

“What is the  
quality  
of your  
intent?” — THURGOOD MARSHALL







## TABLE OF CONTENTS

WELCOME	1
MISSION	3
OVERVIEW	4
FACULTY	6
CURRICULUM	
<i>FIRST YEAR CURRICULUM</i>	8
<i>COURSE OFFERINGS AT A GLANCE</i>	9
<i>CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS</i>	10
ACADEMIC SUPPORT AND SERVICES	11
CLINICAL LEGAL STUDIES PROGRAM	13
EXTERNSHIPS	14
CAREER SERVICES	15
INTELLECTUAL GROWTH CENTERS AND INSTITUTIONS	16
STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS	18
EXPERIENCE THE CITY OF HOUSTON	20
ADMISSIONS	22
FINANCIAL AID	24

**Thurgood Marshall School of Law**  
Texas Southern University  
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Thurgood Marshall Law School Bldg  
Houston, TX 77004

[www.TSULaw.edu](http://www.TSULaw.edu)

# welcome

Texas Southern University Thurgood Marshall School of Law is a mission-driven institution dedicated to nurturing a distinct group of law students into leadership roles in the legal profession, business and government. The law school has nearly 60 years of experience in preparing students for the legal profession.

The faculty is a diverse group of teachers and scholars who emphasize teaching excellence, especially in the first year of law school. Our full-time faculty teaches an overwhelming majority of our classes including all legal writing and research courses while adjuncts teach specialized courses such as Trial Practice.

The law school's facility was completely renovated in 2004. The renovated facility features additional library and classroom space, state-of-the-art technology, new computer labs, a new legal clinic, new student organization offices and much more.

The academic program has been recently revised to place greater emphasis on a traditional core while at the same time offering greater specialization opportunities. The law clinic offers students opportunities for actual practice experience in Civil Law, Criminal Law, Housing Law, Immigration Law and several governmental agencies.

Our institution has a rich history of diversity and we are proud to continue that tradition today. We wish you well as you begin your journey toward your legal career and welcome you to Thurgood Marshall.

Visit [www.TSULaw.edu](http://www.TSULaw.edu), and stop by to speak with professors, students, and staff.





# our mission:

## A Life-Changing Opportunity



The Law School's mission is and has always been focused on empowerment in academic equality. For decades, TMSL has provided a first-class legal training program to a diverse community of students who possess the potential to become outstanding members of the legal profession. In accomplishing this mission, the Law School seeks to keep faith with its rich past by continuing to play a leadership role in the state of Texas and nationally with regard to the training and educating of African-American and Hispanic lawyers.

With a wealth of cultural and racial diversity, TMSL maintains its role as one of the nation's leading law schools and promises students rigorous and unmatched training in current legal principles, policies, skills, and professionalism.

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*"Family Oriented! Everyone at Thurgood Marshall treats you like you are part of a family and a cohesive unit. The faculty, staff, and administration take an interest in their students and how they are doing. I came from out of state but never felt too far from home because of the people at TMSL."*

Kenyon Moore, Alumnus





# overview



Thurgood Marshall School of Law has a unique history among America's law schools. The state of Texas established the institution in 1947 as a Texas State University for Negroes to avoid the integration of the law school at the University of Texas and maintain that university as a "whites only" institution. In 1946, when the NAACP filed the Sweatt lawsuit, the state of Texas believed that it needed to establish a "Jim Crow" law school in order to avoid an adverse result.

The Houston African-American community was divided on the question of whether to support the establishment of the new "Jim Crow" institution rather than fight for integration of the University of Texas. Some believed that equalization of African-American educational opportunity could be achieved at the new "Jim Crow" institution. However, the NAACP took the position that the educational equality of Texas' African-Americans could only be achieved by integration, which left no place for the establishment of the "Jim Crow" Texas State University for Negroes.

From this beginning, the Law School undertook the important task of providing equal educational opportunities to underserved citizens of the state of Texas. One of the Law School's first contributions was the development of a new cadre of African-American leaders. The school's graduates have served in Congress, the state legislature, the judiciary, and throughout the legal community in Texas and beyond. Beginning in the 1970s, the law school expanded its mission beyond the African-American community.

In 1973, the University was designated by the state legislature as a special purpose institution for urban programming. The Law School established a curriculum designed to meet not only student's needs in general, but special needs of minority and disadvantaged students.

Graduates receive thorough training in the fundamental principles of law, enabling them to practice not only in the state of Texas, but throughout the United States. In addition to traditional legal careers, the School of Law provides training for persons who plan careers in business, government, politics, foreign service, journalism and other fields in which knowledge of the law is increasingly

