

The background of the entire page is a complex geometric pattern of overlapping triangles in various shades of blue and dark navy. At the bottom, there is a white zigzag line with a double-line border.

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

L A W C E N T E R

Commencement
FALL 2022



Commencement
FALL CEREMONY

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21, 2023 • 10 A.M.
F.G. CLARK ACTIVITY CENTER
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

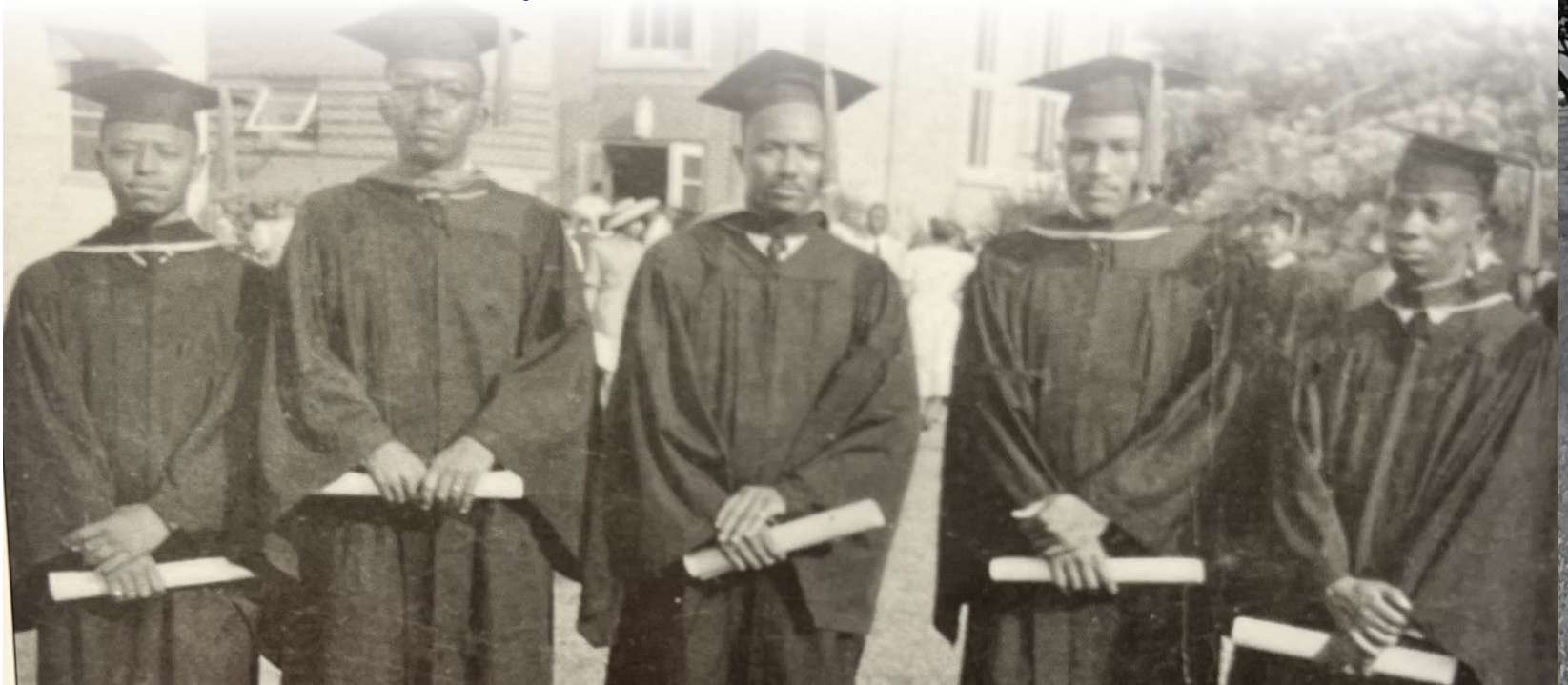
History

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 LEGENDARY CIVIL RIGHTS ATTORNEY, POLITICAL LEADER, AND EDUCATOR JESSE N. STONE, JR., ALVIN BASILE JONES, LEROY WHITE, ELLYSON FREDRICK DYSON, AND ALEX LOUIS PITCHER OF THE CLASS OF 1950, HAVE 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

JOHN K. PIERRE



John K. Pierre has devoted his career to molding lawyer leaders and being a champion of innovation. He received a bachelor's degree in accounting from Southern University in 1980, a master's degree in tax accounting from Texas Tech University in 1982, and a juris doctor degree from Southern Methodist University School of Law in 1985.

