

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER

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FALL COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY





*Commencement*  
**FALL CEREMONY**

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 24, 2026 • 10 A.M.**  
**SMITH-BROWN MEMORIAL UNION**  
**BATON ROUGE, LA**



# History

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ON DECEMBER 16, 1946, IN RESPONSE TO A LAWSUIT BY AN AFRICAN-AMERICAN RESIDENT SEEKING TO ATTEND LAW SCHOOL AT A STATE INSTITUTION, THE LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TOOK “POSITIVE STEPS TO ESTABLISH A LAW SCHOOL FOR NEGROES AT SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY...TO BE IN OPERATION FOR THE 1947-1948 SESSION.”

PLANS FOR THE LAW SCHOOL WERE APPROVED BY THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AT ITS JANUARY 10, 1947, MEETING. ON JUNE 14, 1947, THE BOARD OF LIQUIDATION OF STATE DEBT APPROPRIATED \$40,000 FOR THE OPERATION OF THE SCHOOL. THE SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL WAS OFFICIALLY OPENED IN SEPTEMBER 1947 TO PROVIDE LEGAL EDUCATION FOR AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDENTS.

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER GRADUATES, BEGINNING WITH THE CLASS OF 1950--ALVIN BASILE JONES, LEROY WHITE, ELLYSON FREDRICK DYSON, ALEX LOUIS PITCHER, AND LEGENDARY CIVIL RIGHTS ATTORNEY, POLITICAL LEADER, AND EDUCATOR JESSE N. STONE, JR.--SPREAD ACROSS THE STATE AND NATION AS TRAILBLAZERS IN THE LEGAL PROFESSION, SECURING EQUAL RIGHTS FOR OTHERS. TO DATE, THE LAW CENTER HAS MORE THAN 5,000 GRADUATES AND IS ONE OF THE NATION’S MOST RACIALLY DIVERSE LAW SCHOOLS.

AFTER 38 YEARS OF OPERATION AS A SCHOOL OF LAW, THE SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RE-DESIGNATED THE SCHOOL AS THE SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER, ENHANCING ITS IMAGE IN THE REGION AND THE NATION. THE LAW CENTER STRESSES LEGAL EDUCATION OF HIGH QUALITY FOR STUDENTS FROM DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS.







## *Mission Statement*

**THE MISSION AND TRADITION OF THE LAW CENTER IS TO PROVIDE ACCESS AND OPPORTUNITY TO A DIVERSE GROUP OF STUDENTS FROM UNDERREPRESENTED RACIAL, ETHNIC, AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC GROUPS TO OBTAIN A HIGH-QUALITY LEGAL EDUCATION WITH TRAINING IN BOTH CIVIL AND COMMON LAW. ADDITIONALLY, OUR MISSION IS TO TRAIN A CADRE OF LAWYERS EQUIPPED WITH THE SKILLS NECESSARY FOR THE PRACTICE OF LAW AND FOR POSITIONS OF LEADERSHIP IN SOCIETY.**

# Meet the Chancellor

## ALVIN WASHINGTON



Alvin Washington currently serves as the Chancellor at the Southern University Law Center. Before this role, he was the managing professor for the law center's mediation clinic. He has taught various subjects, including Torts, Legal Research, Statutory Analysis, Alternate Dispute Resolution, and Legal Negotiations. Additionally, Washington has been an adjunct professor at the Southern University Graduate School, instructing in conflict resolution courses.

As a registered civil and family law mediator with the Louisiana State Bar Association, Washington has mediated hundreds of cases. He has been appointed by the United States Eastern and Middle District Courts to mediate hurricane-related claims. He has also mediated cases for the USDA, the Louisiana Department of Justice, the EEOC, and the Baton Rouge Family Court. Furthermore, he has served as an arbitrator for the Better Business Bureau and the Baton Rouge City Court.

Washington earned his undergraduate degree from Grambling State University and his Juris Doctorate from Southern University Law Center. After law school, he served as a Naval JAG officer in Long Beach, California, as a military trial lawyer, and as a department head for the Claims Division of the United States Navy. He was also appointed as a special assistant to the United States Attorney General for the Central District of California. Following his military service, he returned to Louisiana and worked as an assistant attorney general handling general liability, road hazards, and civil rights cases.

Before joining the Southern University Law Center in 2003, Washington served as the Section Chief of the Civil Rights Division at the Louisiana Department of Justice for four years. Engaged in the community, he has been actively involved in organizations such as the 100 Black Men of Metro Baton Rouge, Baton Rouge Chamber of Commerce, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, and Baton Rouge Branch NAACP. His contributions have been recognized with the Century Club Award for pro bono legal services and the Pillar Award from the Southern University Law Center's National Lawyers Guild.



