



THURGOOD THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW TODAY

TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2019

*Texas Southern University
Thurgood Marshall School of Law*

Welcomes our First Female Dean

Joan R. M. Bullock



YOUR MONTHLY THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW ELECTRONIC NEWS & INFORMATION SOURCE FROM
THE OFFICE OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS * ASSISTANT DEAN PRUDENCE SMITH * EMAIL: prsmith@tmslaw.tsu.edu

(713) 313-1197 * 3100 Cleburne Street, Houston, Texas 77004 *



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TMSL Welcomes New Dean

Joan R.M. Bullock



After an extensive nationwide search, the Texas Southern University Board of Regents appointed Joan R. M. Bullock as the 10th Dean of Thurgood Marshall School of Law. Dean Bullock is the first female Dean in the law school's 73 year history. Dean Bullock's appointment follows the two year interim appointment of Texas NAACP president and acting Dean Gary L. Bledsoe. Dean Bullock will serve as the school's chief academic, fiscal, and administrative officer and her responsibilities include leading and managing law school operations, developing and refining a vision for the future of the school, fund-raising, and cultivating and sustaining relationships and strong partnerships with alumni of the law school and University.

Dean Bullock, who earned her J.D. from the University of Toledo and is a graduate of Michigan State University, has over 30 years of law school experience as an educator and administrator. This experience includes her time at Florida A&M University College of Law where she was a senior founding faculty member of the re-established school. She served as a Professor, Interim Director of Admissions and Recruitment, Associate Dean for Teaching and Faculty Development, and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. Additionally, Dean Bullock is a licensed attorney in the state of Michigan, a certified public accountant, and holds an MBA from the University of Michigan Stephen M. Ross School of Business. She has held positions at The University of Toledo College of Law, Georgia State University School of Law, Coopers & Lybrand, LLP and has worked as a solo practitioner. Most recently, Dean Bullock served as the President and Dean of the Thomas Jefferson School of Law in San Diego, California.

Dean Bullock hit the ground running in her new leadership role at TMSL. One of her top priorities is advancing TMSL's progress toward full compliance with the ABA. She has said, "I am privileged to lead TMSL in demonstrating full compliance with ABA standards and advancing the law school's mission as a school of inclusion and opportunity. Thurgood Marshall School of Law must continue its impressive and inspiring legacy of producing leaders in law, business, and public service." Having faced the ABA on behalf of Thomas Jefferson School of Law, Dean Bullock understands the challenges and adversities that TMSL faces all too well. The Dean's experience at Thomas Jefferson School of Law will be instrumental in addressing those challenges and adversities.

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Thurgood Alumni Trailblazers



Hon. Jason Pulliam First African American U.S. District Judge—Western District (TX)

On August 9, 2019, TMSL alumnus Jason K. Pulliam was sworn in as the first African American federal judge to serve the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas. A class of 2000 graduate, Judge Pulliam has had a notable legal career in the state of Texas. Following graduation from Thurgood Marshall School of Law, he served as a Commissioned Officer in the U.S. Marines as a Staff Judge Advocate. After his military service he worked as a private attorney. Judge Pulliam began his judicial career in 2011 when he served as Judge for the Bexar County Court at Law No.5. In 2015 he was appointed as the first African American male to serve as Justice on the Texas Fourth District Court of Appeals.

Congratulations on your federal appointment Judge Pulliam!!



Hon. Danny Kindred appointed to the 454th Judicial Court

Former District Attorney Danny Kindred has been appointed Judge of the 454th Judicial Court in Medina County by Governor Greg Abbott. In addition to serving as a D.A., Kindred, a December 1999 graduate of TMSL, has also served as an A.D.A. in Bexar County. Judge Kindred is a retired Army Reserves Captain who served in Iraq in 2008 for a one year deployment. During his service, he was awarded a combat action badge and a Bronze Star. Judge Kindred is also a former Judge Advocate General Corps Officer and a Master Peace Officer. Judge Kindred's appointment started on September 1, 2019 and his term lasts until December 31, 2020 or until his successor shall be duly elected.

Congratulations on your appointment to the 454th Judicial Court Judge Kindred!!



