

APRIL 2018

# Congresswoman Maxine Waters TMSL 2018 Hooding Keynote Speaker



Congresswoman Maxine Waters of the 43rd District will serve as the 2018 Texas Southern University Thurgood Marshall School of Law Hooding Ceremony keynote speaker. The hooding ceremony is a time for the University to recognize the law students who have completed the academic course work necessary for graduation. The symbolic doctorial hood is placed over the head of each graduate who will receive his/her Juris Doctorate. This year, the ceremony will be highlighted with the presence of Congresswoman Maxine Waters as the keynote speaker. With 41 years of public service, named *Times* Magazine list of the "100 World's most influential people and considered one of the most respected members of Congress, Congresswoman Waters is not only popular amongst her peers but also millennials who affectionately refer to her as "Auntie Maxine." We invite you to the Texas Southern University Thurgood Marshall School of Law 2018 Hooding Ceremony on May 11, 2018, 6:30 PM at the Texas Southern University Health and Physical Education Arena.

YOUR MONTHLY THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW ELECTRONIC NEWS & INFORMATION SOURCE FROM THE OFFICE OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS \* ASSISTANT DEAN PRUDENCE SMITH \* EMAIL: prsmith@tmslaw.tsu.edu (713) 313-1197 \* 3100 Cleburne Street, Houston, Texas 77004 \*



# TMSL Alum Vonda Bailey meets Oprah Winfrey and gives \$10,000



**Vonda Bailey**, class of 2014, attended the Minnie's Food Pantry 10th Annual "Feed Just One Gala ." The event is held annually to raise funds to feed needy families. The star-studded, black-tie event was held on Tuesday, April 3, 2018, at the Omni Hotel in Frisco, Texas. The keynote address was delivered by **Oprah Winfrey**, Ms. Baileys idol, in which she challenged guests to match her donation of \$250,000. Our very own Vonda Bailey rose to the challenge and donated \$10,000. Delighted at the size of Vonda's gift, Ms. Winfrey pulled Ms. Bailey to the stage and embraced her. When asked about giving, Ms. Bailey replied; "that's what I was lead to do. I just wanted to give back." Vonda's gift provided 30,000 meals for needy families. Three meals were provided for every dollar raised, in total over \$1.2 million dollars was raised through the night.

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# HURGO THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW

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# FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS



Associate Dean Cassandra Hill was re-elected to the Board of Directors of the Legal Writing Institute (LWI). She will take office at the Board meeting during the 2018 Biennial Conference at Marquette Law this summer and serve a four-year term. LWI is a nonprofit organization dedicated to

development of teaching and scholarly resources and in the law of ERISA plans, ERISA claims and remeestablishing forums to discuss the study, teaching, and dies, as well as other forms of benefit plans. practice of professional legal writing. With nearly 3,000 members, LWI is the second largest organization of law professors in the United States. Members also include lawyers and judges, researchers, consultants, and undergraduate professors.



Professor Lydia Johnson accepted an invitation to serve as a member of the 2017-2018 ABA Criminal Justice Section Magazine Editorial Board. The Editorial Board Chair is Justin Murphy and Vice-Chair is Richard Ginkowski. The Criminal Justice magazine, pub-

lished quarterly by the Criminal Justice Section of the American Bar Association, is intended for a national audience of defense lawyers, prosecutors, judges, academics, and other criminal justice professionals with a focus on the practice and policy issues of the criminal justice system. Each issue includes feature articles, as well as regular columns. In addition, there are occasional thematic issues which focus on one particular aspect of the criminal justice system. Past issues of the Criminal Justice magazine may be accessed https://www.americanbar.org/groups/ here: criminal\_justice/publications/ criminal justice magazine home.html.



