



Thurgood TODAY



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

March 2016

NBLSA MOCK TRIAL TEAM ARTICLE

Congratulations to Thurgood Marshall School of Law's Black Law Students Association's (BLSA) Mock Trial Team for placing second at the National Black Law Student Association's National Thurgood Marshall Mock Trial Competition (NBLSA's National Competition), held in Baltimore Maryland, March 9-13, 2016. The team, comprised of 3Ls Julianna Shaw and Sasha Missick and 2Ls Kevin Christensen and Davis Somo-ye, is the first Thurgood Marshall School of Law team, in recent memory, to place in the finals. The team was coached by alumnus Letitia Quinones, Class of 1998.

The BLSA team's championship run began in January in Denver, Colorado, where they won the NBLSA Rocky Mountain Regional competition; Christensen won Best Advocate at the competition. The team then traveled to Baltimore, Maryland to compete in NBLSA's National Competition against 17 other regional championship teams from across the United States.

Before advancing to the Championship round, Thurgood's team competed in five rounds against highly skilled and polished teams from schools such as New York University, Florida State University, and Harvard.

The undefeated, 5-0, BLSA team advanced to the championship round where they faced DePaul University, who was 4-1. The team put forth a valiant effort from opening statement to closing argument, against DePaul, who went on to win the round by three points.

Placing second at the NBLSA's National Competition is a great accomplishment, not only for the team, but for Thurgood School of Law, because this significant win exemplifies the dedication of the students and coaches to the school's trial advocacy program.

"We, at the school are proud of the accomplishment of the team! The team's success is a testament to the development and evolution of the skills of each team member during the sequence of their course, practice, and earlier competition experiences," Dean Holley





NBSA MOCK TRIAL TEAM *Cont'd.*

In addition to the BLSA Mock Trial Team, Thurgood’s Mock Trial Program, led by alumnus Valerie G. Jewett, Class of 1998, sent teams to the Texas Young Lawyers/American College of Trial Lawyers National Mock Trial Competition (NTC), American Association for Justice Mock Trial Competition (AAJ), American Bar Association Trial Competition (ABA), St. Mary’s Lone Star Classic Mock Trial Competition (Lone Star Classic), and South Texas Mock Trial Challenge (South Texas).

More than 150 accredited law schools and all of the Canadian schools participate in the National Trial Competition. Thurgood’s NTC teams consisted of 3Ls Zarinah Cogbill and Ashley Ramos and 2Ls Timothy Adams, Alya Vasquez, and Chris Marshall. These students competed against the best of the best from each school in our region; although the teams did not advance to the quarterfinals, at the end of two rounds, one team placed in the top eight and the second team in the top twelve out of twenty-four teams. Thurgood was one of the few schools with two teams in the top twelve after two rounds.

The AAJ team, composed of 2Ls, Charles Bush, Amber Chambers, Smaranda Draghia, and Rick Hernandez went into the third round of the competition in the top eight out of sixteen teams; the team missed advancing to the top four by a few points. This team’s accomplishment is especially notable as none of the members had ever competed in a mock trial competition.

The ABA and St. Mary’s teams competed in the fall; both competitions served as a “training ground” for team members, with almost all of them competing on one of the spring teams. The St. Mary’s team, although not winning the competition, won Most Professional Team.

Assisting with the coaching of the mock trial teams were alumni Dyan Owens, Joey Washburn, and John Paul Cedillo, class of 2013; Tonika Davis, class of 2012; and Kristy Blurton, class of 2014; and Christopher Bloom.

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NBSLA MOCK TRIAL TEAM *Cont'd.*

Meet the Members of TMSL's Winning Mock Trial Team:



Juliana Shaw is currently in her third and final year of law school at Thurgood Marshall School of Law-Texas Southern University. The youngest of six, Juliana was born and raised in Wichita, Kansas. After graduating from Northeast Magnet High School as her school's Valedictorian in 2009, she went on to attend Howard University in Washington, D.C., where she received her Bachelors in Business Administration with a concentration in Management in 2013. During her time in law school, Juliana has become very active in the organizations on her campus. Currently, she is involved in the Thurgood Marshall Law Review in which her associate editor article was chosen for publishing; the Student Bar Association; the Board of Advocates, and the Mock Trial Program. She also serves as a Research Assistant for Professor L. Darnell Weeden. Juliana is looking forward to graduation this coming May in which she will be the second in her family to graduate from Thurgood Marshall School of Law following her sister Stacy Shaw who graduated in 2009. Juliana is interested in practicing and litigating criminal law, and looks forward to starting her journey into the legal field.



Sasha Missick is currently in her third and final year of law school at Thurgood Marshall School of Law-Texas Southern University. The youngest of three, Sasha Missick is a Bahamian- American from Miami, Florida. After graduating from North Miami Senior High School at the top of her class, Sasha went on to attend the University of Florida in Gainesville, Fl, where she again graduated at the top of her graduating class. During her time in law school, Sasha has become very active in the organizations on her campus. She has been involved in the immigration legal clinic; the Black Law Student Association serving as their community service chair; the chief justice of Phi Alpha Delta; the Student Bar Association; and the Mock Trial Program. Sasha is looking forward to graduation this coming May in which she will not only be the first in her family to graduate from college, but now the first in her family to gain a professional degree. Sasha plans practice in the area of criminal law.



Davis Somoye is currently in his second year of law school at Thurgood Marshall School of Law-Texas Southern University. Davis is a first generation Nigerian -American born in Houston Texas. Davis excelled in high school allowing him to gain acceptance to attend the University of Houston. Davis received his bachelor's degree in marketing and quickly set his eyes on his next goal, gaining admissions to law school. In 2014, Davis began his first year of laws school at Thurgood Marshall School of Law and since beginning, he has excelled academically and has participated in the mock trial program. Davis will be graduating in 2017 and looks forward to a promising career as a criminal attorney.