# Ceremony Program

**PRESIDING**  
Chancellor Alvin Washington

PROCESSIONAL .....	Instrumental Music
NATIONAL ANTHEM - <i>THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER</i> .....	Alana Singleton
MUSICAL SELECTION - <i>LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING</i> .....	Alana Singleton
INVOCATION.....	Pastor Clyde McNell, Sr. <i>New Light Baptist Church and Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church</i>
INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER .....	Alvin Washington <i>Chancellor of the Southern University Law Center</i>
COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS .....	Timothy W. Hardy <i>Alumnus &amp; Partner at Breazeale, Sachse &amp; Wilson Law Firm</i>
PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES.....	Shawn D. Vance <i>Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs</i>
ALUMNI OATH.....	Cynthia N. Reed <i>Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Support, Counseling and Bar Preparation</i>
BENEDICTION.....	Pastor Clyde McNell, Sr. <i>New Light Baptist Church and Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church</i>
RECESSIONAL .....	Instrumental Music

# Commencement Speaker

## TIMOTHY W. HARDY



Timothy W. Hardy is a partner in the Baton Rouge office of Breazeale Sachse & Wilson. His area of concentration is Environmental Law. He serves as part of the firm's Environmental Law Practice Group. He previously served as the top advisor on environmental affairs for a former Louisiana governor, as Assistant Secretary for the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, and as a Division Director for the Louisiana Department of Justice. He was formerly a partner of the Roedel Parsons Koch Blache Balhoff & McCollister law firm.

Prior to attending law school, he held several technical laboratory and research positions. He was employed in the laboratory at a water purification and wastewater treatment facility in Shreveport, Louisiana, where his primary duty was quality control. He was employed by Pennzoil Research, where he performed research on the stabilization of transformer oils. He was employed as a laboratory technician for Allied Chemical, where he performed quality control for the manufacture of high-density polyethylene.

He currently serves on the Board of Supervisors for the Louisiana Community & Technical College System, having served on the Board since 2010. He also serves on the Board of Directors of the Association of Community College Trustees, an education organization of governing boards, representing more than 6,500 elected and appointed trustees who govern over 1,200 community and technical colleges in the United States. He is an Adjunct Professor of Law at the Southern University Law Center, teaching Environmental Law for more than 20 years. His professional career also includes, in 2003, being named as an Executive Vice President of the Shaw Group, one of only two Fortune 500 Companies based in Louisiana at that time.

He holds a B.S. degree in Chemistry and was named a Distinguished Alumnus by the Southern University Department of Chemistry in 2008. He was also named a Distinguished Alumnus by the Southern University Law Center in 2009 and was named to the Southern University Law Center Hall of Fame in 2012.



# Commencement Speaker

## TIMOTHY W. HARDY

He is an AV® Preeminent™ Peer Review rated attorney by Martindale Hubbell. He has been designated by “Chambers USA” as one of Louisiana's leading lawyers for business in the area of Environment and is listed in “Louisiana Super Lawyers” in the area of environmental law.

In 2020, he was appointed by Governor John Bel Edwards to serve as a member of the Governor's Climate Initiatives Task Force. He was also named as co-chair of the Manufacturing and Industry Committee, and as a member of the Legal Advisory Group, both established by the Task Force.

He regularly represents clients in regulatory, litigation, and transactional matters, including:

### Regulatory

- Assisting clients in securing air, water, and waste permits for all facilities and representing them through any appeals that may result after permit issuance or denial.
- Negotiating and assisting in the preparation of permit modifications for all media.
- Preparing clients for inspections by government agencies, including the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the United States Occupational, Safety and Health Administration, the United States Coast Guard, and the United States Department of Justice.
- Overseeing environmental audits and structuring same to provide for confidentiality.
- Retaining skilled environmental consultants to perform waste site cleanups, including proper cost and procedural documentation for National Contingency Plan consistency and private cost

recovery actions.

- Assisting in the drafting of Federal Environmental Assessments, Federal Environmental Impact Statements, and Louisiana Environmental Assessment Statements.
- Representing clients on Potentially Responsible Party Steering Committees for Superfund sites.
- Drafting proposals for environmental legislation and regulations.
- Assisting clients in achieving corporate compliance with state and federal reporting and record-keeping requirements, including Emergency Release Reporting and Emergency Planning/Community Right-to-Know laws.

### Litigation

- Representing clients in appeals of permits.
- Representing clients in enforcement actions brought by state and/or federal government.
- Working with firm's white collar criminal defense lawyers in representing clients in environmental criminal prosecutions.

# *Candidates for Juris Doctor Degree*



# Fall 2025

## CANDIDATES FOR JURIS DOCTOR DEGREE

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Ryan Abboud\*\*

*Baton Rouge, LA*

Nathaniel Hearn

*Baton Rouge, LA*

Renee Simien

*Lake Charles, LA*

Cameron Adams

*Simmesport, LA*

Trevon Kelso

*South Pittsburg, TN*

Samantha Stamper

*Zachary, LA*

Baron Ammons

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Steven Kucherovsky

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Nijeá Young

*Hahnville, LA*

Chantaé Barré

*New Orleans, LA*

ThoMesia Moore

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Aguenirv H. Borgelin

*Baton Rouge, LA*

Richard Ofori

*Las Vegas, NV*

Nya-Simone Caldwell

*Shreveport, LA*

Darius Robinson

*Mullins, SC*

Abdoulaye Deme

*Southfield, MI*

Hillary Robinson

*Baton Rouge, LA*

\*\*\* *summa cum laude*

\*\* *magna cum laude*

\* *cum laude*

*List and academic standing at press time.*

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# **SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY**

## **L A W C E N T E R**

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Southern University Law Center is committed to ensuring equal opportunity for all of its students and alumni, and is committed to a policy against discrimination in employment based on sex, actual or perceived gender, age, race, color, religion, creed, national or ethnic origin, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, genetic information; or parental, marital, domestic partner, civil union, military, or veteran status.