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Welcome Reception For Dean Joan R.M. Bullock





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2019 ADVANCED FAMILY LAW: TMSL LUNCHEON HONORING OUR FAMILY LAW JUDGES





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Welcome Reception For Dean Joan R.M. Bullock cont.





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2019 ADVANCED FAMILY LAW: TMSL HOSTED HOSPITALITY SUITE





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WELCOME CLASS OF 2022!



TMSL Class of 2022 Profile:

Median LSAT: 144

Median UGPA: 3.03

Median Age: 26

of Undergraduate Institutions: 77

of Students With Advanced Degrees: 18

Ethnic Demographics:

Asian/Pacific Islander = 6%

African-American = 59%

Caucasian = 8%

Hispanic = 26%

Unknown = 1%





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FACULTY NEWS



L. Darnell Weeden, Associate Dean of Research & Faculty Development, Roberson King Professor of Law accepted an offer from The Brigham Young Journal of Public Law to publish his article, "Freedom of Association, Extreme Partisan Gerrymandering and the Unmistakable Political Question." The BYU Journal of Public Law Editorial Board found Weeden's article well-written, timely, and interesting.

The editorial board also found the article's topic to be unique and its substance well analyzed. The editorial board feels that Weeden's article will be an important contribution to its understanding of public law. The Journal plans to publish the article in its Fall 2019 issue.

Professor Peter V. Marchetti's article titled, Amending the Flaws in the Safe Harbors of the Bankruptcy Code: Guarding Against Systemic Risk in the Financial Markets and Adding Stability to the System, 31 EMORY BANKR. DEV. J. 305 (2015), was recently cited in the following law review article written and published by Professor Simin Gao of Tsinghua University School of Law in China: Legal Pluralism and Isomorphism in Global Financial Regulation: The Case of OTC Derivative Counterparty Risk Regulation in China, 51 GEO. WASH. INT'L L. REV. 145 (2019).



Adjunct Professor D'Andra Shu accepted an offer of publication from The Second Draft for a piece she wrote with our former colleague, Katherine Vukadin, entitled "Catching On: How Post-Critique Assessments Deepen Understanding and Improve

Legal Writing." The authors explain that individualized assessment of student papers is one of the most important tasks legal writing professors undertake, but the work is wasted if students do not absorb the critique. The piece offers tools that legal writing professors can use to help students better absorb professor comments on their papers and carry forward those lessons to the next assignment. The piece will appear in the Fall 2019 edition of The Second Draft.





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FACULTY NEWS cont.



Professor Walter Champion and Associate Director of the Law Library & Adjunct Professor Danyahel Norris coauthored an article entitled, 'Hawaiian Zen' vs. 'Beltway Paranoia': The Legal Ethical Difference Under Obama in Disseminating Information, was recently published in the *Appalachian Journal of Law*, 18 *Appalachian J.L.* 101 (2019). The primary goal of the article was to point out how Obama's personal philosophy was influenced by the concept of Hawaiian Zen, and how it influenced his policy making decisions. The article also contrasted the approach to the policies created during the Obama Era to the typical practices of Washington D.C., which is commonly referred to as the Beltway.



For more information on faculty highlights please visit: http://www.tsulaw.edu/faculty/2019-20_spotlights/TMSL_Spotlight_October_1_%202019%20Edition.pdf



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STAFF NEWS



Assistant Director of Academic Success and Bar Readiness Lisa DeLaTorre, presented at the Thurgood Marshall School of Law Fall 2019 Faculty Lecture Series regarding Texas's transition from the state law-specific bar exam to the Uniform Bar Exam (UBE) on September 11. The last state law-specific bar exam in Texas will be administered in July 2020, and the UBE will be administered in Texas from February 2021 onward. Texas will begin accepting transferred UBE scores from examinees who took the UBE in other states beginning in December 2019.

This means that some TMSL 2020 graduates might benefit from traveling out of state to take the UBE, and transferring the score to Texas for admission based on that transferred UBE score. For others, taking the state law-specific Texas bar exam in Texas in July 2020 might be the right decision. Ms. DeLaTorre focused on the importance of students making a thoughtful, considered decision, rather than assuming that one choice is best for all 2020 graduates. She emphasized that it is a very individual decision, that students should consider many factors including:

- The geographic location of the student's family or other support network;
- Whether a student is partnered, has children enrolled in Texas schools, or otherwise has deep roots in Texas;
- Whether the student has employment offers, where licensure is required for those offers, and whether they are willing to relocate to accept a dream job;
- A student's relative strengths on the component tests of the Texas state law-specific bar exam compared to the component tests of the UBE;
- A student's tolerance for risk, given that admission based on the UBE score will also require completion of a Texas Law Component, which is presently undefined, and there may be other fees or administrative hurdles to admission based on a transferred UBE score.

