



# Thurgood TODAY



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

April –May 2017

## *CONGRATULATIONS*

to the Thurgood Marshall School of Law class of 2017



Friday, May 12, 2017, 134 law school graduates were hooded at the Texas Southern University Health and Physical Education Arena in Houston, Texas, 40 of whom graduated with honors. Amongst the 2017 graduating class were four students of the inaugural Immigration LL.M. program. The student processional was led by Ashley Scott, Assistant Director of Career Services and Kenyon Moore, Assistant Director of Admissions, followed by the Faculty and Law School Administration led by Associate Professor of Law Anna James and Earl Carl Distinguished Professor of Law Constance Fain. Reflections were given by Interim Dean & Distinguished Professor of Law, James M. Douglas, Valedictorian Kevin Christiansen, Valedictorian Hilario Hernandez and Professor of Law and Faculty of the Year Ana Otero. Cassandra Hill, Associate Dean and Professor of Law introduced Senior Judge of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, the Honorable Kenneth Hoyt. For we wish our graduates the best and encourage them to achieve great things.

Congratulations class of 2017!!!

“If you want to finish the course, start living by the circumstances of your dreams”

- The Honorable Kenneth Hoyt



## 2017 Hooding Ceremony



Right: **Daniel Vaughn**, who survived six brain surgeries and is blind, graduated summa cum laude. Vaughn was escorted by his significant other while his mother who attended many classes, sat proudly in the stands.



### Table of Contents

1 <sup>st</sup> ed.—Class of 2017	cover
February Bar Passers	3
Faculty Highlights	4
Staff Highlights	7
Criminal Law Clinic	9
Experiential Learning	10
Earl Carl Institute	11
2 <sup>nd</sup> ed.—Moot Court Naming	cover
Student News	15
Alumni Highlights	22
Career Services	26
Upcoming Events	27





# *CONGRATULATIONS*

*to OUR FEBRUARY 2017 Bar Passers*

Abila, Jubaile

Brown, Anthony

Chambers, Amber

Clark-Jones, Sherika

Corbett, Chole

Deleon, Juan

Duru, Adaugo

Glaze, Samuel

Gutierrez, Omar

Merida, Latoya

Miller, Shakila

Nasser, Jennifer

Okpiabhele, Ekata

Robbins, Paul

Saranto, Nicholas

Spano, Jessica

Uribe, Elizabeth

Washington, Cecily

Watts, Susan

White, Christopher



## FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS



**Professor Fernando Colon Navarro** accepted an invitation to be a featured keynote speaker at this year's 3rd Annual National Hispanic Pre-Law Conference on November 10, 2017, at New York Law School.



**Professor Deana Pollard-Sacks** received SSRN's "Top 10%" distinction this month. Professor Pollard-Sacks is in the top 10% of all authors on SSRN by downloads. SSRN's eLibrary provides 727,610 research papers from 335,938 researchers across 30 disciplines including, but not limited to,



**Associate Dean Cassandra Hill's** article, *The Elephant in the Law School Assessment Room: The Role of Student Responsibility and Motivating Our Students to Learn*, was recently cited by two authors in scholarship on educating today's lawyers.

Nicola A. Boothe-Perry, a professor at Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University College of Law, cited Associate Dean Hill's article in *The "New Normal" for Educating Lawyers*, 31 *BYU J. Pub. L.* 53, 61 n.45 (2016), as support for the proposition that law schools and law professors should continually work to improve their teaching and student learning. Additionally, Heather D. Baum, a professor at Villanova University School of Law, cited Associate Dean Hill's article in *Inward Bound: An Exploration of Character Development in Law School*, 39 *U. Ark. Little Rock L. Rev.* 25, 56 n.220 (2016), when discussing the need for professors to set high expectations through course learning outcomes that focus on student responsibility for learning and professional development.

business, law, political science, and humanities. Per the statistical information on SSRN, Professor Pollard-Sacks has received over 4,000 total number of downloads of her articles posted on SSRN. SSRN ranks the top 30,000 authors on its website, which you can access at the following link: <https://www.ssrn.com/en/index.cfm/top-authors/>.



