



# THURGOOD TODAY

March 2026 Edition



## ONE MILLION REASONS TO CELEBRATE

A HISTORIC GIFT TO THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW



# THURGOOD TODAY

## Table of Contents

<b>One Million Reasons to Celebrate</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>The Relaunch of Our Legacy</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Upcoming Events</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>Upcoming CLE's</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>Student News</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>Alumni News</b> .....	<b>14</b>
<b>Alumni on the Move</b> .....	<b>23</b>
<b>Staff News</b> .....	<b>24</b>
<b>In Memoriam</b> .....	<b>25</b>





# THURGOOD TODAY

## One Million Reasons to Celebrate

### *A Historic Gift Announced at the 2025 Legacy Ball*

In a defining moment at the **2025 Legacy Ball**, Thurgood Marshall School of Law celebrated an extraordinary milestone — a **\$1,000,000 gift** presented by **Partner Juan V. Silva** and **Eddie Sierra** of **The Silva Law Group**.

Announced before a distinguished gathering of alumni, faculty, students, and supporters, the transformational contribution represents more than generosity; it is a powerful investment in the future of Thurgood Marshall School of Law and the next generation of legal leaders.

Dean **McKen V. Carrington** reflected on the significance of the moment, stating, *“Moments like this redefine what is possible. This \$1 million investment strengthens our foundation and accelerates our mission to produce exceptional lawyers who will shape the future of justice.”*

For Alumni Board President **Kevin Murray**, the occasion carried deep meaning for the broader TMSL community. *“The Legacy Ball celebrates our past, but this gift firmly invests in our future,”* he shared. *“It reflects the power of alumni engagement and what can happen when our community comes together with a shared vision for growth and excellence.”*

This historic \$1 million gift will directly strengthen initiatives that enhance student success, academic programming, and institutional growth. It reinforces TMSL’s mission to expand opportunity, elevate excellence, and produce advocates who impact communities across the nation.

The Legacy Ball has always been a celebration of achievement and impact. This year, it became the setting for history.

One million reasons — and countless futures — to celebrate.



**Mr. Juan V. Silva, Partner**  
TMSL Class of 1990



**Mr. Eddie Sierra**  
TMSL Class of 2019





# THURGOOD TODAY

## The Relaunch of Our Legacy

### *Welcome to the New Era of the Thurgood Marshall School of Law Newsletter*

We are proud to reintroduce the official newsletter of Thurgood Marshall School of Law — a renewed platform dedicated to celebrating our community, preserving our history, and shaping our future.

This relaunch marks more than just a new publication; it represents a recommitment to the values that define our institution: excellence, advocacy, service, and leadership. Our newsletter will serve as a living record of the remarkable achievements, milestones, and contributions of our students, alumni, faculty, and staff.

### *What You Can Look Forward To*

In the months ahead, our newsletter will highlight:

- Student Spotlights – Showcasing academic excellence, leadership, and community impact
- Alumni Achievements – Celebrating career milestones, judicial appointments, and professional accomplishments
- Faculty & Staff Features – Recognizing scholarship, mentorship, and service
- Legacy Profiles – Honoring the lives and contributions of those who paved the way
- In Memoriam Tributes – Remembering members of our community whose impact endures

We are especially committed to preserving the powerful legacy of those who came before us — individuals whose dedication to justice and equality continues to inspire our mission today.

### *A Living Legacy*

As we move forward, this newsletter will not only reflect where we are but also where we are going. It will amplify voices, document achievements, and strengthen the bonds that connect generations of Thurgood Marshall School of Law.

We invite you to engage with us — share your milestones, submit updates, and help us tell the story of our community. Together, we will continue to honor our past while building a future defined by purpose and impact.

*To be featured please email Dean Prudence Smith at [prudence.smith@tmslaw.tsu.edu](mailto:prudence.smith@tmslaw.tsu.edu)*





# THURGOOD TODAY

## Upcoming Events

### Race Judicata– 5K Run & Walk

The graphic features the Thurgood Marshall School of Law logo at the top left, set against a background of the university's archway. In the center, three runners in black, blue, and red are silhouetted against a checkered finish line banner that reads "5K RUN & WALK". Below the banner, it says "ON THE CAMPUS OF TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY" and "SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2026" in a dark red box. The start time "START TIME 8:30AM" is listed below. At the bottom, two QR codes are provided for registration and sponsorship, each with a corresponding label: "SCAN TO REGISTER" and "SCAN TO SPONSOR". A circular badge on the right side of the graphic states "CASH PRIZES AWARDED TO THE TOP THREE FINISHERS", and a "SUPER HERO" logo encourages "CHANNEL YOUR INNER SUPER HERO" with "COSTUME ENCOURAGED".

