



# THURGOOD TODAY

May 2024 Edition

TSU

TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY  
Thurgood Marshall School of Law



Thurgood Marshall School of Law  
2024 Distinguished James M. Douglas  
Alumnus *of the Year*

President and CEO, TDECU **Isaac Johnson**



# THURGOOD TODAY

## Alumni Highlights

### 2024 Distinguished James M. Douglas Alumnus of the Year

#### Isaac Johnson Jr.



Join us in celebrating **Isaac Johnson Jr.** as the Thurgood Marshall School of Law *2024 Distinguished James M. Douglas Alumnus of the Year*.

Mr. Johnson is the President and CEO of Houston's largest credit union, Texas Dow Employee's Credit Union (TDECU). He previously served as SVP, Chief Administrative, Legal and Diversity Officer, and has held leadership roles at USAA, Wells Fargo, and Trustmark National Bank. Isaac received his J.D. at Thurgood Marshall School of Law and holds a B.B.A. from Mississippi State University, and an M.B.A. from Jackson State University. Isaac has a diverse background as he has completed additional programs at Cornell University, The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, and the U.S. Army War College. One of Isaac's most recent and prestigious accomplishments is being recognized as a two-star Major General in the U.S. Army Reserve. He commands the U.S. Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command (Airborne). He is a decorated leader earning the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, and the Merit Cheonsu Medal from the President of the Republic of Korea's Order of National Security.

Congratulations on your accomplishments and thank you for your service!





# THURGOOD TODAY

## Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month



**William Fong**

**Alumnus & Adjunct Faculty**

**William Fong** was born and raised in Washington D.C., graduating from the University of Maryland and receiving his Juris Doctor degree from the Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University. Mr. Fong is an adjunct professor at TMSL and a co-founder of the Institute for International and Immigration Law (IIIL) at the Thurgood Marshall School of Law. He is Board Certified in Immigration and Nationality Law by the State Bar of Texas, Board of Legal Specialization. He has been honored in "Best Lawyers in America" every year since 2012, and regularly named in "Best Lawyers in Texas. Further, he served 3 terms as a Vice President of the Asian American Bar Association.



**Mi Amy Ratra**

**Associate Dean of Student Services and Instructional Support**

**Mi Amy Ratra** was born in China and moved to the United States in 2009. She is the Associate Dean for Student Services and Instructional Support at Thurgood Marshall School of Law. She has over 20 years experience in higher education as an international administrator. Dean Ratra obtained her LL.M. in International Law from the University of Aberdeen. She expresses the urge for Asian Americans to work harder than other minorities because they only make up 7% of the U.S. population. Moreover, Dean Ratra encourages students to develop cross-cultural communication skills to help them in their careers.



**Maurice Hew**

**Director of LL.M and Professor of Law**

**Professor Maurice Hew** was born in New Orleans, Louisiana. He obtained his Bachelor's Degree and J.D. from Tulane University in his hometown. Professor Hew has been a professor for 19 years teaching immigration courses amongst other courses such as property and professional responsibility. He ran the immigration legal clinic for over 12 years and currently serves as the director of the LL.M. Program at Thurgood Marshall School of Law. Professor Hew chose to practice immigration law because of its flexibility in crossing over with other areas of law.



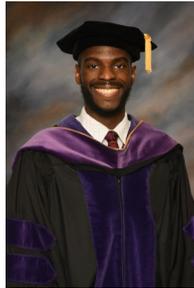
# THURGOOD TODAY

## Student Highlights

### Meet the TMSL Class of 2024 Graduates



Abigayle Abel



Aaron Abram  
SBA President  
Law Review Senior Editor



Muhammad Abuhandan, Esq.



Joseph Acevedo Jr., Esq.



Brandon Agomuo



Oiya-Ali-Neely  
Law Review Lead Articles Editor  
Family & Juvenile Law Society President



Myranda Alonso



Denzel Asala



Eleanor Awa, Esq.