## NOTABLE ALUMS

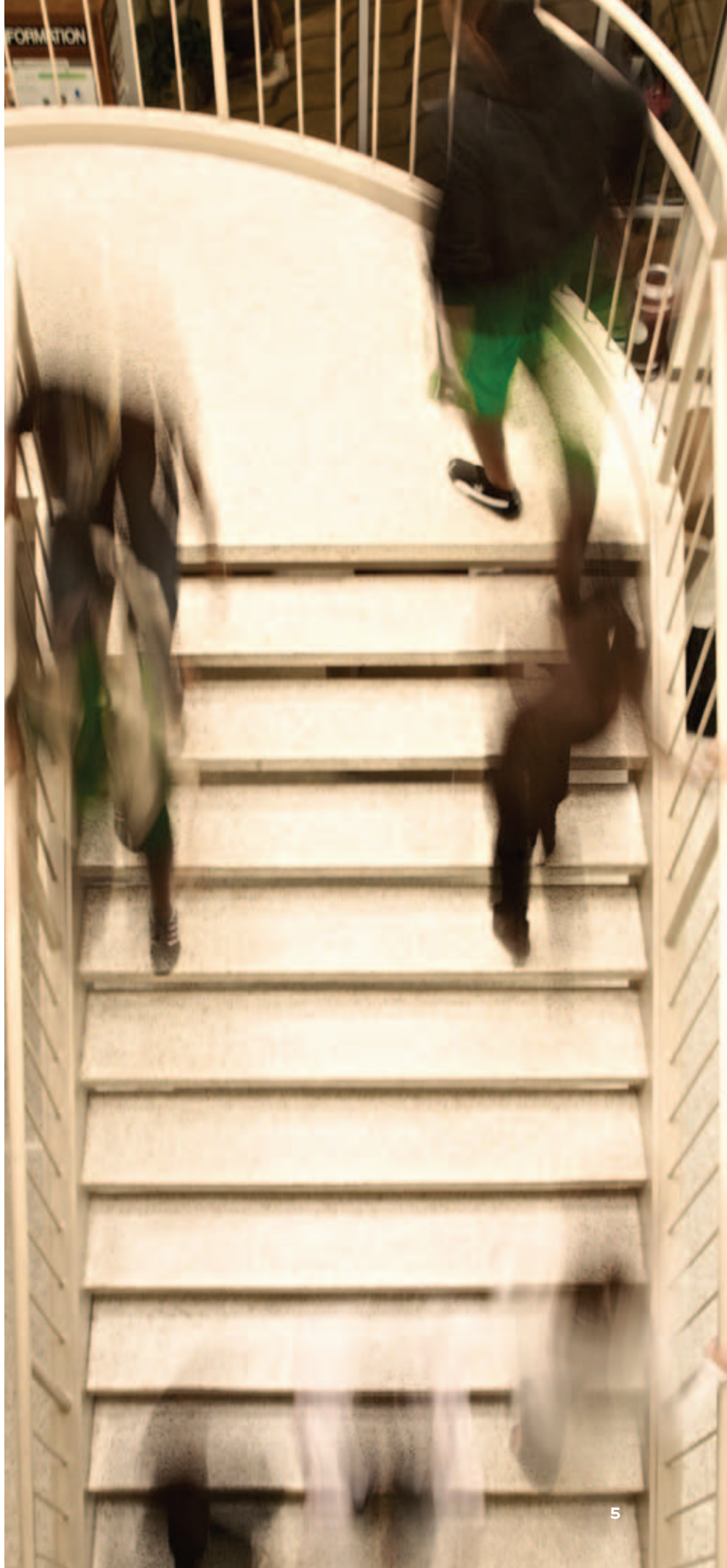
- Alumnus and Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, E. Leon Carter LLP
- U.S. Rep. Hank Johnson of the 110th Congress
- Former U.S. Rep. Craig A. Washington of the 101st, 102nd and 103rd Congress
- The Honorable Alexander Green  
U.S. Congress 9th District Texas
- The Honorable Kenneth Hoyt  
U.S. District Court, Southern District Texas
- The Honorable Calvin Botley  
U.S. Magistrate Judge, Southern District Texas

necessary. Through its clinical program, the law school provides special attention to the legal problems of the poor and disadvantaged.

The strength of Texas Southern University Thurgood Marshall School of Law lies in its ability to attract a diverse student body and faculty. The institution also represents an important part of the Texas African-American community as a legal and intellectual resource. Each year, the School of Law ranks among the top five producers of African-American law graduates and also produces a significant number of Hispanic law graduates.

### **OUR STRENGTHS:**

- A diverse student body, faculty, and staff.
- A highly-credentialed administrative staff including six non-faculty JDs.
- A local, regional, and national leader in the aggregation of minority law graduates.
- The largest producer of African-American lawyers to the Texas Bar.
- One of five approved law programs at a historically black college/university.
- One of the largest pools of African-American law professors at any law school.
- A large variety of funding sources.
- Second largest application pool for historically black law schools.
- Several institutes for specialized learning.



# our faculty



*“The professors here genuinely care about my success. I love the ‘open-door’ policy and passion that they express in the classroom.”*

Sharae Bassett, 3L

At Thurgood Marshall School of Law (TMSL), we thrive on teaching the fundamental element of the law. We strive to provide excellent educational opportunities for Texas residents and individuals from around the nation and the world. At present, TMSL has 39 full time faculty members.

Members of the faculty consist of practicing attorneys with superb academic credentials presenting an exemplary educational experience, having earned J.D. and LL.M. degrees from approximately 30 different law schools, including Harvard; Yale; the University of Pennsylvania; the University of California, Berkeley; the University of Southern California; and other top tier law schools.

In recent years, faculty members have published over 70 law review articles in prestigious national law journals such as the American Law Review, the Minnesota Law Review, the Tulane Law Review, the Yale Law & Policy Review, and many other general and specialty law reviews. In addition, the faculty has published several chapters of books, including “*The Right of Privacy*,” and “*The Fourteenth Amendment*,” published in the *Encyclopedia of American Civil Liberties* (Rutledge Press), as well as books such as *Constitutional Law, Volumes One and Two* (West), and *Federal Standards of Review*, 3rd edition (Lexis).

## OUR FACULTY AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF: “5 POINTS OF VISION”

- Fiscal responsibility
- Service and accountability in administration
- Hospitable learning and living environment
- Commitment to community outreach
- Academic and faculty excellence





# curriculum

## First Year (Required Courses)

### WHAT TO EXPECT...1L FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS TAKE THE FOLLOWING REQUIRED COURSES:

#### **Civil Procedure (LAW 500) (4 Hours)**

This course covers modern civil procedure in the U.S. with emphasis on pre-trial procedure under the Texas and Federal system. The content includes constitutional and statutory aspects of jurisdiction (including personal and subject-matter jurisdiction), the “Erie” doctrine, and procedural rules of pleading, joinder of parties, joinder of claims, discovery, and pretrial motions.

#### **Contracts I/II (LAW 515) (3/3 Hours)**

This course delineates the contract process emphasizing: 1) offer, 2) acceptance, 3) consideration and other “formation” issues, 4) performance, breach and discharge, and 5) remedies. It also deals with the principal problems raised by agreements or promises for the breach of which the law gives a remedy, and examines what kinds of promises the law will enforce and why, and what remedies are available for breach. These issues will be explored both in terms of the common law and the Uniform Commercial Code.