After graduating from law school, from 1986 to 1990, Pierre served his country as a Judge Advocates General Corps Officer, or JAG, for the United States Army. In 1990, his next assignment led him to the classroom as he began serving as a faculty member at the Southern University Law Center, where he taught courses, such as tax law, security devices, local government law and more. In addition, he has previous teaching experience as a visiting and adjunct professor at California State University, Southern Methodist University School of Law, Loyola University Law School, Southern University College of Business, Saint Leo's College,

Webster University, Louisiana State University, and Baton Rouge Community College. Beyond the classroom, Pierre has published numerous articles on tax law, sales and contracts, real estate and commercial law, ranging from magazine features to legal journal and law review articles.

In 2006, he transitioned to a leadership role within the institution becoming the vice chancellor of institutional accountability and the evening division. Currently, he has been serving as the Law Center's chancellor since 2016. Under his tutelage, the Southern University Law Center has thrived as a global legal institution. Year after year, it is recognized for its diversity, world class faculty, and racial justice efforts. As a progressive leader and visionary, he advocates for technology advancements, community outreach initiatives, and strategic partnerships that ensures access and opportunity is provided to all.

Meet the Chancellor

JOHN K. PIERRE

Beyond the education field, Pierre was involved in the Baton Rouge school desegregation case as co-counsel for the Baton Rouge Branch of the NAACP in *Davis v. East Baton Rouge Parish School Board*. He was also co-counsel in the landmark case of *McWaters v. Fema*.

Pierre fervently serves as a transformational change agent and inspiration to legal professionals and thought leaders around the globe. He has earned numerous awards for his leadership, innovative strategy, and tireless efforts within the legal and professional realm. Hampton University, the Baton Rouge Bar Association, and the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus are just a few of the organizations that have bestowed honors upon

Pierre throughout his career. Also, his alma mater, Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law, has named him a Distinguished Alumni. Pierre has served as a contributing panelist during national discussions with the Peggy Browning Fund, Thurgood Marshall College Fund, the National Pre-Law Summit, and more.

He remains a member of numerous state and national organizations, including the Louisiana State Bar Association and the Texas Bar Association.



Ceremony Program

PRESIDING

Chancellor John K. Pierre
Vanue B. Lacour Endowed Professor
Southern University Law Center

PROCESSIONALDeAndre M. Tate, '14

NATIONAL ANTHEMDeAndre M. Tate, '14

INVOCATION.....Rev. Donald Henry

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER John K. Pierre
Chancellor of the Southern University Law Center

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS.....Honorable John Guidry, '87
Chief Judge of the Louisiana First Circuit Court of Appeal

MUSICAL SELECTIONDeAndre M. Tate, '14

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES..... Shawn Vance
Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs

ALUMNI OATH..... Cynthia Reed
Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Support,
Counselor and Bar Preparation

CLOSING REMARKS.....Dennis J. Shields
President of the Southern University System
and Chancellor of Southern University and A&M College

BENEDICTIONRev. Donald Henry

RECESSIONALDeAndre M. Tate, '14

Reception to follow

Commencement Speaker

HONORABLE JOHN MICHAEL GUIDRY



Chief Judge John Michael Guidry is the son of Annie Mae Jones and the late John Albert Guidry. He is married to the former Carol Fowler and they have two children, John Morgan and Kennedy Michelle.

Chief Judge Guidry is a 1980 graduate of McKinley High, he received his B.A. in Political Science from LSU in 1983 and is a 1987 Cum Laude graduate of the Southern University Law Center.

Chief Judge Guidry is a former commissioner of the Greater Baton Rouge Port Commission and the Greater Baton Rouge Metropolitan Airport Commission. Since 1988, he has served as an adjunct professor at the Southern University Law Center and served for twenty-five years as an adjunct professor in the Nelson Mandela School of Public Policy at Southern University-Baton

Rouge. He formerly served as the Assistant Clerk of the Louisiana House of Representatives and an Assistant Parish Attorney for the City of Baton Rouge and the Parish of East Baton Rouge as well as maintained a general private law practice. Chief Judge Guidry in 1991 was elected to the Louisiana House of Representatives and to the State Senate in 1993. He was first elected as a Judge of the First Circuit Court of Appeal in October 1997. On January 1, 2023, he made history when he became the 15th Chief Judge of the Louisiana First Circuit Court of Appeal and the first African American to hold that position in the more than 100-year history of the court.