The *Thurgood Marshall School of Law Alumni Board* proudly presents the *Inaugural Race Judicata 5K Run/Walk*, taking place on Saturday, March 28, 2026, at Thurgood Marshall School of Law in Houston, Texas.

**Race Judicata** is more than a race—it is a meaningful fundraiser dedicated to supporting student scholarships and enhancing programming that strengthens our commitment to excellence in legal education. This event brings together alumni, students, faculty, community members, and corporate partners who share a commitment to expanding access to legal education and fostering diversity within the legal profession.

Participants may choose to run or walk, making this an inclusive event for all fitness levels. **Cash prizes will be awarded to the top 3 finishers.** Through sponsorships and race participation, supporters play a pivotal role in helping remove financial barriers for TMSL students and investing in the next generation of legal

show up, and support this exciting new tradition. Be sure to channel your inner super hero by dressing in costume (encouraged). Together, we will make the first Race Judicata a powerful step toward opportunity, impact, and legacy.



# THURGOOD TODAY

## Upcoming Events

### Crawfish Boil & Fish Fry

THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW ALUMNI BOARD

4TH ANNUAL CRAWFISH BOIL & FISH FRY

THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW

SATURDAY MARCH 28, 2026 | 12:00PM-5:00PM

LOT E, 3900 COBB ST., HOUSTON, TEXAS  
(BETWEEN TMSL & TSU LIBRARY)

**SPONSORSHIPS**  
\$250.00 - \$10,000.00

**TICKETS**

PREPAID TICKET	\$35.00
AT THE DOOR	\$40.00
STUDENT	\$25.00
*WITH STUDENT ID	
CHILDREN	\$15.00
*12 AND UNDER	

**VENDOR OPPORTUNITIES**  
\$200.00

Dust off your boots and join us for a high-energy, family-friendly celebration at the *Thurgood Marshall School of Law Alumni Board Crawfish Boil & Fish Fry* on **Saturday, March 28, 2026, from 12:00 PM – 5:00 PM** at Lot E, 3900 Cleburne Street, Houston, Texas (between TMSL & the TSU Library).

This year’s theme is **Western — Boots on the Ground**, so grab your hats, denim, and cowboy boots and come ready to have a good time! Enjoy fresh crawfish and fried fish, live entertainment from a zydeco band, a live DJ keeping the vibes going, and a variety of local vendors. With the purchase of a commemorative cup, guests can enjoy all-you-can-drink beverages while supplies last.

Whether you're coming for the music, the food, the fellowship, or the western flair, there’s something for everyone. Most importantly, **all proceeds raised will go directly toward student scholarships and programming**, to help support and empower the next generation of legal leaders.

Round up your family and friends and meet us with your boots on the ground — we’ll see you there!



# THURGOOD TODAY

## Upcoming CLE's

### THURGOOD THURSDAY

APPOINTMENTS IN TEXAS CIVIL COURTS - ATTORNEY AD LITEM CERTIFICATION SERIES

The program is part of our Thurgood Thursday - Appointments in Texas Civil Courts - Attorney Ad Litem Certification Series, occurring every third Thursday from 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm.



The Honorable Jeralynn Manor

Thursday, March 19, 2026

#### Introduction to Civil Courts

SPEAKER: The Honorable Jeralynn Manor

HOSTS: Attorney Ronald Green '96, Judge Erica Hughes '06, and Judge TaKasha Francis '03

MOCA  
4212 Almeda  
Houston, TX 77004

SPONSOR: Jonathan Jackson '13 and Donale Evans '13

Scan QR Code to go to registration



- April 16th - Receivership I - Sponsor: : Brittani Halliburton Armstrong '16
- Location: Stems Floral and Wine - 6721 Stella Link Road, Houston, TX 77005
- May 21st - Receivership II
- June 18th - Special Commissioner
- July 16th - Family
- August 20th - Probate and Tax Master

- Occurs every third Thursday
- MCLE 1.50 / Ethics .50
- Complimentary admission
- Food - Beverages - Networking
- Register here: [Eventbrite Link]
- Note: Each location is owned or operated by a TMSL alum



TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY  
Thurgood Marshall School of Law