#### **Criminal Law (LAW 530) (3 Hours)**

This course focuses on theories of punishment, the requirements of actus reus and mens rea, concepts of proportionality and legality, and problems of causation. Particular emphasis is placed on the law of homicide. Theories of accomplice and conspiratorial liability are also examined. Principles of justification and excuse, such as self-defense and insanity, will be considered.

#### **Property I/II (Law 520) (3/3 Hours)**

This course offers an introduction to law governing real and personal property. Course topics include acquisition of property, interest in land, concurrent ownership, conveyance, landlord/tenant, land use planning, and the economic and philosophical basis of property rights.

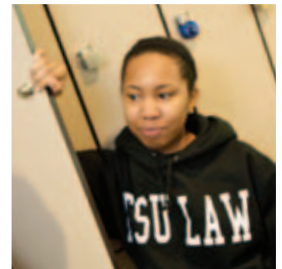
#### **Lawyering Process I/II (LAW 900) (3/2 Hours)**

This course provides introductory treatment of legal methods, case analysis, basic writing, legal writing, problem analysis, statutory analysis, and legal research. The legal methods component, which entails case analysis, synthesis and statutory analysis, exposes students to: 1) a comprehensive technique of briefing judicial opinions; 2) processes for synthesizing judicial decisions; 3) concepts basic to the common law system, such as the function of courts, stare decisis, and holding versus dictum; 4) concepts of relevance and the ability to distinguish relevant from irrelevant facts; 6) the ability to identify and frame legal issues; 7) the ability to abstract legal principles from cases and apply them to other fact situations, and reason to sound conclusion; 8) analogization techniques; and 9) the relationship between common law and legislation.

The basic writing, legal writing and problem analysis components entail: 1) development of an appreciation for the differences between good and bad legal writing; 2) improvement of grammar, sentence structure, paragraph and organization; 3) techniques of persuasive prose; 4) techniques of answering traditional essay law exam questions; and 5) strategies designed to enhance the ability to answer multiple choice law exam questions.

#### **Torts I/II (LAW 525) (3/3 Hours)**

This course addresses the judicial treatment of claims based on personal injuries and property loss where the complaining party utilizes one or more of the following three major bases of liability: intentional torts, negligence, and strict liability. More particularly, the course covers: battery, assault, false imprisonment, intentional infliction of mental distress, trespass to land, trespass to chattels, conversion, defenses to the intentional torts, negligence, joint tortfeasors, damages, wrongful death and survival, contributory negligence defense, assumption of risk defense, comparative negligence defense, last clear chance, statute of limitations and repose, immunities, imputed negligence, strict liability, products liability, nuisance, misrepresentation, defamation, invasion of privacy and misuse of legal procedure.



Please visit the Thurgood Marshall Law School Curriculum at [www.tsulaw.edu](http://www.tsulaw.edu) for a full listing of courses and degree requirements.



# At a Glance Course Offerings (subject to change):



Administrative Law	Juvenile Law
Bankruptcy	Labor Law
Business Planning	Law Practice Management
Corporate Taxation	Law Review
Communications Law	Legislation
Consumer Protection	Local Government
Copyright Law	Marital Property
Employment Law	Mediation
Death Penalty	Moot Court
Domestic Relations	Motion Practice
Employment Base Immigration	Patent Law
Entertainment Law	Seminar in Taxation
Environmental Law	Patents, Copyrights, and Trademarks
Estate and Gift Taxation	Public Education Law
Estate Planning	Real Estate Transactions
Family Law	Remedies
First Amendment	Securities Regulation
Government Contracts Law	Sports Law
Health Law	Texas Civil Procedure
Immigration Law	Texas Property Law (Oil and Gas)
Independent Research I/II	
Insurance Law	
Intellectual Property	
International Business Transactions	
International Human Rights	
International Law	
International Trade Regulation	
Jurisprudence	

# Certificate Programs

TMSL offers two certificate programs: Immigration & International Law and Government Law. These concentrations are intended to impart extensive knowledge about issues and unique problems associated with these fields of practice in order to encourage a level of competency in a specialized area of interest.

## **THE IMMIGRATION & INTERNATIONAL LAW CERTIFICATE PROGRAM**

TMSL awards a Certificate in International & Immigration Law to students who have demonstrated a serious interest and scholastic achievement in international and immigration law. This certificate is awarded to graduating students who pursue and successfully complete a balanced course of study combining the procedural, substantive and practical aspects of either international law or immigration law, consisting of at least 15 hours of international/immigration law.

## **THE GOVERNMENT CERTIFICATE PROGRAM**

Students who have demonstrated a serious interest in government administration, regulation and policy are encouraged to participate in the Center for Government Law Concentration Program. TMSL awards a Certificate in Government Law to graduating students who successfully complete the requisite number of hours in government law course work, externships and independent study.

While a recent addition to TMSL, once the Government Law Program is fully operational, the Government Law concentration program will require completion of a minimum of 19 credit hours.

## **JOINT AND CONCURRENT DEGREE PROGRAMS**

TMSL offers dual degrees in conjunction with other graduate departments of the University. Students enrolled in a dual degree program must complete their first year of study in the School of Law. Students may apply to both programs before enrolling in law school, but most students are likely to elect to apply during their second semester of law school.

We offer the following joint/concurrent degree plans:

### **J.D./Master of Business Administration**

Today more than ever, business and industry must consider not only complex business problems, but must also take private and difficult legal issues into account in all business decisions. Recognizing the need to be competitive in the present business community, the Thurgood Marshall School of Law and the Jesse H. Jones School of Business have responded by creating a dual degree program in Business Administration. The dual J.D./M.B.A. program prepares students to address those complex and difficult business and/or legal problems that will arise in the world markets today, and in the future. Students may obtain both a J.D. and an M.B.A. in four years instead of the five years necessary when both programs are pursued separately. This program is particularly appropriate for students with career objectives in corporate law, labor law, corporate management, or tax.

