Thurgood Law students and alumni. Karam is repurposing an old YMCA at 610 and 45 into a modern gym, opening the first week of April. Karam says he will also offer discounts to Thurgood Law students and alumni that plan to visit Mainland City Centre in Texas City.

Karam credits his real estate success and legal success to Thurgood Law. Thurgood gave him a chance when no other school would. “Thurgood taught me to be grittier and to fight with a chip on my shoulder,” says Karam. He encourages current Thurgood Law students to work hard and be open to all career opportunities from a legal degree. Karam says, “my law degree has opened doors that I wouldn’t have been able to open without it.” His love for Thurgood Law encourages him to offer discounts and incentives to Thurgood Law alumni and students to visit his developments and what always pushes him to give back to Thurgood Law continually.



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ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS *Cont'd.* ALUMNI ON THE MOVE

Governor Abbott Appoints Thurgood Law alums Toni Jackson and Kimberly Phillips To Texas Medical Board District One Review Committee

Governor Greg Abbott has appointed two (2) of Thurgood Law's brightest alumnae, Antoinette "Toni" Jackson and Kimberly Phillips, to the Texas Medical Board District One Review Committee. Jackson's term is set to expire on January 15, 2022, while Phillips' term is set to expire on January 15, 2026.



Antoinette "Toni" Jackson of Houston is an attorney and Principal for the Banks Law Firm. She is a member of the Texas Affiliation of Affordable Housing Providers, Urban Land Institute, Texas Southern University Foundation, Thurgood Marshall School of Law Alumni Board, and Houston Habitat for Humanity. Jackson received a Bachelor of Arts in History from the University of Virginia and a Juris Doctor degree from the Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University.



Kimberly Phillips of Houston is the General Counsel for Global Litigation at Shell Oil Company. She is a member of the National Bar Association, Houston Bar Association, State Bar of Texas, and the Institute for Energy Law and a former director and alumni for the Texas Lyceum Association. She serves on the Board of Directors for the International Institute for Conflict Prevention and Resolution (CPR). Phillips received a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice Administration from Central Missouri State University and a Juris Doctor degree from the Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University.

Congratulations on your new appointments !!



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ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS *Cont'd.* ALUMNI ON THE MOVE

Blank Rome Welcomes Thurgood Law Alumna Krystal Studavent Ramsey— New Director of Diversity and Inclusion

Thurgood Law alumna **Krystal Studavent Ramsey** joined Blank Rome as the firm's Director of Diversity and Inclusion, further advancing Blank Rome's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion ("DEI"). Krystal brings 11 years of DEI experience in the legal industry and is based in Blank Rome's Houston office.

In her role at Blank Rome, Krystal will work closely with the Diversity and Inclusion Committee, affinity groups, Firm management, and others to create, lead, and implement the Firm's strategic long-term and short-term DEI plans and to assess and refine plans as needed over time; to further foster an inclusive climate where everyone at Blank Rome experiences a sense of belonging and connectivity; to establish fair and equitable processes and policies that advance DEI; to coach on DEI; to serve as a DEI brand ambassador, internally and externally; to partner with and consult clients on DEI plans, initiatives, and programs; and to advocate for Blank Rome's diverse population.

"I am excited to join Blank Rome as its Director of Diversity and Inclusion, especially at such a pivotal time in our world," said Studavent Ramsey. "This is an amazing opportunity to work with such an incredibly dedicated law firm, known for its foundation of DEI, and its attorneys and business professionals in driving and advancing DEI to make sustainable change and positive impact throughout our Firm, the legal industry, the communities we serve, and beyond." Grant Palmer, Blank Rome's Managing Partner, and CEO said, "Krystal is a highly accomplished and respected leader with a unique combination of legal and DEI experience." Palmer further stated that, "we are thrilled that she has joined us and are confident that her experience and dedicated focus on DEI will further advance the tremendous work of Sophia Lee and our Diversity and Inclusion Committee—particularly during this challenging time—in supporting our Firm, colleagues, clients, and the communities in which we live and work."

