



# Thurgood TODAY



YOUR MONTHLY THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW ELECTRONIC NEWS & INFORMATION  
SOURCE FROM THE OFFICE OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS – (713) 313-1197

April 2016

## **The Honorable Leslie King to Deliver Keynote Address at Hooding Ceremony to Commemorate the Achievements of the 2016 Graduating Class of Thurgood Marshall School of Law**



As the end of another academic year approaches, the Texas Southern University (TSU) board of regents, TSU President Dr. John M. Rudley, the executive administration of TSU, and the administration, faculty and staff of Thurgood Marshall School of Law (TMSL) will honor the achievements of the 2016 graduating class of Thurgood Marshall School of Law at TMSL's annual Hooding Ceremony. The Law School Hooding Ceremony will be held on Friday, May 13, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. at the HP&E Arena located at 3100 Cleburne Street (@ Ennis and Blodgett). A reception will immediately follow in the Sterling Student Life Center.

Third-year law students who have successfully completed juris doctorate degree requirements will be formally awarded traditional hoods for the Doctor of Jurisprudence (JD). The highest academic achievers from the 2016 TMSL graduating class will also be recognized during this auspicious occasion.

The Honorable Leslie D. King will deliver the keynote address at the hooding ceremony to commemorate the achievements of the 2016 graduating class of Thurgood Marshall School of Law.

Leslie D. King, associate justice of the Mississippi Supreme Court, has graciously accepted our invitation to deliver the key-note address at the Thurgood Marshall School of Law (TMSL) 2016 Hooding Ceremony. Justice King's acceptance was delightful as he expressed his honor to return to the law school and deliver the hooding keynote address. He recalled his attendance at TMSL (formerly Texas Southern University School of Law) and expressed his positive sentiments of his experience while attending Law School.

Justice King's past experiences include serving as chief judge of the Mississippi Court of Appeals and member of the Mississippi House of Representatives, where he served as either chairman or vice-chairman of several committees. Justice King served in several legal capacities prior to serving in the courts and legislature.

### **About Thurgood Marshall School of Law**

Thurgood Marshall School of Law is a mission-driven institution dedicated to expanding opportunities for the underserved in the legal profession, preparing a diverse group of students for leadership roles in the legal profession, business, and government, and offering leadership in teaching, research, and service. In keeping with its rich tradition as an HBCU, the Law School continues to train and educate large numbers of African American and Hispanic lawyers. At the same time, the Law School has opened its doors to students from all backgrounds, gaining recognition as one of the most diverse Law Schools in the country. As part of a special purpose institution for urban programming, the Law School is also committed to making an impact on urban communities.



## TMSL Distinguished Upcoming Graduates Join the Order of the Barristers

TMSL recently selected three upcoming graduates and one alum to the Order of the Barristers, a national honorary organization that recognizes students who have excelled in moot court and mock trial while in law school. Membership into the Order is one of the highest honors awarded by a law school for advocacy skills.

**The 2016 recipients include:**



**Stacy Wells**



**Dominique D. Calhoun**



**Juliana Shaw**

**The 2016 Honorary Member was awarded to The Honorable Craig Washington.**



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## FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS



**Professor Shaundra Kellam Lewis** and her research assistant, Daniel De Luna, have a co-authored article that will be published this summer in the 40th Edition of the Thurgood Marshall Law Review titled, *“Texas Gun Law And The Future”: The Fatal Flaws in Texas’s Campus Carry*

*Law*. This article stems from a presentation that Professor Lewis and Mr. De Luna made at the Texas Gun Law Symposium sponsored by the Thurgood Marshall Law Review on April 1, 2016. The article closely examines the Texas Campus Carry Law that will take effect this August, and highlights the constitutional and statutory interpretation issues raised by the statute.

**Professor Thomas Kleven** is the Green Party candidate for Congress from the 18<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. His platform is to strengthen our democracy so that it serves all the people and not just the privileged few through four specific proposals: (1) to enact laws creating independent commissions to draw the lines for congressional and state legislative districts in a nonpartisan manner; (2) to enact laws requiring all eligible voters to vote as one of their civic duties; (3) to have the federal government take over the financing of elementary and secondary public education, while leaving the administration of public schools to state and local authorities; and (4) to guarantee all who are ready, willing and able to work a job at a living wage, with the government being responsible for providing jobs for those who cannot find work in the private market.