### **J.D./Master of Public Affairs**

A partnership of Law and Public Affairs/Administration is essential to effective government operations. The Public Affairs/Administration program educates individuals to work in government agencies and in organizations that conduct substantial business with government agencies. The J.D./Public Affairs/Administration dual degree provides students with knowledge and understanding of the dynamics related to the Texas, national and international political and legal systems and the various governmental agencies relationship to the preceding. Students may obtain a J.D. and an M.P.A. in three to four years instead of the four to five years necessary when both programs are pursued separately.



# academic

## Support & Services



### OFFICE OF ACADEMIC SUPPORT PROGRAMS

The purpose of the Office of Academic Support Programs is to provide academic support to Thurgood Marshall School of Law students in their endeavor to pass the bar examination the first time, become outstanding attorneys, and provide a variety of programs for those students performing at below average with a premise to increase bar passage rates, reduce attrition rates, and thereby increase retention rates.

To achieve these goals, TMSL hosts many programs to enhance educational development and provide academic support such as:

- Summer Academic Enrichment
- Academic Advising
- Academic Mentoring Programs
- Academic Workshops
- Peer Tutorials
- Professor Led Tutorials
- Essay Writing Clinic
- Bar Exam Preparation Program
- “At Risk” Students Program
- Study Aids
- Academic Support Services
- Online Learning Resource Center

### TMSL LAW REVIEW

The most effective advocates not only possess excellent oral communications skills but also possess exceptional legal research and writing skills. Students utilize and perfect these skills by editing the Thurgood Marshall Law Review.

For more than 30 years, the Law Review has been an intense legal research and writing forum for legal scholars from around the world.

Students are responsible for production of the entire law journal including editing legal articles as well as writing and editing notes and comments.

Participation is only open to second-year students after completion of their first year. Eligibility for membership on the Law Review Staff is determined on the basis of the candidate’s first-year grade point average and participation in a writing competition conducted at the end of each spring semester following comprehensive examinations.

Students who have participated in Law Review for four semesters may enroll and receive credit for the course.

### THE JAMES M. DOUGLAS BOARD OF ADVOCATES (MOOT COURT)

The Board of Advocates (BOA) provides students with opportunities to develop litigation oriented advocacy skills, interviewing, counseling, and negotiation skills.

BOA sends teams to interschool competitions sponsored by the American Bar Association, Texas Young Lawyers Association, American Trial Lawyers Association, National Black Law Students Association, National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, New York Bar Association, American Intellectual Property Lawyers Association, and others.

Students are able to practice and compete in various simulated trial and appellate competitions. With the exception of the limits placed on first year students, all students may compete in any intramural competition sponsored by the Board of Advocates.





# clinics

## The Clinical Legal Studies Program

TMSL currently offers both live in-house clinics and off-site placement sites, where students can utilize what they have learned in the classroom to the real world — working and solving problems for real clients.

The programs present students a typical work environment and allow them to fully experience law practice as well as a sense of achievement.

There are four in-house clinics, which provide services to low-income clients and are comprised of the following: Criminal-Misdemeanor; Criminal-Innocence Project; Administrative-Immigration; and Civil Law Clinic.



### **Criminal Law Clinic**

The Criminal Law Clinic is operated as an in-house live-client clinic.

A full-time clinical instructor/staff attorney supervises students participating in this clinic. This clinic provides students with an opportunity to acquire valuable and practical experience in the area of criminal and juvenile law. The clinic assists in developing skills in the areas of client interviewing, investigative techniques, drafting of criminal law pleadings, pre-trial motion practice, plea negotiations, courtroom presentation and trial and oral advocacy skills. Students may have the opportunity to participate in or conduct a trial. Students completing this clinic must demonstrate competency in handling misdemeanor criminal and juvenile law related cases from the initial client interview through court proceedings.

### **Civil Law Clinic**

The Civil Law Clinic is operated as an in-house live-client clinic. A full-time clinical instructor/staff attorney supervises students participating in this clinic.

This clinic provides students with an opportunity to participate in one of three tracks: family law, probate (wills and guardianship), and landlord/tenant. The clinic assists in developing skills in the areas of client interviewing, drafting of pleadings, pre-trial motion practice, courtroom presentation and trial and advocacy. Students completing this clinic must demonstrate competency in handling civil law cases from the initial client interview through court proceedings.

### **Immigration Law Clinic**

The Administrative Law Clinic is operated as an in-house live-client clinic.

A full-time clinical instructor/staff attorney supervises students participating in this clinic. This clinic provides students with an opportunity to acquire valuable and practical experience in the area of immigration. The clinic is designed to develop skills in the areas of client interviewing, drafting of pleadings, pre-trial motion practice, courtroom presentation, and trial and advocacy skills. Students may have the opportunity to participate in or conduct a trial. Students completing this clinic must demonstrate competency in handling administrative law cases from the initial client interview through court proceedings.

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*“Thurgood is a place where you not only learn but grow as a professional, a law student, and a person. TMSL is also a family. The professors actually know their students, and they demand excellence before they send you out into the legal profession.”*

Kenneth Hardin, 3L

The program is restricted to third-year students and each student is limited to five (5) or six (6) semester hours of credit, depending on the particular clinic course.

# externships

## Train and Excel ...



### IN OUR EXTERNSHIP PROGRAM

An externship is apprentice-like training in a legal environment where students gain practical experience in an area of law. The externship clinic removes the students from the classroom environment and places them in the working environment allowing them to apply specific substantive knowledge. The externship clinic also provides students with opportunities to define and pursue learning goals and explore career interests. Prior to registering for any clinic, students must submit an application, be interviewed by the clinical instructor, and receive the Director's approval.

