



THURGOOD THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW TODAY

TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

NOVEMBER 2017

Former TSU Regent is new TMSL Acting Dean



Gary Bledsoe has been selected to serve as acting Dean of Thurgood Marshall School of Law. Attorney Bledsoe, a past Texas Southern University Regent, began in his new role on November 1. Attorney Bledsoe specializes in public interest law, employment and civil rights law. He is president of the Texas NAACP and has held that position since being elected in 1991. He has a longstanding relationship with the NAACP as a member of its National Board since 2003 and is chair of the National Criminal Justice Committee of the NAACP. He earned his bachelor's and juris doctorate degrees from the University of Texas at Austin. Professor **Marcia Johnson** serves as Special Assistant to the Dean and assists acting Dean Bledsoe in the transition. Professor Johnson has been serving TMSL as co-founder and director of the new Urban Research and Resource Center, an interdisciplinary collaboration with TSU's School of Public Affairs, and was a former interim dean of the law school. **Cassandra Hill**, Associate Dean and Professor of Law, assists both Dean Bledsoe and Professor Johnson in the administration of the law school.

Reprint from TSU E-News Oct 30 - Nov 5, 2017

YOUR MONTHLY THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW ELECTRONIC NEWS & INFORMATION SOURCE FROM
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Together: TMSL Girlfriends pass the Bar



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Newly Admitted Attorneys featured on HelloBeautiful.com

Amaka Ikejiana, Mya Johnson, Kelechi Onwumere, and Kierra Powell, are all members of the TMSL 2017 graduating class. Recently, they were published in an article, *#BlackGirlMagic: Four Law School Girlfriends Help Each Other Pass the Bar*. These ladies shared their story of friendship, planning and dedication on their road to passing the Texas Bar Exam. Amaka emphasized encouragement amongst the group; Mya expressed that dedication is pivotal; Kelechi explained the importance of a vision and Kierra kept them spiritually grounded through the process. Congratulations to these ladies and the TMSL family wishes them continued success in their careers. #ONETMSL



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CONGRATULATIONS!

**TO OUR NEWEST ATTORNEYS
YOU PASSED!**

Timothy Adams	Smaranda Draghia	Cha'Ris Lee	Taft Robinson
Jubaile Abila	Eric Durojaiye	Nadeen Mahrous	Elpatrick Russo
Bilal Badat	Adaugo Duru	Tanica Mann	Chansonique Rutherford
Anthony Brown	Bryan French	Christopher Marshall	Jordyn Rystrom Emmert
Roberto Ballesteros	Nedialka Gagalieva	Theresa Max-Vasquez	Elizabeth Sakai
Jonathan Bates	Jorge Garcia	Gabriel McCoy	Baltazar Salazar
Maegen Bradley	Kimberly Garcia	William McPherson	Nicholas Saranto
Robert Brown	Alfredo Garcia	Latoya Merida	Dennis Sriba
Ernest Brown	Pearlie Gault	Megan Mejias	Madaline Smith
Marquise Bryant	Rence Georgalos	Denisse Miller	Davis Somoye
Charles Bush	Samuel Glaze	Shakila Miller	Jessica Spano
Audrey Campbell	Monika Graham	Jennifer Nasser	Kashmire Terry
Nicci Campbell	Manuel Guerra	Brittany Nickleberry	Sokoia Thomas
Oscar Carrillo	Omar Gutierrez	Joanne Nwaogu	Erica Thompson
Cynthia Castanon	Marcella Hagger	Chigozirim Nwaogwugwu	Leslie Turnage
Gloria Castillo	Reem Haikal	Blessing Obaseki	Elizabeth Uribe
Amber Chambers	Hailey Henderson	Ekata Okpiabhele	Paola Urdaneta
Kevin Christiansen	Hilario Hernandez	Kelechi Onwumere	Christina Varela
Sherika Clark-Jones	Kriselda Hinojosa	Carlos Ortiz	Alya Vasquez
Jasmine Cooks	Uyen Thi Ho	Phillip Payter	Belinda Veliz
Chloe Corbett	Caitlin Hodge	Ross Phillips	Gustavo Villapando
Alfonzo Cuellar	Guy Holman	Hector Picazo	Jesus Villicana Galindo
Ariana Curiel	Solomon Holness	Marisa Porras	Cecily Washington
Andrea Curtiss	Tom Huynh	Kierra Powell	Susan Watts
Katrina Davis	Nwamaka Ikejiani	Ryan Putz	Christopher White
Kassandra De Hoyos	Karina Jimenez	Victoria Ramirez	Paula White
Claudia Debian	Mya Johnson	Melissa Richard	Ebony Young
David DeBlanc	Terrence Joseph	Ashley Rincon	Zelene Zaleta
Juan Deleon	Kaitlin Lara	Paul Robbins	Chad Zubi
Brenda DeRouen			



