

Marshall News

Semester Break and Summer Hours

Here is our operating schedule as the semester is ending:

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THURGOOD LAW LIBRARY

Summer Interim Hours

MAY 2026

Summer Hours	Wednesday - Friday, May 6-8.....8 AM - 5 PM
MONDAY-THURSDAY..... 8 AM - 8 PM	Saturday - Sunday, May 9-10..... CLOSED
FRIDAY..... 8 AM - 6 PM	Monday - Friday, May 11-15.....8 AM - 5 PM
SATURDAY.....9 AM - 6 PM	Saturday - Sunday, May 16-17..... CLOSED
SUNDAY.....12 NOON - 8 PM	Monday - Friday, May 18-22.....8 AM - 5 PM
	Saturday - Sunday, May 23-24..... CLOSED

Tuesday, May 26, 2026 - Summer Hours Begin

Holiday Hours, Summer 2026

Memorial Day

Monday, May 25, 2026 (**CLOSED**)

Juneteenth

Friday, June 19, 2026 (**CLOSED**)

Independence Day

Saturday, July 4, 2026 (**CLOSED**)



Legal Research Boot Camp



Legal Research Crash Course

The Crash Course In Legal Research otherwise known as “Legal Research Boot Camp” was held online via Zoom this year on Saturday, March 28, 2026. Our Academic Representatives from Lexis and Westlaw, Adriana Ramirez (Lexis) and Aden Luckett (Westlaw) did a wonderful job preparing students for internships! They identified things you need to know while using their products as a Summer Associate and demonstrated a search from the provided fact pattern. They also highlighted popular AI tools while clarifying how they use extractive AI which utilizes only verified sources within their search engines. For practical application, the students researched a Wills/ Probate fact pattern. Afterwards, the participants received extra credit for Legal Research, Lexis points and other goodies from Westlaw! You can find the recording of this event on the Law Library's [Events-Instructional Programs](#) page.

The Library Welcomes Summer Research Assistants

The law library staff extends a warm welcome to our newest cohort of research assistants.

Throughout the summer, research assistants gain hands-on legal researching experience as they explore various legal topics on behalf of the Library Director and Faculty Research Librarian, Professor Tara Long.

Research assistants will be instructed on best research practices, work closely with multiple faculty members, and receive constructive feedback on their work.

Through this significant experience, the research assistants will leave the program being more proficient legal researchers and writers, preparing them for success in future classwork, interviews, and jobs!

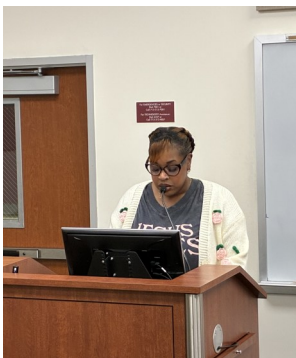


DeCarlous Spearman Poetry Contest Open Mic Night



This year, the library held its annual poetry contest in honor of our former director, DeCarlous Spearman (May 12, 1963—December 12, 2023). The theme of the poetry contest was “Civil Rights in an Ultra Conservative Era”. The competition culminated with the Open Mic Night event to celebrate the winners. The winners performed their award winning poetry. The Grand Prize Winner of the TMSL Library’s DeCarlous Spearman Poetry Contest was Morgan Chavers for her poem “Civil Rights In a Conservative Era”. The 2nd place prize went to Keara Dixon for her poem, “Freedom”. 3rd place went to Sania Bagley for her poem “Poverty Has a Price Tag”. An honorable mention goes to Brianna Martin who recited her poem “Low Battery” that received 4th place. The prizes were \$250 for first place, \$150 for second place, and \$100 for third place. Refreshments were served and it was an amazing experience. Thank you to all of the students who participated in the contest. A special thanks goes to our Library Director, Tara Long whose law firm, Long Law Firm sponsored the prizes.

See Poetry Contest winner, Morgan Chavers’ winning poem on page 5.



Brianna Martin



Sania Bagley



Keara Dixon



Morgan Chavers

Reference and Research Assistance Throughout the Summer

We encourage students with summer internships or classes to utilize your law library as a resource! When you begin a research assignment, we are here to help you maximize your time, find relevant documents, and wow your supervisors. Reference librarians are available at the Reference Desk or on call to assist students with their research/information needs.