Krystal has notably focused her career on DEI. She recently served as a senior legal consultant at Axiom—the world's largest and leading contingent legal talent company. She also served as director of strategy and operations for the Diverse Attorney Pipeline Program ("DAPP"), a national nonprofit committed to developing and placing first-year women of color law students. Before her roles at Axiom and DAPP, Krystal served in senior-level DEI and business development roles for Norton Rose Fulbright, Bliss Lawyers, and Management Leadership for Tomorrow. She also served as general counsel and senior vice president of business affairs at Music World Entertainment.

Krystal has been active in several professional organizations, including The Downtown Group, the Houston Association of Women Attorneys, the National Bar Association – Women Lawyers Section, and the State Bar of Texas African American Lawyers Section. She is also active in the community, working with organizations such as the American Heart Association and Habitat for Humanity. She is a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated.

Krystal received a B.S. in Social Justice, with a minor in English, from Texas Southern University and a J.D. from Texas Southern University Thurgood Marshall School of Law ranked as one of the most diverse law schools in the country. She also recently received a Diversity and Inclusion Certificate from Cornell University.



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FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

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TMSL Faculty. Doing Great Things.

SpearIt scores a scholarly win with publisher, University of California Press! Stay tuned for soon-to-be-released book, *Muslim Prisoner Litigation: An Unsung American Tradition*.

"This work fills an important gap in scholarship that will strengthen TSU's standing as a premier research institution and advance TMSL's reputation for excellence among law schools and law school faculties. UC Press is by far one of the top, academic publishers around. To date, this is my biggest accomplishment as a law professor. I'm excited about how this body of work will impact Texas Southern, Thurgood Marshall School of Law and the profession." SpearIt, Professor of Law



SpearIt
PROFESSOR OF LAW
Thurgood Marshall School of Law

 UNIVERSITY of CALIFORNIA PRESS


EXPLORE FACULTY EXCELLENCE

THE EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

The Experiential Education Department would like to
CONGRATULATE

Attorney Myrna Guidry on her recent appointment to Houston Independent School District Board of Trustees.

Attorney Guidry serves as an adjunct professor, teaching Mediation. To date, Professor Guidry has certified more than 120 3L students as Certified Mediators.



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THE EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

The Experiential Education Department would like to
CONGRATULATE

Adjunct Professor Vy Thuan Nguyen on her first legal scholarship publication, "A Practical Overview of U.S. Immigration Removal Proceedings, Administrative Agencies and Respondent's Forms of Relief," *North Carolina Central Law Review*, 2020.

Professor Nguyen has served as an adjunct in Professional Responsibility and continues to serve as an adjunct for the Immigration Law Clinic, Trial Simulation and the LLM Program.



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TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

IN MEMORIAM

Toni Jackson (class of 1991) mourns the passing of her mother, Elizabeth Marinda Jackson.



Elizabeth Marinda Jackson, 81, passed on January 15, 2021, in Greenville, South Carolina. She lived an amazing life and will forever be fondly remembered for her great cooking, positive spirit, and true love of family; attributes that she undoubtedly passed on to her daughter, Toni. Further described as an “angel” to young women in her community, Mrs. Jackson will be missed. The Thurgood Law family sends our deepest condolences to all of the Jackson family.

Sindy Santiago (Class of 2016) grieves the loss of her mother, Synthia Calderon Scanu.



It is with great sadness to announce the passing of Sindy Santiago’s mom, **Synthia Calderon Scanu**, who gained her wings on January 8, 2021. We know this is a hard time for Sindy to lose someone who gave her so much to remember as she loved life and life loved her back, so please join the Thurgood Law family in sending our deepest condolences and prayers to the Santiago family.

Joanne Nwaogu (Class of 2017) mourns the loss of her father, Emmanuel Nwaogu.



The Thurgood Law family shares in the sadness and expresses our condolences to Joanne Nwaogu for the loss of her father, **Emmanuel Nwaogu**, who left this earth on January 13, 2021. Mr. Nwaogu, of Nigeria, came to America to make a better life for his family and notably instilled much pride in his family. May his loving memory provide comfort to the Nwaogu family during this time of loss.



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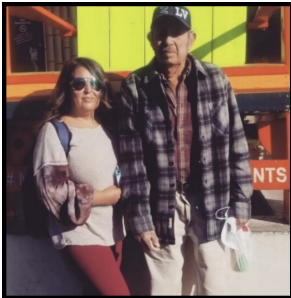
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MEMORIAM *Cont'd.*

In loving memory of Deacon Alex Sanford Jr.—father of Mattie Chadwick.