Taha Aziz



Len Badeau  
Law Journal Business Editor



Ronke Badmus



# THURGOOD TODAY

## Student Highlights

### Meet the TMSL Class of 2024 Graduates



Avery Baptiste-Dixon



Elizabeth Barnes  
SBA Historian



Joseph Barron



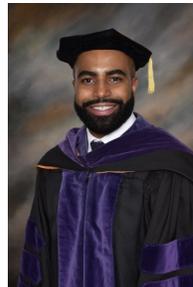
Sherman Bell



Charles Bennett



Jasmine Bernoudy



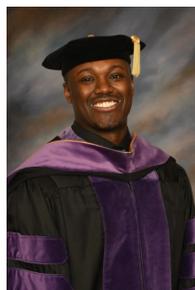
C. Sebastian Berry



Kviah-Cynae Breazeale



Antonious Brown



Iran Brown, Esq.  
3L Class Sergeant at Arms



Keiara Burke  
3L Class Secretary  
Law Review Senior Editor



Jessica Campos



# THURGOOD TODAY

## Student Highlights

### Meet the TMSL Class of 2024 Graduates



Martha Campos



Jessyca Carbajal



Armando Cardenas



Jorge Caso



Alana Chappell



Channing Christophe  
Valedictorian  
Law Review Executive Editor



Rene De Coss



Sharell Council-Brown, Esq.  
3L Class Historian



Marissa Cummings



Romeche Cunningham, Esq.



DiVine Davenport



Briana Davis



# THURGOOD TODAY

## Student Highlights

### Meet the TMSL Class of 2024 Graduates



Enrique De La Cruz



Orfelio De Ochoa



Amber Dean, Esq.  
Law Review Business Editor



Regal Deen  
Honor Court Chief Justice



Ronash Denis, Esq.



Otasha Dennis  
Cannabis Law Students Association  
President



Maricela Deveney



Phoenix Diggs  
Miss TMSL  
Board of Advocates Parliamentarian



Chardae Downer



Andrew Duckworth



Leda Elhassan



Ekaya Ellis  
Law Review Symposium Editor



# THURGOOD TODAY

## Student Highlights

### Meet the TMSL Class of 2024 Graduates



David Fajardo



Austin Fletcher



Jahzeel Franco



Brandon Galvan



Veronica Garza



Ester Garza



Janae Gillenwaters



Brittany Goddard



Melanie Gomez Reyes



Lauren Gonzales  
3L Class Vice President  
Law Review Editor-in-Chief  
Hispanic Law Students Association President



Marcela Gonzalez



Zacarias Gonzalez  
Law Review  
Digital Content Editor



# THURGOOD TODAY

## Student Highlights

### Meet the TMSL Class of 2024 Graduates



**Rodnae Gould**



**Jared Gover**  
Salutatorian



**Luis Raul Gutierrez**  
Christian Legal Society President



**Ivonne Guzman  
De La Cruz, Esq.**



**Sylvia Harmon**  
Chess Club President



**Kennedi Harmon**  
Law Journal Circulation Editor



**Eric Charles Helm**  
3L Class President  
Sports and Entertainment Law  
Society President



**Diana Herrera**



**Jeremy Hicks, Esq.**



**Shantale Hicks**



**Jonathan Hockless**



**Ivanka Hoffman**



# THURGOOD TODAY

## Student Highlights

### Meet the TMSL Class of 2024 Graduates



**Catherine Holte, Esq.**  
Law Review Senior Editor



**Alexa Hyppolite**



**Natoya Inglis**



**Eduardo Izaguirre**



**Jamison J-Douglas**



**Gabriel Jackson**



**Mary Jackson**



**Samiyah Jefferson**



**Davida Johnson**  
Corporate Law Society President



**Ocyanna Keckler**



**Yeabsira Kefeni**



**Maheen Khalid-Mumtaz**  
Asian American Pacific Islander Law  
Student Association President  
Muslim Law Students Association President



# THURGOOD TODAY

## Student Highlights

Meet the TMSL Class of 2024 Graduates



Ruzana Kholdarova



Jonathan Krolczyk



Mihir Kulkarni



Paul Lakin



Selma Lara

Law Journal Reviewing Editor



Jacqueline Lavacherry



Morgan Leon



Robert Lewis



Kaitlin Littleberry



Amirah Lockhart



Matthew Lopez



Iridyan Lopez



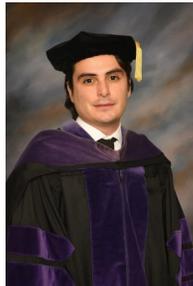
# THURGOOD TODAY

## Student Highlights

### Meet the TMSL Class of 2024 Graduates



Abdiel Lopez Castro, Esq.



Arnold Lopez Jr.



Tunrayo J. Lumpkin



Noah Macias



Jessica Mack, Esq.