NBLSA MOCK TRIAL TEAM *Cont'd.*

Meet the Members of TMSL's Winning Mock Trial Team (cont'd.):



Kevin Christiansen is currently in his second year of law school at Thurgood Marshall School of Law- Texas Southern University. His father is an attorney who has his own solo practice, The Christiansen Law Firm, so Christiansen grew up helping out at his law practice and learning the law. Christiansen grew up in Katy Texas and served a church mission from 2009-2011 in Stockholm, Sweden, and then returned to graduate from BYU (Brigham Young University) with a major in psychology. He moved back to Houston for law school and chose TSU. Christiansen aspires to be a law professor at TSU for his future career where he can help the next generations of lawyers become truly great. He credits his mock trial coach, Letitia Quinones, who Christiansen says, "...gives so much (time, energy) to this school freely, and it has made me realize how important it is for us to give back."

The Coach – Attorney Letitia Quinones



Letitia D. Quinones brings over 17 years of criminal law practice to her clients in Houston, throughout the state of Texas, and across the nation. A graduate of Thurgood Marshall School of Law, Letitia began her legal career in a partnership and went on to branch out in 2003 under the tutelage of Robert A. Jones. After spending 5 years under the guidance of Robert A. Jones, Letitia branched out and started her own practice as a sole practitioner. In 2011, she was offered and accepted the opportunity to work with Chip Lewis. Letitia now has two offices located in Houston and focuses her practice on personal injury and criminal defense. Criminal defense is her passion and she fights hard and tirelessly to preserve the rights of the people.

Letitia has made an exceptional name for herself as a criminal trial lawyer and enjoys over a 90% success rate in felony criminal trials. Letitia fights cases from misdemeanors to federal felonies. To review some of Letitia success cases, please visit her firm's website at qmlawfirm.com.

Letitia is a single parent of two wonderful girls, ages 12 and 21 and has worked very hard to achieve success and the respect of her peers. As a African-American female, it was not always easy to over-come the stereo types that exist in a Caucasian-male dominated field, however Letitia's motto is "With hard work, due diligence, and using God's naturally given gift for his good – YOU CANNOT FAIL!"

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MOOT COURT HIGHLIGHTS

FREDERICK DOUGLASS MOOT COURT TEAM



Congratulations is in order again to the Frederick Douglass Moot Court team of **Nicci Campbell** and **Jasmine Yates** for winning 1st place at the National Black Law Student Association Regional Competition. Ms. Yates was also named “Best Oral Advocate” during this competition. The regional team was coached

by Alum Anthony Hynes and Professor Ledesma. In March, 2016 Ms. Yates and Ms. Campbell again put their skills to the test as they competed in the National Black Law Student Association National Competition held in Baltimore, Maryland, hosted again by the National Black Law Student Association. The coaches for this national team were Alum Anthony Hynes, Professor Margarite Butler and Attorney Joseph Tung.

CHILD WELFARE MOOT COURT COMPETITION



The National Child Welfare Moot Court teams of **Susan Watts** and **Kaitlyn Lara**; and **Glenda Duru** and **Stacy Johnson** traveled to Columbus, Ohio to compete in the 12th annual National Adoption Child Welfare Moot Court competition hosted by the National Center for Adoption Law & Policy at Capital University Law



School. This team was coached by Attorney Sean Darvishi and Professor Ledesma. Students participating in the National Child Welfare and Adoption Law Moot Court Competition argue current critical issues concerning child welfare and adoption law before a state supreme court. Among recent topics: The constitutionality of a state law requiring transfer of frozen embryos by adoption procedures; whether a putative father should be afforded appointed counsel

under the protections of the Due Process Clause in involuntary parental termination proceedings.

ELLIOT CUP/DUBERSTEN MOOT COURT TEAM



The Duberstein Bankruptcy team of: Stacey Wells; Dana Nazarova; Elizabeth Uribe; Roosevelt Eiland; and Baltazar Salazar competed in both the Elliot Cup Moot Court Competition, held this year in Austin, Texas and the Duberstein Bankruptcy Moot Court Competition, held in New York, New York. This team was coached by Judge Leal; Professor Colon’ Attorney Brendon Singh; and Alum Brandon Davenport. Jointly sponsored by St. John’s University School of Law and the American Bankruptcy Institute (ABI), the Annual Duberstein Bankruptcy Moot Court Competition is widely recognized as one of the nation’s preeminent moot court competitions. The competition promotes and recognizes the finest oral and written advocacy on significant issues in bankruptcy practice. Approximately 60 law school teams participate, making this the largest single site appellate moot court competition.

THURGOOD MARSHAL FEDERAL BAR ASSOCIATION MOOT COURT TEAM

The Thurgood Marshall Federal Bar Association Moot Court team consisting of **Marcella Hagger** and **Ebony Young** and **Shalonda Foster** will compete in Washington, D.C. at the end of March, 2016. This team is coached by Attorney Andrew McGee and Alum Anthony Hynes. The competition, designed for two-person teams, will focus on written briefs as well as oral arguments. This year’s topic will address emerging issues in federal law. Arguments will be heard in Washington, D.C., in conjunction with the Federal Bar Association’s mid-year meeting.





FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

Texas Law Deans React to Accreditation Proposal

A committee of the American Bar Association recently approved a change to a law school accreditation standard dealing with bar exam passage rates.

Law schools now have several options to meet the bar exam passage standard, but the committee's proposal would eliminate some methods. Under the proposal by the ABA Section of Legal Education and Admission to the Bar's Standards Review Committee, the sole method remaining would require at least 75 percent of graduates who took the bar exam had passed it within two years of graduation. The ABA Journal reported that the committee passed the "tougher but simpler" proposal Feb. 12.