**Professor SpearIt** was recently recognized by the ABA Section on Criminal Justice for his leadership on Pell Grant funding for prisoners, [http://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/administrative/criminal\\_justice/leadership\\_2017.authcheckdam.pdf](http://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/administrative/criminal_justice/leadership_2017.authcheckdam.pdf). He



**Professor Stephanie Ledesma's** article, *PTSD and Bad Paper Discharges: Why the Fairness to Soldiers Act Is Too Little, Too Late*, received the Social Science Research Network's (SSRN's) "Top Ten download" recognition on the (1) Disability Law eJournal, (2) Health Care Law & Policy eJournal, (3) Psychological Anthropology eJournal, and (4) Political Economy - Development: Health eJournal research lists.

presented at Lone Star College on 4/13/17 on a panel entitled "Knowledge is Power" and at Florida A&M University School of Law on 4/7/17, where he presented "Firepower to the People: Gun Rights and Law of Self-Defense to Curb Police Misconduct." SpearIt has accepted an invitation to republish his article, *Muslim Radicalization in Prison: Sound Penal Policy or the Sound of Alarm?* in the book *Islamophobia in America* (forthcoming 2018, Cambridge University Press). His work was cited in the peer-review article *A Rapid Evidence Assessment of the Effectiveness of Prison Education in Reducing Recidivism and Increasing Employment*, *Probation Journal* (2017), <http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/0264550517699290> and "I Do Feel the Fire!': The Transformations of Prison-Based Black Male Converts to Islam in South Central, Malcolm X, and Oz, 21 *J. of Rel. & Film* 1 (2017), <http://digitalcommons.unomaha.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1730&context=jrf>.



## FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS *Cont'd.*



**Professor L. Darnell Weeden's** article entitled *Transgender Bathroom Rights And President Obama's Unauthorized Scheme to Transform Title IX* was recently published as the lead article in *Western State Law Review*, 44 W. St. L. Rev. 1 (2016). In the article, Professor Weeden contends the national battle over transgender rights has been created by a directive from the United States Department of Justice that public schools must grant transgender students access to bathrooms that agree with their self-proclaimed gender identity. The battle has heated up since the Obama Administration filed a civil rights suit challenging a North Carolina law regulating transgender status.



**Professor Edieth Wu** was elected Faculty Vice Chairperson for the 2017- 2019 Texas Southern University Faculty Senate.