Farai Madzvamuse



Jesha Magee  
Mindfulness in Law President



Nicole Maldonado



Shanila Mannan



Amanda Markham



DeChanda Martin, Esq.  
Law Journal Executive Editor



Andaiye McAndrew



# THURGOOD TODAY

## Student Highlights

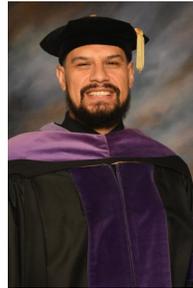
### Meet the TMSL Class of 2024 Graduates



Jordan McCleskey



William R. Meade



Michael Medina  
Veterans Law Society President



Tyra Merritt



Alexis Moffett  
SBA Senator



Jayda Morgan  
SBA Secretary  
Law Journal Editor-in-Chief



Chelsee Morris



Teresa Murray



Elia Nero Wilson  
Law Review Senior Editor



Tobi Ogunmoyero, Esq.



Starr Olivarez



Darelis Ortiz Vega



# THURGOOD TODAY

## Student Highlights

Meet the TMSL Class of 2024 Graduates



David Palacios



Kierra Parker



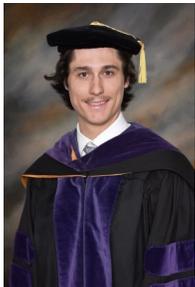
Tony Paschal  
Mr. TMSL



Jennifer Pena



Noah Perez



Elijah Philpot



Sydney Pierre, Esq.



Willie Pipkin, Esq.



Roman Porsche



Rainier Porter



Brandon Prince



Melanie Quijano



# THURGOOD TODAY

## Student Highlights

### Meet the TMSL Class of 2024 Graduates



Paris Rainey, Esq.



Gabriella Ramirez



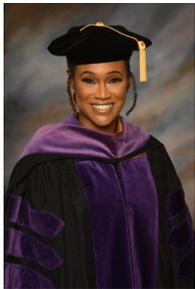
Edgar Ramon



Nicholas Resendis



Oscar Reyes, Esq.



Kayla Richard



Peter A. Rodriguez, Esq.



Odalys Rodriguez



Jenifer Sanchez Alarcon



Dayja Saures  
SBA Parliamentarian



Shandrea Sellers  
SBA General Counsel  
3L Class General Counsel



Sierra Sensat



# THURGOOD TODAY

## Student Highlights

### Meet the TMSL Class of 2024 Graduates



Eloy Sepulveda



Fuischa Shelton, Esq.  
Law Review Senior Editor



Nabil Shike



Haley Simmons, Esq.



Bria Smith



Jalisa Smith



Damon Smith



Kenneth Suttle



Kyianna Sykes



Shelby Tahtouh



Toi Tennessee



Nicholas Thomas, Esq.



# THURGOOD TODAY

## Student Highlights

### Meet the TMSL Class of 2024 Graduates



Laryssa Thomas-Canty



Erin Thompson



Liam Thomson



Tiara Toran



Rubi Tornero



Nga Tran-Medina  
Corporate & Taxation Law Society President



Karrington Turner, Esq.



Taliya Twyman



Nailah Underwood  
Law Review Managing Editor



Samuel Valadez



Rebecca Valenzuela



Adrian Velasquez



# THURGOOD TODAY

## Student Highlights

### Meet the TMSL Class of 2024 Graduates



Violeta Villarreal, Esq.



Daniela Villegas, Esq.



Christina Wade, Esq.



Marshall Walker



Brian Washington III, Esq.



Jared Wiggins



Leeandria Williams



Mason Williams



Tehraan Ty Williams



Lauryn Winters, Esq.



Jessica Winters



Christian Wolford  
3L Class Treasurer  
SBA Sergeant at Arms



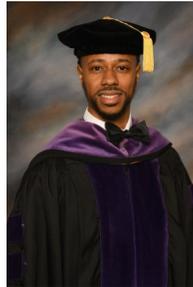
# THURGOOD TODAY

## Student Highlights

Meet the TMSL Class of 2024 Graduates



Kaila Woods



Lee Young, Esq.