**Professor Emeka Duruigbo** was invited to participate in the New Petroleum Producers Discussion Group in Kenya on March 2-4, 2016. The forum was organized by the Royal Institute of International Affairs, Chatham House, UK and the Commonwealth Secretariat, among others, in collaboration with the

Kenya National Oil Company. According to the organizers, “[t]he aim of this collaborative project is to enhance the capacity of emerging oil and gas producers to establish context-appropriate rules and institutions for good governance of their petroleum sectors and to engage credibly with international partners.” Participants came from old, new and emerging oil and gas producing countries. Professor Duruigbo delivered a presentation on **“Managing Oil Revenues through Community Trust Funds.”** Additional information on the discussion group can be found at <https://www.chathamhouse.org/about/structure/ee-department/new-petroleum-producers-discussion-group-project>



**Professor Ahunanya Anga** accepted an invitation to attend a two-day expert workshop to discuss the impact of technology on due process protections. The panel is sponsored by the US Department of Justice (DOJ), National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and is to be held in the Washington DC area on May 31<sup>st</sup> and

June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016. In its efforts to promote innovation in the U.S. criminal justice enterprise, NIJ has commissioned the RAND Corporation and RTI International, both non-profit research organizations, to convene approximately 20 legal professors and practitioners for two days. The workshop will include legal scholars and expert practitioners and explore the due process considerations of existing and emerging technology. The workshop discussion will focus on the potential impact of technological advances – both inside and outside the courthouse – on the due process rights of court litigants. That discussion will contribute to developing a research agenda around issues of due process and technological advancements, as well as offer a prospective outlook regarding near-term and future trends in the impact of technology on due process, to further guide practitioners. RTI International and RAND will summarize results of the workshop in a public report to be published in early 2017.



## FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS *Cont'd.*



**Professor Sally Green** recently accepted an offer to publish her article, *The Law Demands Process for Rehomed Children*, with the Arkansas Law Review in its December 2016 issue. Professor Green addresses the issue of rehoming, a recently developed self-help remedy, where adoptive parents advertise unruly children on Internet

chat rooms or message boards for the purpose of relinquishing their physical and legal custody to another. She argues that rehoming children dismantles the sacred architecture of the family structure in the absence of a process like that afforded children in parental termination and emancipation cases where the law ensures a child's wellbeing. As a result, the rehomed child is dispossessed of legal protections that the state as *parens patriae* historically provides. Professor Green posits that, first, the states must specifically prohibit the practice of rehoming. Additionally, the adoption statutes should be expanded to afford potentially rehomed children opportunity for proper diagnosis and disposition. Through statutorily required administrative or judicial process, they can receive post adoption treatment that specifically addresses the underlying behavioral dysfunction that precedes the need to rehome.

On April 7, 2016, **Professor Peter Marchetti** was a panelists (along with attorneys from major firms both in the U.S. and Canada) at the Lender Liability and Workouts Joint Subcommittee Meeting held at the spring meeting of the American Bar Association Business Law Section in Montreal, QC, Canada. Professor Marchetti's panel addressed recent issues in lender liability.



**Professor SpearIt** has accepted an invitation by the ABA Section of Legal Education to participate in a webinar on experiential education scheduled for May 4, 2016. He was recently recognized for his leadership in the ABA Section of Criminal Justice, [http://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/](http://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/administrative/)

[administrative/](http://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/administrative/)

[criminal\\_justice/2015\\_leadership\\_authcheckdam.pdf](http://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/administrative/criminal_justice/2015_leadership_authcheckdam.pdf). He also presented at: TSU's Research Week 2016 on March 30<sup>th</sup>, TMSL's Research Week on March 31<sup>st</sup>, and "Religion and Law," which was co-sponsored by TMSL and Rice University's Religion and Public Life program on April 7. Professor SpearIt also published the *Foreword* for 6 Thurgood Marshall S. L. J. Gender, Race, Just. 1 (2016). Finally, his work was cited in Exhurt.com's entry for "Racial Inequality in the American Criminal Justice System," [http://www.exhurt.com/learns=Racial\\_inequality\\_in\\_the\\_American\\_criminal\\_justice\\_system](http://www.exhurt.com/learns=Racial_inequality_in_the_American_criminal_justice_system), and Revolvly.com's entry for Hispanic and Latino American Muslims, <http://broom02.revolvly.com/main/index.php?s=Hispanic%20and%20Latino%20American%20Muslims>.



**Professor L. Darnell Weeden's** article entitled "In Fisher V. University Of Texas Derrick Bell's Interest Convergence Theory Is On A Collision Course With The Viewpoint Diversity Rationale In Higher Education" was published by University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law in the 2016 Utah L. Rev. OnLaw 101. In his article, Profes-

sor Weeden agrees that Professor Derrick Bell is necessarily and properly acknowledged because of his leading community service as a civil rights lawyer, a scholarly intellectual, law professor, and political activist. Although one commentator has described the late Professor Derrick Bell as the "founder" of the Critical Race Theory movement, Professor Weeden nevertheless believes Professor Bell's interest convergence theory in the context of diversity in higher education merits reconsideration. According to Professor Weeden, the interest convergence theory, promoted by Professor Bell should be reconsidered because it fails to give any deference to context by unrealistically contending that the interest of African Americans in seeking racial equality is supported only if policy makers determine that the interest of African Americans converges with a greater political and economic interest of whites in America.