Current standards allow a school to take more time to show a 75 percent passage rate. Schools also have alternatives. Among others, it can show that its first-time bar passage rate is not more than 15 points below the average rate for law schools in its state.

Texas Lawyer emailed the 10 Texas law school deans to see what they think about the proposal. Here are answers from four deans who responded by deadline, edited for style and length.

Texas Lawyer: What are your thoughts about how this proposal, if finally adopted, would impact the law school community in Texas, especially your school?

See Dean Holley's response below...

Texas Southern University Thurgood Marshall School of Law Dean Dannye Holley:



The proposal is ill-advised. The timing is especially ill-advised in light of the plummeting bar passage rates in Texas and around the country. It will produce a two-tiered world of accreditation in many states: those who because of their Law School Admissions Test positioning will always satisfy the proposed standard, and those constantly having to make supplication to the accreditation committee and council. Among the persistent supplicants would be those schools such as Thurgood Marshall School of Law, who do the heavy lifting with respect to diversity. We produced about 40 percent of newly licensed African-American attorneys in the state of Texas in recent years. ... For years the ABA has failed to properly administer the first-time bar passage "gap" standard. This proposal purports to drop that standard, and both current ultimate bar passage standards without an explanation of why the current ultimate standards fail to provide a benchmark that is fair to all 200 law schools and their quite different but justifiable missions. The proposal, if adopted, would make a significant contribution to the current downward spiral in the perception of the quality of legal education.

You may also view the digital version of the *Texas Lawyer* cover story in its entirety by CLICKING THE LINK BELOW:

<http://www.texaslawyer.com/id=1202750285524/Texas-Law-Deans-React-to-Accreditation-Proposal?kw=Texas%20Law%20Deans%20React%20to%20Accreditation%20Proposal&cn=20160222&pt=PM%20Alert&src=EMC-Email&et=editorial&bu=Texas%20Lawyer&slreturn=20160222142720#>



FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS *Cont'd.*



Professor Lydia Johnson accepted an invitation to serve on the AALS Planning Committee for the 2017 Conference on Clinical Legal Education, which will be held in Denver, CO. Additionally, Professor Johnson presented her work-in-progress, “Juvenile Sex Offenders: Should they go to School with Your Kids or Create a Pedophile Academy?,” at Concordia University School of Law as part of the TMSL scholarly exchange with Concordia. She also spoke to the Concordia law students’ Constitutional Law Society on the effects of answering questions about expunctions on law school applications, which was addressed in her recent article, *The Illusion of a Second Chance: Expunctions versus the Law School and State Bar Application Process*, 9 FAMU L. Rev. 1 (2013).

Professor Stephanie Ledesma gave a presentation on “Trauma Informed Legal Representation” at the annual attorney training for the Louisiana Public Defender’s Office held on February 18-19 in Baton Rouge, LA. The Public Defender’s Office is responsible for providing representation to parents in child welfare cases and this statewide training addresses related issues. Professor Ledesma based her presentation on her work-in-progress, tentatively titled “Trauma Informed Legal Representation: How Zealous Representation of Parents in Child Abuse and Neglect Cases Equals Best Interest for Children.”



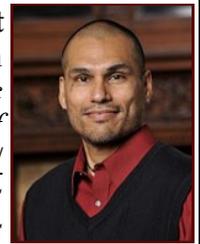
Professor Shaundra Lewis accepted an invitation to speak and present her research on the chilling effect of guns on campuses at the upcoming Scholars at Risk Global Conference in Montreal, Canada. The 2016 Global Conference theme is “Universities in a Dangerous World: Defending Higher Education Communities & Values.” Professor Lewis’s article, “Bullets and Books by Legislative Fiat: Why Academic Freedom and Public Policy Permit Higher Education Institutions to Say No to Guns,” will be highlighted as part of the conference discussion. Scholars at Risk is an international network of over 400 member institutions and thousands of individuals in 39 countries. The Global Congress is a biennial event that brings this

community together to discuss seminal issues facing the global higher education sector.



On Friday, Feb. 26, 2016, **Professor Peter Marchetti** presented a paper titled “Amending Section 546 of the Bankruptcy Code” at the 11th International Conference on Contracts (KCON XI), a conference for contracts and commercial law scholars. This year, the KCON conference was held at St. Mary’s University School of Law in San Antonio. In his presentation, Professor Marchetti discussed several recent cases that demonstrate how the precise parameters of Section 546 of the Bankruptcy Code are unclear. Namely, Professor argued there is a lack of clarity as to exactly what type of claims Section 546 preempts.

On February 17, **Professor Spearlt** gave two presentations at Fairhaven College in Bellingham, WA, *Sonic Jihad: Muslim Hip Hop in the Age of Mass Incarceration*, <https://vimeo.com/155846881>, and *Shackles Beyond the Sentence: How LFOs Create a Permanent Underclass*, which he also presented on February 20 at the Poverty Law Conference at Seattle University School of Law. On March 4, he published a book review, “Crimmigration Law Comes of Age,” on Jotwell Criminal Law, <http://crim.jotwell.com>, and “Fort Wayne Killings: Fostering Distrust in Policing” in the Islamic Monthly, <http://theislamicmonthly.com/fort-wayne-killings-fostering-distrust-in-policing/>. Lastly, Professor Spearlt’s work was recently cited in the edited book, *Studies in Law, Politics, and Society* (Emerald Publishing 2016), *Mute and Moot: How Class Action Mootness Procedure Silences Inmates*, 63 UCLA L. Rev. 760 (2016), *‘Immigrants Are Not Criminals’: Respectability, Immigration Reform, and Hyperincarceration*, 53 Hou. L. Rev. 691 (2016), *Why Opposing Hyper-Incarceration Should be Central to the Work of the Anti-Domestic Violence Movement*, 5 U. Miami Race & Soc. Just. L. Rev. 585 (2015), *Crisis and Trigger Warnings: Reflections on Legal Education and the Social Value of the Law*, 90 Chi.-Kent L. Rev. 615 (2015),





FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS *Cont'd.*

(*SpearIt cont'd.*) and the online encyclopedia, Medlibrary, for the entry, “Incarceration in the United States,” [http://medlibrary.org/medwiki/Incarceration in the United States.](http://medlibrary.org/medwiki/Incarceration_in_the_United_States)



Professor L. Darnell Weeden served as the Vice Chair of the Southeast/Southwest People of Color Legal Scholarship Conference (SE/SW POC Conference) Executive Planning Committee (EPC) at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University College of Law on February 27, 2016. Professor Weeden has served as a member of the EPC of the SE/SW POC Legal Scholarship Conference since 2005. During the 2016 SE/SW POC Conference, Professor Weeden presented as a panelist on “Policing and the Community: The Politics and Perceptions of Power and Authority.” He discussed whether the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments prohibit the police from implementing and engaging in a racially biased stop-and-frisk policy, where race is either the predominant or the only factor law enforcement utilizes when stopping and frisking individuals. Professor Weeden addresses this same topic in his lead law review article, entitled *Leadership Matters: Saving Judge Scheindlin's NYPD Racial Profiling Remedy In Floyd V. City Of New York*, 36 Whittier L. Rev. 95 (2014). The other members on the policing panel were John F. Acevedo, Dwayne O. Andreas School of Law, Barry University and Darrell Duane Jackson, University of Wyoming College of Law. As for the Works in Progress sessions (WIP) at the 2016 SE/SW POC Conference, Professor Weeden was honored to serve as the discussant for his former student, Professor Christopher Ogolla, Savannah Law School (Georgia). Professor Ogolla is a graduate of the Thurgood Marshall School of Law with a LL.M in health law from the University of Houston. Professor Weeden commented that Professor Ogolla’s WIP entitled *First Do No Harm: The Manipulation of Public Health for Non Public Health Purposes and its Legal Consequences* is well organized with thought provoking questions regarding very important health law issues. Lastly, on February 19, 2016, Professor Weeden spoke on a Voting Rights panel at the Civil Rights MCLE sponsored by Thurgood Marshall School of Law and co-chaired by Professor Craig Jackson. Professor Weeden’s MCLE panel comments were taken from

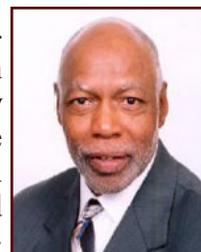
his law review article entitled, *The Supreme Court's Rejection Of The Rational Basis Standard In Shelby County V. Holder Invites Voter Suppression*, 33 Miss. C. L. Rev. 219 (2014). Professor Jackson noted that Professor Weeden’s panel “comments were thought provoking providing an important perspective on the challenges to voting rights under this Court.”



Professors L. Darnell Weeden, Lydia Johnson, Stephanie Ledesma presented their research at the 2016 SE/SW

People of Color Legal Scholarship Conference hosted by Florida A&M University College of Law. They are pictured here with Shiv Persaud, associate professor at FAMU College of Law and Chair of the 2016 SE/SW POC Conference. Professor Weeden served as Vice Chair of the 2016 Conference and Professors Johnson and Ledesma served as co-chairs of the Works-in-Progress Committee for the 2016 Conference. The 2016 Conference theme was “Power and Authority in Promoting Justice for All.” Next year’s 2017 SE/SW POC Legal Scholarship Conference will be hosted by Charlotte School of Law (Charlotte, NC) and Dean Weeden was elected to serve as Vice Chair for the 2017 Conference. And, Professors Johnson and Ledesma will organize the Works-in-Progress sessions (along with their co-chair Ann Marie Cavazos of FAMU College of Law). In addition, Professor Ledesma as elected to serve as the co-Treasurer for the 2017 Conference.

Professor James Douglas facilitates an hour of discussion with participating scholars, community activists, and listeners everywhere to inform the greater public on political, educational, social and economic issues that impact our daily lives on KJOZ 880 AM every Tuesday at 1:00 p.m.





STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Academic Support Welcomes Assistant Director Victoria McCoy



Victoria McCoy joined the Thurgood Marshall School of Law on March 7, 2016 as Assistant Director of Academic Support. Previously, Ms. McCoy engaged in private practice as a commercial litigator and served as a judicial law clerk to the Honorable Eric L. Clay on the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. A graduate of Vanderbilt University Law School, Ms. McCoy also obtained Master of Business Administration and Bachelor of Business Administration degrees from the University of Texas at Arlington, as well as a Master of Laws in Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources law from the University of Houston Law Center. Ms. McCoy is admitted in Illinois, Texas, and the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.

Reba Hall Retires

It is with much delight and sadness to announce that Reba Hall, a longtime member of the TMSL staff for over 18 years, has retired. Reba most recently served as the administrative assistant to the Director of Administration where her support was a key factor to the success of many of our law school events. She even went the extra mile and graced us with her magnificent skills in event logistics and decorating, making all of our events very special.

Prior to her most recent position, Reba has served as receptionist, and spent most of her tenure at TMSL in the office of Career Services, Communications, and Development. Please join the entire TMSL family in congratulating Ms. Reba Hall for her dedication to Texas Southern University, Thurgood Marshall School of Law.





Happenings at the Earl Carl Institute in February 2016

February 2016 was a busy month for the Earl Carl Institute as the Institute hosted three very well attended events about issues of concern for people of color and in particular African Americans.