### *TMSL Honored by Houston Lawyers Association*



**Thurgood Marshall School of Law  
Innocence Project**

**Professor April Walker**

**Francis Williams Advocacy Award**

**Roberson L. King Excellence in  
Education Awardee**

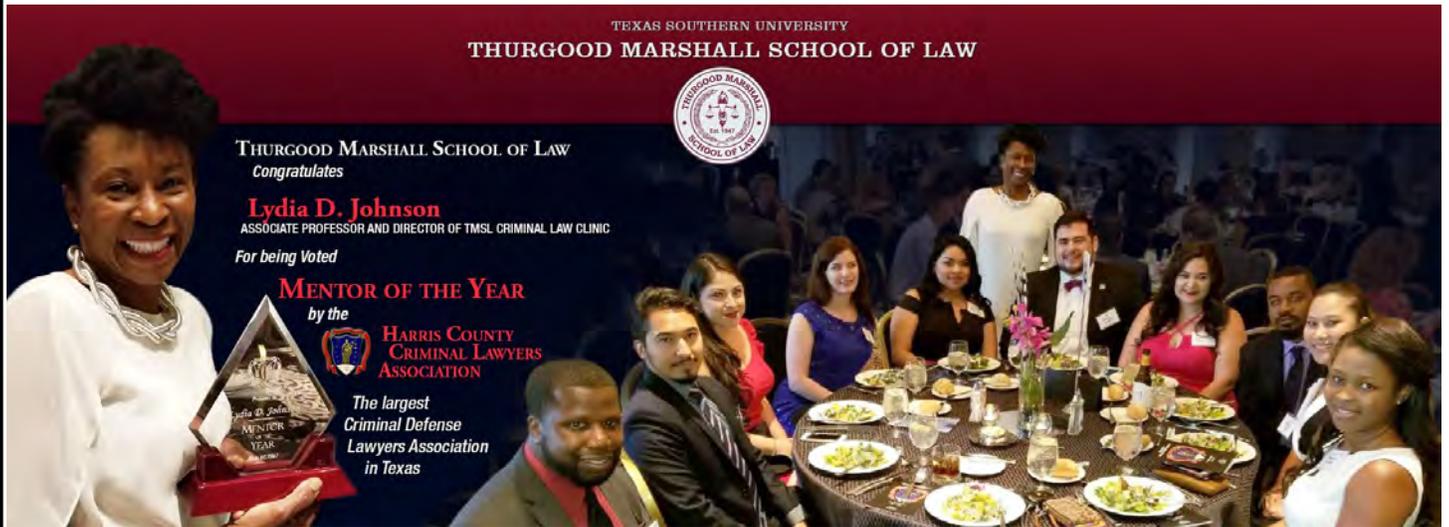
Thurgood Marshall School of Law's own, Professor April Walker and the TMSL Innocence Project was among the honorees at the Houston Lawyers Association's Annual Scholarship and Awards Gala on May 27, 2017. Professor April Walker received the Roberson L. King Excellence in Education Award for commitment to empowering the community through education and service. The award also recognizes Professor Walker's dedication to educating "...today's legal scholars and tomorrow's legal icons."

The TMSL Innocence Project received the Francis Williams Advocacy Award which recognizes its unrelenting and vigorous defense of significant issues of concern for the African American community that vastly impact social change. Please join us in congratulating Professor Walker and the TMSL Innocence Project!



## FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS *Cont'd.*

### *Professor Lydia Johnson Named Mentor of the Year*



TMSL Associate Professor Lydia Johnson received the astounding achievement of being voted, “Mentor of the Year” by the Harris County Criminal Lawyers Association (HCCLA), the largest criminal defense lawyers association in Texas!

On May 11, 2017, at HCCLA’s 47th Annual Banquet at Hotel ZaZa in Houston, TX. Professor Johnson was recognized for her outstanding mentorship in training 3L law students to represent indigent citizens charged with misdemeanor offenses.

Texas Southern University Thurgood Marshall School of Law is the only law school in Harris County with a Criminal Defense Clinic.

Congratulations, Professor Lydia Johnson on a job well done!





## STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

### *Administrators of the Year*



Please join the TMSL family in congratulating **Marsha Griggs**, Assistant Dean of Academic Support, and **Virgie Mouton**, Instructor and Assistant Dean of Student Affairs on being awarded Administrators of the Year by the 2016—2017 Student Bar Association. They received this Award for their commitment and dedication to excellence at TMSL.





**STAFF HIGHLIGHTS** *Cont'd.*

**CONGRATULATIONS**

*to our  
2017 Staff Graduates*



**Dr. Charlene James—Piper**

Doctor of Education in  
Curriculum and Instruction



**Meshach Sullivan**  
Bachelor of Arts in  
Communications



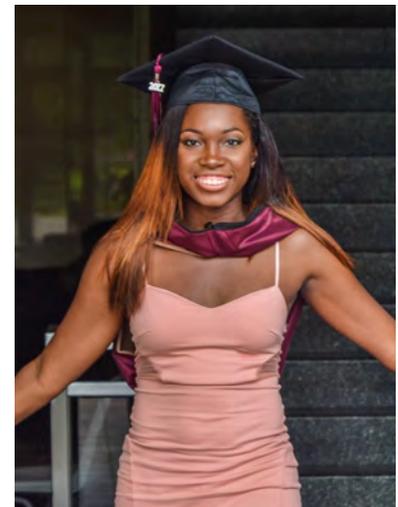
**Malika Nailah Davis**  
Doctor of Pharmacy



**Ronda Harrison**  
Master of Arts  
in Educational Leadership  
from St. Thomas University



**Juana Eburu**  
Master of Business  
Administration—General Business



**Edvania Missick**  
Master of Business  
Administration—Accounting

\* **Mattie Chadwick** (Not pictured) - Bachelor of Science in Healthcare Administration