DeLaTorre discussed a few geographically close jurisdictions, and the fees for taking those bar exams. She emphasized that any student considering going out of state for the UBE should confirm their eligibility to sit by contacting the jurisdiction's board of law examiners directly.

DeLaTorre discussed the component tests of the UBE—two thirds of which are a part of the current Texas state law-specific bar exam—and their weight in the overall UBE score. She discussed that the Texas Supreme Court had ordered the UBE task force to create and implement the Texas Law Component by June 1, 2020, but that no additional information regarding the Texas Law Component is available for now. Still, because the goal of the Uniform Bar Exam is to provide the examinee with a portable score to use for admission in any UBE jurisdiction, it seems unlikely that the Texas Law Component would be a difficult hurdle for non-Texas educated graduates seeking admission in Texas based on a UBE score. That is, an overly-rigorous Texas Law Component would negate the UBE's purpose of providing a portable score for bar admission.



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STAFF NEWS cont.

Ken Moore Appointed to LSAC Committee



Kenyon Moore was appointed to serve a 2 year term on LSAC's Diversity Equity & Inclusion committee by his admissions peers. This appointment is very significant in the fact that this committee has programs that effect all areas of admissions for candidates. The Diversity Equity & Inclusion committee serves a vital role to member law school and the future of the legal profession. Some of the committees goals include Expanding opportunities for underrepresented groups, expanding community college programs and services, producing retention and pipeline conferences, and continued support for the Council of Legal Education (CLEO) and American Indian Law Centers Pre-Law summer institute. So, please feel free to share your concerns about Diversity in legal education with Mr. Moore so he can take it back to the committee as they come up with solutions for member law schools.





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STUDENT NEWS

TMSL Students obtain prestigious Summer Internships



Priscilla Mendoza, class of 2020, was selected as a 2019 Rural Summer Legal Corp Fellow. Legal Services Corporation (LSC) partners with Equal Justice Works to support students with a desire to serve rural and isolated communities across the United States and U.S. territories. Mendoza spent ten weeks conducting outreach, meeting with clients in remote areas and building capacity at the organizations where they serve. Mendoza was hosted by the Texas Rio Grand Legal Aid in Mercedes, Texas. She was tasked with helping the organization's Farmworker Team on employment law matters affecting migrant and seasonal agricultural workers.



Jessica Lowery, class of 2020, was chosen as a law clerk to serve in the Arkansas Attorney General's Office for the first summer session. Arkansas Attorney General Leslie Rutledge welcomed only five students to serve in this prestigious position. As a law clerk, Lowery worked in various departments assisting with legal research, drafting motions and legal documents. Lowery also accompanied lawyers at trials, client meetings and hearings while serving as a clerk in the Public Protection Department.



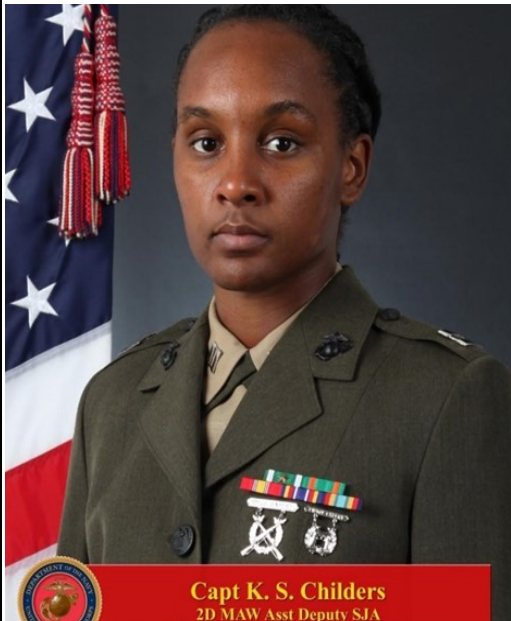


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STUDENT NEWS cont.