### THE EARL CARL INSTITUTE'S 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Child Welfare Forensics Conference Proof, Power, and Due Process (VIRTUAL ONLY) Friday, March 20, 2026 • 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

MCLE 8 hours and Ethics 4

Cost of Attendance:  
Before 3/15/26: \$175 for Attorney's  
\$100 Government/NonProfit Attorneys  
Complimentary: Public Defenders, faculty,  
staff and students

Cost of Attendance: AFTER 3/15/26  
\$200 for Attorney's  
\$125 Government/NonProfit Attorneys  
Complimentary: Public Defenders, faculty,  
staff and students

The 9th Annual Child Welfare & Forensics  
CLE, Proof, Power, and Due Process,  
examines expert litigation, charging  
decisions, cross-system advocacy,  
disability rights, and judicial gatekeeping  
in high-stakes child abuse cases. This  
full-day virtual program offers practical  
strategy and ethical guidance for complex  
child welfare proceedings.  
8.0 CLE 4.0 ethics.



Texas Criminal Defense  
Lawyers Association

For assistance with registering contact  
TCDLAat: Register@TCDLA.com  
or call 512.478.2514  
Scan QR code to goto Registration





# THURGOOD TODAY

## Upcoming CLE's

TSU TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY  
Thurgood Marshall School of Law

Wednesday, March 25, 2026  
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

### 2026 TMSL Solo Practice Series: Family Law

So You Want to Practice Family Law? Real Talk With Attorneys Who Have Been There Done That!

Chidi Anunobi, Houston  
ANUNOBI LAW PLLC

Brenda De Povers, Houston  
DEROUEN LEWIS LAW FIRM

Stanley Broussard, Houston  
BROUSSARD LAW FIRM

Tommy Simien Moon, Houston  
SCHLANGER SILVER LLP  
COURSE DIRECTOR

Christine Thrash, Houston  
THRASH LAW HOUSTON

Thomas Singleton, Houston  
SINGLETON LAW FIRM

Tacha Wilson, Houston  
SMITH WILSON DENNIS

MCLE: 3.0 \* Ethics: 1.0 \* Complimentary

Online Webinar

SCAN QR CODE FOR REGISTRATION

### *CLE's On the Horizon...*

#### **\*Solo Practice Series:**

- Personal Injury— 03/23
- Family— 03/25
- Criminal— 03/31

Presented virtually\*





# THURGOOD TODAY

## Student News

### Black Entertainment and Sports Lawyers Association (BESLA) 45th Conference

More than six TMSL students proudly represented Thurgood Marshall School of Law at the **BESLA** Conference in Puerto Rico, continuing the tradition of strong and consistent participation at one of the premier gatherings for Black entertainment and sports law professionals. During the conference, **Ty'Quaia Rollins (3L)** was honored as a recipient of the HBCU Law School Deans Scholarship, further highlighting TMSL's excellence and impact on a national stage.





# THURGOOD TODAY

## Student News

*Congratulations to Our*  
**SHARK BEACH SHOW  
COMPETITION  
QUARTER FINALIST**

**SAMUEL CAMPBELL, 3L**

**EMILY APPLGATE, 2L**  
BEST OPENING  
STATEMENT AWARD

**DOMINIQUE BROWN, 2L**  
BEST CROSS  
EXAMINATION AWARD

**NKATI AMARE, 2L**

Thurgood Marshall School of Law proudly advanced to the Quarterfinals of the *Shark Beach Showdown*, a national, invitation-only mock trial competition hosted by Nova Southeastern University Shepard Broad College of Law in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Competing against top advocacy programs from across the country, our team demonstrated exceptional courtroom skill, preparation, and professionalism on a national stage. In addition to advancing in the tournament, **Emily Applegate (2L)** earned the award for Best Opening Statement, and **Dominique Brown (2L)** was recognized for Best Cross Examination — an impressive testament to the strength of TMSL’s advocacy program.

We are incredibly proud of this outstanding achievement and the way our students continue to represent TMSL with excellence, poise, and competitive distinction.



# THURGOOD TODAY

## Student News

### Regional Championship at the National Trial Competition (NTC)



From left to right: Atty Spogmay Khalid, DaMazia Gaines, Destiny Rodriguez, DeAndre Bell II, Sheridan Davis, Atty Antonelly Vargas, Atty Daniel Franco, Atty Tim Adams

Thurgood Marshall School of Law recently captured the *Regional Championship at the National Trial Competition (NTC)* — the nation’s oldest and most prestigious law school mock trial competition. Widely regarded as one of the most rigorous advocacy tournaments in the country, NTC requires competitors to prepare a randomly assigned witness just **15 minutes before trial**, testing both preparation and courtroom agility.

