

Marshall News

Inside this issue:

1 Summer Hours

2 DeCarlous Spearman Poetry Contest Open Mic Night & Panel

3 The Crash Course In Legal Research

3 The Library Welcomes Summer Research Assistants

4 Reference and Research Assistance All Summer

5 Poetry Contest Winner Poem

Finals and Holiday Hours

Here is our operating schedule as the semester is ending:

Holiday Hours, May 2025

Spring 2025 Semester Break

Wednesday—Friday, May 7-9 (8 AM – 5 PM)

Saturday—Sunday, May 10–11 (CLOSED)

Monday—Friday, May 12–16 (8 AM – 5 PM)

Saturday—Sunday, May 17–18 (CLOSED)

Memorial Day

Monday, May 26, 2025 (CLOSED)

Extended Hours for Finals—Spring 2025

Dates: Friday, April 25—Tuesday, May 6, 2025

Monday—Friday7:30 AM – 11 PM

Saturday.....9 AM – 11 PM

Sunday.....12 PM – 11 PM



Summer Hours

Starting Monday, May 19, 2025, the Library's summer hours will be:

Monday – Thursday (9 AM – 9 PM)

Friday (9 AM – 6 PM)

Saturday (9 AM – 9 PM)

Sunday (12 PM – 9 PM)



DeCarlous Spearman Poetry Contest Open Mic Night & Panel Discussion



This year, the library had brought back its 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 & Panel event to celebrate the winners. The theme of the panel discussion was “Grit as an Essential Ingredient”. The panel was moderated by our Learning Resources Librarian, Monique Bailey. We received valuable insight from the panel participants, Library Director, Tara Long and Professor Cheryl Cash on how the character trait, grit was essential to their legal careers. The Grand Prize Winner of the TMSL Library’s DeCarlous Spearman Poetry Contest was Jazmin Pruitt for her poem “Back of the Bus Again”. The 2nd place prize went to Brittany Brown for her poem, “Legacy in Bronze: Thurgood’s Children”. 3rd place went to Morgan Chavers for her poem “Diary of a Tired Black Woman”. The prizes were a \$250 gift card for first place, a \$150 gift card for second place, and a \$100 gift card for third place. The winners and guests performed their award winning poetry. Refreshments were served and it was an amazing experience. Thank you to all of the students who participated in the contest.



See Poetry Contest winner, Jazmin Pruitt’s winning poem on page 5. Scan the QR code in the congratulatory image to view all of the poem entries online.

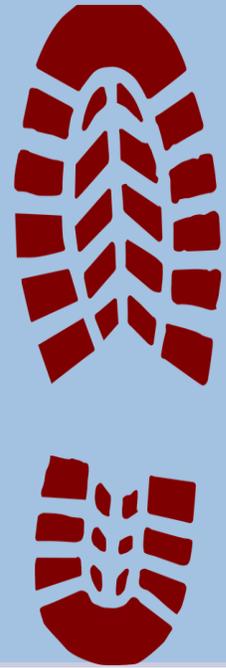


Legal Research Crash Course

Thanks to everyone who attended our annual Legal Research Crash Course. Adriana Ramirez from Lexis and Aden Luckett from Westlaw did a wonderful job preparing students for internships! They highlighted popular AI tools while clarifying how they use extractive AI which utilizes only verified sources within their search engines rather than generative AI which creates results based on public sources. Practitioners can still fully rely on the verity of the results because the companies provide warnings for search results that may be incomplete or insufficiently supported. For practical application, the students researched a criminal law hypo. Afterwards, the participants received Lexis points and one lucky student won the raffle for a private reserved study space during finals. Please help us congratulate Nkati Amare on winning the reservation to room 128!

You can find the recording of this event on the Law Library's [Events-Instructional Programs](#) page.

Legal Research Boot Camp



TSU
TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
Thurgood Marshall School of Law

Thurgood Law Library
Crash Course in Legal Research
A legal research workshop designed to prepare students for clerkships

Saturday, April 5, 2025
Breakfast & Registration at 9:30 AM
Room 202 & 203

Presented by Library Staff, Lexis, and Westlaw

Register Online to Attend
Arrive early to receive Fact Pattern
Attendees will have a chance to win exclusive personal reservation to the first-floor group study room during Finals!!!