Love Shouldn't Hurt: Recognizing, Understanding and Combatting Dating Violence

On February 18, 2016 the Institute collaborated with the Texas Southern University Women's Resource Center, Thurgood Marshall School of Law and the Harris County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council to host a continuing legal education program and community forum entitled "Love Shouldn't Hurt: Recognizing, Understanding and Combatting Dating Violence". The event was held during the month of February in honor of Teen Dating Violence Awareness month. The goal of the event was to facilitate dialogue and to generate awareness about this epidemic and its consequences. The one day event included a variety of speakers on topics such as the Cleary Act, Protective Orders and Criminal Charges for Family Violence, a Dating Violence Legislative Update, Domestic Violence in the Age of Technology, Same Sex Couple Violence, Resources Available to College Students and Domestic Violence and Immigration Issues. There were over 60 people in attendance at this forum.



The keynote speaker was actress and author, Denisha Hardeman. Ms. Hardeman, a Houston native, has been casted in "Django Unchained" and "Straight Out of Compton". She is the author of "8 Lanes", a fictional novel based on her similar personal experience with domestic violence. While speaking at this CLE, Ms. Hardeman recounted her trials, tribulations and triumph over domestic abuse as a college student. Afterwards, Ms. Hardeman signed copies of her book and took photos with attendees.

5th Annual Honorable Craig Washington and Senator Rodney Ellis Excellence in Indigent Defense Series

On February 25-26, 2016, the Earl Carl Institute for Legal & Social Policy, Inc. (ECI), the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association and Thurgood Marshall School of Law hosted the 5th Annual Honorable Craig Washington and Senator Rodney Ellis Excellence in Indigent Defense Series. Over the 2 day event, there were 18 presenters. ECI welcomed over 65 attendees to the event.





Happenings at the Earl Carl Institute in February 2016 *Cont'd.*



The event was a two day CLE. Day 1 was the Academic Day and Day 2 was the Best Practices Day. Presenters came from throughout Texas and several traveled from out of state to participate. The keynote luncheon speaker was the Honorable Craig Washington where he delivered riveting remarks about the state of indigent defense, criminal justice and disproportionality issues in the community.

This year's informative conference included an array of topics with a special emphasis on race. The Day 1 topics included, a Forensic Science Primer, Race and the Use of Deadly Force, Bail Reform, Race, Class and Reform in the Carceral State, Policing the Police: Effective Suppression Issues, Racial Profiling in Law Enforcement, Ex Parte Neal Robbins, Inconclusive Decisions and the Need for Studies on Jury Impact, Confronting Race in the Courtroom, Using Electronic Media to Win, Ethics after Conviction, Cultural Competency in Criminal Cases, Race Lessons from the JAG, Picking Your Best Jury and Bonds for Indigent Defendants.

The event partners included the University of Houston Law Center, Criminal Defense Lawyers Project and the Harris County Public Defenders' Office.



It's Time! A Call to Action: Preserve Our Families and Bring Our Children Home

On February 26, 2016, the Earl Carl Institute in collaboration with Black Administrators in Child Welfare Hosted a Community Convening to Discuss Methods for Improving the Child Welfare System to Create Better Outcomes for African Americans.



This forum was prompted by discussions between the sponsoring organizations, as well as, other stakeholder in leadership roles in systems involving African American children, youth, and families. Presentations included "A Groundwater Analysis of Racial Inequities in Texas", Joyce James, Race Equity Consultant; "A Proposal for ICWA-like Burdens of Proof in Addressing African American Overrepresentation in the Child Welfare System", Sarah R. Guidry, Executive Director, Earl Carl Institute; "Policies and Practices that Impact on Kinship Placements, TDFPS Representative; and "Federal Court Finds that Texas Violates the Constitutional Right of Foster Children", Attorneys Dori Goldman & Chris Porter,

YetterColeman LLP Law Firm.

The Black Administrators in Child Welfare is an advocacy, membership, research, training and technical assistance organization that was founded in 1971 and incorporated in 1975 in New York to respond to the need for culturally appropriate services to the overrepresented African American children and families, and to provide a support network for individuals serving as executives managing child welfare and other human service agencies. BACW is the only child welfare organization that has been involved nationally in work that addresses child welfare policy, practice, and research on behalf of African American children specifically but all children in foster care.





STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

“Night with Externships: the Value Added of Externships”



“Night with Externships: the Value Added of Externships” event that occurred on Tuesday, March 1, 2016 was a huge success. In anticipation of new ABA mandates regarding experiential learning, the “Night with Externships” was a new forum created to introduce the concept of externships to currently enrolled students. Students were introduced to several placement supervisors, who gave “Ted-like”, (“Ted-talk”), presentations explaining why students should participate in externships; what students would gain from their externship experiences; how this “on the job” experience would

bolster the students’ resume’; how the externship would put them on equal ground with other soon to be law school graduates who are competing for the same jobs; and how serving as an extern would increase their attractiveness to new employers. Students heard from sitting Judges, federal and local; representatives from the US Attorney’s office, the District Attorney’s Office, the County Attorney’s Office, the Harris County Public Defender’s Office, Immigration Law Firms, Federal Defense firms and others. Students were given the opportunity to participate in informal interviews, and tender resume’s and applications to placements of their choice. If you have questions about the Externship program, please see Professor Ledesma, Room 236F, X 1105, or stephanie@ledesma-law.com.



3L Kimbrey Dandridge Teaches Millennials About Grief



Kimbrey Dandridge published an article in Forbes entitled *7 Ways Millennials Can Deal With Grief*. In this article Kimbrey discusses how the death of her mother affected her and the complex process of grieving. Kimbrey list the 7 things she learned during her personal grieving process and shares them in great detail and understanding in the article. To view the full article go to: www.forbes.com.



ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS ALUMNI ON THE MOVE

Governor Abbott Appoints Tiffany Burks to Midwestern State University Board of Regents



TMSL Alumna, **Tiffany Hamilton Burks**, Class of 1997, was appointed by Texas Governor Greg Abbott to the Midwestern State University Board of Regents. Tiffany currently serves as deputy chief of the criminal division for the Tarrant County Criminal District Attorney. Prior to that, she was an instructor at UT Arlington and an assistant district attorney for Fort Bend County, TX. Please join the TMSL Family in congratulating Attorney Tiffany Hamilton Burks.

Mayor Turner Names Takasha Francis Neighborhood Division Chief

TMSL Alumna, **Takasha Francis**, a graduate of both Texas Southern University undergrad and TMSL Class of 2003, was one of Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner's first administrative staff changes. With a vote from Houston city council, Takasha will be named the new director of the city's Department of Neighborhoods. This department works closely with homeowners to enforce and address neighborhood nuisances and regulations. Mayor Turner has given his overwhelming stamp of approval to Takasha, stating in the [Houston Chronicle](#) that she is "...a natural and driven leader dedicated to producing results....(and) highly committed to uplifting all neighborhoods within the City of Houston..." For all those who know Takasha Francis, you and the TMSL family are aware that Houston Neighborhoods are now in good hands. Please join the TMSL Family in congratulating Takasha Francis!



TMSL Alum, the Honorable Belvin Perry, Jr. Receives Appointment from Florida Governor



Judge Belvin Perry, Jr., TMSL Class of 1977 was appointed to the Florida A&M Board of Trustees on Thursday, March 24, 2016 by Florida Governor, Rick Scott. Judge Perry, most notable for presiding over the Casey Anthony murder trial is also a member of the FAMU College of Law Board of Visitors. Judge Perry will succeed Belinda Shannon on the FAMU board. His term expires on January 6, 2021.



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

Marye Dean, Esq. in Forbes Magazine Trendsetter



TMSL Alumna, **Marye Dean**, Class of 2006, has already established herself as the “Wall Street Lawyer.” As the founding partner of a thriving law practice located on Wall Street in New York City, Attorney Dean has over ten years of experience representing Fortune 500 clients. The National Association of Experts, Writers & Speakers presented Marye in their Trendsetters Publication, professionals that shared what makes them each trendsetters in today’s economy in today’s economy in a special promotion in Forbes magazine. Marye was listed as one of ten. Please visit www.NAEWS.org for more information.





UPCOMING EVENTS *Cont'd.*



THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW

AWARDS CEREMONY

Tuesday, April 5, 2016

3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.



CALI AWARDS

MOOT COURT ROOM



DEAN'S LIST

Family and Friends are Invited to Attend
Please Dress in Business Attire

Reception to Follow

Hope to See You There!!





UPCOMING EVENTS *Cont'd.*

TMSL LAW WEEK
Alumni and Student Reception
Thursday, April 21, 2016
 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Davis St.
 HERMANN PARK

5925 Almeda Road, Penthouse
 Houston TX, 77004

R.S.V.P. to prsmith@tmslaw.tsu.edu

Order of the Barristers applications. If you have questions about the Order of the Barrister applications or the process to apply, please see Professor Ledesma, Room 236F, X 1105, or stephanie@ledesma-law.com.

Coming Soon

Applications for
 the Order of
 Barristers Award

For more information please contact
 Professor Ledesma Suite 236F, Ex 1105 or
stephanie@Ledesma-law.com





UPCOMING EVENTS *Cont'd.*



2016 THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW
LAW WEEK EVENTS

Monday, April 18
History Day
"The Evolution of TMSL"

Tuesday, April 19
Organization & International Day
"Taste of TMSL"
12 NOON - 4 PM
TMSL Lobby

Wednesday, April 20
Faculty Roast
"New Hire"
12 NOON
Rms. 105 - 107



Thursday, April 21
Community Service
"2nd Annual Grab-A-Bag"
Morning Shift: 9 AM
Evening Shift: 8 PM
TMSL Lobby

Alumni & Student Mixer
@ Davis St. Penthouse
5925 Almeda
Houston, TX 77004
5:30 PM – 8 PM

Friday, April 22
Greek Show
"Watch The Yard"
(Greek stroll off, food trucks, and more)
12 NOON
TMSL Lawn

Saturday, April 23
TMSL Barristers' Ball
6 PM Cocktail Hour
7 PM Ball
Bell Tower at 34th
901 W. 34th Street
Houston, TX 77008

APRIL 18TH - 23RD
THEARTWORK7@GMAIL.COM





UPCOMING EVENTS *Cont'd.*

THE STUDENT BAR ASSOCIATION PRESENTS



THURGOOD MARSHALL
SCHOOL OF LAW
Est. 1947

7PM
COCKTAIL HOUR 6PM

BARRISTER'S
Ball

SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 2016
BELL TOWER ON 34TH
901 W. 34TH, HOUSTON, TX 77019

The poster features a central circular logo for the Thurgood Marshall School of Law, which includes a scale of justice and a torch. The background is a dark, blurred image of a person in a suit, framed by a decorative gold Art Deco border. The text is arranged in a clear, hierarchical layout, providing all necessary event details.



UPCOMING EVENTS *Cont'd.*

**ReMember
the Times**

October 17-22, 2016

Visit 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

The graphic features a silhouette of a person in a suit with tiger-striped socks, set against a background of a cityscape and a university building.