This year’s regional tournament featured 18 two-person teams representing law schools from Texas, Louisiana, and Kansas. Representing TMSL, **Destiny Rodriguez (3L)** and **DeAndre Bell II (3L)** delivered an outstanding performance, going undefeated throughout the competition. Their victory marks TMSL’s **first NTC regional championship in over a decade**.

The win secures TMSL a bid to compete in the 30-team National Tournament this April in Dallas, placing the school among the top trial advocacy programs in the country.

The team was directed by **Tim Adams**, coached by **Daniel Franco** and **Antonelly Vargas**, with additional support from **Sheridan Davis (3L)** and **DaMazia Gaines (2L)**, who served as practice partners and witnesses throughout the tournament. The program also benefited from the mentorship and countless volunteer hours of **Attorney Spogmay Khalid**.

This achievement reflects the continued strength and excellence of TMSL’s advocacy program on the regional and national stage.



# THURGOOD TODAY

## Student News

### Congratulations to the TMSL Duberstein Moot Court Team



Thurgood Marshall School of Law proudly congratulates the **TMSL Duberstein Moot Court Team** on earning **Third Place Team** Overall at the prestigious Elliott Cup 5th Circuit Moot Court Competition.

Competing against top advocacy programs, the team demonstrated exceptional legal analysis, preparation, and oral advocacy skills. Their strong performance secured a podium finish in one of the region's most respected moot court competitions.

A special congratulations to **Arness Georgetown II (2L)**, who received the Outstanding Oral Advocate Award in recognition of his exceptional courtroom advocacy and performance.

Team members included **Arness Georgetown II (2L)**, **Taylor Russ (2L)**, **Anna DeYoe-Pedraza (1L)**, and **Jasmine Westmoreland (2L)**. Their success reflects the strength of TMSL's advocacy program and the dedication of our students to excellence in appellate advocacy.

Please join us in celebrating this outstanding accomplishment and the continued success of TMSL's moot court program.





# THURGOOD TODAY

## Student News

### Merit in Motion: Student Scholarship Recipients

*Congratulations to the WINNERS of the ELOISE BAILEY CLARKE BAR SCHOLARSHIP*



Hon. Vonda Bailey (TMSL 2014) Peter Clarke (TMSL 1996)  
The Late ELOISE BAILEY CLARKE



**Arianna Armstrong**  
*full scholarship - \$3000*  
*includes a \$250 gift card for meals*

**Bryanna Gordon**  
*full scholarship - \$3000*  
*includes a \$250 gift card for meals*

**Melika Charles**  
*partial scholarship - \$2000*  
*includes a \$250 gift card for meals*

**Jonathan Stewart**  
*partial scholarship - \$2000*  
*includes a \$250 gift card for meals*

Source: Reprint from the Office of Communications & Marketing at Thurgood Law Under the direction of Dean Susan Bynam • "Stay LOOPED In."

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE  
TYLA SECOND PLACE \$3,000  
1<sup>ST</sup> GEN LAW STUDENT  
SCHOLARSHIP  
WINNER**



**YASMINE WICKER**  
*Texas Southern  
University's Thurgood  
Marshall School of Law*

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE  
TYLA THIRD PLACE \$1,500  
1<sup>ST</sup> GEN LAW STUDENT  
SCHOLARSHIP  
WINNER**



**AUTUMN DAVIS**  
*Texas Southern  
University's Thurgood  
Marshall School of Law*

Source: Reprint from official instagram account of the Texas Young Lawyers Association (TYLA); @texyounglawyers.



# THURGOOD TODAY

## Alumni News

### Thurgood Thursday: Dallas Edition (January & February)

**TSU**  
TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY  
Thurgood Marshall School of Law

PRESENTS

**THURGOOD THURSDAY**  
DALLAS EDITION

**January 15, 2026**

**Kitchen + Kocktails**  
1933 Elm St, Dallas, TX 75201

5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

**Hosted by Judge Remeko Edwards**

**TSU**  
TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY  
Thurgood Marshall School of Law

PRESENTS

**THURGOOD THURSDAY**  
DALLAS EDITION

**February 15, 2026**

**Kitchen + Kocktails**  
1933 Elm St, Dallas, TX 75201

5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

**Hosted by Judge Veretta L. Frazier**





# THURGOOD TODAY

## Alumni News

### Bobby Forrest Jr. Emerges as Prosecutor for Pulaski County



Thurgood Marshall School of Law proudly celebrates **Bobby Forrest Jr. (Class of 2019)** on his **election as Pulaski County Prosecutor** in Arkansas. His victory marks a significant milestone in a career defined by resilience, public service, and a deep commitment to justice.