Deacon Alex Sanford, Jr., 92, the father of our very own Senior Administrative Assistant Mattie Chadwick, passed away on Monday, January 11, 2021. He was laid to rest on Saturday, January 16, 2021, in Wharton, TX. The Thurgood Law family extends our sincerest condolences to the Sanford and Chadwick families

Gloria Suarez' father, Lorenzo Suarez Vidauri is laid to rest.



It is with great sadness and deepest condolences that we announce the passing of ECI's Community Engagement Specialist Gloria Suarez' father, **Lorenzo Suarez Vidauri**. Mr. Suarez Vidauri was laid to rest on January 7, 2021 in South Houston, TX. Thurgood Law sends our deepest condolences to the Suarez Family.

Leslie Coleman's mom, Mrs. Josephine Hill Coleman, gains her wings.



It is with heavy hearts that we report the passing of Thurgood Law's Senior Administrative Assistant Leslie Coleman's mom, **Josephine Hill Coleman**. A woman of God, affectionately called Mother Hill Coleman, passed on January 5, 2021 and was laid to rest on January 12, 2021. Please keep the Coleman family in your prayers.



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OUR STORY

*The History of the
Thurgood Marshall
School of Law*



COFFEE TABLE BOOK

RESEARCHED AND PRODUCED BY
Urban Research and Resource Center
Texas Southern University

Pre-Order sales are \$125.00

Order before December 31, 2020 (\$100 is tax-deductible)

Regular sales are \$150.00

(\$125 is tax-deductible)

PAYMENT OPTIONS:

Make a secure online payment via credit card

<https://giving.tsu.edu/thurgood-law-our-story-coffee-table-book/>

Text "TMSLOurStory" to **41444**

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Mail to: Thurgood Marshall School of Law

Attn: Our Story Legacy Project

3100 Cleburne Street • Houston, Texas 77004

Memo: Our Story Legacy Project



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TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

Upcoming Symposiums and Continuing Legal Education

*Texas Southern University Announces National Conference on
Police Misconduct & Qualified Immunity: Reimagining "We the People"*

TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

POLICE MISCONDUCT & QUALIFIED IMMUNITY:
REIMAGINING "WE THE PEOPLE"

Co-Presented with Texas Southern University, Thurgood Marshall School of Law (TMSL), the Earl Carl Institute for Legal & Social Policy (ECI), and the Center for Justice Research

Symposium Date: **FEBRUARY 4, 2021**

[REGISTER NOW](#)

MCLE 7.0 | Ethics 2.0

CENTER for JUSTICE RESEARCH
TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR JUSTICE
The Association for Trial Lawyers

THE AAJ
ROBERT L. HABUSH
ENDOWMENT

TSU
TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
Thurgood Marshall School of Law
Earl Carl Institute for Legal & Social Policy, Inc.

The killing of George Floyd on May 25, 2020, at the hands of Minneapolis police officers, sparked nationwide protests and rekindled the national debate concerning the use and misuse of physical violence by law enforcement officers in Black communities. It also reinforced the need for greater police accountability. The public also raised concerns about the manner in which officers responded to these public protests, primarily led by black protestors. Most recently on January 6, 2021, insurrectionists violently protested and Americans looked on while majority white protestors committed blatant acts of violence against law enforcement and were allowed to gain access to our nation's Capitol in their attempt to interrupt the Electoral College vote count during a joint session of Congress. The public has raised concerns that these insurrectionists were met with unreasonably low levels of resistance by law enforcement when compared to the violent behavior and prejudicial attitudes displayed by some law enforcement officers who responded to protestors in the wake of George Floyd's death and the killing of other unarmed Black people. In observance of Black History Month, Thurgood Marshall School of Law ("Thurgood Law") will examine the long-lasting effect of police violence on families, remedies for people injured by police violence and how protestors should be treated given First Amendment Protections, including a review of the inequitable treatment of black protestors throughout U.S. history.