Professor Katherine Vukadin accepted an invitation to serve as a contributing author of the LexisNexis treatise entitled Employee Benefits Guide. The treatise is national in scope, highlighting important issues and changes in the law of employee benefits for practitioners and academics. Pro-

improving legal communication by supporting the fessor Vukadin's chapters will focus on developments



#### Professor

L. Darnell Weeden's article entitled How to Establish Flying the Confederate Flag with the State as Sponsor Violates the Equal Protection Clause, 34 AKRON L. REV. 521, 526 (2001) was recently cited in the University of Richmond Law Review by As-

sociate Clinical Professor Maureen Johnson of Lovola Law School, Los Angeles in her article entitled "Separate But (Un)Equal: Why Institutionalized Anti-Racism Is The Answer To The Never-Ending Cycle Of Plessy V. Ferguson," 52 U. Rich. L. Rev. 327, 362 (2018). Johnson cites to Weeden because his article included a discussion of the 2000 presidential election campaign controversy involving the flying of the Confederate flags, or Confederate symbols, on state property.



## **FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS**



position, which led to his selection. students. Professor SpearIt has also accepted an invitation from Seattle Univer-

sity School of Law to teach Criminal Law this summer. Seattle offers a summer program that allows incoming first-year students (pre-1Ls) to take Criminal Law the summer before their first fall semester. This program is critical in the development of law students and makes this invitation a great accolade and testimony to Professor SpearIt's teaching skills. Professor SpearIt also published "Why we Punish: Lessons in Indeterminacy" at JOTWELL Criminal Law on 4/2/18. https://crim.jotwell.com/why-we-punishlessons-in-indeterminacy/, and spoke at the conference, Racism, Racialization, and African-American Islam in the Americas at George Mason University on 4/12/18. In addition, three of Professor SpearIt's scholarly works were cited in the book, Latino and Muslim in America: Race, Religion and the Making of a New Minority (Oxford University Press 2018).



On April 4 and 5, Thurgood Marshall School of Law hosted Professor Julian Cook (University of Georgia School of Law) as our Scholar-in-Residence. During his visit, Professor Cook gave a presentation on "Policing and the Exclusionary Rule" and was a guest speaker in Professor Spear-

It's Professional Responsibility class and Professor

Professor SpearIt has accepted Lydia Johnson's Criminal Trial Practice class. Proan invitation from Gonzaga Uni- fessor Cook also met with members of the Thurgood versity School of Law to become a Marshall Law Review and the Thurgood Marshall Visiting Professor for the 2018- School of Law Journal on Gender, Race and Justice, 2019 academic year. Gonzaga con- where he shared his experiences as an author and ducted a nationwide search for this scholar and bestowed invaluable career advice to the







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# **FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS**



THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND FACULTY DEVELOPMENT 2017 - 2018 FACULTY SERIES PRESENTS



TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY 2018 RESEARCH WEEK

# STUDENT INDEPENDENT RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS



Ronak Chokhani

How Legal Regulations Affect the Way We Use Physical and Digital Space, a Paradox



**Reginal Harris** 

Case Analysis: InfoSource Communications, LLC, and Dr. Reginal D. Harris Amicus Brief in Support of TDE Petroleum Data Solutions, Inc., Petition for Writ of Certiorari by the United States Supreme Court



Nick Perez

Sustainable, Responsible Gentrification from a Suburban Kid Living in Houston's Third Ward



Valerie Salcido The Word as Pedagogy as Praxis



Amber Walker

Perfecting Slavery: Apartheid Schooling as a Pillar of Systemic Racism



# EARL CARL INSTITUTE

#### ECI Executive Director Selected to Serve as Advisory Member of the Texas Judicial Council's Juvenile Justice Committee



ECI Executive Director, **Sarah Guidry**, was selected to serve as an Advisory Member of the Texas Judicial Council's Juvenile Justice Committee. The Texas Judicial Council (TJC) was created in 1929 by the 41st Legislature to continuously study and report on the organization and practices of the Texas Judicial Branch. TJC is the policy-making body for the state judiciary.

The Council studies methods to simplify judicial procedures, expedite court business, and better administer justice. It examines the work accomplished by the courts and submits recommendations for improvement of the system to the Legislature, the Governor and the Supreme Court. The Council receives and considers input from judges, public officials, members of the bar, and citizens.