Forrest's path to the legal profession reflects the transformative power of opportunity and perseverance. Before attending law school, he served in the Arkansas Army National Guard and worked in law enforcement as a police officer and narcotics detective, experiences that shaped his perspective on the criminal justice system.

At Thurgood Marshall School of Law, Forrest distinguished himself academically and through student leadership, graduating magna cum laude in 2019. After returning to Arkansas, he founded Chosen Law Group, where he built a respected criminal defense practice while continuing to serve his community.

When Forrest assumes office as Pulaski County Prosecutor, he will bring his unique perspective and dedication to fairness, accountability, and public safety to one of the most important legal roles in the region.

The TMSL community proudly celebrates this achievement and the continued impact of our alumni across the nation.





# THURGOOD TODAY

## Alumni News

**2026 Alumni Board Retreat**  
*Playa del Carmen, Quintana Roo*  
January 23-25, 2026





# THURGOOD TODAY

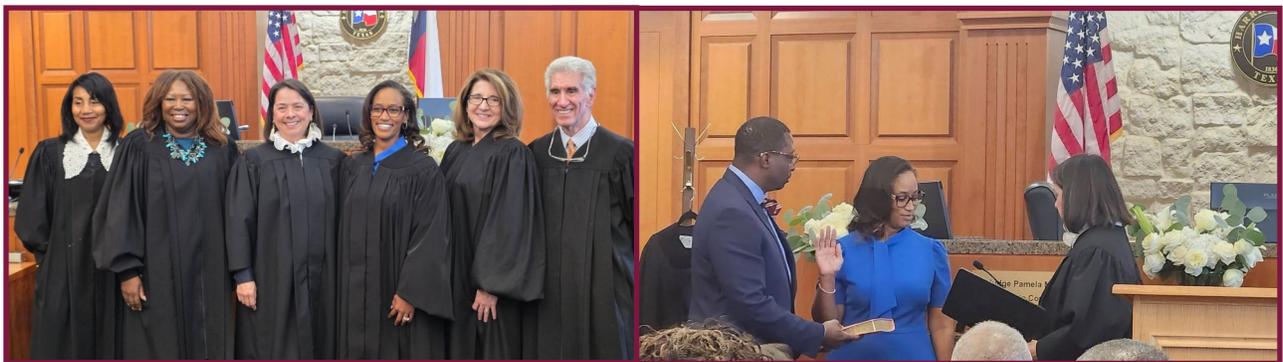
## Alumni News

### Congratulations to Judge LaKisha Ledbetter-Anderson

We are proud to highlight **LaKisha Ledbetter-Anderson (Class of 2007)** on her appointment as **Associate Judge of Harris County Probate Court No. 2**. A longtime member of the Houston legal community and alumna of Thurgood Marshall School of Law, Judge Ledbetter-Anderson brings nearly two decades of legal experience to her new role, including extensive work in probate, estate planning, guardianship, and family and criminal law.

As Associate Judge, she now presides over important probate matters — including ancillary and guardianship dockets, emergency applications, temporary administrations, and trust matters — helping ensure that estates and guardianship issues are managed fairly and efficiently in one of Texas’s largest counties.

Please join us in celebrating Judge Ledbetter-Anderson’s achievement and her continued dedication to





# THURGOOD TODAY

## Alumni News

### Congratulations to Attorney Alexis Howard Lewis

We are proud to highlight **Alexis Howard Lewis**, Class of 2013, on her appointment to serve on the **Texas Board of Law Examiners by the Supreme Court of Texas**.

The Texas Board of Law Examiners plays a critical role in upholding the integrity of the legal profession by evaluating the character, fitness, and qualifications of applicants seeking admission to the State Bar of Texas.

Please join us in celebrating Alexis's distinguished achievement and her service in shaping the future of the Texas legal profession!





# THURGOOD TODAY

## Alumni News

### Judge Sonya L. Heath Named Administrative Judge

We are proud to highlight **Judge Sonya L. Heath (Class of 2009)** on her election by her fellow judges to serve as **Administrative Judge of the Harris County Board of Family District Judges**, a leadership role she assumed on June 1, 2025.