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FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

***JAMES M. DOUGLAS, Distinguished Professor of Law
accepts TMSL honor from United States Congressman***



TMSL Distinguished Professor **Dr. James M. Douglas** attended a reception in honor of Thurgood Marshall School of Law on September 12, 2017, in Washington, D.C. during the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute 2017 Leadership Conference. The reception was hosted by U.S. Congressman Vicente Gonzalez of the 15th Congressional District of Texas in commemoration of National Hispanic Heritage Month. U.S. Congressman Gonzalez presented an honorary plaque to commend the law school for its efforts in educating and preparing Hispanic students for the legal profession. Honorary hosts included TMSL Alum (class of 1973), U.S. Congressman Al Green; TMSL Alum (class of 1979), U.S. Congressman Hank Johnson of Georgia; U.S. Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee; U.S. Congressman Gene Green and U.S. Congressman Henry Cuellar.

“As we celebrated the achievements and contributions of the Hispanic community during Hispanic Heritage Month, I wanted to honor Texas Southern University by applauding Thurgood Marshall School of Law amongst a host of the law school’s alumni and friends, for its unwavering commitment to aspiring and practicing Hispanic lawyers in Texas and across the nation.” - U.S. Congressman Vicente Gonzalez



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FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS



Professor Thomas Kleven presented a paper entitled "Will Automation Liberate the Working Class or Further its Immiseration" at the ClassCrits Conference at Tulane Law School on November 10, 2017. The thesis of the paper is (i) that automation is gradually destroying more jobs than it creates and will likely eliminate within 100 years the need for human labor to produce many if not most of the goods of social life, (ii) that automation has the potential of freeing humanity from the necessity to work in order to support oneself and thereby enabling people to live more enjoyable lives, (iii) that this will not happen if the capitalist class continues to control the automation process because they will appropriate for themselves the lion's share of what automation produces and leave for the masses only enough on which to subsist or at best to prevent the masses from revolting, and (iv) that achieving the benefits of automation for all requires that we institute some form of democratic socialism so as to ensure that the goods produced through automation are fairly distributed throughout society.



Professor L. Darnell Weeden's article entitled, *Employing Race-Neutral Affirmative Action to Create Educational Diversity While Attacking Socio-Economic Status Discrimination*, 19 *ST. John's J. Legal Commentary* 297, 332-33 (2005) was quoted by Kylie Rahl in her comment entitled *Racing To Neutrality: How Race-Neutral Admissions Programs Threaten The Future Use Of Race-Based Affirmative Action In Higher Education* in the 49 *Tex. Tech L. Rev. Online Edition* 109, 130 (2017). While contending the percentage plans have the greatest impact at the undergraduate level, Rahl quoted Professor Weeden's article for his assertion that "there is no evidence that a modified

version of the percent concept will not be effective at the graduate or professional level."



Professor SpearIt, on October 1, 2017, published "#TakeAKnee: Sports, Politics & Civil Religion" in *The Islamic Monthly*, <https://www.theislamicmonthly.com/takeaknee-sports-politics-civil-religion/>. He was also cited for his leadership role in the ABA Criminal Justice Section 2016-2017 Annual Report, https://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/publications/criminaljustice/annual_report_2017.authcheckdam.pdf. On October 26, he spoke at the University of Southern California (USC) in a recorded interview on Islam, Prisons, and Hip hop, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=750sojMXSU&index=1&list=PLTZlXrrWM-vZlrecWSVig1_075gp8dgb9; on November 2 he spoke at FAMU School of Law and on November 13 at the Mexican American Bar Association of Houston on his new book, *American Prisons*. SpearIt's work was recently cited in a number of publications, including the book, *Experiential Education in the Law School Curriculum* (Carolina Academic Press 2017); *Latino Muslims and Radical Extremism: Why There is no Daesh (ISIS) Threat in Latin America*, 37 *J. Muslim Minority Affairs* 284 (2017); *George Jackson's December 1964 Letter to His Father: Agency from within the Prison Walls*, 11 *J. Study of Radicalism* 161 (2017); *Mechanisms of Moral Disengagement and Prisoner Abuse*, *Analysis of Soc. Issues and Pub. Pol'y* (2017); "Terrorism in Prison," in *The Encyclopedia of Corrections* (John Wiley & Sons 2017); *Conversational Narratives at Quixote House: How Released Offenders and Religious Members Build Community and Find a New Identity in Winnipeg*, 3 *Faith & Engaged Scholarship in the New Millennium I* (2017). Finally, SpearIt has accepted an offer from the *Tennessee Law Review* to publish his article, *Firepower to the People: Guns Rights and the Law of Self-Defense to Curb Police Misconduct*.