#### Criminal Law Externship

This clinic introduces students to two practical application concepts: first, students walk through the anatomy of a criminal case in the classroom component and second, students are placed in a local prosecutor's office to work as a legal intern and learn from observation and experience. The classroom component introduces the student to the practical application of Texas Criminal Procedure from arrest to the disposition of a case. Students participate, experience, and are exposed to search and arrest warrants, indictments and complaints, tangible evidence, pre-trial arguments, hearings, and pleas. Additionally, students are involved in extensive criminal litigation and may actually perform voir dire, opening statements, cross and direct examinations, and closing statements in a trial. The placement component assigns students to a prosecutor to be trained in the art of prosecutorial advocacy.

#### Civil Law Externship

This civil law clinic provides students with the practical application of legal concepts. First, in the classroom component, students walk through the anatomy of a civil case. Second, students are placed with a city, county, state, federal agency or nonprofit to work as an intern and learn from observation and experience. The classroom component introduces the practical application of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure. Additionally, the classroom component prepares students by engaging in simulated interviewing, motion practice, deposition practice, interrogatory drafting, simulated pre-trial procedures and role-playing on jury selection. The placement component allows the student to observe and participate in the activities of a legal environment. These activities may include writing briefs, drafting motions, interviewing clients, and conducting arguments in civil court.

#### Judicial Externship

This clinic places third-year students who have excelled academically in the Law School with state and federal trial and appellate judges. The students learn the legal process from the unique perspective of a sitting judge and involved in judicial decision making by assisting the judge in ruling upon motions, case or evidentiary objections. While the assignments of the students may vary, a typical externship may involve researching legal issues, evaluating legal argument, writing judicial memoranda, drafting opinions and orders, observing trials and motions calendars.



# Career Services

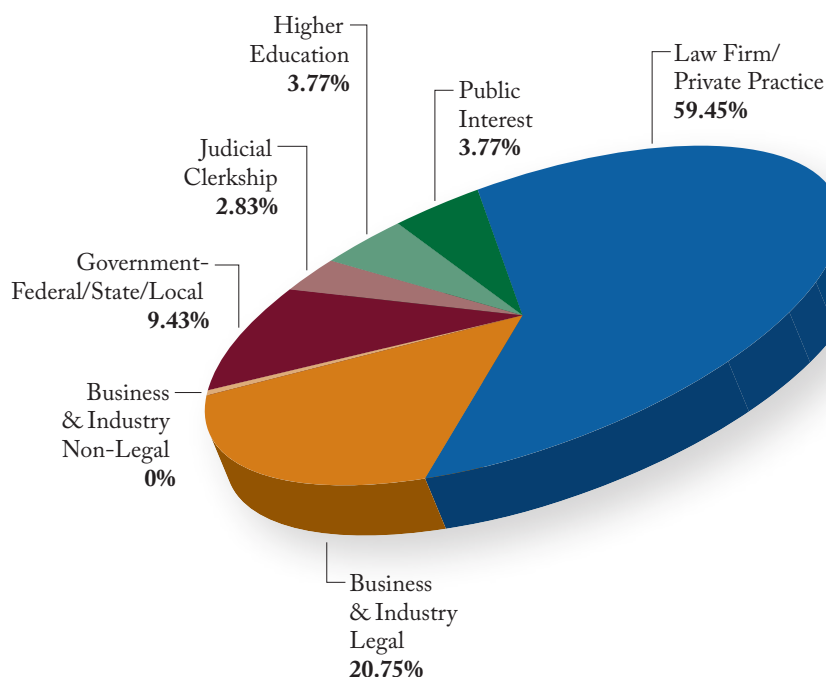
The Career Services Office (CSO) works to assist both law students and recent graduates with their individual job search by offering techniques and strategies to aid in identifying and securing employment; increase legal job opportunities by marketing students to both traditional and non-traditional prospective employers; and to develop networking events by collaborating with local, regional, and national legal professionals that facilitates student and alumni exposure. Each year employers representing law firms, corporations, courts, and government agencies visit our campus to conduct interviews. The On-Campus Interview Program is held each fall from mid-September to mid-November; however, employers interview on campus year-round. The CSO also participates in 25 job fairs throughout the school year. Additionally, the CSO sponsors various seminars, panels, and receptions that provide an opportunity for students to meet legal practitioners and discuss the multiple areas of practice.

Students have secured positions with the following organizations in the past five years:

- Adams & Reese LLP
- Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld, LLP
- Balch & Bingham, LLP
- Baker Donelson Bearman Caldwell & Berkowitz
- Baker Botts LLP
- Beirne Maynard & Parsons, LLP
- Bracewell & Giuliani, LLP
- CenterPoint Energy
- City of Chicago, Department of Law
- City of Houston, Department of Law
- Clark Thomas & Winters
- Cook County State's Attorney Office
- Crowe & Dunlevy
- Dallas County Public Defender's Office
- El Paso Corporation
- EPA-Office of General Counsel
- Exxon Mobile Corporation
- Federal Bureau of Investigation
- Federal Trade Commission
- 1st Court of Appeals
- Fort Bend County District Attorney's Office

- Fulbright & Jaworski, LLP
- Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP
- Hall, Estill, Hardwick, Gable, Golden & Nelson, P.C.
- Harris County District Attorney's Office
- Haynes and Boone, LLP
- Husch Blackwell Sounders
- Internal Revenue Service, Office of Chief Counsel
- Jackson Walker, LLP
- Kirkpatrick & Lockhart Preston Gates Ellis, LLP
- Liskow & Lewis
- Marathon Oil Company
- National Labor Relations Board
- Office of the Attorney General, state of Texas
- Quarles & Brady, LLP
- Shook, Hardy & Bacon, LLP
- Sidley Austin Brown & Wood, LLP
- State Counsel for Offenders
- Tarrant County District Attorney's Office
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
- Texas General Land Office
- Thompson & Knight LLP
- U.S. Air Force JAG Corps
- U.S. Army JAG Corps
- U.S. Coast Guard
- U.S. Navy JAG Corps
- Vinson & Elkins
- Winstead, PC

## EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS



# our intellectual

## Centers of Excellence



### CENTER FOR LEGAL PEDAGOGY & MISSION

The Center is dedicated to the study of instructional design for legal education. The Center uses principles from the cognitive sciences about learning and discourse theory to study, implement, and evaluate law school teaching methodologies. Additionally, the center provides educational support to students through mentoring and advising programs. Development forums enable faculty members to foster scholarship are also implemented through the Center.