LexisNexis Westlaw

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 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!



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

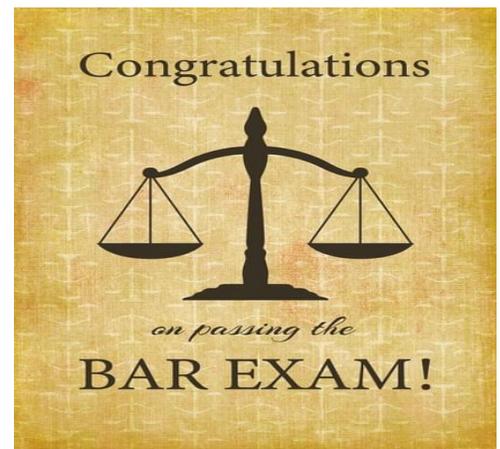
RESEARCH ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE VIA:

- **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 2025 & Great Luck on the July 2025 Bar Examination

The Thurgood Marshall School of Law Library staff extends its sincerest congratulations every student who passed the February 2025 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.



“Back of the Bus, Again” by Jazmin Pruitt

Back of the Bus, Again

Back of the bus, again
I took my seat, same as before,
same as those who came before me.
But the rules have changed, or maybe they haven't.
Maybe the ink on justice was always fading,
the paper too thin to hold its weight.

"Move back."
The words don't come from a bus driver this time,
but from gavel strikes and policy lines.
From hands that never held a protest sign,
but rewrite our rights with a stroke of a pen,
all while smiling for the cameras.

The bus keeps moving, but justice doesn't.
The road stretches long, but they bend it backward,
paving it with bans, with books burned in quiet rooms,
with ballots disappeared before they can be marked.
They say we are free, yet they redraw the maps,
cut the mic, close the doors,
make the past a whisper and the future a wall.

And when we speak, they call it rage.
They call it divisive.
They call it too much, too loud, too soon-
as if justice should wait its turn in line.

They take our chains and dip them in ink,
bind us with laws instead of rope.
The noose is now a loophole, tightening with every signature,
every vote cast to keep us in our place.

But I hear the echoes-

in the streets, in the silence, in my grandmother's hands.
She once held protest signs,
now mine have intertwined,
while hers have left a stain-
a fingerprint of struggle I will never wash away.

I hear her voice say,
"They will push you back, but do not move."
"They will erase you, but do not forget."
"They will call their oppression the law but remember-justice is not written
by their hands."



“Back of the Bus, Again” Continued

They take our books, our votes, our voice-
call it law, call it choice.

They take our history, burn it clean,
paint over truth in red, white, and mean.

They rename the stops,
pretend the ride was always smooth,
pretend they built this road for us,
when they only built detours, potholes, and dead ends.

How many times must we march this road?
How many times must we bear this load?
They push us back, they set the stage,
but they forget-we are the ones who turn the page.

Because we are the children of fire and storm,
raised on hope and battle-worn.
We are the answer, the call, the creed,
the living proof that you cannot unwrite a need.

So no, I will not move.
Not my voice. Not my fight.
Not my place in this history.

The bus keeps rolling,
but this time, I hold the wheel.



THURGOOD LAW LIBRARY

congratulates the

DeCarlous Spearman

2025 POETRY CONTEST WINNERS!

Theme: Civil Rights in an Ultra Conservative Era

DeCarlous Spearman, Esq.
Professor of Law & Law Library Director
May 12, 1963 – December 12, 2023

SCAN THE QR CODE
TO READ THE POEMS



Jazmin Pruitt, 2L
1st PLACE

Brittany Brown, 2L
2nd PLACE

Morgan Chavers, 1L
3rd PLACE



TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
Thurgood Marshall School of Law
Office of Communications & Marketing

PROTECT IT. IMPROVE IT. PASS IT ON!

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/>



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