## CRIMINAL LAW CLINIC NEWS

### *Criminal Law Clinic helps Turnaround Houston*

On Friday, May 12, 2017, TMSL’s Criminal Law Clinic participated in Mayor Sylvester Turner’s 2nd Annual Turnaround Houston Resource Fair. The Honorable Lydia Johnson and clinic student, Marvin Agumagu collaborated with HCCLA’s Lisa Straus, and provided legal advice and information about sealing records and the eligibility to expunge criminal records. The Clinic provided services for approximately 40 people.



### *Criminal Law Clinic Success*

**Case Dismissed Mid Trial, Spring 2017**

**Criminal Law Clinic  
SUCCESS**

**Tim Adams  
and  
Maegen Bradley**

**JUSTICE FOR ALL**

TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY  
**THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW**

Criminal Law Clinic students, **Tim Adams** and **Maegen Bradley** secured a mid trial disposition for an indigent defendant that was falsely accused of prostitution. The Honorable Mike Fields presided over the trial and commented that Maegen Bradley’s voir dire was informative and persuasive, and Tim Adam’s knowledge of the law and rules was impressive. Special thanks goes to mock trial coaches, **Leticia Quinones** and **Valerie Jewett**. Additional special thanks goes to **Professors Marguerite Butler, Marcia Johnson, and Ericka Kelsaw** for allowing students to practice voir dire in their classes.



**EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING PROGRAM NEWS**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO**



**TMSL'S 2nd STUDENT NITA PROGRAM  
(National Institute of Trial Advocacy)  
CLIENT INTERVIEWING**

**CONGRATULATIONS**

**Krystyna Salinas and Brian Ehrenberg  
for winning the  
Henry Doyle 2L/3L  
Moot Court Competition.**





## EARL CARL INSTITUTE NEWS



### *ECI Hosts Estate Planning Clinic as Part of Annual Debt Boot Camp Collaboration*

ECI along with a team of 13 law students, 6 attorneys and 3 notaries provided free legal services to participants in the Debt Boot Camp held at Kingdom Builders' Center on Saturday, April 1, 2017 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. The Debt Boot Camp, sponsored by Capital One Bank and Windsor Village United Methodist Church, provides participants with 7 months of curriculum that teaches habits and principles of reducing, avoiding and eliminating debt. ECI has served as program partner along with Crime Stoppers, Money Management International and Covenant Community Capital since the Debt Boot Camp's inception in 2012. As a collaborating agency, ECI supplemented the curriculum with property law workshops and hosted its fifth annual estate planning clinic which provided legal consultation to participants with legal issues related to wealth development and provided participants with estate planning documents that included: Statutory Durable Power of Attorney, Appointment of Agent to Dispose of Remains, Declaration of Guardian, Declaration of Guardian for Child, HIPPA Release, Directive to Physician and Medical Power of Attorney. Estate planning packets were evaluated, witnessed and executed by Thurgood Marshall School of Law students who were trained and supervised by an attorney. Approximately 37 individuals were provided with services related to the estate packet. Please join us in congratulating our students and volunteers on a job well done!





## EARL CARL INSTITUTE NEWS *Cont'd.*

### *ECI Awarded State Bar of Texas Corporate Counsel Grant for Expunction Training*

ECI received a \$7,500 grant from the Corporate Counsel Section of the State Bar of Texas to collaborate with My Brother's Keeper Houston in facilitating expunction training and case referrals to Corporate In-house Counsel. The purpose of the grant is to provide training and opportunities for corporate counsel, especially those in-house, to participate in pro bono services.

Today most schools and employers are interested in a person's criminal history. This may result in an adult who was charged as a juvenile being denied a job, entry into the military or college, participation in Job Corp, denial of a profession's required occupational license, and enhancement of sentencing as an adult for future criminal behavior. Many young adults are not aware of their ability to get their records sealed or expunged despite the possible dire repercussions later in life.