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FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS *Cont'd.*



Criminal Law Defense Clinic Professor **Lydia D. Johnson** is one of 60 community leaders who participated in Harris County District Attorney, Kim Ogg's transition team. Professor Johnson chaired the Equality in Justice Committee comprised of seven diverse members from the community. On October 22, 2017, HCDA Kim Ogg, held a press conference and unveiled her community action plans. Professor Johnson spoke on Ogg's plans to expand the pre-trial services diversion program. To hear more please follow the link: https://www.youtube.com/attribution_link?a=_uMFdRhDHpQ&u=%2Fwatch%3Fv%3Durvdm_JaXiM%26feature%3Dshare. Kim Ogg also announced an awards ceremony is forthcoming to acknowledge and thank everyone.



Professor **Walter T. Champion**, George Foreman Professor of Law, has recently contributed his expertise on various legal and social issues related to football and recreational injuries. Professor Champion served as a guest speaker at Columbia University on November 7, 2017, he lectured on "The Commissioner's New Clothes: Roger Goodell and Legislating Morality." Professor Champion was also featured in a Law360 article entitled, "3 Takeaways from NLRB Charge over Cowboys Protest Policy." Furthermore, Professor Champion is under contract to write a book entitled Blood in the Water: Feeding Frenzies and the Mass Tort Phenomenon with Lexington Books.



Professor **Marguerite Butler** spoke at the Cities Changing Diabetes summit held on October 26, 2017. The summit is a global coalition, with nine international cities – including Houston - with more than 75 million residents, and 100 expert partners all united in the fight against urban diabetes. Professor Butler provided a citizen's perspective on living with diabetes in a major city during the *Welcome to Houston: A Citizen's Perspective* opening session. Professor Butler is among the number of increasing individuals who are living with type-2 diabetes. She spoke to the group and shared her experience with doctors regarding her diagnosis and prognosis. Professor Butler is admired for her courage to share and her advocacy. For more on Professor Butler's story follow the link: http://www.novonordisk-us.com/blog/perspectives/2017/11/success_is_possible.html.





STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

*Assistant Director of Admissions, Kenyon Moore
to serve on prestigious LSAC committee*



Kenyon Moore, TMSL class of 2009, has served as the Assistant Director of Admissions for the past seven years. In October, Moore accepted the invitation to serve on the National Recruitment Work Group for LSAC as the South Western Association of Pre-Law Advisors (SWAPLA) representative. Moore will work with pre-law advisors for a two year consecutive term to develop and promote successful recruiting events for law school candidates, event sponsors and law schools. The group, consisting of advisors and one law school representative from each APLA region, meet once each year at the end of each recruitment season.

In accordance with his service, he also presented at the San Francisco LSAC law school forum and conducted a workshop on “Forum 101/Application Process” on Thursday, November 2, 2017, in San Francisco. During the presentation potential law students learned about the correction application approach and process for law school admission.





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EARL CARL INSTITUTE NEWS

Earl Carl Institute announces The Clean Slate Cooperative

The Clean Slate Cooperative (CSC), which is a collaboration between Harris County Precinct 1 Commissioner, My Brother's Keeper, and ECI, seeks to offer pro bono record expunction, sealing, and nondisclosure services. The Services are available free of charge, regardless of income for cleaning juvenile records and in certain adult record clearing cases. For more information about our services call 713.313.1139 or you may apply by completing the application at www.earlcarlinstitute.org.

Clean State Cooperative Clinic

December 15, 2017

10:00 AM—2:00 PM

Sunny Side Multi-Service Center (9314 Cullen Blvd, Houston, TX 77033)

Volunteers Needed: Attorneys and Law Students with Student Bar Cards. If interested call the Earl Carl Institute at 713.313.1139.