## 2016 Experiential Learning Program’s Solo Practice Series

Professor Stephanie Ledesma’s Experiential Learning program presented its second annual CLE series for the Solo Practitioner, recent graduates and 3L students. This year’s courses included Family Law 101; Criminal Law Basics; The State Bar Grievance Process – What You Should Know to Protect Your License; Legal Implications of Marketing Your Law Practice; The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Transnational Attorney and Being a Civil Litigator: Trials Do Exist; and A View From the Bench: A Judge’s Perspective. See highlights from these courses below:



**Pictured Here June Caudill (student) Attorney Tammy Moon**

Attorney Tammy Moon presented the Family Law night. Attorney Moon gave an extensive presentation including a flash drive with the needed forms.

Criminal Law Attorney Gaven Ellis and Chandler Raine from the Harris County District Attorney’s Office, Attorney Damon Parish II from the Public Defender’s Office, and Private Defense Attorney Gerry Montalvo presented a panel talk on criminal law.



On State Bar Grievance night, Attorneys Kali Morgan and Jai Collier gave a presentation on how to avoid state bar grievances. Additionally, both attorneys have worked representing clients that have been brought before the state bar grievance committee. They gave great tips and advice on how to handle complaints filed against you with the state bar grievance committee.



**Pictured Attorney Kali Morgan and Attorney Jai Collier**

Attorney Stacy Shaw, Attorney Sarah Doezema, and Attorney William Shaw presented an evening on the legal implications of marketing your law firm. They touched on pitfalls that new attorneys can fall into and gave great examples and ideas of how to market yourself and your firm. There was an extensive presentation on the rules of professional conduct while marketing your law firm.

**Pictured Attorney Damon Parish II, Attorney Gerry Montalvo, Juliana Shaw (student), Attorney Gaven Ellis, and Attorney Chandler Raine**

Civil litigation and transactional practice night was presented by Attorneys Antionette “Toni” Jackson and Bridgette Smith Lawson. These wonderful attorneys gave pointers on how to acquire jobs in the field and what step could be taken to gain valuable experience and clients.



**Pictured Attorney William Shaw, Attorney Sarah Doezema, Attorney Stacy Shaw, and Chloe Corbett**



**Pictured Judge Hazel B. Jones, Susan Watts (student) and Judge Ursula Hall**

A View From the Bench wrapped up the series and was presented by Judge Hazel B. Jones and Judge Ursula Hall who presented opinions and tips from practicing judges. These wonderful judges covered things such as appropriate dress in court and how to address the bench.



## STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

### Welcome to the TMSL Family

#### Nikki Wright Smith, Assistant Dean Career Services



**Nikki Wright Smith** recently joined Thurgood Marshall School of Law as Assistant Dean of Career Services. Prior to joining Thurgood Marshall, Smith spent twelve years as a practicing attorney in Atlanta and Houston. She also worked extensively as a volunteer in various capacities at several law schools, and spent significant time as a career services and professional development volunteer at Atlanta's John Marshall Law School, Thomas M. Cooley Law School, and the University of Houston Law Center.

Most recently, Smith was the owner of her solo private practice, The Wright Smith Firm, where she focused primarily on consumer bankruptcy, residential real estate, and employment law. Her experience also includes positions as managing partner of Smith & Stewart, P.C., a boutique firm with emphasis on bankruptcy, real estate, family and criminal law, and as an Associate Attorney at King & King, PC, a large consumer bankruptcy practice in Atlanta, GA.

In her new role as Assistant Dean of Career Services, Smith will be responsible for cultivating employer relationships between the law school and employers, locally and nationally, assisting students with internships and job placements, and preparing students for the practice of law or the professional career of their choosing.

Smith is admitted to practice in Georgia and Texas and is actively involved in the Houston Bar Association. She holds a J.D. from Thomas M. Cooley Law School and a B.S. in Political Science from the University of Georgia, where she also obtained a Minor in Spanish and Global Studies. Her extension is 7372 and her email is [nismith@tmslaw.tsu.edu](mailto:nismith@tmslaw.tsu.edu).

#### Ronda L. Harrison, Assistant Director Academic Support and Bar Readiness Department

**Ronda L. Harrison, Esq.** is a licensed attorney, certified mediator, and licensed teacher in the state of Texas. Her two passions are education and the law. In addition to practicing law, she is an experienced academic support professional with a background in both the law school and public school settings. She served several years as the Associate Director of Student Academic Affairs at South Texas College of Law supporting students as they matriculated through law school and prepared for the bar exam. Most recently she served as Special Education Department Chair and a mentor teacher in Houston ISD.



Ronda received her B.A. degree in Sociology with minors in Spanish and Criminal Justice from Kansas Wesleyan University. She attended grad school at Texas Southern University College of Education where she studied special education and education pedagogy. After several years of teaching, Ronda attended South Texas College of Law where she received her J.D. She served the law students at Thurgood Marshall School of Law and the other Houston area law schools as the regional director for Kaplan PMBR Bar Review. Ronda practiced family law for several years and is excited to merge her two passions of law and education as Assistant Director within the Thurgood Marshall School of Law Academic Support and Bar Readiness Department. Her extension is 1020 and her email is [roharrison@tmslaw.tsu.edu](mailto:roharrison@tmslaw.tsu.edu).