The proposed project would allow the Earl Carl Institute's Juvenile Justice Project (JJP) to collaborate with My Brother's Keeper Houston (MBKH). My Brother's Keeper Houston is an offshoot of President Obama's My Brother's Keeper Initiative. President Obama launched the My Brother's Keeper initiative to address persistent opportunity gaps faced by boys and young men of color and ensure that all young people can reach their full potential.

ECI proposed to train volunteer in-house counsel attorneys to provide this service through two workshops (2 workshops will be offered to accommodate varying schedules) and written materials. The training would be available live at ECI which is conveniently located in midtown Houston. The Institute will receive referrals from My Brothers Keeper, screen cases, and distribute cases for representation to the pro bono attorneys trained at ECI workshops. The bulk of the funds received will go towards paying costs and fees for individuals who do not qualify as being indigent but who are still low income and for which payment would be an undue burden. No attorneys' fees will be charged.





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## *Second Edition Issue*

### **TMSL Moot Court Room named in special ceremony**



The Thurgood Marshall School of Law (TMSL) Moot Court Room received a new designation. The **Jerome M. Karam Moot Court Room** was unveiled in a naming ceremony on April 17. Jerome Karam (TMSL '90) is a Galveston area attorney and businessman who has supported TMSL students through scholarships and other giving.

“I’m excited to be an alumni of TMSL and I love to give back to students,” Karam said. “It is an honor to have my name permanently etched in the Moot Court Room at my alma mater. Here is where I acquired the tools and skills that have navigated me through my career.”

“Jerome has always been committed to the things he cares about,” said TMSL Dean **James M. Douglas**. “He has always told me how much he cares about TMSL and he has been giving back ever since he graduated. I am pleased to announce that the room in which students learn about advocacy will forever be named the Jerome M. Karam Moot Court Room.”

Special guests included Karam and his family and friends, TSU President Austin Lane, and distinguished TMSL alumni.



## TMSL MOOT COURT ROOM *Cont'd.*





## STUDENT NEWS

### *Current SBA Board passes the Torch*



(Left to Right: **Reginal Harris**—SBA Secretary; **Courtney Bowie**—SBA Parliamentarian; **Tim Adams**—2016-2017 SBA President; **Cherika Edwards**—3L Class President; **Victor Moya III**—SBA Treasurer; **Nicholas Perez**—Mr. TMSL; **Bjomrae Kemp**—SBA Sergeant-at-Arms; **Staci Childs**—Ms. TMSL; **Bobby Forrest, Jr.**—SBA Senator; **Jude Owusu**—SBA President; **Adrian “Boogie” Rogers**—2L Class President; **Maurice Rice II**—SBA Vice President)

2016-2017 SBA President **Tim Adams** passed the torch to the incoming 2017-2018 SBA Board (pictured above). The new SBA Board was revealed at the 2017 Law Day Banquet held on April 22, 2017. The Law Day Banquet celebrated the 70th Anniversary of the law school and the American Bar Association theme of the 14th Amendment. The keynote speaker, the **Honorable James Graves** delivered an encouraging message while students and faculty basked in the essence of what it means to be a part of Thurgood Marshall School of Law.