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STUDENT NEWS

TMSL Alums team up to award five bar scholarships



The Law Offices of Vonda Bailey and Clarke & Associates partnered with Attorney Ursula Woods to award five students the **Bailey Clarke Bar Scholarship**. TMSL Alums; **Peter Clarke**, class of 1996, **Vonda Bailey**, class of 2014, and **Ursula Woods**, class of 1998, awarded a total of \$10, 500.00 in scholarship monies. Students were required to submit a 600 word essay on the topic: "Overcoming Obstacles, a Juxtaposition of the biggest obstacles you have overcome to matriculate in law school and what Heman Sweatt overcame in the landmark case Sweatt v. Painter." There were eight finalists from which five winners were selected. The full scholarship recipients received \$2,500.00 each and the partial scholarship recipients received \$1,500.00 each. In addition, both winners and finalists received a \$250.00 gift card to restaurants of their choosing for meals during bar study.

Congratulations to the following scholarship recipients!!!



July 2018 Bar Takers:
Cherika Edwards
(full scholarship winner)



\$2500 Scholarship
sponsored by Ursula Woods:
Brandon Hawkins



July 2018 Bar Taker:
Brandy Douglas
(full scholarship winner)



February 2018 Bar Taker:
Timothy Rose
(partial scholarship winner)

The finalists are as follows:

- Mischa Montgomery**
- Lakeshia Walton**
- Kenneth Spears**
- Marcus Ester**



July 2018 Bar Taker:
Lashay Bostick
(partial scholarship winner)



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STUDENT NEWS *Cont'd.*

Miss TMSL Hosts "Spooky Halloween Party"

Miss Thurgood Marshall School of Law, **Staci Childs** hosted a "Spooky Halloween Party" for 30 students from the TSU Child Development Center on October 31, 2017. The Halloween Party has been an annual tradition hosted by Mr. and Miss TMSL to give children from the local community a safe space to enjoy Halloween fun. Staci, along with the TMSL Criminal Law Defense clinic featured a candy room, face painting station, relax and color room, and a glow party with music. Guests were able to eat frito pie and depart with bucket loads of candy!!!

Special thanks to Professor **Lydia Johnson** in the TMSL Legal Clinic, **Taren Marsaw**, **Susan Thomas**, and **Wendy Cornelius** of the TSU Child Development Center!





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STUDENT NEWS *Cont'd.*

Student Spotlight *Wesley Nash... From the Bottom, Up*

Where is your hometown?

Houston, Texas

What is your graduating class at TMSL?

Class of 2019

Undergrad Institution?

University of Texas at Austin

Undergrad Major?

Government with a minor in African and African Diaspora Studies



Why law school? What do you want to do when you finish law school?

Being dismissed scholastically from the University of Texas at Austin after my freshmen year made me realize I wasn't prepared for college. After returning home, I began doing backbreaking manual labor at a meat distribution company which employed mostly middle-aged men with little to no education beyond high school. We worked twelve hour shifts, six days a week, for little to no pay or benefits. My future was headed nowhere fast, and knowing my dreams of greatness would never be reached, served as the catalyst I needed to spark my inner flame. I felt extremely fortunate to return to school after serving my eight-month suspension. I was determined to succeed unlike ever before because I understood now that education is the only true way for a Black man to break out of the cycle that plagues people of color.

The past failures I overcame in undergrad show the true nature of the man I have become. My unique life experiences provide me with invaluable insight I hope to use as a future advocate in the legal field. As a young leader looking to champion the causes of the community, attending law school was the most logical destination for me to maximize my potential and learn how to positively affect the lives of others. Gaining a first-class legal education will provide me the tools necessary to be an outstanding community advocate. My goal is to be an inspiration for other young men raised in similar environments to understand their potential and strive to become the best they can be.



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ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS ALUMNI ON THE MOVE



TMSL Alum Rashaan J. Coefield appointed to INROADS National Board of Directors

Rashaan Coefield, class of 2010, has been appointed to the INROADS National Board of Directors. INROADS is a national organization geared toward developing underserved youth in the business industry to prepare them for corporate and community leadership. Coefield, an alum of INROADS, officially began his term of two years on October 11, 2017. Coefield is currently employed by Lockheed Martin managing Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) investigations.