REFERENCE HOURS

MONDAY– THURSDAY

9 AM – 5 PM

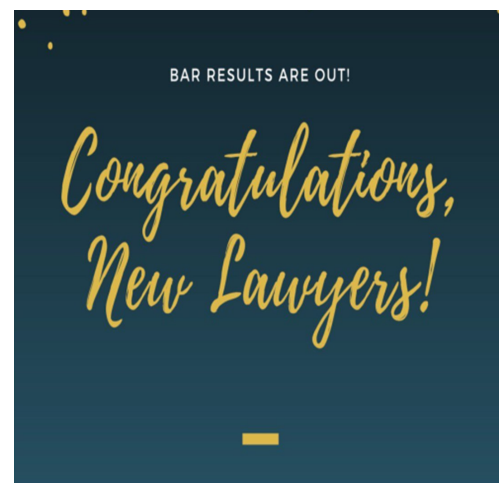
RESEARCH ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE VIA:

- **Email:** lawlibraryhelp@tmslaw.tsu.edu
- **Telephone:** (713) 313-1108
- **Make an Appointment.** Schedule a consultation with a librarian online; [Virtual Appointments](#) (Zoom) or [In-Person Appointments](#).
- [Submit a Question](#). Ask a question online that will be submitted to our librarians. Responses are available within 24-48 hours.
- **Chat Online** via [LibChat](#)



Congratulations on Passing the February 2026 & Great Luck on the July 2026 Bar Examination

The Thurgood Marshall School of Law Library staff extends its sincerest congratulations every student/ alumni who passed the February 2026 Bar exam and best wishes to those taking it in July. As new attorneys and alumni of the Law School, you will continue to have access to the Law Library's resources for a limited amount of time. Ask a librarian about which resources might be helpful to you.



“Civil Rights in a Conservative Era” by Morgan Chavers

To be a minority in 2026
is to feel history repeating in real time.
To watch rights,
that were bled for,
marched for,
died for
be undone in the span of headlines.

We talking bout
Donald Trump trying to rewrite birthright citizenship
like the Constitution is optional when it don't benefit power.
Like citizenship, is a privilege
instead of a promise.

We talking about ICE
kicking in doors, not just at the border
but creeping into Black communities too,
because oppression don't stay in one lane
And it never has.

We talking about Black women
overqualified, overworked, and overlooked
the backbone of every system
being fired in the name of "merit,"
while DEI gets stripped down
like it was never meant to level the field in the first place.

They say it's policy.
We know it's a pattern.

Because we've seen this before.
Different decade,
same strategy.
Dress it up in law, call it reform, but it still hits
the same damn people, my people, black people

And it makes you wonder what was the point
of the marches?
Of the hoses?
Of the dogs?
Of the sit-ins,
the freedom rides,
the voices that cracked just to be heard?



“Civil Rights in a Conservative Era” Continued

What was the point?

if in just a few years ... it feels like we right back where we started

But the truth is, civil rights was never a finish line.

It was a warning.

A warning that progress
can be reversed.

A warning that rights
are only as strong
as the people willing to defend them.

So today, tomorrow, and for the rest of your life
don't sit quiet.

don't get comfortable.

don't pretend

That this don't concern us.

Today, tomorrow and forevermore, we fight.

Not with hate,

but with fire.

Not with fear,

but with memory.

Not with hallucinations,

But with facts.

Because our ancestors did not fight for us to fold.

They fought with

less resources,

less protection,

less recognition

and still found a way to push history forward.

So who are we to let it slip backward?

We fight, in classrooms.

We fight, in courtrooms.

We fight, in conversations

We fight, until our last breath,

just like they did.

Because this is not the end of civil rights.

This is the test of whether we deserve what they gave everything to build.

And I don't know about you, but I refuse to be the generation that lets it fall.



About the Law Library

It is the mission of the Law Library to promote excellence in academic achievement and the dissemination of legal information to the TMSL students, faculty, staff, and the community. The Law Library seeks to bolster the professional and scholarly undertakings of its faculty, and students as well as support the research and reference needs of its communities. This support encourages research and programs that promote learning, scholarship, and familiarity with new and innovative research products and techniques.

Thurgood Marshall School of Law
3100 Cleburne Street
Houston, TX 77004

Circulation Phone: (713) 313-7125

Reference Phone : (713) 313-1108



We're on the Web & Social Media

<http://www.tsulaw.edu/library/>



@tmsllibrary

Library Staff

Karim Aldridge, Technical Services Director

Denise Cebrun, Cataloging Clerk

Leslie Coleman, Sr. Administrative Assistant

Nanette Collins, Reference Librarian

Patrina Epperson-Emmanuel, Circulation Librarian

Maia Ford, Loose-leaf Services Supervisor

Tara Long, Faculty Resources Librarian & Appointed Library Director

James Muldrew, Mail Clerk

Said Shafik, Systems Librarian



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