## STAFF HIGHLIGHTS



### Senior Administrative Assistant Legal - Law Library

**Ms. Leslie Coleman** joined Thurgood Marshall School of Law as the Senior Administrative Assistant Legal-Law Library in February 2016. In June 2010, Ms. Coleman began her tenure at Texas Southern University as a Telecommunication Specialist for the Department of Public Safety. After two years she moved to the DPS Division Parking Operations where she served as the Administrative Assistant for the Associate Director of Parking Operations, a division of The Department of Public Safety. Her responsibilities included the division budget for staff and students, processing payroll, creating requisitions, processing invoices, travel, approving web time for staff and students and a number of other daily duties. Her extension is 1007 and her email is [lecoleman@tmslaw.tsu.edu](mailto:lecoleman@tmslaw.tsu.edu).



### Senior Administrative Assistant Legal – Clinical Legal Studies Program

**Ms. Marilyn Epps** joined Thurgood Marshall School of Law in March 2016 as the Senior Administrative Assistant Legal for the TMSL Clinical Legal Studies Program. Prior to joining TMSL, Ms. Epps worked for the Harris County Courts – Family Law Division for 23 years. During this time, she served as the courts coordinator and lead clerk. Ms. Epps enjoys bowling, sports, especially softball and working in the legal arena. She is excited to join the TMSL family and looks forward to another 23 years at Texas Southern University. Please join the TMSL family welcome Ms. Marilyn Epps. Her extension is 7275 and her email is [mrepps@tmslaw.tsu.edu](mailto:mrepps@tmslaw.tsu.edu).





## STUDENT NEWS



The Executive Board of the TMSL Student Bar Association proudly hosted the Annual TMSL Barrister’s Ball Saturday, April 23, 2016 at the Bell Tower. Mistresses of Ceremony and Event Co-Chairs Brittani Halliburton and Celese Nickelberry and their team did an excellent job and gave TMSL one of its most spectacular events to date. Outgoing SBA President and Student Regent, Dominique Calhoun said, “We believe that we have lived up to our motto and worked to improve the Law School from a student’s perspective. Although we may have fallen short in some areas, we hope that the next generation of students will continue to work in concert...to progress our institution.”

Please join the TMSL Family in congratulating the 2016-2017 Executive Board

- President - Tim Adams
- Vice President - Nekketta Archie
- Secretary - Smaranda Dragia
- Treasurer - Marcella Hagger
- Parliamentarian - Hector Picazo
- Historian - Tom Nguyen
- Sergeant-at-arms - Baltazar Salazar
- Law School Senator - Marcus Esther
- 3L Class President - Reem Haikal
- 3L Class VP - Tanica Mann
- 2L Class President - Alex Guajardo
- 2L Class VP - Preston Strickland



New and former Executive Board Members



Mr. TMSL – Laymond Wilburn and Miss TMSL – JoAnne Nwaogu

Staff Member of the Year  
Derrick Wilson



Professor of the Year  
Judge April Walker





## STUDENT NEWS *Cont'd.*

### SBA President Dominique Calhoun Passes the Torch





## ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS ALUMNI ON THE MOVE

### TMSL Alum Ashanti Hamilton Unanimously Elected to Lead Council



**Alderman Ashanti Hamilton**, TMSL class of 2003, was unanimously elected president of the Milwaukee Common Council. This election was quite noteworthy because the vote ousted long standing President, Michael Murphy.

The Common Council highly supported Hamilton's ability to work with adverse groups of people. Please join the TMSL family in congratulating Alderman Ashanti Hamilton.

### Governor Abbott Appoints TMSL Alumna Glenda Clausell to Texas Board of Physical Therapy



**Glenda Clausell**, TMSL class of 2008, will be sworn in as one of the newly appointed members of the Texas Board of Physical Therapy Examiners which regulates the practice of physical therapy. Clausell's term will not expire until January 31, 2021.

Please join the TMSL Family in congratulating attorney Glenda Clausell on this achievement!

### TMSL Alumna, Renee Gumbs Carty Receives Nomination from V.I. Governor



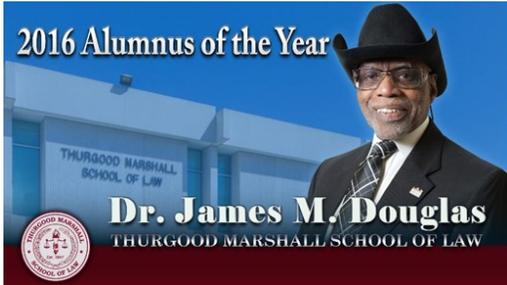
**Deputy Attorney General, Renee Gumbs Carty**, TMSL class of 1989, was nominated by Governor Kenneth Mapp to serve a six-year term on the Virgin Island Superior Court bench. Gov. Mapp stated in the *Virgin Island Daily News* that "the St. Thomas and St. John District as well as the Virgin Islands judiciary will benefit greatly from attorney Gumbs Carty's inclusion on the bench."