Judge Guidry is a member of the Fairview Baptist Church where he serves as an Ordained Deacon and where he formerly served as Sunday School Superintendent.

*Candidates for
Juris Doctor Degree*

Fall 2022

CANDIDATES FOR JURIS DOCTOR DEGREE

Beau Ackal
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Bataski Bailey
Havana, Florida

Kenyatta Barthelemy *
Gretna, Louisiana

Handy Beckham
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Blake Bellefontaine
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Melissa Blaise
Boca Raton, Florida

Ty Brian
Greenwell Springs, Louisiana

Claire A. Cavell
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Marina Castro
Dallas, Texas

Joshua Combs
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Jess Crosier, MD
Cade, Louisiana

Jasmine Delco
Kenner, Louisiana

Kenya Dixon *
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Rhegene Fairley *
Beaumont, Texas

Destinie Glover
Dallas, Texas

Wayne Grant *
Houston, Texas

Monae Howard
Pass Christian, Mississippi

Justace Keller
Harvey, Louisiana

Erica Laroux **
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Brannon Lenard
St. Gabriel, Louisiana

Andrew Leonards **
Lake Charles, Louisiana

Arielle Lewis *
New Orleans, Louisiana

Nakia Mccullah *
Seattle, Washington

Ta'Rae Owens *
Hammond, Louisiana

Keeli Pigg *
Carthage, Mississippi

Marie Prele *
Vancouver, Canada

Jonathan Ricau
Hammond, Louisiana

Kofi Robinson
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Mylisha Robinson
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Gabriela Rodriguez
Fort Worth, Texas

Bashar Saleh *
South Bend, Indiana

Lakeisha Sanders
Los Angeles, California

Ashlin Thomas *
Greenwood, Louisiana

*** *summa cum laude*

** *magna cum laude*

* *cum laude*

List and academic standing at press time.

Fall 2022

CANDIDATES FOR JURIS DOCTOR DEGREE

Sharon Villia *

Addis, Louisiana

Jace Weber **

Norco, Louisiana

Darren Wilson *

Clinton, Louisiana

*** *summa cum laude*

** *magna cum laude*

* *cum laude*

List and academic standing at press time.

Law Center Faculty

DELESO A. ALFORD, B.A., J.D., LL.M.

Professor of Law, Rachel Emanuel Endowed Professor

ANGELA ALLEN-BELL, B.A., J.D.

Associate Professor and B. K. Agnihotri Endowed Professor

RUBY ANDREW, A.B., J.D., J.S.M.

Professor

DAMIAN BIONDO, J.D.

Visiting Professor

JOHN BROWN, B.A., J.D.

Academic Counselor and Instructor

MARCIA BURDEN, B.S., J.D.

Professor of Clinical Education

KELLY CARMENA, B.A., B.A., J.D.

Assistant Clinical Professor

JANICE CLARK, B.A., J.D.

Distinguished Jurist Law and Justice Professor

ADAM CREPELLE, B.S., J.D., M.P.P., LL.M.

Associate Professor

THOMAS DAVENPORT, J.D.

Visiting Professor

JOHANNA DENNIS, J.D.

Visiting Professor

MONIQUE EDWARDS, J.D.

Visiting Professor

CHRISTIAN FASULLO, B.S., J.D., LL.M.

Professor of Clinical Education

CHARLETTA FORTSON, J.D., M.B.A., MSIT

Assistant Professor of Law

BRIAN FRYE, J.D.

Visiting Professor

ROBERT FURNIER, J.D.

Visiting Professor

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Visiting Professor

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Visiting Professor

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Clyde C. Tidwell Endowed Professor

MICHAEL HARRIS, B.S., J.D.

Visiting Professor

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Charles Hatfield Endowed Professor

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Visiting Professor

PETER KOCHENBURGER, J.D.

Visiting Professor

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*Academic Counselor and Instructor,
Coordinator of Legal Writing and Analysis*

GAIL STEPHENSON, B.A., J.D.
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TRACIE WOODS, B.S., M.B.A., J.D., M.P.A.
Associate Professor of Legal Analysis and Writing



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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.

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