In addition to presiding over the 310th Family District Court, Judge Heath now provides administrative oversight and leadership for the family district courts in Harris County, helping ensure the efficient and effective administration of justice for families across the region.

A graduate of Thurgood Marshall School of Law, Judge Heath has built a distinguished career grounded in service, professionalism, and dedication to the community. Her continued leadership reflects the meaningful impact TMSL alumni are making within the judiciary.

Please join us in congratulating Judge Heath on this significant appointment and celebrating her continued commitment to public service.





# THURGOOD TODAY

## Alumni News

### DiAndrea Green Elected Chair of the Taxation Law Section of State Bar of Georgia

We are proud to congratulate **DiAndria “Dee” Green, J.D., LL.M.** on her election as **Chair of the Taxation Law Section** of the State Bar of Georgia — a significant leadership role within one of the largest professional legal organizations in the state.

DiAndria is a Partner in the State and Local Tax (SALT) consulting practice at Bennett Thrasher, where she provides expert guidance on state income, franchise, and sales/use tax matters. She is widely respected for her work helping clients navigate complex tax laws, including advising on film tax incentives and compliance.

Her professional background includes experience with Ernst & Young and PricewaterhouseCoopers, and she holds an LL.M. in Taxation from Boston University School of Law.

This election reflects DiAndria’s leadership, expertise, and commitment to advancing the practice of tax law — and we applaud her for this well-deserved role within the Georgia legal community.





# THURGOOD TODAY

## Alumni News

### Thurgood Winning



We proudly congratulate **Judge Gloria López** on being named “**Judge of the Year**” by the **Hispanic Lawyers Section of the State Bar of Texas** — a distinguished honor recognizing her exceptional leadership, judicial excellence, and unwavering commitment to justice.

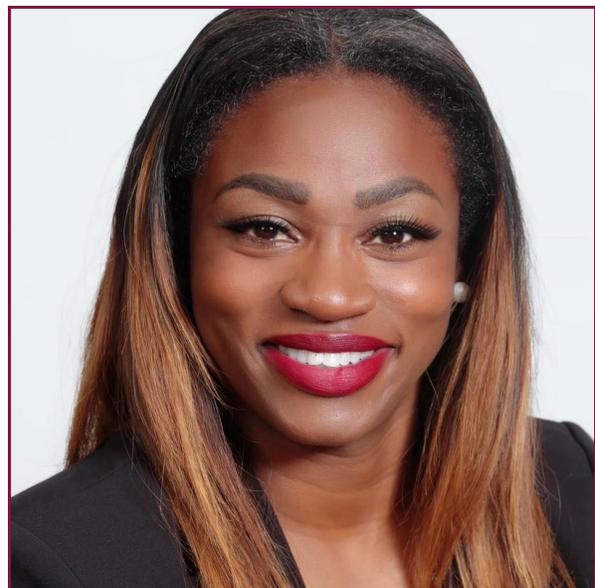
This prestigious recognition celebrates Judge López’s dedication to fairness, professionalism, and service to the community. Through her work on the bench, she continues to uphold the highest standards of the judiciary while serving as a role model and mentor within the legal profession.

The Hispanic Lawyers Section’s “Judge of the Year” award highlights members of the judiciary who demonstrate integrity, excellence, and a meaningful impact on the legal community. Judge López’s selection reflects both her professional accomplishments and her steadfast commitment to advancing justice.

We proudly congratulate **Hon. Bridgette Smith-Lawson** on receiving the **University of Houston Black Alumni Heritage Award**, a distinguished honor recognizing outstanding leadership, professional excellence, and meaningful contributions to the community.

This award celebrates alumni who exemplify achievement while uplifting others and making a lasting impact. Smith-Lawson’s career reflects a deep commitment to justice, service, and mentorship — values that continue to inspire both the legal community and future generations of leaders.

Her recognition by the University of Houston Black Alumni community is a testament to her dedication, and integrity.





# THURGOOD TODAY

## Alumni News

### Tammy Moon - Texas Board of Legal Specialization Chair

The **Texas Board of Legal Specialization (TBLS)** announced the appointment of alumna **Tammy Simien Moon** as its new Chair. With more than 27 years of legal experience, Tammy is a seasoned family law attorney and currently a Partner at Schlanger Silver, LLP in Houston, Texas. She previously founded and led The Simien Moon Law Firm, P.C., and holds board certifications in Family Law (since 2010) and Child Welfare Law (since 2019).