Gumbs Carty is awaiting her confirmation by the V.I. Legislature.



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

### Dr. James M. Douglas Selected TMSL Alumnus of the Year



**Dr. James M. Douglas** was selected as the TMSL Alumnus of the Year by the national alumni board of TMSL. Board Chair, Tiffany Britton and Chair-Elect, Baltazar Salazar presented what the Board has named as the *James M. Douglas Distinguished Alumnus of the Year Award* to Dr. Douglas at the Annual TMSL Barrister’s Ball on Saturday, April 23rd at the Bell Tower.

This distinguished alumni award is in recognition for the significant, notable, and meritorious contributions of Dr. Douglas and his demonstrated exceptional commitment, and dedicated service to TMSL and the practice of law.

### Attorney Ricky Anderson Secures Another big Deal for his High-profile Client

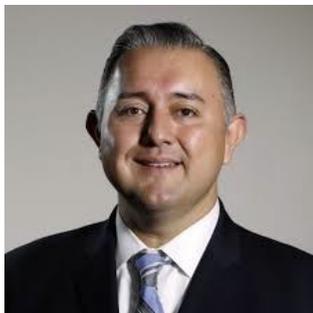


Pictured: Alfred Liggins, Brad Siegel, Ricky Anderson, Rushion McDonald and Benjamin Crump

Attorney for the stars, TMSL’s Ricky Anderson is the deal-maker behind TV One’s new series in their 2017 lineup, “**Evidence of Innocence**” hosted by high-profile civil rights attorney, Benjamin Crump.

The series will profile convicts who fought to have their sentences overturned. The new series will showcase the lives of these heroic individuals as they each reenter society.

### TMSL Alum, Isaac Faz Dallas ISD Board Candidate



**Isaac Faz**, TMSL class of 2009 is a candidate for the Dallas ISD Board-District 7. Faz is presently the Associate Vice Chancellor, Public and Government Affairs for the Dallas County Community College District. The election date is May 7, 2016.



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

*Texas Southern University*  
*Thurgood Marshall School of Law*

*Memorial Resolution*

*Presented To*

*The Douglas Family*

*In Memory of Mr. Desso Douglas*

*WHEREAS,* Mr. Desso Douglas, affectionately called “Big Daddy”, was born August 31, 1921. He was a loving, husband, brother, and father to nine children who enriched the lives of his family and friends who will remember him fondly as a compassionate and loving individual; and

*WHEREAS,* Mr. Desso Douglas was a sharecropper and a farm supervisor before he started his career at Sheffield Steel Company (Armco Steel, Houston Works) and retired in 1983 after 34 years of service. He worked tirelessly to ensure that all of his nine children received a college education; and

*WHEREAS,* Mr. Desso Douglas, was a lifetime member and dedicated deacon of New Canaan Baptist Church and for over 53 years served as the chairman of the deacon board. New Canaan Baptist Church declared the first Sunday in November as *Deacon Desso Douglas Day*; and

*WHEREAS,* Mr. Desso Douglas was also a fervent and modest leader in his community throughout his 94 years. He served as an officer and member to numerous civic and community organizations, including the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the Armco Retirees Club, and the Boy Scouts of America where he received the Boy Scouts Silver Beaver Award, the highest honor bestowed by that organization; and

*WHEREAS,* As a father and grandfather, Mr. Desso Douglas provided strong, affectionate and direct personal guidance in the lives of all his children and most of his extended family. He held many offices and leadership positions in the parent-teacher association (PTA) of every school his children ever attended. Mr. Douglas was most proud of educating his nine children consisting of a doctor, two lawyers, an engineer, two educators, a pharmacist, a nurse, and a stockbroker; and

*WHEREAS,* We extend to Mr. Desso Douglas’s family - Seven children, 21 grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren and other relatives and friends, our profound sympathy and pride in being afforded this opportunity to convey our appreciation for the man who left a positive impact and who enriched our law school family; and continues to enrich our law school in perpetuity;

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED* that, on behalf of the, Texas Southern University, Thurgood Marshall School of Law family, I take great pride in remembering Mr. Desso Douglas for his outstanding achievements and dedicated service during his lifetime. I extend my heartfelt condolences to the Douglas Family during this time of remembrance.