THURGOOD STUDENT TRAILBLAZERS



Captain Kay Childers, a 3L, is committed to service. A native of Oregon, Capt. Childers moved up the ranks in the Marine Corps and became a 2-star general before entering law school. She has continued to serve during her summers. As a 1L she interned at the Pentagon, where she worked on a range of criminal cases. This past summer she worked as general/in-house counsel for the entire east coast where she oversaw 75,000 marines! Capt. Childers is a great example of *#OneTMSL* as she is often a motivating presence in our school and is fond of saying “*Your success depends on me and my success depends on you.*”

In addition to her many responsibilities, Capt. Childers serves as Treasurer for the Veterans Law Student Association and a LexisNexis Representative.

Captain Childers, THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!





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STUDENT NEWS cont.

Student Spotlight: Shalisa Brunson



Hometown: Philadelphia, PA

Graduating Class: 2020

Undergraduate Institution: Fox School of Business, Temple University

Major: International Business & Legal Studies

Degree: Bachelor of Business Administration

Jobs/Internships: I currently work in TMSL's Family Law Clinic and during my 2L year I worked at the Earl Carl Institute as a Clinician for the Opal Mitchell Lee Property Preservation Project. During my 1L summer I interned with Judge Mia Roberts Perez at the Criminal Justice Center in Philadelphia. After my 2L year I was accepted as a Martin Luther King, Jr. Summer Intern for the Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network. Prior to law school I worked for a mid-size law firm in Philadelphia as a Legal Assistant and then I transitioned to the Social Security Administration.

Why Law School? I have always wanted to go to law school! My path to law school was a little delayed but it was always in my plans. Attorneys are very much needed in the community I grew up in and similar communities across the country. I want to have the capacity to educate people from my community on multiple areas of the law.

Memorable Experience: I have so many memorable experiences and the thing that makes these experiences so memorable are the people. I have met some really wonderful people in my time at TMSL. Every year I make great memories from 1L orientation to 2L pinning and of course I can't wait for our hooding ceremony in May 2020!

9 months after graduation: Of course I am going to take and pass the Pennsylvania Bar in July 2020. 9 months from graduation will be February 2021 and I will probably take the UBE test. In between the July 2020 test and the February 2021 test I plan to secure employment in my hometown and take a much needed vacation.





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ALUMNI NEWS

E. Leon Carter named 2019 Trial Lawyer of the Year



Congratulations to **Edgar Leon Carter**, TMSL class of 1986, on being named the *Dallas Bar Association 2019 Trial Lawyer of the Year*. Carter is well known in Dallas both for his effective work in the courtroom and his generous support of the community and the legal profession.

Carter began his law career as an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Texas, and later became a Dallas County Assistant District Attorney. Following the DA's Office, Carter joined Jackson Walker, L.L.P. There, he became an equity partner in the litigation section. Today, Carter is the principal and a founding partner of Carter Arnett.

His experience includes representing plaintiffs and defendants in the areas of commercial litigation, products liability, patent litigation, First Amendment, labor and employment, and redistricting. He has appeared in a variety of state and federal courts and has tried more than 100 civil and criminal cases to a jury.

Carter is a member of the International Society of Barristers, the American College of Trial Lawyers, and the Litigation Counsel of America. He has served as an adjunct professor at SMU's Dedman School of Law and The

University of Texas at Arlington. Among many other honors, Carter has been named a Thomson Reuters Texas Super Lawyer, included in Levine Leichtman Capital Partners' Best Lawyers in America, and named as one of Lawdragon's 500 Leading Lawyers in America.

Leon and his wife Debra have been consistent and extraordinarily generous supporters of the Dallas community. The Carters are long-time supporters of the DVAP Equal Access to Justice Campaign. Carter calls his family's support of the EAJ Campaign to be part of a spiritual mandate to help the less fortunate. Carter is also a Life Fellow of the Dallas Bar Foundation.

Carter's community service also includes volunteering on the boards of Vickery Learning Center, Camp John Marc, the Martin Luther King Center, the Volunteer Center of Dallas, and Big Brothers, Big Sisters. Carter has been recognized for his community service in a number of ways, including being honored as recipient of the DBA's 2011 Martin Luther King, Jr. Justice Award.