Nekketa Archie with  
the Honorable James Graves



US Congressman Al Green with  
SBA President Tim Adams



**STUDENT NEWS** *Cont'd.*  
***Order of the Barristers***

2017



*New  
Inductees*

**TIMOTHY ADAMS**

**NEKKETTA ARCHIE**

**JASMINE YATES**

**ALYA VASQUEZ**

**SMARANDA DRAGHIA**

**BALTAZAR SALAZAR**

**KEVIN CHRISTIANSEN**

**ATTORNEY ROBERT JONES—ALUMNI INDUCTEE**



**STUDENT NEWS** *Cont'd.*  
**2017 Law Day Banquet**





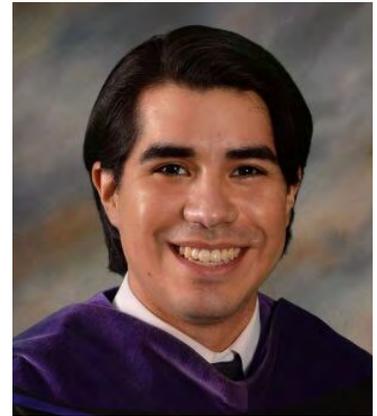
## **STUDENT NEWS *Cont'd.***

### ***TMSL Class of 2017 Honors Graduates***



**VALEDICTORIAN**

Kevin Christiansen



**VALEDICTORIAN**

Hilario Hernandez

#### **SUMMA CUM LAUDE**

Carrillo, Oscar; Curtiss Andrea; Garcia, Jorge; Haikel, Reem; Jimenez, Karina; Johnson, Mya; Miller, Denisse; Picazo, Hector; Powell, Kierra; Varela, Christina; Vaughn, Daniel.

#### **MAGNA CUM LAUDE**

Ballesteros, Roberto; Brown, Robert; Campbell, Audrey; Draghia Smaranda; Emmert, Jordyn; Georgalos, Renee; Onwumere, Kelechi; Richard, Mellissa; Siriba, Dennis; Zubi, Chad.

#### **CUM LAUDE**

Archie, Nekketa; Bates, Jonathon; Campbell, Nicci; French, Bryan; Gagalieva, Nedialka; Graham, Monika; Holman, Guy; Huynh, Tom; Lee, Cha'Ris; Liu, Victoria; Obaseki, Blessing; Ramirez, Victoria; Robinson, Taft; Rutherford, Chansonique; Salazar, Baltazar; Saranto, Nicholas; Urdaneta, Paloa; Wyatt, Sekeia; Young, Ebony



## STUDENT NEWS *Cont'd.*

### *Law Journal on Gender, Race or Justice Student Presentations*

As part of the Faculty Series, the law school hosted its annual Thurgood Marshall School of Law Journal on Gender, Race and Justice spring publication release event on Tuesday, April 25, 2017. Four Law Journal students shared their latest research and articles to a standing-room only crowd of faculty, students, and guests. The student presenters were:

*The Thurgood Marshall School of Law Journal on Gender, Race, and Justice  
Cordially Invites You to its*

## *Spring Publication Release*

*Come celebrate our four TMSL published authors as they  
speak about their articles.*

*Meredith Carpenter-Black*

*Tanica Mann*

*Hector Picazo*

*Baltazar Salazar*

*Tuesday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 p.m.  
Jerome M. Karam Moot Court Room*

*Lunch will be provided for all attendees.*



## STUDENT NEWS *Cont'd.*

### *Student Community Service*

TMSL gives back to the 3rd ward community in celebration of Easter. **JoAann Nowagu**, Ms. TMSL, organized a mini egg hunt right on campus. Ms. TMSL and volunteers provided Easter treats and played games with the children of the Charter Lab Day Care. In addition, during the month of April students volunteered at the Houston Food Bank for it's "Food from the Bar".





**STUDENT NEWS** *Cont'd.*

**2L Pinning**

*April 1, 2017, TSU Sawyer Auditorium  
TMSL Alum, Harry Johnson—Keynote Speaker*





## ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

### *Alumnus of the Year Award*

The TMSL Alumni Board selected **Baltazar Salazar** as the James M. Douglas Distinguished Alumni of the year Award for 2017. This award is based on the recipients positive contributions to the law school, active support of TMSL programs and activities and length of committed service through active involvement within TMSL, TSU and the legal community.

Baltazar was presented this distinguished award at the 2017 Law Day Banquet held on Saturday, April 22nd by SBA President Tim Adams. TMSL's Sergeant-at-arms, also named Baltazar Salazar, stated to the audience that although he and the alumnus of the year share the same name, they are not blood related. However through the course of his academic matriculation, he and the alumnus of the year have grown close. So much so that the alumnus has now given him permission to call him "dad" as they share the same name.