TMSL Alum Isaac Villarreal named Partner of McCathern Law Firm

Isaac Villarreal, class of 2008, was recently promoted to Partner of the McCathern Law Firm. Villarreal is an accomplished trial attorney practicing in the areas of business and complex commercial litigation. He also helps his clients in disputes and transactional matters related to their businesses. Villarreal's accomplishments include many successful bench and jury trials in Texas state and federal courts. TMSL family please congratulate Isaac Villarreal in his success.



Cori Ann Harbour-Valdez appointed by El Paso City Council as Associate Municipal Judge

Cori Ann Harbour-Valdez, class of 1997, was re-appointed as an on-call, part-time Associate Municipal Court Judge by the El Paso City Council. The vote carried on September 19, 2017, during a regular session meeting for the appointment. Harbour-Valdez will serve as a substitute for the elected municipal court trial judges at trial and court hearings, preside over arraignments and serve as a magistrate on weekends and graveyard shifts.



TMSL Alum Baltazar Salazar receives a federal judicial clerkship

Baltazar Salazar, class of 2017, received a federal judicial clerkship with the Honorable Rolando Olvera of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas. Baltazar is a newly admitted attorney to the Texas Bar and a current L.L.M. candidate at Texas A&M University School of Law. TMSL family congratulates Baltazar on his continued success.



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ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS *Cont'd.* ALUMNI IN ELECTIONS

Sherman Hatton for Fort Bend County Court at Law #6



Sherman Hatton, class of 2012, is excited to announce his candidacy for Judge of the Fort Bend County Court at Law #6. He is currently an Assistant District Attorney for Fort Bend County working in the Gangs and Narcotics Division. As a felony prosecutor he reveres his oath to justice and plans to take his integrity and commitment to the County Court at Law bench.

"I will fight to bring fairness and impartiality to the bench. Family and friends the movement needs you!" - Sherman Hatton

TMSL Alumna Erica Hughes seeks a seat on the bench as Judge in the Harris County Criminal Court at Law No. 3

Erica Hughes, class of 2003, is a Judge Advocate for the National Guard and a local attorney in her hometown of Houston. *"She joined the judicial race because she has seen first hand how some judges do not administer justice for all. Some Judges seem close-minded and prejudiced towards defendants and attorneys. The disparity is made between individuals with low income and very little knowledge of their rights."* As Judge, Hughes plans to restore integrity, fairness, justice and honor for all.



TMSL Alum DaSean Jones announces Judicial candidacy for the Harris County 180th Criminal District Court

DaSean Jones, class of 2011, is a decorated U.S. Army veteran, and Reserve Army Judge Advocate. He is seeking a position as Judge for the Harris County 180th Criminal District Court. As Judge he plans to remain open-minded and fair. Jones seeks to end disparity in the administration of justice.



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ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS *Cont'd.* ALUMNI IN ELECTIONS

Danval Scarbrough runs for Harris County Criminal Court at Law #7

Danval “Dan” Scarbrough, class of 2011, announced in September plans to run for Harris County Criminal Court at Law #7. Scarbrough is known in the community as a honest and fair attorney. Scarbrough stated in response to HPD Chief Art Acevedo, “*I understand the Chief’s concerns. Although I believe in second chances and doing what we can to divert nonviolent and first time offenders from the jail system, we can not allow those that prey on their fellow citizens to have more opportunities to do the same.*”



Lewis White announces candidacy for Fort Bend County Court at Law # 6



Lewis White, class of 2002, announced his plans to run on the Republican ticket for Fort Bend County Court at Law #6. White’s career expands over fifteen years of service as an Assistant District Attorney in Odessa and Fort Bend County, including serving as chief of juvenile and misdemeanor for Waller County. White currently has his own practice, established in 2007. He has a passion for juvenile law and believes his career experience is an excellent fit for judge in County Court at Law #6. White stated, “*My philosophy is that it is not my job as a judge to make law, but to ‘call balls and strikes’ based on the law of the land.*”

Wilvin Carter releases his plan to run for Texas State Representative for House District 27

Wilvin Carter, class of 2004, launched his campaign to run for Texas State Representative for House District 27 for Fort Bend County earlier this month. His decision to enter the Democratic Primary Race comes after an in depth analysis on the state of his community. As a long term advocate for the past 12 years he has become a pillar of service and the fight for equality throughout the Fort Bend County community. Wilvin now plans to take the fight “*from the courtroom to Austin*”.