The Council's Juvenile Justice Committee is charged with considering best practices and necessary reforms to the juvenile justice system to improve the adjudication of delinquent conduct cases. The Juvenile Justice Committee is also charged with the oversight of the study required by HB 1204 regarding the use of the terms child, minor, and juvenile in statute for fine-only offenses and the adjudication of those offenses, including recommendation of any necessary reforms to improve the adjudication of those offenses.

The Committee is chaired by TMSL Alumna, the Honorable Valencia Nash.





# THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW DODDALL EXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

# **STAFF HIGHLIGHTS**

### **Misty Bishop Now Serves Three Additional Departments**



Misty not only servers as the Sr. Legal Administrative Assistant for Professors; April Walker, Marcia Johnson, Asmara Tekle, Rebecca Stewart, Marguerite Butler, and Michael James but also joins the Office of Career and Professional Development, the Office of External. Affairs, and the Office for Institutional Advancement. She's also heavily involved in the LEAP and Collaborative Experiential Learning program. Prior to her employment at TMSL, she has over 10 years' experience working for Fortune 100 and 500 companies within the Houston area such as Jackson Lewis PC, BP, Gexa Energy, Suez Energy, Shell Oil, SWN Energy, Berg & Androphy, Occidental Petroleum, Devon Energy, and Vantage Drilling in labor & employment, taxation, MDL cases, divesture, land acquisitions, master service agreements and audits.

Misty has a Bachelor of Science degree in Administration of Justice and minor in Speech Communication. She also has a paralegal/legal assistant certificate from

Southwestern Professional Institute and Masters in Public Administration at her alma mater, Texas Southern University. She plans to pursue a law degree to specialize in transactional, taxation, mergers & acquisitions law as well as sports & entertainment, and labor & employment law in the near future.

In addition to her educational background and goals, she is an author who enjoys delivering inspirational messages through her literary works to uplift others and to restore their faith within themselves and the powerful being, and she's an active Board Director/VP of Student Affair & Marketing for a non profit youth organization, Swag Achievement Organization (formerly known as Students with Academic Greatness). She also enjoys spending time with her family, singing and engaging in activities that are family oriented and spiritual enlightening.

We welcome Misty Bishop in taking on this very important administrative role following the departure of Heather Alaniz who left to pursue other ventures.



# **STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS**

## Iesha Champs Mother of 5 to Graduate Magna Cum Laude



Our very own **Ieshia Champs**, class of 2018, has gone viral after taking her graduation photos with her five children. "I took the pictures with my kids because they helped me through school. They're graduating too," said Champs. "They would help me review with flash cards while I cooked. They would sit as a mock jury while I taught them what I learned that day. I would sit in my closet and pray and cry because I was overwhelmed and my oldest son, David, would gather his siblings, give them a snack, make them take a bath, gather their school clothes, all to make things easier for me. And I had no knowledge of him doing that until I went to do it!"

Ieshia's path to law school began with adversity and was matched with tribulation along the way. "I really didn't have any stable guidance at that time. My mom was addicted to drugs. My dad was deceased. And I was homeless," explained Champs. "I lived with friends or whoever would take me in. Then I got pregnant with the first of my five children, and things just went from there." Ieshia left high school in the 10th grade to raise her first child and subsequently would never obtain her high school diploma. The trials and tribulations of Ieshia continued into 2009; while pregnant with her fourth child, she became unemployed, lost her house to a fire, and the father of two of her children died from cancer. At her lowest point, she considered suicide, ending it all.

However, God had other plans for Ieshia. "Pastor Louise Holman called me one day and said that God told her to tell me to go back to school and get my GED, because that lawyer I wanted to be, I'll be it!" Champs expressed. "I thought it was a little crazy because I was too old and I had three children with my fourth child on the way." Ieshia returned to school, obtained her GED, attended Houston Community College and graduated *summa cum laude* from University of Houston—Downtown. Ieshia a single mother of 5, has defeated all the odds against her and is now a candidate for the degree of Doctor of Jurisprudence and will graduate from Thurgood Marshall School of Law Magna Cum Laude.