UPCOMING CLES



Texas Southern University, Thurgood Marshall School of Law THE SOLO PRACTITIONER & SMALL LAW FIRM INSTITUTE OF LEGAL EXCELLENCE SPEAKER SERIES

Sponsored by The Center for Continuing Legal Education and the Experiential Learning Department



March 28th

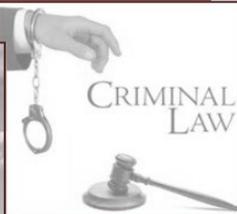
Family Law 101 –CLE

March 29th

A Personal Injury Practice Made Possible

March 30th

Criminal Law Basics–CLE



March 31st

The State Bar Grievance Process: What You Should Know to Protect Your License

April 4th

Legal Implications of Marketing Your Law Practice

April 5th

The 21st Century Transnational Attorney and Being a Civil Litigator: Trials Do Exist

April 6th

Views From the Bench: A Judge's Perspective

Cost:

Each course cost \$25.00

Complimentary for Students and non-attorneys

Course Location:

The CLE courses will be held at TMSL in room 106

Credit:

MCLE: 3.00-Ethics: 1.00

Complimentary parking, food, beverages and course materials are included

Texas Southern University, Thurgood Marshall School of Law is an accredited sponsor approved by the State Bar of Texas Committee on MCLE



The Thurgood Marshall School of Law Thurgood Marshall Law Review

presents

“Texas Gun Law and the Future”

Annual Law Review Symposium



Shaundra K. Lewis
Associate Professor of Law

Friday, April 1, 2016

12:00pm to 2:00pm
Rooms 105 and 106

Free Admission for Attorneys
and Non-Attorneys

MCLE: 2.0 / Ethics: 0.25
Lunch to follow presentation



Anthony Haughton
Associate Director, Earl Carl Institute
Interim Director, Legal Clinic

Texas Southern University Thurgood Marshall School of Law is an accredited sponsor approved by the State Board of Texas Committee on MCLE



UPCOMING CLES *Cont'd.*

April 7th - 8th
2016 IMMIGRATION LAW &
ECI JOURNAL SYMPOSIUM – CLE

INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL & IMMIGRATION LAW
IMMIGRATION LAW LL.M
THE EARL CARL INSTITUTE FOR LEGAL & SOCIAL POLICY, INC.
TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY, THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW

Location: Thurgood Marshall School of Law
Time: 8:30 am-4:00 pm (lunch 12noon- 1:00pm) each day
Cost: \$120.⁰⁰ attorneys; \$60.⁰⁰ gov't and non-profit attorneys; complimentary non-attorneys
MCLE: 14.0 (7.0 each day)
Ethics 4.0 (2.0 each day)
Register online: <http://TMSLCLE.eventbrite.com>
Breakfast & Lunch Provided



RELIGION
and
THE LAW

April 7 from 7:00-8:30 pm

Texas Southern University
Thurgood Marshall School of Law, Room 107

This event is free and open to the public; please register at:

religionandthelaw.eventbrite.com



Join three scholars for a discussion of the legal ramifications and practical applications of religion as it enters the legal sphere.

A reception will follow the event.



Betsy Barre
RICE UNIVERSITY



SpearIt
THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW



Dru Stevenson
SOUTH TEXAS COLLEGE OF LAW



UPCOMING CLES *Cont'd.*

THE EARL CARL INSTITUTE'S 3RD ANNUAL CHILD WELFARE FORENSICS CONFERENCE

Thursday, April 14, 2016 – Friday, April 15, 2016

Thursday – 8:30 am – 5:00 pm

Friday – 8:30 am – 4:00 pm

Event Location: Thurgood Marshall School of Law

EARN ALL YOUR ANNUAL CLE CREDITS AT ONE LOW COST TRAINING

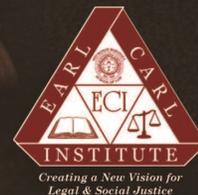
**15 Total Hours; 3 Hours Ethics
CEU Credits Available**

Early Registration on or before 3/30/2016

- Attorneys: \$175
- Government/nonprofit attorneys: \$100
- Non-Attorney Professional: \$40
- Public Defenders, Faculty, Staff and Students: Complimentary

Registration after 3/30/2016

- Attorneys: \$225
- Government/nonprofit attorneys: \$150
- Public defenders: \$50
- Non-Attorney Professional: \$75
- Faculty, staff, and students: Complimentary



JUVENILE JUSTICE PROJECT
EARL CARL INSTITUTE



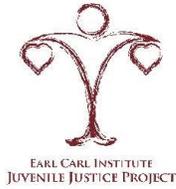
Tentative Topics Include:

Day1: Child Suggestibility & False Confessions of Juveniles, Understanding Psychological Evaluations & the Impact of Substance Abuse, Junk Science: Hair & Fiber, Bite Marks & Mixed DNA, Reliability of Medical Literature, Common Mental Health Diagnoses & Understanding the DSM V TR, False Allegations of Sexual Abuse & Recovered Memories, and Trauma Informed Advocacy~A Lawyer's Ethical Duty

Day2: Cell Phones, Social Media & Computer Forensics, Conditions Commonly Mistaken for Child Abuse, Infant Mortality & Cultural Sensitivity, Daubert & the Use of Experts, Ethics in Sexual Assault Cases, Forensic Medical Examinations: Bite Marks, Burns, Broken Bones, and Healing Rates, Understanding Medical Reports & SANE Exams, The Texas Forensic Science Commission and Issues Related to DNA, Other Forensic Evidence & Forensic Toxicology

For more information call Sarah Guidry at 713.313.1321 or Zahra Whitfield at 713.313.1177.
Register at <http://eci2016childwelfareforensicsconference.eventbrite.com>