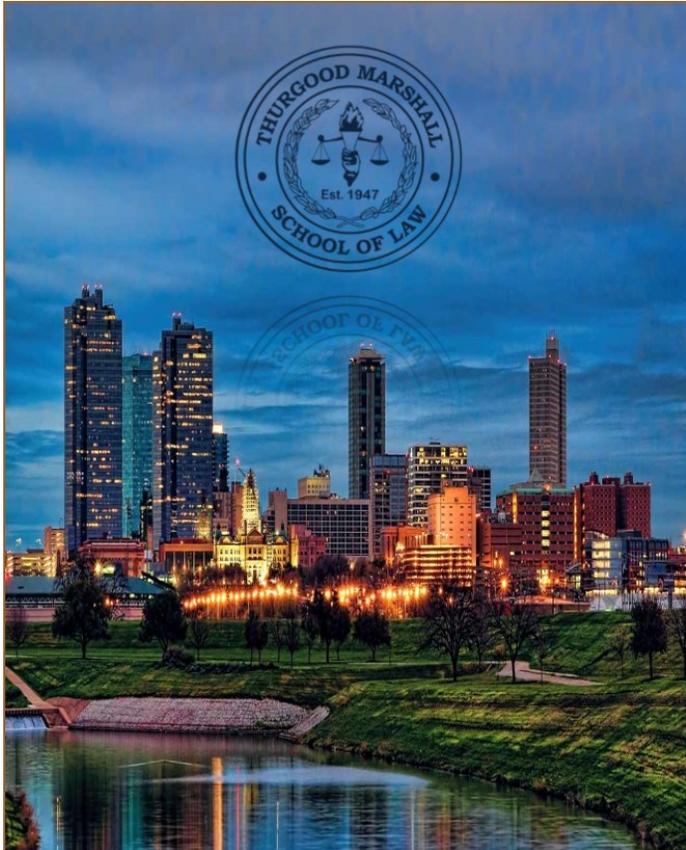
April 15, 2016

Danye Holley  
Dean and Professor of Law

*The family will accept donations to the Mary & Desso Douglas Scholarship Fund in lieu of gifts [www.eventbrite.com/e/mary-desso-douglas-scholarship.com](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/mary-desso-douglas-scholarship.com).*



## UPCOMING EVENTS



### State Bar of Texas TMSL Alumni & Friends Reception

**Thursday, June 16, 2016**

**Omni Fort Worth**

**Texas I Room**

**1300 Houston Street**

**Fort Worth, TX 76102**

**5:30 p.m.—7:00 p.m.**

Please R.S.V.P. [prsmith@tmslaw.tsu.edu](mailto:prsmith@tmslaw.tsu.edu)





UPCOMING EVENTS *Cont'd.*

**ReMember  
the Times**

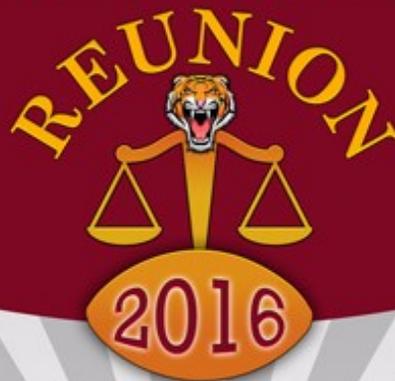
**October 17-22, 2016**

Visit [www.tsu.edu](http://www.tsu.edu) for  
Upcoming Calendar  
and Information

*And please do not forget to  
update your information in  
our database: Name, Address,  
Phone Number and Email. Also  
remember to share your news  
and information with us about  
achievements, accomplishments  
and engagements.*

**TSU**  
TEXAS SOUTHERN  
UNIVERSITY  
Homecoming  
**2016**

Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup> – Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>  
*in conjunction with Texas Southern University Homecoming*



The classes that will participate are  
1951, 1956, 1961, 1966, 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986, 1991, 1996, 2001, and 2006, 2011



**THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW**

3100 Cleburne Street, Houston, Texas 77004

**SAVE THE DATE**



## UPCOMING EVENTS *Cont'd.*

### 2016 Hooding Ceremony

Friday, May 13, 2016

6:30 P.M.

THE GRADUATING  
*Ms. Monica Lopez: Valetorian*  
CLASS OF  
2016

#### H&PE Arena

3100 Cleburne Street (@Ennis and Blodgett)  
Houston, TX 77004

**Reception Immediately Following**  
*Sterling Student Life Center*  
**Alumni and Friends Welcomed**

Guest Speaker:

**The Honorable Leslie D. King, Associate Judge**  
District 1 Place 2-Mississippi





## UPCOMING EVENTS *Cont'd.*



### VALLEY AREA THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW ALUMNI & FRIENDS RECEPTION

Meet the new Chairman of the TSU Board of Regents, Attorney Derrick Mitchell  
along with TMSL Dean Dannye Holley  
as they introduce the NEW L.L.M. Immigration Program  
and share exciting news about TMSL!