Brennen Dunn announces candidacy for the Harris County 185th Criminal District Court



Brennen Dunn, class of 2010, announced his plans to run as a democratic candidate for judge of the 185th Criminal District Court. Dunn brings seven years of experience in the areas of civil, family and criminal law to the court room. Dunn believes in setting reasonable bonds, fair sentencing and ensuring constitutional law protec-



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ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS *Cont'd.* ALUMNI IN THE NEWS

TMSL Alumna Marcella Hagger receives Outstanding Service Award



Ms. **Marcella Hagger**, TMSL Class of 2017, was awarded the Outstanding Service Award by Houston Money Week 2017 *“for demonstrating excellence and inspiring others to perform at their best.”* The award ceremony took place at the Federal Reserve in Houston, Texas, this summer. Drawing upon her career and contacts in banking and inspired by class discussion on wealth and property accumulation in Professor Tekle’s 1L property class, Ms. Hagger in 2015, founded and also served as president of Lawyers Acquiring Wealth Society (LAWS) at TMSL, a student organization aimed at increasing financial literacy among the TMSL student body. Under Ms. Hagger's passionate and infectious leadership, LAWS hosted three law school events during the 2017 Houston Money Week in April. These events included:

1. “Young, Gifted, and Broke” which brought in speakers regarding debt, budgeting, and investment;
2. “Extra Credit” which included a credit score review with Sherrie Young from the Credit Coalition. Ms. Young presented tips on raising credit scores and disputing credit errors. It also included a mobile banking bus provided by BB&T bank. The bus allowed students to print out their credit reports, review their taxes, and ask bankers questions regarding finances; and
3. A round of table talks held in the TMSL lobby with financial institutions such as Wells Fargo, Compass, BB&T, People’s Trust, IBC, Primeway FCU, the Federal Reserve, and the Small Business Association. The last event also included giveaway bags for the entire law student body and money games with prizes.



A fourth April 2017 Houston Money Week event was held off campus at Holman Street Baptist Church where LAWS participated in *Moolas Gra\$*, an initiative aimed at empowering children and young adults with financial literacy.

A well-EARNED honor, Ms. Hagger!





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ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS *Cont'd.* ALUMNI IN THE NEWS



TMSL Alumna Nyanza Moore speaks at the 2017 TrueBeauty Women's Conference

Nyanza Moore, class of 2001, is a licensed attorney and FOX News Political Analyst. As part of the 4th annual TrueBeauty Women's Conference, Moore was selected as one of this year's speakers. The Conference consisted of networking events, a fashion show and other opportunities to speak with entrepreneurs. The Conference is centered around gearing women to live a purposeful life.



TMSL Alumna the Honorable Valencia Nash receives Leadership Award

The **Honorable Valencia Nash**, class of 1999, was presented a Leadership Award by Othel Bursey Jr. at the Dallas Bar Association. Othel Bursey Jr. is the Alternative Dispute Resolution Coordinator and administrator of the Dallas Dispute Resolution Center. The TMSL family congratulates Judge Nash on this distinguished honor.



TMSL Alumna Mary Wilson speaks at the Women in Cyber event in D.C.

Mary Wilson, class of 1999, was a panelist at the Women in Cyber Luncheon & Panel discussion held on October 20, 2017. The discussion was hosted during an AT&T forum held in Washington, D. C. for CyberWeek. As a member of the panel, Wilson was a representative of leading women working in the information security industry. Wilson spoke on team diversity and strategic ways women can make a career in information security.



TMSL Alumna Fran Watson is a member of the TOP 40 under 40 Class of 2017

TMSL Alumna **Fran Watson**, class of 2009, was honored as Houston Business Journal TOP 40 under 40 in June of this year. TMSL Congratulates Fran on this honor !!



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ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS *Cont'd.* ALUMNI IN THE NEWS

TMSL Alumna Nicole Sullivan King Appointed City Attorney



Nicole King
City Attorney

Nicole Sullivan King, class of 2005, was appointed by Birmingham Mayor-elect Randall Woodfin to his executive leadership team as the City Attorney. The announcement of her appointment was made on November 14, 2017, during a city wide press conference. King has served the city of Birmingham since 2006 as a prosecutor in municipal court and a civil division litigator.