Stefany Zuniga





# THURGOOD TODAY

## Class of 2024 Honors Graduates

### Summa Cum Laude

|                 |                     |                      |                 |              |
|-----------------|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Keiara Burke    | Channing Christophe | Orfelio De Ochoa Jr. | Lauren Gonzales | Jared Gover  |
| Catherine Holte | Kaitlin Littleberry | Noah Perez           | Fuischa Shelton | Liam Thomson |

### Magna Cum Laude

|                  |                     |                   |                     |                   |
|------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Oiya Ali-Neely   | Joseph Barron       | Jessica Campos    | Amber Dean          | Maricela Deveney  |
| Ekaya Ellis      | Marcela Gonzalez    | Zacarias Gonzalez | Luis Raul Gutierrez | Sylvia Harmon     |
| Ocyanna Keckler  | Abdiel Lopez Castro | Noah Macias       | William Meade       | Jayda Morgan      |
| Elia Nero Wilson | Tobi Ogunmoyero     | Elijah Philpot    | Melanie Quijano     | Kayla Richard     |
| Toi Tennessee    | Nga Tran-Medina     | Daniela Villegas  | Christina Wade      | Christian Wolford |

### Cum Laude

|                    |                     |                          |                    |                  |
|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Abigayle Abel      | Aaron Abram         | Muhammad Abuhamdan       | Joseph Acevedo     | Elizabeth Barnes |
| C. Sabastian Berry | Armando Cardenas    | Alana Chappell           | Marissa Cummings   | Otasha Dennis    |
| Phoenix Diggs      | Austin Fletcher     | Ivonne Guzman De La Cruz | Samiyah Jefferson  | Yeabsira Kefeni  |
| Tunrayo Lumpkin    | DeChanda Martin     | Alexis Moffett           | Darelis Ortiz Vega | Tony Paschal     |
| Sydney Pierre      | Edgar Ramon         | Nicholas Resendis        | Micheal Riede      | Jenifer Sanchez  |
| Dayja Saures       | Shandrea Sellers    | Haley Simmons            | Kyianna Sykes      | Alarcon          |
|                    | Violetta Villarreal | Marshall Walker          | Lee Young III      | Nicholas Thomas  |



# THURGOOD TODAY

## February 2024 Bar Passers

### CONGRATULATIONS



*To Our Newest Attorneys...You Passed the Bar!*

DaKeisha S. King  
Muhammad M. Abuhamdan  
Joseph Acevedo  
Eleanor O. Awa  
Iran Brown  
Tonja Michele Coleman  
Sharell Counil  
Romeche Cunningham  
Amber Dean  
Ronash Denis  
Julian Antonio Firo  
Sierra Nicole Flores  
Melizza A. Gonzalez

Ivonne A. Guzman De La Cruz  
Jeremy Lawrence Hicks  
Catherine E. Holte  
Alexander B. Hu  
Abdiel Lopez Castro  
Dechanda Martin  
Mack C. Mitchell  
Oluwatobi A. Ogunmoyero  
Sydney Pierre  
Willie A. Pipkin  
Paris Rainey  
Oscar Steven Reyes

Peter Rodriguez  
Haley R. Simmons  
Nicholas M. Thomas  
Daniel M. Thompson  
Kourtney N. Tucker  
Karrington Turner  
Violetta A. Villarreal  
Daniela Villegas  
Christina Wade  
Brian Jevon Washington  
Valerie A. Wilson  
Lauryn Winters  
Lee Young



TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY  
Thurgood Marshall School of Law



\*\*This list is not exhaustive\*\*



# THURGOOD TODAY

## OCPD NEWS

### Snapshot of some of the Class of 2024 Students Post-Grad Jobs

**Aaron Abram** — Ferguson Law Firm, LLP

**Lauren Gonzales** — Gonzales Law Firm

**Tunrayo Lumpkin** — Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman, PLLC

**Farai Madzvamuse** — Marry E Conn & Associates, PLLC

**Dayja Saures** — U.S. District Court Western District of Texas, U.S. District Judge Jason Pulliam

**Damon Smith** — Thomas J. Henry

**Daniella Villegas** — J.D. Silva & Associates, PLLC



\*\*This list is not exhaustive\*\*



# THURGOOD TODAY

## Alumni Highlights

### Alyson A. Martinez — Texas Young Lawyers Association President-Elect



Congratulations to TMSL Alumna **Alyson A. Martinez** for winning the 2024-2025 Texas Young Lawyers Association (TYLA) presidential race. Alyson is only the second Thurgood Marshall School of Law alum to hold the position of TY-LA President. She is a native of Laredo and the first attorney in her family, graduating from TMSL. Currently, Martinez serves as the director of the Webb County Community Supervision and Corrections Department in Laredo and Zapata. In 2020, Martinez served as president of the Laredo-Webb County Bar Association. Martinez has represented District 19 of TYLA for three years, earning recognition for her contributions including the President's Award of Merit in 2023.