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

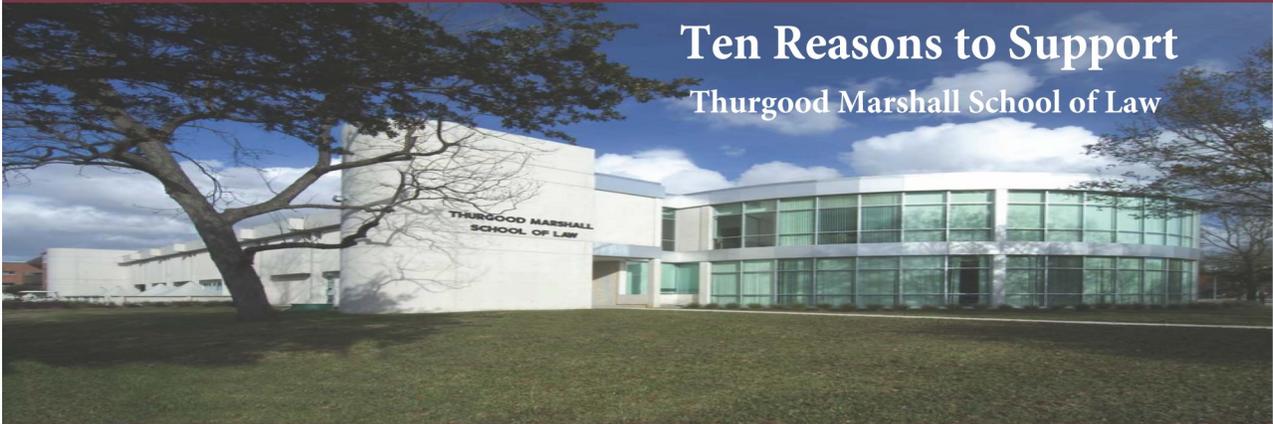
The Earl Carl Institute for Legal & Social Policy, Inc.

www.earlcarlinstitute.org

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



EVENTS CALENDAR

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

APRIL 2016

April 1st – April 6th

The Experiential Learning Program’s Solo Practice CLE Series

April 4th

Legal Implications of Marketing Your Law Practice –CLE
Texas Southern University, Thurgood Marshall School of Law

Location: Thurgood Marshall School of Law
Time: 6:00 pm-9:00 pm
Cost: \$25.00 attorneys; complimentary non-attorneys
MCLE: 3.00
Ethics 1.00

April 5th

The 21st Century Transactional Attorney and Being a Civil Litigator: Trials Do Exist –CLE
Texas Southern University, Thurgood Marshall School of Law

Location: Thurgood Marshall School of Law
Time: 6:00 pm-9:00 pm
Cost: \$25.00 attorneys; complimentary non-attorneys
MCLE: 3.00
Ethics 1.00

April 6th

TMSL Quodlibet Series, “Teaching Cultural Competence in Law Schools”- Professor Stephanie Ledesma

Location: Deans Conference Room
Time: 12:00 noon-1:30 pm

April 6th

A View From the Bench: A Judge’s Perspective – CLE
Texas Southern University, Thurgood Marshall School of Law

Location: Thurgood Marshall School of Law
Time: 6:00 pm-9:00 pm
Cost: \$25.00 attorneys; complimentary non-attorneys
MCLE: 3.00
Ethics 1.00

April 6th

Immigration Symposium Dinner

Location: Holley’s Seafood Restaurant & Oyster Bar
3201 Louisiana Street
Houston, TX 77006
Time: 6:00 pm

April 7th–8th

2016 Immigration Law & ECI Journal Symposium – CLE
Institute for International & Immigration Law
Immigration Law LL.M
The Earl Carl Institute of Legal & Social Policy, Inc.
Texas Southern University, Thurgood Marshall School of Law

Location: Thurgood Marshall School of Law
Time: 8:30 am-4:00 pm (lunch 12noon- 1:00pm)
Cost: \$120.00 attorneys; \$60.00 gov’t and non-profit attorneys; complimentary non-attorneys
MCLE: 14.0
Ethics 4.0
Breakfast & Lunch Provided

April 7th

Religion and the Law
Rice University

Texas Southern University, Thurgood Marshall School of Law

Location: Thurgood Marshall School of Law
Time: 7:00 pm-8:30 pm

April 16th

State Bar of Texas African American Lawyers’ Section Summit

Location: Thurgood Marshall School of Law
Time: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

April 13th

TMSL Quodlibet Series, “The Politics of the Bail System: What’s the Price for Freedom?”- Professor Lydia Johnson

Location: Deans Conference Room
Time: 12:00 noon-1:30 pm

April 14th & 15th

4th Annual Child Welfare Forensics Conference - CLE
The Earl Carl Institute of Legal & Social Policy, Inc.
Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association
Texas Southern University, Thurgood Marshall School of Law

Location: TMSL
Time: 8:30 am – 4:30 pm (each day)
Cost: Before April 1, 2016: Attorneys \$150, gov’t/nonprofit attorneys \$50, complimentary for public defenders and non-attorneys
After April 1, 2016: Attorneys \$210.00, gov’t/nonprofit attorneys \$60, complimentary for public defenders and non-attorneys
MCLE: 14.0 (7.0 each day)
Ethics: 2.0 (1.0 each day)
Register online: www.earlcarlinstitute.org
Breakfast & Lunch Provided Each Day



March Birthdays



Deana Pollard Sacks	5th
Marsha Griggs	6th
Sarah Guidry	8th
Sally Green	17th
Shaundra Lewis	18th
Jeanetta Washington	19th
Docia Rudley	21st
Anya Ahunanya	23rd
Martina Cartwright	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!



THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL of LAW

AN EXAMPLE OF DIVERSITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION

“Protect It, Improve It, Pass It on”