May 26, 2016

5:00 PM



4108 N. 10 St. Suite 1000  
McAllen, Texas

Please R.S.V.P. to Prudence Smith at [prsmith@tmslaw.tsu.edu](mailto:prsmith@tmslaw.tsu.edu)





## We Are ECI

*Creating a new vision for legal & social justice*

*Because truth matters: Freeing the Innocent*

*Helping Children Today to Have a Better Future Tomorrow*

*Taking it to the streets: TMSL Street Law Program*

**Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Legal  
& Social Policy: The Bridge**

*Increasing wealth through homeownership*

**Advocacy through academic and grassroots efforts**

*Creating opportunities to promote policy changes*

**Student Development**

**Reducing disproportionality & disparity**

*Serving the community*

*Educational programming*

**LEGENDS AND LEADERS**

**WE ARE**

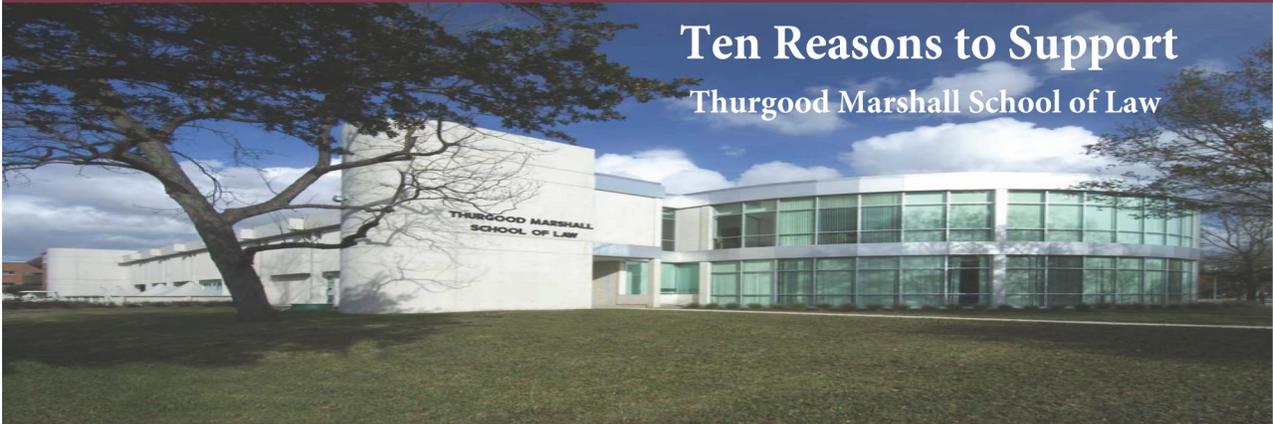
**The Earl Carl Institute for Legal & Social Policy, Inc.**

**[www.earlcarlinstitute.org](http://www.earlcarlinstitute.org)**

**Become a part of the movement... Apply to volunteer or to work at the Institute today! For more information call 713.313.1139.**



WWW.TSULAW.EDU



## Ten Reasons to Support Thurgood Marshall School of Law



“From an early age, it was always my dream to attend Thurgood Marshall School of Law (TMSL). I chose TMSL because of how welcoming it felt here; you immediately feel part of the law school family. I was captivated by how my mentors helped guide me through my first year and continued to push me through my first year and continued to push me through my last two years. Their unwavering support of me and other classmates confirmed that I made the right decision in choosing TMSL.” — Cervana Shanklin, Alum '15

### 1. Our Reputation

We are one of 15 law schools nationwide that has notably improved its reputation with lawyers and judges since 2012.

### 2. Our Advocacy Programs

In the last three years, our Mock Trial and Moot Court Teams have gained national recognition for the quality of their preparation and performance. Both teams have advanced to final rounds in national and regional competitions.

### 3. Our Valued Externships

Many of our third year students have successfully completed externships with the state supreme court, district judges, state legislators, First Lady of the United States Michelle Obama, and district and county attorney's offices.

### 4. Our National Recognition

Thurgood Marshall School of Law was admitted into the esteemed membership of the Association of American Law Schools (AALS) in January 2014. The Law School received a national vote of

confidence from the AALS in its direction, faculty, academic and accountability programs and most importantly, in its ability to engage with students to produce competitive and capable lawyers.

### 5. Our Collaborations

We provide opportunities for our students to experience an array of legal practices and focus on developing excellent lawyering skills through our collaboration with the Legal Clinics and the Earl Carl Institute for Legal and Social Policy, Inc. on campus.

### 6. Our Regional Impact

With only 5% of total Texas law school enrollment, Thurgood Marshall School of Law, in the last five years, has produced 43% of all the newly licensed African-American attorneys in the state of Texas who are graduates from one of the nine Texas law schools.

### 7. Our Alumni

We proudly include among our alumni leading members of the U.S. House of Representatives; federal and state trial and appellate judges; key partners in law firms; government attorneys; and sports and entertainment attorneys. Our persistence in producing a substantial number of attorneys in South Texas is highly commendable.

### 8. Our Student Accomplishments

Our students continue to win and receive recognition for their participation and performance in legal writing competitions and other scholarly activities.

### 9. Our Diversity

For more than a decade, our Law School has been firmly established as one of the nation's most diverse law schools.