Tammy has a long history of service within the legal community. She served six consecutive years on the Family Law Examination Committee and has been a TBLS board member for the past three years. Her leadership extends across several professional organizations, including past chair roles with the Houston Bar Association Family Law Section, the Burta Rhoades Raborn Family Law Inns of Court, and the Gulf Coast Family Law Specialists. Currently, she serves on the State Bar of Texas Family Law Council and sits on the boards of the Texas Academy of Family Law Specialists and the Texas Chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers. She is also a member of the International Academy of Family Lawyers and a fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation.

Tammy Moon's appointment marks a historic milestone as she becomes the first African-American attorney to chair the TBLS in its 51-year history. She says, "I am honored to step into this role and build upon the strong foundation of my predecessors. Board certification is a mark of excellence, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure that TBLS continues to support and promote the highest level of legal expertise in Texas." Congratulations Tammy, way to go!





# THURGOOD TODAY

## Alumni on the Move

### Kevin Dancy Named Vice President & Regional Executive



We are proud to highlight **Kevin Dancy (Class of 1997)** on his appointment as **Vice President and Regional Executive of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta**.

In this distinguished leadership role, Dancy serves as the Atlanta Fed's senior representative within the region, building relationships with business, financial, and community leaders while contributing regional economic insight that helps inform national monetary policy. His work plays an important role in strengthening economic understanding and engagement across the Southeast.

Kevin's appointment reflects decades of professional excellence and leadership in the financial sector. His continued success underscores the powerful impact of our alumni across industries and on a national stage.

Please join us in congratulating Kevin Dancy on this remarkable achievement.





# THURGOOD TODAY

## Staff News

### Tim Adams Receives TYLA Clint Harbour Advocacy Award



We are proud to congratulate **Tim Adams (Class of 2011)** on receiving the **Texas Young Lawyers Association (TYLA) Clint Harbour Advocacy Award** — a distinguished honor recognizing excellence in advocacy, mentorship, and commitment to the development of trial lawyers.

The Clint Harbour Advocacy Award celebrates individuals who exemplify outstanding courtroom skill while also dedicating themselves to training and inspiring the next generation of advocates. Tim's leadership, passion for trial advocacy, and unwavering commitment to student development make him exceptionally deserving of this recognition.

His work continues to elevate our advocacy program and empower students to perform with confidence and excellence both in competition and in the courtroom.

Please join us in congratulating Tim Adams on this well-earned and meaningful honor.



# THURGOOD TODAY

## In Memoriam



### **Natalie Denise Davis, J.D. (Class of 1987)**

Thurgood Marshall School of Law honors and remembers its distinguished alumna, **Natalie Denise Davis ('87)**, whose life and legacy embodied the highest ideals of the legal profession.

Ms. Davis earned her Juris Doctor from Texas Southern University's Thurgood Marshall School of Law with extraordinary determination, integrity, and academic excellence. While pursuing her legal education, she faced the physical challenges of cerebral palsy with remarkable perseverance and strength, demonstrating resilience that inspired those around her.

She was known for her intellectual curiosity, steadfast commitment to justice, and deep respect for fairness and the rule of law. Ms. Davis enriched every space she entered through her insight, collaborative spirit, and unwavering dedication to community. She earned the admiration of classmates, professors, colleagues, and friends not only for her academic accomplishments but also for her kindness, humility, and generous spirit.

### **David R. Scruggs, J.D. (Class of 1998)**

Thurgood Marshall School of Law honors and remembers **Attorney David R. Scruggs ('98)**, a distinguished alumnus whose career reflected a deep and enduring commitment to public service.

Attorney Scruggs dedicated more than 15 years to the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, practicing labor and employment law in service of those who served our nation. He later continued his impactful career as a trial attorney with the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, where he provided over eight years of exemplary service.

He was respected not only for his legal skill and professionalism, but also for the warmth, integrity, and compassion that defined his character. Colleagues and friends remember him as a principled advocate and a generous spirit whose presence left a lasting impression.

Throughout his accomplished career, Attorney Scruggs embodied the ideals instilled during his time at Thurgood Marshall School of Law — dedication to justice, humility in service, and steadfast professionalism. He remained a source of pride to his alma mater and to all who knew him.