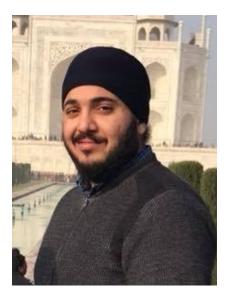


# THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW

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# STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS Cont'd.





Divjyot Singh Class of 2018 Valedictorian



<u>Joy Nnama</u> Class of 2018 **Salutatorian** 



Christina Daniels Class of 2018 Salutatorian



# STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS Cont'd.

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# Congratulations to our Class of 2018 Honor Students

#### <u>Summa Cum Laude</u>

Christina Daniels	Jolissa Jones	Stella Nwakanma
Countess Dudley	Taren Marsaw	Mariah Ortiz
Brian Ehrenberg, Jr.	Airelle Mills	Alfredo Ramos
Sondra Halton	Ashley Mullens	Divjyot Singh
Maureen Iruke	Joy Nnama	Kenneth Spears

#### <u>Magna Cum Laude</u>

Shawnta Adams	Lekeaka Defang	Celeste Herron	Timothy Rose
Keyarria Amey	Stephanie Duke	Tieranee Jones	Sierra Tabone
Blessing Ananti	Eric Flores	Tamoria Jones	Frederick Taylor
Amber Bunch	Elizabeth Green	Jasmine Jordan	Khanay Turner
Ieshia Champs	Diana Guillen	Diana Mendoza	Kendra Vega
Brandon Damon	Ab Hart	Nicholas Perez	Lauren Young

#### <u>Cum Laude</u>

Margaret Alfred	Cherika Edwards	Raven Kyles	Latoya Rascoe
Bethany Allen	Anastassiya Gaglieva	Chrisnequa Madison	Kaila Roberson
Lakisha Alomaja	Danielle Garcia	Cesar Mata	Justin Tolston
Oluchukwu Amagwula	Jose Garza	Alexander Menchaca	John Truong
Alex Chalk	Magaly Grimaldo	Stahili Muhammad	Mariana Valdes
Staci Childs	Reginal Harris	Matthew Olivares	Francis Vazquez
Luis Cueva	Abraham Hernandez Torres	Jude Owusu	Lakeshia Walton
Brandy Douglas	Brittanie Johnson	Carmen Portillo	



# STUDENT NEWS Cont'd.



# Houston Area HLSA chapters dine together for their annual scholarship banquet

The Hispanic Law Students Association (HLSA) held their 2018 Annual Scholarship Banquet at Hotel Zaza Houston Museum District on March 23, 2018. This annual banquet brings together HLSA students from Thurgood Marshall School of Law, University of Houston Law Center and South Texas College of Law Houston. Highlights of the night included one of TMSL's own, **Diana Mendoza**, receiving the Mexican American Bar Association of Houston \$1,500 scholarship.





### The Barbara C. Jordan Chapter of BLSA holds Alumni Forum

For the last general body meeting of the 2017 –2018 school year, the Barabara C. Jordan Chapter of the Black Law Students Association held an open forum of alumni including the most recent past Chapter President. The forum provided an open platform in which students discussed the end of the semester comprehensive exams, bar study and tips. Panelists included Maegen Bradley; past BLSA President, Kashmire Terry; Madaline Smith; and Tim Adams.







# STUDENT NEWS Cont'd.

### AWAF Honors Joy Nnama and Sintia Solis

The Association of Women Attorneys Foundation (AWAF) held the 7th annual Premier Women in Law Luncheon on March 28, 2018, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Houston. Of the six scholarships awarded, two Thurgood Marshall School of Law students were selected as recipients, **Joy Nnama** (3L– pictured far right), and **Sintia Solis**, (2L—not pictured). Congratulations, to these ladies on this prestigious award.



