

April 8, 2004

**Southern University Law Center Alumni Association  
To Induct Seven into Its Alumni Hall of Fame**

The Southern University Law Center Alumni Association, Inc., will induct seven members into its Alumni Hall of Fame during the second annual Alumni Round-Up, Thursday and Friday, April 15-16, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

The inductees, selected from among more than 2,500 law alumni, are County Commissioner Walter Bailey, Jr., of Memphis, Tennessee; Judge Curtis Calloway of Baton Rouge; attorneys Thelma Quince Colbert of Fort Worth, Texas, Thomas N. Todd of Chicago, Illinois, P. Spencer-Torry of Alexandria, Louisiana, and Marion White of Opelousas, Louisiana, and district attorney Ricky Ward, Plaquemine, Louisiana. The Hall of Fame luncheon will be held at noon Friday in the Cotillion Ballroom of the Smith-Brown Memorial Union on the Southern University campus.

This year's Alumni Hall of Fame honorees represent aggressive defenders of civil and human rights as judge, district attorney, plaintiffs' attorneys, and law faculty. Their names will be placed on a special recognition wall display at the Law Center's A.A. Lenoir Hall.

**Walter Bailey, Jr.**, a 1965 law graduate, is District 2 county commissioner for Shelby County, Tennessee, where he chairs the Education and Libraries, and the Audit committees. Commissioner Bailey was elected to an un-expired term in 1971, and was elected to a full term in 1972. He was re-elected as a member of the Board of Commissioners in 1978, 1982, 1986, 1990, 1994, 1998, and 2002. As the senior member of the Board of Commissioners, attorney Bailey often provides a historical perspective of issues and serves as a powerful advocate for inner city matters. He is a member of the Memphis and Shelby County Bar associations and has been admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court.

**Judge Curtis A. Calloway**, a 1965 graduate of the Law Center, has served on the 19<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court in Baton Rouge for 12 years. Elected in October 1992, Judge Calloway assumed the criminal bench and was chosen chief judge in 1995. He assumed the civil bench in 1997 and was chosen chief judge in 1998. The Alabama native practiced law from January 1972 until October 1988, when he was elected to the Baton Rouge City Court as judge of Division "E." He served in this capacity until October 1992, when he was elected to the 19<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court. Judge Calloway served in the United States Marine Corps, where he received an Honorable Discharge and the Purple Heart. He attends Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church, where he is a member of the usher and brotherhood ministries. Judge Calloway is involved in many community and professional organizations, including the American Bar Association, Baton Rouge Bar Association, Louisiana State Bar Association, and National Bar Association.

**Thelma Quince Colbert**, graduated summa cum laude and first in the 1975 class of the Law Center. On April 27, 1990, Colbert was appointed an assistant United States attorney for the Northern District of Texas by U.S. Attorney General Richard Thornburgh, to develop the Affirmative Civil Enforcement Unit. Currently she is the health care fraud coordinator and the lead assistant and supervisor of the unit. The assistant U.S. attorney has recouped

hundreds of dollars in health care fraud. The recipient of several honors throughout her legal career, Colbert received the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency award for outstanding assistance to the Office of the Inspector General in 2003 and an award from the General Service Administration, Office of the Inspector General (GSA/OIG), for obtaining the largest civil settlement ever in connection with a single case by GSA.

**Thomas N. Todd**, '63, an Alabama native, graduated magna cum laude of his law class. In 1968, Todd made history by filing the first criminal suit against a Chicago policeman for the deprivation of an individual's civil rights, and in 1969, created the first Civil Rights Office in the Chicago U. S. Attorney's Office. In 1970, the attorney became the first full-time African-American law professor at Northwestern University's School of Law. The attorney has held numerous positions, which reflect his involvement with the civil rights movement, including president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference Chicago Chapter, 1971; executive vice-president of Operation P.U.S.H. and acted as president of Operation P.U.S.H. from 1983-1984. He served as counsel for Grambling State Alumni Association in *United States v. State of Louisiana*.

**P. Spencer-Torry**, a 1970 graduate of the Law Center, returned to her hometown of Alexandria, Louisiana, to practice law and in 1982 was the first African American to serve as assistant city attorney in Alexandria, Louisiana. Spencer-Torry was co-counsel with the late Law Center dean Louis Berry in the desegregation litigation of the Rapides Parish, Natchitoches Parish, and Calcasieu Parish School systems. In 1994, attorney Spencer-Torry was selected by the U.S. Government to coordinate a transcontinental judicial symposium with African jurists.

**Marion Overton White**, a 1963 Southern law graduate, of the Law Offices of Marion Overton White, in Opelousas, Louisiana, has been practicing criminal and civil law, with a specialty in civil rights litigation. In 1964, White litigated school desegregation suits in 13 Louisiana school districts in association with NAACP attorneys. White is noted for the following litigation: *Zippert v. Sylvester*, a suit to declare Louisiana miscegenation statutes unconstitutional, and *Mack Frank v. St. Landry Parish Draft Board*, a suit challenging systematic exclusion of black citizens from local draft boards. In the late 1970s, White served as a member of the Louisiana State Advisory Committee to the United States Commission on Civil Rights, which prompted federal mandated reforms at Angola State Penitentiary. Attorney White served in the U.S. Army from 1958-1960, before he was honorably discharged.

A 1980 graduate of the Southern University Law Center, **Richard "Ricky" Ward**, is the district attorney for Iberville, West Baton Rouge, and Pointe Coupee parishes. As district attorney, Ward has a 98 percent conviction rate. Elected in 1991, he brought one of the first criminal prosecutions by a DA in the state's history to protect the environment. During his tenure, Ward is credited for establishing the first worthless checks division in the DA's office to assist small business and he established a Victim's Assistance Program, with the aim of putting victims ahead of criminals. Ward established a pre-trial diversionary program for first time young offenders and was instrumental in creating the first

drug program in Iberville Parish. This rehabilitation program catered toward individuals with a drug and/or substance abuse problem. Upon completion of the program, the individual's criminal record would be expunged.

For more information,  
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