### CENTER FOR GOVERNMENT LAW

The mission of the Center is to provide integrated academic and practical skills training in government administration and regulation—preparing students for the practice of law in the public sector. TMSL, through its academic, clinical, and trial advocacy programs has a tradition of cultivating dynamic public service lawyers.

With the addition of the Center for Government Law (CGL), TMSL has expanded its capacity to prepare lawyers for all phases of federal, state, and local government practice. The Center for Government Law works with numerous governmental organizations on the local, state and federal levels to serve as a bridge between government and academia.

### THE EARL CARL INSTITUTE FOR LEGAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

The Institute was established as a research and writing think tank. Since its inception, the Institute has published various articles that focus on its urban mission: to help solve legal and social problems facing the urban community through scholarship and advocacy.

The Institute's publications and projects have addressed:

- The Effect of Education on Eliminating Recidivism
- The Constitutionality of the Texas Public Education Funding System
- Expanding Access to Wealth via the Community Reinvestment Act
- Racially Discriminatory Effects of Zoning
- Genetic Technology and its Impact on the Criminal Justice System
- Living Conditions in the American Prison System



## INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL AND IMMIGRATION LAW (IIIL)

The IIIL is dedicated to providing specialized academic and practical legal training for students planning a career in international or immigration law. At the same time, the Institute is dedicated to encouraging scholarly research in the fields of international law and immigration law. Accordingly, the Institute will:

- Prepare qualified and confident students trained for positions with law firms practicing international or immigration law; U.S. government agencies, foreign governments; and private organizations and foundations working to advance social and economic justice.
- Prepare well-educated students with an understanding of the complex issues related to international and immigration law.
- Provide a scholarly atmosphere for the study of international law and immigration law and to provide forums for the discussions of problems facing those disciplines.

Over the past two years, the IIIL has sponsored at least two international legal scholarships and a number of conferences and lectures, including the African Union Conference which focused on developments on the continent of Africa and the creation of the African Union. In addition, the IIIL has sponsored numerous lectures and conferences including the following:

- An Evening with Rice University President David Leebron.
- The Human Aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.
- Career Preparation for Students interested in International and Immigration Law.
- Lecture by Hua Jinzou, Consul General for the Peoples Republic of China in Houston.
- Immigration Law for Non-Immigration Practitioners.

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*“Thurgood Marshall School of Law has a familial-like connection amongst the students and faculty. There is truly a sense of accountability that emanates throughout the school; I am absolutely blessed to be a part of it.”*

Julie M. Wenah, 2L

# our student Organizations



## IMMERSE YOURSELF...

TMSL has many student organizations with a wide range of missions and interests that provide opportunities for students to enrich and complement their legal education. TMSL realizes organizations work as valuable outlets for learning outside the classroom, for allowing students to be “hands on” while meeting and sharing interests with other people, and broadening one’s horizons in both work and leadership skills. Students hold all leadership responsibilities and are offered guidance by a faculty or staff advisor.

### **African Law Students Association (ALSA)**

An organization designed to promote and articulate the professional needs and goals of students with an African heritage. The association fosters professionalism of its members with special regard to the legal profession. It is also the goal of the association to encourage a sense of excellence in the study and application of international legal issues. Forums involving both international business and human rights issues are a focal point. The society membership is unique, inasmuch as it represents the broad cultural diversity of the School of Law.

### **Asian Pacific American Law Students Association (APALSA)**

APALSA is a progressive student-oriented organization designed to: (1) provide a means for Asian American and Pacific American law students to address concerns unique to them; (2) promote an environment conducive to the study of law; and (3) to encourage adherence to the highest ethical standards of the legal profession. APALSA works with other law student organizations and the local legal community in sponsoring functions.

### **Black Law Students Association (BLSA)**

BLSA strives to articulate and promote the professional needs and goals of Black law students; cultivate and encourage professional competence;

and focus on the relationship of the Black attorney to the American legal system.

### **Christian Legal Society (CLS)**

CLS is a nationwide organization formed to foster Christian teachings in the legal community and seeks to aid students who have the desire to incorporate the Christian lifestyle into the rigor of the law school setting. As well, CLS helps foster Christian ideals to incorporate in the practice of law. Weekly seminars are held featuring a variety of topics and speakers.

### **Criminal Law Society (CLS)**

This society promotes and explores aspects of criminal law practice by enhancing student advocacy skills and by developing networking skills with practicing criminal lawyers.

### **Environmental Law Society (ELS)**

ELS is dedicated to educating the school and the local community about anthropogenic impacts on the environment. Community cleanups and lecture series concerning energy and the environment are offered.

### **Government Law Society (GLS)**

GLS is the premier student organization for law students with an interest in federal, state, and local government law and policy. The GLS was established to educate the Thurgood Marshall School of Law community about government practice areas. Furthermore, the society believes exposing law students to government service at the earliest opportunity may instill an awareness of those issues that will benefit both the lawyer and society.

### **Health Law Society (HLS)**

HLS focuses on issues concerning the health law field. Informational seminars, career planning conferences, and networking opportunities are offered.

### **Hispanic Law Students Association (HLSA)**

HLSA is comprised of current students of Thurgood Marshall who are of Hispanic background or those who possess an interest in the furtherance of the Hispanic community. HLSA seeks to bring legal training to bear



upon the problems, legal and nonlegal, in the Hispanic community. It also provides an organization through which the Thurgood Marshall School of Law can effectively communicate the needs and desires of its student members and Hispanic law students.