# THURGOOD TODAY

## Alumni Highlights

### Rev. Mark Grafenreed Nominated for the Judicial Council for The United Methodist Church



Congratulations to TMSL Alumnus Mark Grafenreed on being nominated by the Council of Bishops as a candidate to serve on the Judicial Council of The United Methodist Church. Mark obtained his Bachelor's degree from Southern Methodist University in 1998. He graduated with his J.D. from Thurgood Marshall School of Law in 2003. Mark is currently a Ph.D. Candidate in Religion and Culture at Southern Methodist University. He owned his law practice, The Grafenreed Law Firm, PLLC, from 2010-2020. Mark says, "*I am honored and humbled to be considered and nominated by the Council of Bishops for the Judicial Council of The United Methodist Church for "such a time as this" (Esther 4:14).*"





# THURGOOD TODAY

## Faculty News

### Class of 2024 Professor of the Year

### Professor Sally Green, Lois Prestage Woods Professor of Law



**Professor Sally Green** was honored as the *Class of 2024 Professor of the Year*. This prestigious recognition comes as no surprise to those who have had the privilege of learning under her, as Professor Green's impact on her students extends far beyond the classroom.

As a dedicated member of the Thurgood Marshall School of Law faculty since 1995, Professor Green has exemplified commitment to her students and the field of law. Specializing in Commercial and Juvenile Law, she brings a wealth of knowledge and real-world experience to her teaching, enriching the educational journey of countless aspiring lawyers.

Professor Green's journey towards shaping young legal minds began with her own academic pursuits. She earned her Bachelor's degree in Sociology from the esteemed Stanford University, laying the foundation for her future endeavors in understanding societal dynamics and legal systems. Subsequently, she obtained her J.D. from Tulane University.

Beyond her impressive academic background, what truly sets Professor Green apart is her innate ability to inspire and engage her students. Her teaching style is characterized by a rare blend of intellectual rigor, compassion, and genuine concern for the success of every individual under her guidance. The Class of 2024's overwhelming vote in favor of Professor Green as Professor of the Year is a testament to the profound impact she has had on their academic journey.





# THURGOOD TODAY

## Faculty News

### Professor Ana Otero — Eugene Harrington Professor of Law



On April 4th, 2024, the *Berkeley Latine Journal of Law and Policy* hosted its annual symposium. Among the distinguished panelists was **Professor Ana Otero**, who teaches Civil Procedure, Evidence, and a Death Penalty Seminar at TMSL. Professor Otero's insightful discourse on "*Capital Punishment & Trauma*" captivated audiences and shed light on the profound impact of the death penalty on individuals and communities.

As an esteemed advocate for social justice, Professor Otero's participation in the symposium marked a significant contribution to the ongoing dialogue surrounding capital punishment in the United States. Drawing upon her expertise she provided invaluable insights into the multifaceted intersections between the death penalty and the trauma experienced by those affected by it.

Moreover, Professor Otero's participation in the *Berkeley Latine Journal of Law and Policy* symposium exemplified her commitment to advancing critical discourse on issues impacting marginalized communities.





# THURGOOD TODAY

## Student News

### 3L Thurgood Thursday

*Thurgood Thursday*, brought together the 3L Class of 2024 and alumni from Thurgood Marshall School of Law for an evening of networking. Dean Prudence Smith-Russell issued a challenge, inspiring attendees to donate AdaptiBar courses to support students preparing for the bar exam. After TMSL Alumnus, Omar Vargas donated two courses, a total of 28 AdaptiBar courses that were \$330 each were donated by the various alumni listed below, providing invaluable resources for future lawyers. The event showcased the generosity and solidarity within the legal community, leaving a lasting impact on the Class of 2024 as they prepare to enter the legal profession.