Carter has also served the Dallas Bar Association in numerous capacities, including time as DBA Director and serving on committees pertaining to the judiciary and unauthorized practice of law, to name a few. His service extends to the state level as well, through his service with the Litigation Council of the State Bar of Texas, and as a State Bar director for District 6.

Carter was honored on September 26, 2019, at the DBA Bench Bar Conference held at the Horseshoe Bay Resort.



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ALUMNI NEWS cont.

Alumni on the Move

TMSL Alum Jonathan Spivey Joins Polsinelli Law Firm

Jonathan Spivey, TMSL class of 1997, joins Am Law 100 firm Polsinelli as a Shareholder in the firm's Intellectual Property (IP) Litigation practice. Spivey's experience includes complex patent, trade secret, trademark, copyright and unfair competition litigation and appeals. Spivey joins Polsinelli from a global law firm where he litigated IP matters in numerous district courts involving patent, trademark and copyright infringement, internet domain disputes, mergers and acquisitions, and patent prosecution. He has represented clients across a range of industries in dealing with complex technology issues, including those pertaining to electro-mechanical, electrical computer technology, wireless communication, video coding and decoding, and software arts. Spivey also provides counsel to clients in the strategic development of their IP portfolios. Spivey has experience as a patent examiner at the United States Patent and Trademark Office and has served as a judicial clerk for the Honorable H. Robert Mayer, former chief judge at the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.



TMSL Alum Steve Bolden Joins Bracewell

Emile Steve Bolden III, TMSL class of 2000, joins Bracewell's Dallas office as partner in the public finance department. Bolden concentrates on public finance matters, including bond counsel, disclosure counsel and underwriters' counsel matters. In addition to public finance, Bolden practices in the corporate and securities area, including the merger and acquisition of publicly traded and privately held companies. He currently serves as trustee for the Dallas Bar Foundation and on the Council for the Business Law Section. Bolden has received presidential citations from the J.L. Turner Legal Association and the Dallas Bar Foundation. Bolden earned his A.B. in government from Dartmouth College and his J.D., *magna cum laude*, from Thurgood Marshall School of Law, Texas Southern University, where he was a member of the board of advocates.



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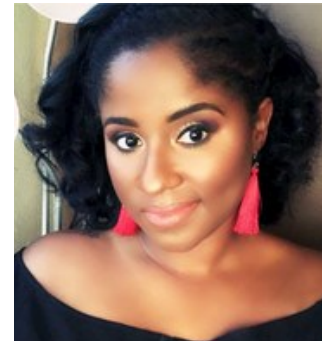
ALUMNI NEWS cont.

3 TMSL Alums Receive Prestigious Honors



Bridgette Smith-Lawson, TMSL class of 2003, is named *2019 Top 20 Influential Women of Houston*. She was honored on August 23, 2019, at the Houstonian Hotel. The Top 30 Women sponsor an annual gala, *The Top 30 Influential Women of Houston Awards*, devoted to acknowledging leaders from all industries and sectors, including medicine, design, finance, law, fashion, construction and more. These women have all taken risks, embraced falls, believed in themselves, and remained courageous and resilient throughout their climb. Their fearless attitudes have allowed them to break glass ceilings and establish themselves as leaders committed to growth and professional excellence in their respective fields and in the community. The Top 30 Women honor these champions and TMSL congratulates Bridgette Smith-Lawson !!

Fallon Hamilton, TMSL class of 2008, was selected as *Southern University Alumni Federation Top Forty Under Forty*. Hamilton is an experienced Staff Attorney at Lone Star Legal Aid with a demonstrated history of working in the legal services industry. She is a strong legal professional skilled in Legal Writing, Trials, Expunctions, Record Clearing, Debt Collection, and Westlaw. Additionally, Hamilton is an Amazon Best-Selling Author in African-American Poetry, a speaker, and freelance writer. Hamilton will be honored on Thursday, October 31, 2019 during Southern University-Baton Rouge Homecoming.



The Honorable Morris L. Overstreet, TMSL class of 1975, was inducted to the *HBCU Pre-Law Hall of Fame*. A former Judge of the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals and former Chief Justice of the First Court of Appeals, Judge Overstreet is one of only five inductees. This prestigious honor was presented on September 21, 2019, during the HBCU Pre-Law Summit.