#### **Houston Young Lawyers Association (HYLA)**

The HYLA provides law students with ample opportunity to network with young lawyers currently practicing in the Houston area. HYLA sponsors numerous seminars and social events throughout the academic year.

#### **Intellectual Property Society (IPS)**

Established in 1990, the society seeks to bridge the gap between academic and practical aspects associated with the intellectual property field. The society sponsors both lectures and symposiums while acknowledged experts in the field are featured as speakers and participants.

#### **International & Immigration Law Society (IILS)**

The purpose of IILS is to promote awareness, study and understanding of international and immigration law issues. The society's goals are to encourage communication and cooperation among law students and other interested individuals internationally; increase opportunities to learn about other cultures and legal systems worldwide; and publicize career opportunities in international and immigration law.

#### **Phi Alpha Delta (PAD)**

An international professional fraternity of law students, legal educators, and members of the Bench and Bar, PAD was organized to promote professional competency and achievement within the legal profession. The fraternity provides students with immediate access to a wealth of legal talent, as well as limited financial assistance.

#### **Phi Delta Phi (PDP)**

PDP is a professional legal fraternity dedicated to professional excellence and the development of life-long camaraderie. PDP is the oldest and largest legal fraternity. To be eligible for membership, an individual must be of good moral character and either a student actively pursuing the study of law or an individual who is prominent in the legal profession.

#### **Prestage Woods Women's Legal Society (PWWLS)**

PWWLS provides a forum and network for issues and concerns affecting professional women. PWWLS seeks to promote a cohesive and dignified women's organization, which incorporates more qualified women into the professional arena.

#### **Student Bar Association (SBA)**

Every student in the School of Law is automatically a member of the Student Bar Association. The primary objective of the association is to provide an organization of self-government for all students so that they may sponsor various projects and programs which will enhance their knowledge of and respect for the legal profession, as well as their pride in the Law School. The secondary purpose is to have a medium for strengthening cooperation among the students, between the students and faculty, and between the students and the Bar.

#### **Thurgood Marshall Tax Society (TMTS)**

The Thurgood Marshall Tax Society develops programs and presents key speakers on topics concerning income tax issues. The organization provides tax services for the community and assists students in obtaining employment in the area of tax law.



# experience

## The City of Houston

TMSL knows it is not just academia that promotes intellectual growth; social experiences matter too. The campus is centrally located in Houston, the fourth most populous city in the nation and a world-class city second to none. Come revel in a rich melting pot of diversity and experience a vibrant wealth of opportunity!

### HOUSTON'S LAW INDUSTRY:

Houston is the largest legal market in Texas. The dynamic law industry offers some of the broadest variety in the types of legal work, with local, regional, and international firms all playing significant roles. As the largest seaport in the United States, an energy hub, a transportation center, and home for several major offices of financial institutions and insurance companies, Houston has the most diversified economy in Texas.

The following areas that are consistently active include: bankruptcy; compliance; employment; litigation; real estate; mergers and acquisitions; divestitures; public finance; biotech; IP prosecution; securities; oil and gas; appellate; ERISA; public service; probate; tax; and family law.

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*"Texas Southern University is my home away from home. My professors, the administration and my classmates are like my extended family."*

Dante Johnson, Alumnus

### QUICK FACTS:

- Founded in 1836, the City of Houston has a population of 1.9 million.
- Houston metro area's population of 4.8 million is 10th largest among U.S. metropolitan statistical areas.
- Houston has the second lowest cost of living among major American cities.
- Houston has professional teams representing every major sport.
- More than 38 million people each year fly in and out of Houston's two major airports.
- Houston has more than 11,000 restaurants.
- Houston has a Theater District second only to New York City in terms of a concentration of seats in a single geographic area.
- Houston has a unique museum district offering a range of museums, galleries, art and cultural institutions, including Houston's major museums.
- Houston has more than 500 cultural, visual and performing arts organizations, 90 of which are devoted to multicultural and minority arts.
- More than 90 languages are spoken throughout the Houston area.
- Houston is home to the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, the largest rodeo in the world.
- Home to 18 Fortune 500 companies and more than 5,000 energy related firms, Houston is considered by many as the Energy Capital of the world.

For more information about living and working in Houston, visit [www.TSULaw.edu](http://www.TSULaw.edu).







# join us...

## Admissions



Thurgood Marshall School of Law seeks students from diverse backgrounds with the potential to succeed in law school and become active members of the legal community. The admissions decision is based primarily on the applicant's motivation and intellectual capacity as demonstrated by his or her undergraduate records, and on his or her aptitude for the study of law as measured by the LSAT. However, the admissions decision is more complex than the mere rank ordering of applicants on the basis of a numerical formula. Leadership ability, prior community service, work experience, the student's background, extracurricular activities, and graduate study in another discipline are all considered. The Admissions Committee also seeks to determine the applicant's level of motivation by reviewing personal experience indicating determination, patience, and perseverance. The Committee believes that past success in overcoming an economic and/or educational disadvantage is a prime indicator of motivation. It is the applicant's sole responsibility to ensure that all application materials reach the law school.

The Application Process includes:

- ✓ Registering with LSDAS and taking the LSAT
- ✓ Completing and signing the application for admissions
- ✓ Personal Statement
- ✓ Current Resume
- ✓ Two Letters of Recommendation
- ✓ \$55 non-refundable Application Fee

### LAW SCHOOL ADMISSIONS TEST

#### Law School Data Assembly Service

Applications for admissions as J.D. candidates must take the Law School Admissions Test (LSAT). The LSAT is administered four times a year at various locations throughout the continental United States. The LSAT is also administered at a few locations outside the United States. Applicants are urged to register for the June, October, or December examinations to ensure prompt processing of their application. Waivers for LSAT fees are available on a financial need basis directly from the Law School Admissions Council (LSAC), and should be applied for early.