#### AdaptiBar Donors

- Omar Vargas — (2)
- Gonzales Law Firm — Lauren Gonzales (2)
- Judge Kevin Murray — President of the Alumni Association (1)
- Smith Law Firm — Prudence Smith (1)
- Troy Marsaw — (2)
- Hadi Law Firm — (5)
- Law Office Joseph K. Plumbar — Jojo Plumbar (5)
- Lander Law — Kadajah Lander (2)
- The Law Offices of Adrian Rogers PLLC — Adrian Rogers (1)
- Bjornrae Kemp — (2)
- Cynthia A. Spooner — (2)

#### Students Awardees

- Paul Lakin
- Martha Campos
- Chardae Downer
- Alexis Moffett
- Elizabeth Barnes
- Veronica Garza
- Nicole Maldonado
- Debzek Asaka
- Oiya Ali-Neely
- Andaiye McAndrew
- Melanie Gomez-Reyes
- Rodnae Gould
- Eric Charles Helm
- Ocyanna Keckler
- Brittany Goddard
- Leda Elharsan
- Bria Smith
- Len Badeau
- K`vian Breazeale
- Luis Raul Gutierrez
- Jasmine Bernoudy
- Jesha Magee
- Tasha Dennis
- Gabriel Jackson
- Shelby Tahtouh
- Jayda Morgan
- Iridyan Lopez





# THURGOOD TODAY

## Student News

### Newly Elected 2024-25 TMSL Student Bar Association



**SBA President**  
Taylor Hall



**SBA Vice President**  
Keith Turner III



**SBA Secretary**  
Monique Williams



**SBA Senator**  
Saryn Allen



**SBA  
Sergeant at Arms**  
Willie J. Butler III



**SBA Treasurer**  
Prince Ude



**SBA Parliamentarian**  
Cameron I. Adams



**Miss TMSL**  
Markeisa Jackson



**Mr. TMSL**  
Jared Lane



**SBA Public Relations Officer**  
Ty'quaia Rollins



# THURGOOD TODAY

## Student News

### TMSL 2024 Order of Barristers



**Student Inductees:** Phoenix Diggs, Melanie Quijano, and Lauren Gonzales

**Honorary Inductee:** Attorney Tyrone Moncriste, TMSL Class of 1982

### Law Day Banquet and Barristers' Ball Recap





# THURGOOD TODAY

## Student Achievements

### Alumni Board Scholarship Winners

#### **TMSL Student Circle of Excellence Award**

1L recipient — Kaylynn Steen

2L recipient — Keith Turner III

3L recipient — Tony Paschal

#### **TMSL Student Leadership Award**

1L recipients — Edith Fuentes and Yasmine Wicker

2L recipients — Madison Flood and Monique Williams

3L recipients — Phoenix Diggs and Tunrayo Lumpkin

#### **Dean Virgie Mouton Student Spirit Award**

1L recipients — Keara Dixon and Kevia Montgomery

2L recipients — Madison Flood and Monique Williams

3L recipients — Phoenix Diggs and Tony Paschal

#### **Professor Constance Fain Success Award**

1L recipient — Olga Kunina

2L recipient — Monique Williams

3L recipient — Liam Thomson

#### **Alumni Board President's Award**

'23-'24 SBA President Aaron Abram

'23-'24 SBA Vice President Ronke Badmus



# THURGOOD TODAY

## Student Achievements

### 2024 Justice John Paul Stevens Fellowship Recipients



**Uniqua Smith**  
1L  
\$6,000



**Ericka O'Neal**  
2L  
\$6,000



**Amar El-Hammamy**  
2L  
\$6,000



**Oluwademilade Ogunlade**  
2L  
\$6,000

### 2024 Houston Lawyers Association Scholarship Recipients



**Aaron Abram, 3L — \$2,500 and Christian Wolford, 3L — \$5,000**



# THURGOOD TODAY

## Student Achievements

### 2024 Association of Corporate Counsel DE&I Scholarship Recipients



**Camille Whyte, 1L — \$4,000**

**Ashley Hernandez, 2L — \$4,000**

**Taylor Hall, 2L — \$4,000**

**Jessica De Los Santos, 2L — \$4,000**

### 2024 Houston Bar Association Construction Scholarship Recipient



**Maricela Deveney, 3L — \$1,000**

### 2024 Houston Bar Association Best Brief Scholarship Recipient



**Monique Williams, 2L — \$1,000**



# THURGOOD TODAY

## Student Achievements

Congratulations to 1L Uniqua Smith on being elected as the ABA Law School Division Council's 2024-2025 Delegate of Programming



**24-25** LAW STUDENT DIVISION COUNCIL

ABA  
AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION  
Law Student Division



**Uniqua Smith**  
Delegate of Programming  
Thurgood Marshall School of Law

The banner features a dark blue background with a large, stylized star graphic on the left. The text "24-25" is in orange, and "LAW STUDENT DIVISION COUNCIL" is in white. The ABA logo is in the top right. A circular portrait of Uniqua Smith, a young Black woman with short dark hair, wearing a dark blazer and a light pink shirt, is centered. Below the portrait, her name and title are listed in white and orange text.



