



Director's Message

Southern University Law Center Marshall-Brennan fellows went back to high school on August 21 when three fellows stepped into the classroom at Glen Oaks High School. Other fellows reported to their assignments on August 28 and September 7. It is exhilarating to visit a partner school and watch the Fellows engage in a dialogue with their students. The classroom exchanges demonstrate the enthusiasm of both the high school students and the Fellows. The subject matters invite discussions that the students yearn to be heard on, but are not given the opportunity to do so in other organized setting.

The Marshall-Brennan Constitutional Literacy Project opens an opportunity for law student fellows to engage in an important pro bono service by permitting them to mentor and become professional development partners for high school students in inner-city schools. This inaugural year is important to the success of the Project. But, if what I have witnessed in the classrooms in the first month is any indication of what we can expect, the Project will exceed the expectations that any of us had for it.



New Funding Partner

Commercial Realty Properties Trust (CRPT) presented a \$2,000 check to the Marshall-Brennan Project on September 14, 2009. CRPT is a successful real estate investment trust and, as an affiliate of the Baton Rouge Area Foundation, its profits provide community impact and benefit. The funds from CRPT will be used to advance the mission of Marshall-Brennan Project by providing funds for the regional moot court program and other Marshall-Brennan programs.



Kean Miller Diversity Achievement Award

The Marshall-Brennan Project received the first Diversity Achievement Award from the Kean Miller law firm at its annual diversity conclave on September 24, 2009

Fellow's Experience

"My experience with the Marshall-Brennan Project has been both a challenge and a reward. My respect for educators on all levels has skyrocketed. While I do have days of frustration, mainly when my students are unprepared, I most often have days that are filled with joy. Seeing the little light bulbs go off in my students' heads is priceless. To have a student make a blanket statement and then turn and say, "Wait a minute...that's not a legal argument..." let's me know that I have done exactly what I sought out to do...I have inspired my students to think. It's an accomplishment to watch them move beyond their comfort zone and actively participate in class. I leave each morning with the realization that I am partially responsible for their growth and development. I leave knowing that I just might have made a difference."

Mekisha F. Smith



Thank You Students!

Special thanks are due the following student: **Shanderrick Williams**, for participation on the WKRF Jim Engster Morning Show and the WQXL Major Topic radio talk show.

Student's Expressions

"I am incredibly thankful that I was given an opportunity to take this class. It has opened up my horizons and mind on a career choice I never really thought about. This class is an eye opening experience about the law and the way it works. I appreciate the law students coming and teaching us not just about the law, but also about life."

--**Andrea Messi, Glen Oaks High School**

This Month Highlights



Upcoming Events

Supreme Court Field Trip

Friday, October 30, 2009 7:30 a.m.
Students will depart from the Louisiana Leadership Institute.

Christmas Reception

Wednesday, December 8, 6 P.M. Southern University Cotillion Ball Room



"I personally feel that this class has greatly benefited me. It has broadened my horizons towards my rights. It's sad to admit, but taking this class has caused me to realize that I knew nothing about my rights as a student or as a citizen."

--**Johnathan Emerson, Glen Oaks High School**

"There are certain rights that we have that the average person does not know or understand. [The Law Studies class] should be a class that all students need for college."

--**Courtney Paul, Glen Oaks High School**