## **Omar Vargas Scholarship Recipients**

The Law Office of Omar Vargas, P.C. has selected its 2018 Bar Study Scholarship Recipients. This opportunity was open only to Thurgood Marshall School of Law students sitting for the February or July 2018 bar. Applicants were required to submit an essay on the following topic:

On October 9, 2017, Representative Briscoe Cain, was asked to leave the Thurgood Marshall School of law campus after having been invited to speak by the Federalist Society, a student organization. Under what circumstances, if any, may public schools ban/remove people/organizations from exercising their right to free speech? Assume the speaker had been allowed to continue speaking and students/staff continued to shout/chant over him. Under what circumstances, if any, may public schools remove members of the audience who are exercising their right to free speech/protest? This is a strictly constitutional question, so please disregard any handbook/procedural errors that the Federalist Society may have overlooked. Please cite relevant case law and limit this essay to fifteen (15) pages or less. The deadline for this scholarship is March 25th, 2018.

Two (2) \$1,000.00 scholarships were awarded to Jas Jordan and Daphne Benford-Smith, one (1) \$750.00 scholarship to An Le, and one (1) \$500.00 scholarship to Iesha Champs. Congratulations to these winners.



Jas Jordan



Daphne Benford-Smith



An Le



lesha Champs



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# STUDENT NEWS Cont'd.

Patrick Davenport

Hometown: San Antonio, Texas Graduating Class: December 2018, Undergraduate Institution: Lincoln College Major: Finance/Business Management Graduate School: Thurgood Marshall School of Law / Jesse H. Jones School of Business Degree: JD/MBA Dual-Degree

#### Jobs/Internships/Externships:

Earl Carl Institute-Innocence Project, Development Coordinator Mural Music & Arts Project, Grant Writer Office of External Affairs, Graduate Development Assistant



**His story. Why law school?** I was sitting through a board meeting in San Francisco, CA in 2012. Realizing that I'd maxed out my time and energy in my current position as a Director of Operations for a small non-profit in the Bay Area. While sitting around that table discussing the Strategic Plan and Growth direction for the organization over the next 5 years, I listened to our board members, all lawyers, doctors, or MBA executives. The message was clear; our impact is parallel with our access, and knowledge is necessary for all access. I realized at that moment that in order to create a greater impact, I needed more knowledge and Law School was going to provide that knowledge. My passion lies in helping people and creating an impact that will benefit my community. You can plan your entire life out, but sometimes life has its own plan. I thought I had it all figured out since I was making a difference and living the dream under the California sun. Eventually the passion and challenge ran out of my job and I realized it was no longer the right fit for me. After my time at TMSL, I am re-focused in my passion and ready for the next step of my career; a career where I can help people acquire the rights and access that all men, women, and children deserve.

What is one of your most memorable experiences at TMSL? My most memorable experience at TMSL, it's hard to pick only one. I've changed and matured so much over the last three years. I came to Law School as a mid-twenties bachelor; I'll leave with a JD/MBA, wife and child. The most memorable experience I've had would be evolving with my close friends and classmate on our journey to become attorneys. Law school breaks you down to a point of "fight or flight." The people you go through that struggle with are the only ones in the world who can relate, and you grow very close sharing that experience. You'll make colleagues for life, and friends forever.

#### What do you plan to do 9 months after graduation?

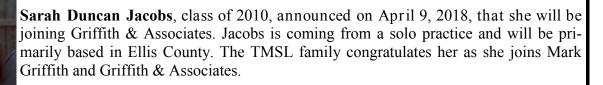
As I finish my Dual-Degree, I'm looking at different corporate and health care development opportunities. I plan to apply for Health Care Administration Fellowships this Fall for placement in July 2019. Ideally landing a Fellow position in Houston, Chicago, Miami, or Boston.





### ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS ALUMNI ON THE MOVE

#### Sarah Duncan Jacobs joins Griffith & Associates



#### Amber Boyd Joins Kenneth Stephens



**Amber Boyd**, class of 2009, joined Kenneth Stephens as an associate at Stephens, PLLC. Boyd brings a plethora of experience in real estate transactions and litigation to the firm. Over the course of her legal career, Amber has litigated real estate disputes, and defended foreclosures. She also has strong experience in general real estate transactions; has consulted on commercial and residential lease agreements, affordable housing and tax credit compliance. TMSL family wishes Amber Boyd continued success.