TMSL Alum Robert Collier nominated to the Executive Committee of the National Black Lawyers Top 100



Robert Collier, class of 2006, was nominated to the Executive Committee of the National Black Lawyers Top 100. Collier is presently a member of the prestigious group of selected lawyers to receive the honor of Top 100 for their superior skills and qualifications in the field. Membership is by invitation only and limited to the Top 100 attorneys in each state or region who has demonstrated excellence and achieved outstanding results in their careers. Collier is a corporate lawyer employed by EZCORP, Inc.

TMSL Alumna Naomi Cox Andrews collaborates with AARP in Fight for Texas Seniors



Naomi Cox Andrews, class of 1983, collaborated with AARP and created a "Love Letters to Houston" commercial ad for building better communities. She describes in the ad her life and experiences in the 3rd Ward Community. Her advertisement highlights her love for Texas Southern University and community area landmarks. The advertisement is a media tool used by AARP to fight for Texas Seniors to have "age-friendly" or "livable" communities.

TMSL Alum Derrick Reed Acting Mayor of Pearland



Mayor Derrick Reed, class of 2007, appointed May Pro Tem of Pearland in June 2017; has been recently named Acting Mayor of Pearland, TX. Mayor Reed remains the first African American City Council Member, Mayor Pro Tem, and Acting Mayor of Pearland. TMSL congratulates Mayor Reed on his appointment and the honor bestowed upon his legacy.



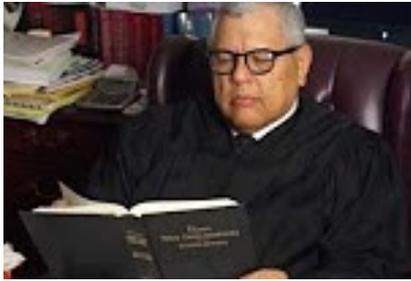
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ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS *Cont'd.*

IN MEMORIAM



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of **Judge Alvin James "Ben" Morales**, class of 1979. Judge Morales departed this life on June 19, 2017. He leaves behind a legacy of justice and impartiality in the Webb County Court at Law #1. Judge Morales served on the bench for twenty years and was an outstanding member of the judiciary according to many. Morales, along with former County Court at Law #2 Judge Jesus "Chuy" Garza, launched the county's first-ever juvenile drug court program in December 2013. The TMSL family extends our condolences to the Morales family.

The TMSL family extends its condolences to the family of **Anthony Muharib**, class of 1995, in the passing of his **father**. Mr. Muharib arose on August 19, 1925, and transitioned into eternal rest on November 19, 2017. Mr. Muharib is remembered as a wonderful father and blessed man. His children are thankful for his 92 years of life and proclaim he taught them well.



Laurie Davis, the **sister** of TMSL Alumna, **Sherri Washington**, class of 2004, departed from this world on November 19, 2017. She leaves behind a loving husband and four magnificent children. Services were held on November 27, 2017, in Conyers, Georgia. Beloved by her family, she will truly be missed.

The life of Samuel Cooks Jr. was celebrated on November 20, 2017, in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Mr. Cooks is the **father** of the **Honorable Kim Cooks**, class of 2002. He was the epitome of a gentleman and a devoted husband to his wife, Ok Nan Cooks of 49 years. A Retired Master Sergeant of the U.S. Air Force, Master Sargeant Cooks, was laid to rest at Ft. Logan National Cemetery, Denver, Colorado, with full Military Honors by The United States Air Force Honor Guard. Dedicated to his country and his family, he lived a full life of 88 years on this earth protecting and serving others.



Cherry Lee Anderson, the **mother** of TMSL Alum and **Professor Ricky Anderson**, class of 1992, transitioned to her heavenly resting place. Her greatest joy was helping others and sharing the gospel. One of her most cherished moments was to step foot in the Holy Land and be baptized in the Jordan River. Cherry was the first person of color hired by Woolworth Five and Dime in the 1950's in Benton Harbor, Michigan. Upon moving to Texas she continued her service to The Lord through Mt. Horeb Missionary Baptist Church, serving as President of the Senior Missionary Circle. We will forever cherish her words spoken in her final days; *"I have lived a great life and I loved every minute of it."*



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PG. 19 OF 20



THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL of Law JOURNAL ON GENDER, RACE, AND JUSTICE

Seeking an opportunity to get published

The Thurgood Marshall School of Law Journal on Gender, Race, and Justice would like to invite alumni and current students to submit non-published articles for consideration for the Spring 2018 publication.

Send your articles to
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PG. 20 OF 20

December Birthdays



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!