**About Baltazar Salazar:** He was raised in Brownsville, Texas and graduated from Pan American University in 1987 with a B.A. in English. He taught ESL at the an Benito CISD from 1989 to 1991. He earned his MS in Education and Science at the University of Texas, Pan American and in 1991 relocated his family to Houston to attend Thurgood Marshall School of Law where he received his JD in 1994. Salazar was licensed in Texas in 1994, the Southern District of Texas in 1995, and the Federal Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in 1995. He was a member of the College State Bar of Texas from 2012 to 2014, a Board Member of the Federal Bar Association from 2009-2010, and is currently a member of the Texas Counsel of School Attorneys and the National Counsel of School Attorneys.

Salazar is currently the General Counsel for the Brownsville ISD and has been in private practice since 1994. In Spring of 2018, Baltazar Salazar will take over the helm of Chairman of the TMSL Alumni Board.



## ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS *Cont'd.* ALUMNI ON THE MOVE



### *TMSL Alumna Frizell in Dallas County DA Election*

**The Honorable Elizabeth Davis Frizell**, class of 1992, resigned as a state district judge to run for Dallas County District Attorney. As for her decision to run for DA, Judge Frizell stated to The Dallas Morning News that "...the decisions that will be made by the District Attorney's Office will shape the future of fairness and justice for Dallas County and the nation in 2018 and for many years to come... We have to continue to move forward to ensure fairness for everyone who is affected by the criminal justice system."

Please join the TMSL family in wishing Judge Frizell much success in her upcoming election.



### *TMSL Alum Southern Joins the N.C. Judiciary*

TMSL Alum, **Bill Southern**, class of 2006, was named Chief District Judge for the 17-B Judicial District of North Carolina. In this position, Southern will oversee the district courts in Surry and Stokes counties. North Carolina Chief Justice Mark Martin stated that "(Southern's) demonstrated commitment to public service will enable the district to continue to operate fair and efficient courts that serve the needs of their communities, and that provide timely justice to all."

Please join the TMSL family in congratulating Judge Bill Southern on his new judicial appointment.



### *TMSL Alumna Receives Dual LL.M*

TMSL Alumna, **Alicia A. Forde**, class of 2011, received a dual LL.M in tax law and international law from the University of Houston Law Center. Alicia currently practices criminal and family law with the Forde Law Firm, PLLC in Houston. Please join the TMSL family in congratulating her on this wonderful accomplishment!



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



### *Courthouse named after TMSL Alum R. Jess Brown*

The late **R. Jess Brown** attended TMSL in the early 1950's. Although he left law school before receiving his J.D., Brown returned to his hometown in Mississippi and passed the Mississippi Bar in 1953. Widely noted for his successful career as a civil rights attorney, Brown was one of only four African-American lawyers who practiced law in Mississippi in the late 1950's. His most legendary case was his representation of James Meredith, an African American student wanting to attend the University of Mississippi. Brown successfully won this lawsuit and in October of 1962, James Meredith became the first African American student enrolled at the University of Mississippi. This case set the precedent for litigation to follow.

In honor of the color barriers he broke, and the historical precedent he left in shaping our Nation, the United States Courthouse located at 501 East Court Street in Jackson, Mississippi is named the "R. Jess Brown Unites States Courthouse."

### *TMSL Alum, Ricky Anderson PVAM Commencement Keynote Speaker*

TMSL Alum, **Attorney Ricky Anderson**, Class of 1992, served as the 2017 Prairie View A&M University Commencement Keynote speaker. Ricky, a graduate of PVAM and TSU's Thurgood Marshall School of Law, always gives his time, talent and treasure to both universities. During his keynote speech, Ricky discussed how Prairie View continues to "Produce, Productive People." We are honored that Ricky's productivity has paid off in favor of both institutions. Please join the TMSL family in thanking Attorney Ricky Anderson for being an outstanding alumnus!





## ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS *Cont'd.*

### IN MEMORIAM



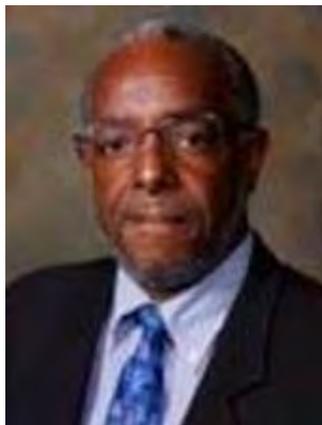
It is with great sadness that we announce TMSL Alumna, **Tammy Peden**, class of 2002, passed on Tuesday, April 18, 2017. She was laid to rest in Houston, TX. Our prayers and condolences are extended to the family.