#### Toni Holley Confirmed as Municipal Court Judge

**Toni Holley**, class of 1999, was confirmed as a City of Houston Municipal Court Judge earlier this month. Toni brings a wealth of knowledge in Criminal, Family, Wills-Trusts-Probate, and Juvenile Law to the bench. TMSL family please congratulate Toni on her new endeavor.





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

#### Tiffany Johnson Shares Fashion Law Basics



**Tiffany A. Johnson**, class of 2011, shared Fashion Law Basics at Techstars Startup Week Dallas. The Techstars 5 day event was hosted in Downtown, Dallas, April 2-6, 2018, and focuses on the entrepreneur community. Johnson, an associate, of Klemchuk LLP focuses primarily on patent prosecution and strategic patent portfolio management, including drafting patent applications and Responses to Office Actions and related prosecution documentation. Johnson has previously published fashion law articles, *The Dawn of Fashion Law: A New Day in Intellectual Property Law* in the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division, IP Law Newsletter; and *Fashion Law: Taking the IP Runway by Storm* in the April 2018 issue of the Dallas Bar Association's Headnotes. Tiffany has also co-presented *Fashionably Legal* for the State Bar of Texas, Women in the Law Section, and *Fashion Law* at the State Bar of Texas Annual Meeting.

#### Damita Dandridge & Theressa Ford selected as 2 of 12 Most Outstanding Women

Memphis Inter-Denominational Fellowship, Incorporated held the 2018 *12 Most Outstanding Women* on April 14, 2018, at 11:30AM. The program honored women in the judicial system which included two of our alum, **Damita Dandridge**, class of 1983, and **Theressa Ford**, class of 2014. The 12 Most Outstanding Women is designed to highlight "women of faith, prayer, good works, dedication and leadership."

<u>Damita Dandridge</u> (pictured right) is currently a Judicial Commissioner; and an Assistant Professor of Political Science, Campus/Executive Director of American Humanics and Service Learning Coordinator at Le Moyne-Owen College.





<u>Theressa Ford</u> (pictured left) is a solo practitioner utilizing her background in Employment Law to address issues from both the corporate side and the plaintiff's side in order to educate the community and advocate for those whose rights have been violated by their employer or union.





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

#### TMSL Alumnae present at the DTG "Boss Up Power Luncheon"

The Downtown Group comprised of African American female attorneys in the Houston Area presented the Boss Up Power Luncheon on April 5, 2018. The Luncheon was a candid conversation with panelist discussing the challenges that African—American women face in the workplace, providing tips on breaking the

"black ceiling" and providing nuggets of wisdom on becoming a "boss" in the industry. Panelist included, TMSL alumnae, Antoinette M. "Toni" Jackson, class of 1991, and Shareen Larmond, class of 2003. The hosting committee included Angela Graves Harrington, class of 2006, and Krystal Studavent, class of 2007, who was also the moderator.





Regina Bynote Jones Cydonni Fairfax General Counsel neral Counsel Land Rigs Schlumberger METRO

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Rice University



st Gulf Maritime

Associate General Counsel President



Partn

Iones Walker LLP



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## Davon Hatchett Robinson's Champagne Tasting



Saturday, April 7, 2018, at Etta's Kitchen, Davon D. E. Hatchett-Robinson, class of 2007, hosted a champagne pop-up tasting. Davon, a lawyer turned freelance writer; burgeoning product maker; lifestyle curator; became frustrated with commonplace and "done-to-death" ideas. Thus, coupled with a deep desire to infuse ordinary life with out-of -the-ordinary experiences; Davon created "The Bubbleista", a blog/ website dedicated to creating and bringing more joy to every day life through wine, food, travel, style, and

distinctive experiences. Congratulations to Davon on this new venture.