### 10. Our Mission, Our Vision, Our Values

For the last seven decades, Thurgood Marshall School of Law has been heralded as an institution of opportunity and inclusion that continues to rise on its standards of equality and excellence.



TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY  
THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW  
OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT

Susan Bynam, Assistant Dean

3100 Cleburne Street Houston, Texas 77004 Phone: 713.313.4273 Fax: 713.313.7268



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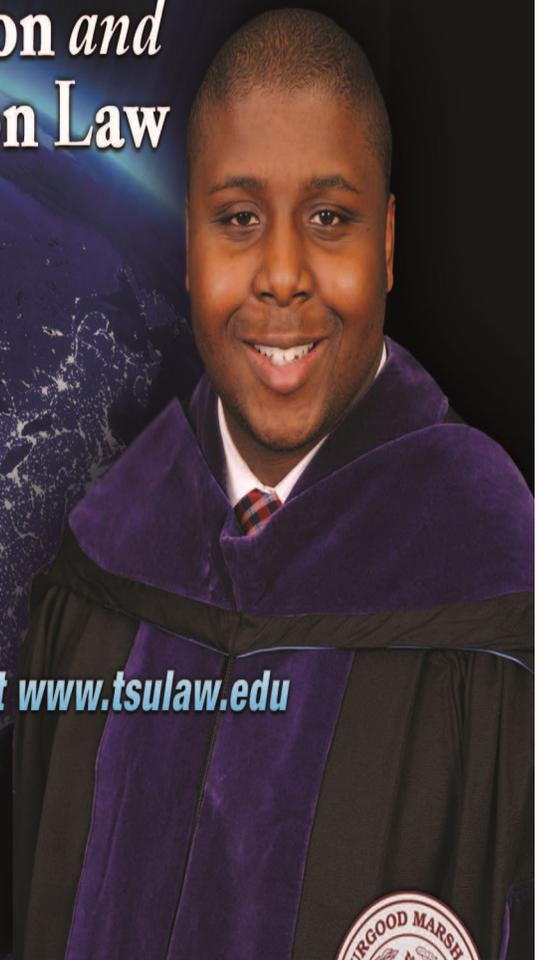
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OR Contact the LL.M. Program Director, directly:

Professor Fernando Colón-Navarro

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## EVENTS CALENDAR

On-line Registration for ALL TMSL CLEs: [Texas Southern University Thurgood Marshall School of Law](#)

### May 2016

May 2<sup>nd</sup> - May 13<sup>th</sup>  
Final Examinations

May 13<sup>th</sup>

TMSL Hooding Ceremony

Location: HP & E Arena  
3100 Cleburne St.  
(@Ennis and Blodgett)  
Houston, TX 77004  
Time: 6:30 p.m.

Hooding Reception  
Immediately Following

Location: Sterling Student Life Center

May 14<sup>th</sup>

TSU/TMSL Commencement Ceremony

May 18<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>

Bar Workshops- OAS

Location: Thurgood Marshall School of Law

May 26<sup>th</sup>

Valley Area Alumni & Friends Reception

Location: Orchidee  
4108 N. 10 St., Ste. 1000  
McAllen, TX  
Time: 5:00 p.m.

### June 2016

June 16<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup>

State Bar of Texas Annual Meeting

Location: Omni Fort Worth  
1300 Houston Street  
Fort Worth, Texas 76102

June 16<sup>th</sup>

State Bar of Texas - Alumni Reception

Location: Omni Fort Worth  
Texas I Room  
1300 Houston Street  
Fort Worth, Texas 76102  
Time: 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

June 25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>

Bar Workshops- OAS

Location: Thurgood Marshall School of Law

### July 2016

July 16<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>

NBA 91st Annual Convention & Exhibits

Location: Marriott St. Louis Grand  
800 Washington Ave.  
St. Louis, MO 63101

For more information go to: [www.nationalbar.org](http://www.nationalbar.org)

July

NBA 91st Annual Convention

Reception

Co-Sponsored by: TMSL, Southern Law Center, Houston  
Lawyers' Association & Region V

Location: Marriott St. Louis Grand  
800 Washington Ave.  
St. Louis, MO 63101

Time: TBD

July

NBA 91st Annual Convention

Alumni & Friends Breakfast

Location: Marriott St. Louis Grand  
800 Washington Ave.  
St. Louis, MO 63101

Time: 7:00 a.m.





## April Birthdays



<b>Ana Otero</b>	<b>5th</b>
<b>April Walker</b>	<b>12th</b>
<b>Susan Thomas</b>	<b>20th</b>
<b>L. Darnell Weeden</b>	<b>20th</b>
<b>Chukwumerije Okezie</b>	<b>27th</b>



### Recycle reminder

Go Green! Let's remember to recycle our used bottles! The recycle bins are located in two areas of the law school and emptied every morning!

Let's do our part!



**THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL of LAW**

**AN EXAMPLE OF DIVERSITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION**

*“Protect It, Improve It, Pass It on”*