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ALUMNI NEWS cont.

Alumni in Upcoming Elections





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TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

IN MEMORIAM

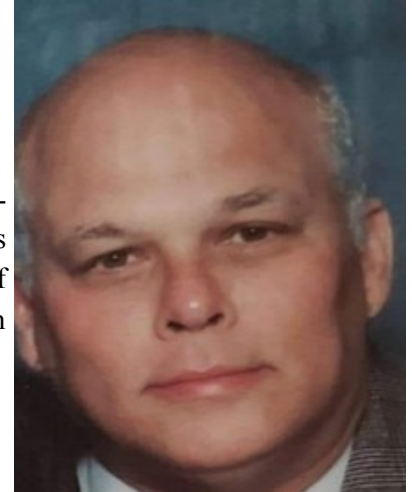


TMSL Alumna Evelyn Marie Connor Hicks '80

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of our beloved alumna **Attorney Evelyn Marie Connor Hicks**. Attorney Hicks passed away on March 7, 2019. Evelyn graduated with a Masters in early childhood education from TSU and received her law degree from TMSL in 1980. Attorney Hicks was known for her dedication and service to her community through mentorship and outreach. She had an expansive career that includes her tenure as a Federal Civil Rights Attorney in the Office of Civil Rights - U.S. Department of Education, working as a real estate agent, and politics. Attorney Hicks is survived by a daughter, 3 grandchildren, and a host of nieces and nephews.

Husband to Assistant Dean Virgie Mouton—Stephen Mouton

We are sad to announce the passing of **Stephen Mouton**, the husband of Dean Virgie L. Mouton. Mr. Mouton passed away on August 22, 2019. He is survived by his beloved wife Virgie L. Mouton and his four children, one of whom is an alumna of TMSL, Marissa Mouton, Hatchett. Please keep Dean Mouton and her family in your thoughts and prayers.



Not
Pictured

TMSL Alum Roger Dean Asch '60

Roger Dean Asch, a civil rights activist and attorney and alum of Texas Southern University Law school passed away on May 29, 2019. Mr. Asch was 85 years old and he died peacefully at home in Somerset, N.J. Attorney Asch was a civil rights activist in the 1960s and had a lifelong passion for that cause. He was known for his dry sense of humor and for being observant. Mr. Asch is survived by his daughter, son, daughter-in-law, grandson, sister-in-law, and a number of nieces, nephews, and friends.



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IN MEMORIAM cont.



TMSL Retired Professor: James Cotton

James Alexandre Cotton was born November 22, 1939 to James Cotton and Myrtle Lallis in Ft. Riley, Kansas. James completed his A.A. Degree at Mesa College (1961), B.A. at The Colorado College (1963), and, Juris Doctorate at the University of Colorado in 1970. Before going to law School, James served in the United States Armed Forces as a Captain in the Army during the Vietnam War. Upon graduation from Law School he joined the International Business Machines Corporation (IBM) Law Department. During his career he had assignments at the World Headquarters in Armonk, New York; Poughkeepsie, New York; Boulder, Colorado; Tucson, Arizona and Houston, Texas.

James was the first African American to retire from the IBM Law Department on December 31, 1995. Since retiring from IBM, James worked in academia as Associate Professor of Law at Texas Southern University's Thurgood Marshall School of Law. He taught business Associations, Corporate Practice Seminar, Securities Regulation, and Unfair Trade Practices. James also served as Interim Associate Dean of Thurgood Marshall School of Law during academic year 2002-2003. James retired from Thurgood Marshall School of Law in 2011. James' affiliations include: the American Bar Association; National Bar Association; and, Houston Bar Association.

He was laid to rest on September 11, 2019. James is survived by Marjorie Evangeline Keene Cotton, Esq., 2 daughters: Lallis A.C. Jackson, MBA and Allison M. Cotton, PhD; 1 son: William James Keene Cotton, 2 step daughters: Delie and Tonia; 1 Son-In-Law: James Allen Jackson; and, 4 grandchildren: Tyler (24), Brendan (22), Joshua (14) and, Nicholas (10).





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THURGOOD ALUMNI

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IMPROVE IT
PASS IT ON

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