# THURGOOD TODAY

## Student Events

### Law Review Symposium Recap

Media participation coordinated by \*The TMSL Office of Communications & Marketing

**KHOU 11**  
STANDS FOR HOUSTON

On Friday, April 19, Thurgood Law opened its doors to Texas House Representatives, **Rhett Bowers** (District 113) and **Armando Valle** (District 140) and an esteemed panel of legal minds to explore Texas Senate Bill 17 and its impact on banning Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion programs in public universities.

**Katiera Winfrey, Reporter**  
KHOU 11 News

**Lauren Gonzales, J.D.**  
2023-24 Editor-in-Chief, Law Review  
Thurgood Marshall School of Law

**Khammie Greve, J.D.**  
Moderator 2024  
Law Review Symposium  
Thurgood Marshall School of Law

**And, KHOU 11 was on the scene for it all. Watch the story.**  
Scan the QR Code below

**SYMPOSIUM PANELISTS**

**Rhett Bowers**  
Representative  
House District 113 in the Texas House of Representatives

**Chevazz G. Brown**  
Partner  
Jackson Walker, LLP

**Donna Davis**  
Senior Director for  
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion  
at the Benny Agostini, Jr. Diversity Center  
at South Texas College of Law.

**Armando Valle**  
Representative  
House District 140 in the Texas House of Representatives

**Angela Garcia Cassin**  
Partner  
Sheppard Mullin

**Charisse Coleman**  
Vice President  
Deputy General Counsel  
& Assistant Corporate Secretary  
at the American Bureau of Shipping

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

**PROTECT IT. IMPROVE IT. PASS IT ON!**

### From Houston to The Hill Recap

**FROM HOUSTON TO THE HILL**  
The Path to a Legal Career in DC

**CONGRESSMAN AL GREEN**  
U.S. House of Representatives  
9th Congressional District of Texas  
April 3, 2024 6-8 pm  
Reception to follow

**KEVIN DANCY**  
Assistant Vice President  
Federal Acoustic  
Bank of America

**TRACEY L. SUMMERS**  
Conflict Attorney  
Arnold & Porter, LLP

**JULIE M. WENAH HELM**  
Board Director  
Women in Product

**ERIC CHARLES**  
Moderator  
TMSL 3L Class  
President

TMSL Rm 105 & 106  
Moat Court Room





# THURGOOD TODAY

## Upcoming Events

### Spring 2024 Hooding Ceremony



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

**Spring 2024 Hooding Ceremony**  
*Presenting the Candidates for Juris Doctor and L.L.M. from the Class of 2024*  
**Friday, May 10, 2024 • 6 pm – 8 pm**  
 Health & Physical Education Arena  
 3100 Cleburne Street • Houston, Texas 77004

2024 Keynote Speaker  
**Bakari T. Sellers, Esq.**  
*Former Member, South Carolina House of Representatives • 90th District (2006-2014)*  
*Made history in the S.C. state legislature as the youngest African American elected official in the country at the age of 22*

— ALL CEREMONIES WILL BE STREAMED —

**Spring 2024 Texas Southern University Commencement**  
**Saturday, May 11, 2024 • 9 am**  
 Health & Physical Education Arena  
 3100 Cleburne Street • Houston, Texas 77004





# THURGOOD TODAY

## Upcoming Events

A poster for an event, designed to look like a piece of aged, torn paper. At the top center is the Thurgood Marshall School of Law logo, flanked by three stars on each side. Below this, the text reads "STATE BAR OF TEXAS" in a large, bold, serif font, followed by "TMSL ALUMNI & FRIENDS RECEPTION" in a slightly smaller serif font. The date and time are listed as "JUNE 20, 2024 | 5:30-7pm", and the location is "HILTON ANATOLE | 201 N STEMMONS FWY, DALLAS, TX 75207". Below the text, it says "RSVP VIA EMAIL" and provides the email address "PRUDENCE.SMITH@TMSLAW.TSU.EDU". At the bottom of the poster is a detailed line drawing of a desert landscape, featuring a large saguaro cactus, several prickly pears, and a sun with rays in the sky.