Please join us on Thursday, February 4, 2021, from 9:00am-5:00pm, as Texas Southern University's Thurgood Law, in partnership with The Earl Carl Institute for Legal & Social Policy, Inc., the Thurgood Marshall Law Review and the TSU Center for Justice Research co-present a virtual national conference, sponsored by the American Association for Justice Robert L. Habush Endowment, entitled, Police Misconduct & Qualified Immunity: Reimagining "We the People." This conference provides a timely, relevant, and much-needed discussion on the disproportionate use of force by police in interactions with black people and the disparate treatment of black protestors in the United States.



THURGOOD THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW TODAY

TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

Upcoming Symposiums and Continuing Legal Education

*Texas Southern University Announces National Conference on
Police Misconduct & Qualified Immunity: Reimagining “We the People”*



Keynote Speaker: Attorney Sherrilyn Ifill

Per *Thurgood Law Dean and Professor Joan R.M. Bullock*, “The permissive and at times, supportive, response of Capitol police to the breach of the nation’s Capitol on January 6, 2021 by a violent, predominantly white mob has been broadcast by the news media and on social media for all to see. Media and others have begun to comment on what Black America has long pointed out and continues to fight against: that skin color is a primary determinant of how police generally respond to persons on matters of law and order. The event of January 6 and the unfolding repercussions to those involved in the Capitol riot that day, provide context in sharp visual focus, for what will be a spirited discussion by panel members on the disparate treatment of blacks in the United States.”

The conference keynote speaker will be Attorney Sherrilyn Ifill, law professor, president and director-counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund. The day-long virtual conference will include special presentations, a virtual exhibition hall and a dynamic lineup of panel discussions exploring:

- *The Criminal Justice System: “George Floyd Bill” & Qualified Immunity: The state of police accountability given qualified immunity, police unions and protections in policing contracts*
- *The Anatomy of §1983 Litigation: Best practices in successful civil rights litigation*
- *The Future of First Amendment Protests Protections: Examining the Use of Brutality on Those Fighting Against Violence: The future of First Amendment protection considering the disparate treatment given black protestors*
- *The U.S. Constitution: Reimagining “We the People” as an Inclusive Construct: The inclusiveness of the evolving constructs of the “We” in the Constitution’s “We the People”*

To complement the symposium, The Bridge: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Legal & Social Policy, will publish a special issue journal with articles on topics related to the issues raised in this conference. For information about submitting an article to the journal, contact Lucinda Daniels at Lucinda.daniels@tmslaw.tsu.edu. Register for this virtual conference at <http://eci.pub/ReimaginingWethePeople>.



THURGOOD THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW TODAY

TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

Upcoming Symposiums and Continuing Legal Education

CONVERSATION SERIES

SPONSORED BY THE OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

"BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR BUSINESS IN AFRICA" PART 1

CELEBRATING
MARTIN LUTHER KING'S DAY AND
HONORING BLACK HISTORY MONTH
THROUGH REPRESENTATION, IDENTITY AND DIVERSITY

TUESDAY, JANUARY 26TH
10:00 AM – 1:30 PM (CST)

#1 PANEL DISCUSSION

EXPERIENCES DOING BUSINESS IN AFRICA:
FROM STARTUP TO CORPORATE INVESTMENTS

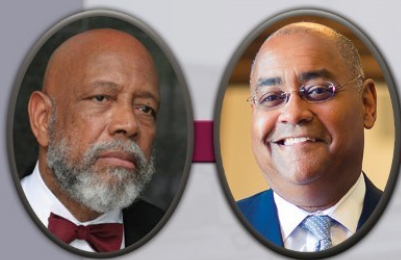
MODERATOR: DR. GREGORY MADDOX

#2 PANEL DISCUSSION

BUSINESS COLLABORATION BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS
BETWEEN AFRICA AND AMERICA



10th ANNUAL



February 25, 2021
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.



"Creating a New Vision for
Legal & Social Justice"

TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW
3100 Cleburne Street, Houston, Texas 77004

Honorable Craig Washington & Honorable Rodney Ellis EXCELLENCE IN INDIGENT DEFENSE SERIES

Location: Via Zoom Webinar ZOOM

Zoom information given upon registration.