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ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS Cont'd.

Run Off Elections

#### Harris & Fort Bend County

William "Bill" McLeod Hector "Alex" Salgado Senator Sylvia Garcia Linda Dunson Rep. Shawn Thierry Rebeea Sultan-Collier Germaine Tanner Sonya Heath Angela Graves-Harrington Toria J. Finch **DeSean Jones** Sharon Burney Gloria Elizabeth Lopez Danyahel "Danny" Norris Erica Hughes Natalia Oakes LaShawn Williams

Lee Harper Wilson Angela D. Rodriguez David Farr Daniel "DC" Caldwell Rep. Senfronia Thompson Rep. Harold Dutton Congressman Al Green Sherman Hatton Harold Kennedy Michael Antalan Marc Carter Angelia Gooden Cherly E. Thorton Ronnisha Bowman Brian Middleton Frank Fraley Fran Watson



### **IN MEMORIAM**

#### TMSL mourns the loss of Adjunct Professor Mark Vinson



**Mark Vinson**, class of 1983, was abruptly called to his heavenly home on April 24, 2018. Attorney Vinson was a Vietnam Veteran who retired from the United States Army at the rank of Major in 1980 after proudly serving for 21 years. After graduating law school and passing the bar; in 1983, he was hired at the Harris County District Attorney's Office. He was promoted several times and eventually obtained the position of Chief Prosecutor. While at the Harris County District Attorney's Office, Mark mentored and left a positive influence on numerous attorneys. In 2005, he made history by becoming the first African American to retire from the Harris County District Attorney's Office. He continued to practice law as a Criminal Defense Attorney and was also an Adjunct Professor at Texas Southern University. He was an active member of Windsor Village United Methodist Church and was on the board of Culture Awareness Ministry; an avid golfer and a member of Alpha Phi Alpha, Incorporated. Attorney

Vinson remained dedicated and committed to TMSL students and the mission of Thurgood Marshall School of Law. His passing is a tremendous loss to our TMSL family.

Thanks for your kind words Judge. Mark and I attended TMSL together. We joined Phi Alpha Delta on the same night and forged a long lasting friendship that extended to my family members. He was a kind, no non-sense type student and utmost professional. I am blessed to have known him throughout the years. I will miss him.—Virgie Mouton, Dean of Student Affairs

May Mark Vinson rest in peace. He performed professionally and ethically, and that helped TMSL Grads open the once impassable doors of the DA's office. Today, the numbers of grads who are Asst DA's can thank this great man and Adj Prof at TMSL. They are his legacy.—Lupe Salinas, Judge, 339th, 1983-84; Judge, 351st, 1989-1996, Visiting Judge, 1997-2006





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# **UPCOMING CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION COURSES**

# Friday, May 18, 2018 12 p.m. - 4 p.m.

\$60.00 attorneys; \$30.00 gov't and non-profit attorneys; complimentary non-attorneys Pappadeaux Seafood Kitchen 3520 Oak Lawn Ave. Dallas, TX 75219

Registration available online at: www.tmslcle.eventbrite.com TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW

CENTER FOR CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION · 713.313.1142 or prsmith@tmslaw.tsu.edu





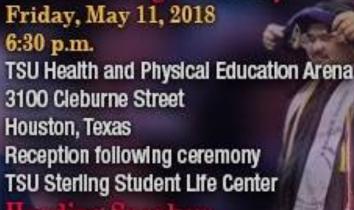
# UPCOMING EVENTS

# 2018 Hooding Ceremony

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Hooding Speaker:

**Congresswoman Maxine Waters** 

# 2018 Commencement Saturday, May 12, 2018

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8:00 a.m.

TSU Health and Physical Education Arena 3100 Cleburne Street Houston, Texas

## THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW



# THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW

#### TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

# **May Birthdays**

Rita Johnson	8th
DeCarlous Spearman	12th
Ashley Scott	15th
Nikki Wright Smith	17th
Peter Marchetti	18th
Lucinda Daniels	31st



#### **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!