★ ★ ★      THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW      ★ ★ ★

**STATE BAR  
OF TEXAS**

**TMSL ALUMNI &  
FRIENDS RECEPTION**

**JUNE 20, 2024 | 5:30-7pm**      **HILTON ANATOLE**  
201 N STEMMONS FWY,  
DALLAS, TX 75207

RSVP VIA EMAIL  
PRUDENCE.SMITH@TMSLAW.TSU.EDU



# THURGOOD TODAY

## Upcoming Events



**TEXAS TAKEOVER**

THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW  
ALUMNI & FRIENDS  
NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION  
81ST PRESIDENT DOMINIQUE CALHOUN'S  
PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION AFTER PARTY

TUESDAY, JULY 16TH 9PM-12AM  
LOCATION: TBD (NBA PRESIDENT'S SUITE)  
CAESARS PALACE  
3570 S LAS VEGAS BLVD  
PARADISE, NV 89109




**WELCOME**  
TO *Fabulous*  
**LAS VEGAS**  
NEVADA

Join us during the  
99th Annual NBA Conference  
**THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW  
ALUMNI & FRIENDS ANNUAL BREAKFAST**

Wednesday, July 17th @ 7:30 AM  
Caesars Palace  
3570 S Las Vegas Blvd  
Paradise, NV 89109  
Room TBD





# THURGOOD TODAY

## Upcoming Events

Save the Date!



TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY  
Thurgood Marshall School of Law

### 2023 THURGOOD LAW HOMECOMING

SEPTEMBER 27<sup>th</sup>–SEPTEMBER 30<sup>th</sup>  
CELEBRATING ALL TMSL CLASSES ENDING IN 3 AND 8



Thursday, October 26<sup>th</sup>  
**TMSL Alumni Golf Tournament**  
Registration 10 am – 12 pm Shotgun  
Cypresswood Golf Club  
21602 Cypresswood Dr.  
Spring, TX 77373  
Scan QR Code for sponsorship and registration



Thursday, September 28<sup>th</sup>  
**TMSL celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month**  
Celebration Reception  
Location: **Flora Houston**   
3422 Allen Parkway • Houston, TX 77019  
Time- 6-9 pm



Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup>  
 *Legacy Ball*

6:00 pm – Hotel ZaZa-Museum District  
Scan QR Code for sponsorship and other information



Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup>  
**Tailgate & Homecoming Game**   
(Food, Beverages, Music, & Fun)  
12PM – 8PM  
Large Pavilion at 3395 Blodgett  
\*Reunion classes receive a complimentary game ticket

For more information, contact Prudence Smith Russell, AD  
OFFICE OF ADVANCEMENT & ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT  
alumni@tmslaw.tsu.edu or 713.313.1142





# THURGOOD TODAY

## In Memoriam

### *Harold H. Franklin Jr. 87'*



Join us in mourning the loss of Thurgood alum **Harold H. Franklin Jr.** He was a graduate of the class of 1987. Mr. Franklin leaves behind his wife L'Tanya Franklin, sons Isaac Franklin and Nathan Franklin, and brother Reginald Franklin. He will be greatly missed.





# THURGOOD TODAY

## In Memoriam

### *Attorney Kenneth Foree Holbert 51'*



Join us in mourning the loss of one of Thurgood's most notable alum, **Kenneth Foree Holbert**. He was the oldest surviving graduate of Thurgood Marshall School of Law before his death. Furthermore, he was a well-respected member of the bar and a long serving attorney who worked most of his legal career with fair housing and equal opportunity. Mr. Holbert was instrumental in administering the Fair Housing Law adopted in 1968. He will be truly missed.





# THURGOOD TODAY

## In Memoriam

### *Lennon Scott Prince '03*



Join us in mourning the loss of one of Thurgood's well-respected alum Attorney **Lennon Scott Prince**. He operated his own law firm that specialized in criminal law, family law, probate and other areas of the law. Mr. Prince was loved by many including his son Brandon Prince who is currently a 3L student graduating from TMSL on May 10, 2024. He will be missed dearly.





# THURGOOD TODAY



# THURGOOD ALUMNI

PROTECT IT  
IMPROVE IT  
PASS IT ON



TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

Thurgood Marshall School of Law