All applicants must register with the Law School Data Assembly Service (LSDAS), the division of LSAC, which collects and analyzes academic data and transcripts on behalf of all American Bar Association approved law schools. Information about LSDAS and registration forms included in the LSAT/LSDAS Registration and Information Book, or by visiting [www.lsdas.org](http://www.lsdas.org).



### **Requirements for a J.D. Degree**

The Law School offers a full-time day program only and no option for part-time or evening study. To graduate with a Juris Doctor degree, a student must complete 90 credit hours with a cumulative grade of 2.00/4.00.

The curriculum – which is instructionally designed to meet the Law School's educational goals – includes bar-tested, professional skills and ethics courses. Students enroll in an average of (15) credits per fall and spring semesters. Each semester provides for (14) weeks of class study over a three and a half month period. All first-year courses and upper-level bar-tested or substantive, non-elective courses are taught by full-time faculty.

### **INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS**

Applicants who have been awarded foreign degrees by an institution outside the U.S. must request that a transcript be sent directly to the School of Law and to a foreign credential service for evaluation. Applicants may request a list of foreign credential evaluation services by calling or writing to the Office of Admissions. Completed foreign credential evaluations must be sent directly by the credential evaluation service to the School of Law and include a course-by-course description and a grade point average calculation.

### **FOREIGN-EDUCATED APPLICANTS**

All foreign transcripts sent to LSAC are processed through the JD Credential Assembly Service (JD CAS), an extension of the LSDAS for foreign-educated applicants. There is no additional fee for the JD CAS; it is included in the standard LSDAS fee.

Foreign transcripts received through JD CAS will be sent to the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO) where the transcripts will be authenticated and analyzed.

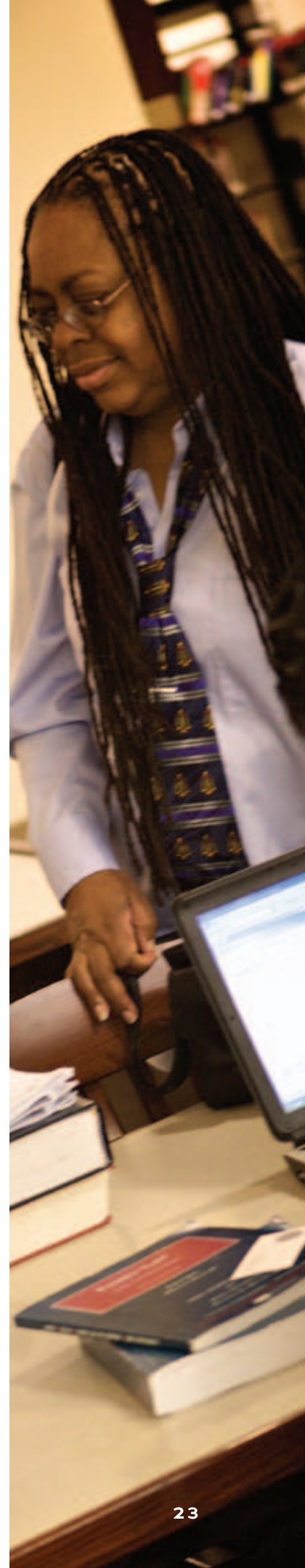
The data will be assembled into a foreign credential evaluation document that contains AACRAO's summary, copies of the transcripts, and a TOEFL score, if applicable. You must advise Educational Testing Service (ETS) to send your TOEFL score to LSAC (institution code number 0058).

This foreign credential evaluation and its associated documents will be incorporated into the regular LSDAS report in both paper and electronic versions. Upon submission of a matriculation decision, the "original" foreign transcript(s) received by LSAC will be forwarded to the law school.

### **TRANSFERS**

In the case of transfer (advanced standing) applications, no more than (30) semester hours of approved credit is transferable by applicants already attending other ABA-approved law schools. Generally, only students who have a first-year academic record are eligible as transfers. In addition to the application for admission and the \$55 application fee (payable by cashier's check or money order), a statement regarding the reasons the applicant wishes to transfer must be submitted.

Additionally, a dean's letter regarding the transfer applicant's status at the prior law school and an official school transcript showing all first-year grades must be sent directly to the Office of Admissions. Transfer applicants must register with the Law School Admissions Council for an LSDAS report.



# financial aid



Thurgood Marshall School of Law understands financing a legal education represents a sizeable investment in your future. While the primary responsibilities of financing your education rests with you and your family, the TMSL Office of Admissions and Financial Aid staff is available to meet, counsel and assist you in the application process on the various financing options available, and in the completion of financial aid paperwork. In addition, TMSL staff can also assess your loan eligibility.

Financial aid may consist of funding from a variety of sources and may include loans, scholarships, grants, and work-study. The components of a financial aid award are determined by financial need, program of study, and federal, state, or institutional eligibility standards.

To successfully manage your financial aid, we recommend that you apply early and consider all of the financing options available to you. It is important to maintain accurate records and pay strict attention to deadlines.

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*“Thurgood has afforded me with the opportunity to fulfill my dream in life. I feel that I have some of the greatest instructors at this school because I am learning how to be a good law student and future attorney. The Law School is definitely challenging, but also very rewarding. There are many outlets for growth and mentorship. I am thankful to be here.”*

Collette Gadson, 2L







#### RIGHT TO MODIFY

The information contained in this bulletin is considered to be descriptive in nature and not contractual. The School of Law reserves the right to make changes in the contents of this bulletin from time to time as it deems necessary or desirable. Upon acceptance into the law school, the student will be provided a copy of the Rules of Matriculation that provides the rules and regulations of the law school.

#### NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATORY POLICY

The Thurgood Marshall School of Law admits students without regard to sex, race, color, creed, and national ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to its students. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, sex, or against otherwise qualified handicapped students in its admission and academic and other standards, nor in the granting of scholarships, loans, and other financial aid, nor in the planning and administration of any of its academic programs.