Pricing: Attorneys (Private Practice): \$50

Government Attorneys: \$25

Judges: Free

Public Defenders: Free

Non-Attorneys- Free

Tentative Topics:

- Covid and Criminal Law Practice
- Federal Criminal Defense in the Era of Covid
- Zoom Proceedings and Etiquette/Zoom Bail Reduction
- Holistic Indigent Criminal Defense
- Psychological Evaluation of Your Client
- Veteran Representation

6 MCLE credits ★ 1.5 Ethics credits ★ Register online at: <https://10thannualindigentdefensewebinar.eventbrite.com>



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and
Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association
Criminal Defense Lawyers Project



Questions? Zahra Buck Whitfield, Esq. Associate Director • Earl Carl Institute for Legal & Social Policy • 713-313-1177 (office) • Zahra.whitfield@tmslaw.tsu.edu



THURGOOD THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW TO DAY

TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

Continuing Legal Education

Evictions: Know Your Rights
 Friday, October 16, 2020
 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm
 Speaker: Richard Amagwula, Staff Attorney, ECI
 EVICTION NOTICE MCLE: 1.0

TSU TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
 Thurgood Marshall School of Law

JOIN VIA ZOOM go to: <https://bit.ly/ECICovid19Law>
 Complimentary CLE, donations welcome.

The Earl Carl Institute presents
 "Practicing Law During Coronavirus: Best Practices Series"
 All virtual courses will be presented four (4) consecutive Fridays at 4:00 pm

Estate Planning: Coronavirus Considerations
 Friday, October 23, 2020
 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm
 Speaker: Lisa Nelsen, Staff Attorney, ECI

MCLE: 1.0 Ethics: .50

zoom Complimentary CLE, donations welcome
 To register, go to: <https://bit.ly/ECICovid19Law>

The Earl Carl Institute for Legal & Social Policy, Inc. hosts
Criminal Law: What Every Criminal Practitioner Should Know
 Corona Virus Series
 Friday, October 30, 2020
 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
 MCLE 1.0 Ethics .50

Armen Marjanian Attorney

JOIN VIA ZOOM To attend, please register at:
<https://bit.ly/ECICovid19Law>

Complimentary CLE, donations welcome

2020 VIRTUAL GUMBO CLE

12 to 1 pm Felicia Kerney & Scott Wells Nondisclosures
 1 to 2 pm Cynthia Woolen Allen Temporary Orders Preparation
 2 to 3 pm Stefanee Davis Overview of Juvenile Issues
 3 to 4 pm Shannon Holmes How to practice Sports & Entertainment Law

Moderator: The Honorable Valencia Nash

Friday October 23, 2020
 12:00 noon - 4:00 pm
 MCLE - 4.00
 Ethics - 1.0

JOIN VIA ZOOM
 Register in advance for this meeting:
 To register go to:
https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN_AxFgiq8ASferMywhSwkFPA

Complimentary CLE
 Donations are welcome at:
http://www.tsulaw.edu/alumni/Annual_Fund.html

Thurgood Marshall School of Law & the Sports & Entertainment Law Society present:
SPORTS LAW

Jalene Mack, Clay Allen, Hannah Gordon, Kenneth N. Harris, Chelsea Townsend, Andrew Eigel, Demaka Fields, Dan Wearly

MCLE: 1.50 Ethics: .25
 Cost: Complimentary
 To make a donation, text 'SELS' to 41444

Thursday, October 29, 2020
 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm CST

JOIN VIA ZOOM

To register: https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN_RGMdr9wjRt22n3V5_eEew

The Earl Carl Institute for Legal & Social Policy, Inc. presents
Family Law: The Impact of Coronavirus on Child Visitation

Nicole Bates, Hon. Angela Graves-Harrington, Dan Scarbrough, Johnna Teal

Friday, November 6, 2020 ★ 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
 MCLE 1.0 Ethics .25

zoom To attend, please register at: <https://bit.ly/ECICovid19Law>

Complimentary CLE, donations welcome

If you missed our most recent CLE courses, no worries!!
 Go to www.tmslcle.com to view.
 All of these courses are complimentary; however, donations are welcome.



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TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY



THURGOOD ALUMNI

PROTECT IT
IMPROVE IT
PASS IT ON

TSU

TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

Thurgood Marshall School of Law

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