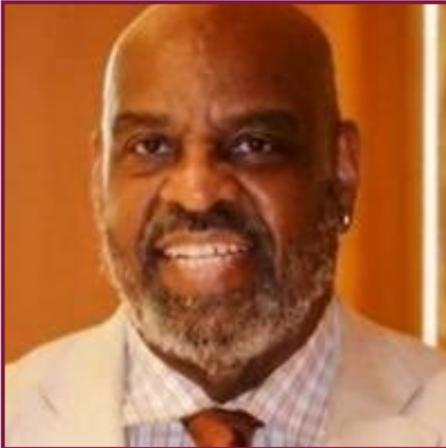
The Thurgood Marshall School of Law family extends its heartfelt condolences to the Scruggs family, friends, classmates, and colleagues as we honor his life, service, and enduring legacy.





# THURGOOD TODAY

## In Memoriam



### Webb Milas Jones, J.D. Class of 1989

Thurgood Marshall School of Law honors the life and legacy of **Webb Milas Jones (Class of 1989)**, a proud double graduate of Texas Southern University, having earned degrees from both the TSU College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences and Thurgood Marshall School of Law.

Mr. Jones exemplified the spirit of lifelong learning and service, dedicating himself to both the sciences and the law during his distinguished academic journey at TSU. His commitment to education and professional excellence reflected the values that define the Thurgood Marshall School of Law community.

He will be remembered by classmates, colleagues, friends, and loved ones for his character, intellect, and the meaningful connections he built throughout his life.

The Thurgood Marshall School of Law family extends its heartfelt condolences to the Jones family and all who mourn his passing as we honor his life and legacy.

### Babatunde Akowe, J.D. Class of 2011

The Thurgood Marshall School of Law community remembers **Babatunde Akowe (Class of 2011)** with deep respect and heartfelt sympathy. A dedicated public servant, attorney, and community advocate, Babatunde lived a life defined by service, integrity, and an unwavering commitment to justice.

Throughout his career, Babatunde worked to uplift his community and champion fairness in the legal system. Known for his wisdom, compassion, and leadership, he left a lasting impact on colleagues, friends, and all who had the privilege of knowing him. His legacy continues through the many lives he touched and the example he set as a lawyer and public servant.



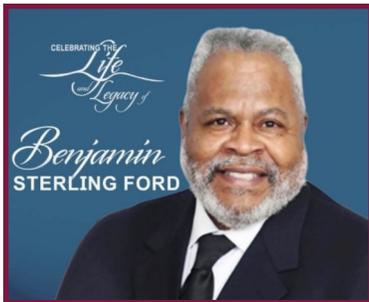
In the months following his passing, Babatunde's commitment to public service continues to inspire those closest to him. His wife, **Lauren Brown-Akowe**, has announced her candidacy for **Civil Court Judge in Brooklyn's 2nd Municipal District**, seeking to continue the work and dedication to justice that defined her husband's life and career.



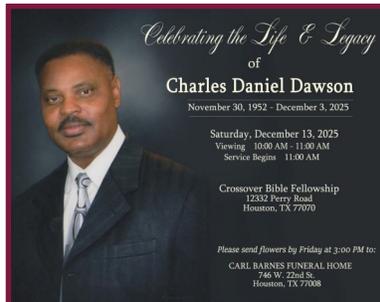
# THURGOOD TODAY

## In Memoriam

We honor the memory of the beloved family members of our TMSL community and extend our deepest sympathies to those who mourn their loss.



**Benjamin Sterling Ford**—  
Father of Brentton Ford



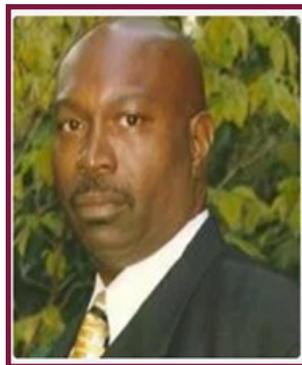
**Charles Daniel Dawson**—  
Father of Trina Perkins-Mouton



**Bishop Kenneth Spears**—  
Father of Kenneth Spears



**River Myles Garza**—  
Son of Myles Garza



**Rev. Keith Desso Douglas**—  
Brother of Dr. James Douglas



**Kenneth Sims**—  
Father of Keno Sims



**Darryl DeShawn Harrington**—  
Husband of Hon. Angela Graves-Harrington





# THURGOOD TODAY



# THURGOOD ALUMNI

PROTECT IT  
IMPROVE IT  
PASS IT ON



TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

Thurgood Marshall School of Law