TMSL Alum, **Marvin Poole**, class of 2008, passed early April 2017 in Fort Worth, Texas. Marvin had no children and leaves behind a mother (85 years) and a sister. Several TMSL alums sponsored a memorial in Dallas. Our prayers go out to the Poole family during this time of loss.



We are saddened to announce the passing of TMSL alumna Courtney White's Father, **Jesse Lee White**. His homegoing celebration will be held on Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup> (viewing 10 am – 11am with services starting at 11 am) at Windsor Village UMC in Houston, TX. Flowers may be sent to: OW Wiley Mortuary 1290 Pinemont Dr. Houston, TX 77018.



### IN RECOVERY

TMSL Family, please keep our alum, **Andrew McGee** in your prayers as he recovers from a recent illness. Against his wife, Michelle's, wishes, McGee is already back to work. Let's continue to support his full recovery.



## OFFICE of CAREER SERVICES

*James Douglas, Interim Dean & Distinguished Professor,  
Offers His Congratulations and Appreciation to:*

# *The Class of 2016 and the Career Services Office*

As reported in the [Houston Chronicle](#),

*“The Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University reported the biggest employment jump among local schools. Fifty-two percent of the class of 2016 found full-time, long-term jobs that required passage of the bar exam, compared to only 35 percent a year earlier.”*

The full survey, found on Thurgood Marshall’s [website](#), also shows:

- For the first time in at least a decade the Career Services Office was able to compile and report employment data for **100% (all 151 members)** of the Class of 2016!
- The unemployed rate decreased significantly, from 29% in 2015 to **17.2% in 2016**.
- The number of students employed in Bar Passage Required or J.D. Advantage\* positions also increased from 76% in 2015 to **86% in 2016**.

\* J.D. Advantage refers to positions for which the J.D. provides a benefit to the graduate, but a law license is not required.





## UPCOMING EVENTS

# TMSL ALUMNI *and* FRIENDS RECEPTION

Held during the

**2017 STATE BAR OF TEXAS  
ANNUAL MEETING**

*Hilton Anatole*

**TOPAZ ROOM**

2201 N. Stemmons Freeway

Dallas, TX 75207

**Thursday, June 22, 2017**

**5:30 pm – 7:00 pm**



**THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW**

Office of External Affairs - Assistant Dean Prudence Smith - Email: [prsmith@tmslaw.tsu.edu](mailto:prsmith@tmslaw.tsu.edu)





## EVENTS CALENDAR

### JUNE 2017

**June 22nd -23rd**

**State Bar of Texas Annual Meeting**

Location: Hilton Anatole  
Dallas, Texas

**June 22nd**

**State Bar of Texas - Alumni Reception**

Location: Hilton Anatole – Topaz Room  
Dallas, Texas

Time: 5:30 – 7:00 pm

### JULY 2017

**July 4th**

**Independence Day Holiday**

**July 20<sup>th</sup> – 23rd**

**TSU National Alumni Association Convention**

Location: Le Pavillon Hotel  
New Orleans, LA

**July 25<sup>th</sup> – 27th**

**Texas Bar Exam**

**July 29<sup>th</sup> – August 4th**

**NBA 92nd Annual Convention & Exhibits**

Location: Fairmont Royal York Hotel  
Toronto, Canada

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

**August (TBD)**

**Alumni & Friends Reception**

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

Location: Fairmont Royal York Hotel  
Toronto, Canada

Time: TBD

**August 2nd**

**TMSL Alumni & Friends Breakfast**

Location: Fairmont Royal York Hotel  
Toronto, Canada

Time: 8:00 am





## April Birthdays

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

## May Birthdays

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



### Recycle reminder

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

Let's do our part!



**THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL of LAW**

AN EXAMPLE OF DIVERSITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION

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