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## About Us

#### <u>Vision</u>

The Louis A. Berry Civil Rights and Justice Institute seeks to ensure the law center's place as a center of excellence in social and restorative justice and civil and human rights research, advocacy, education and instruction. It further seeks to pursue policy initiatives and judicial outcomes that promote equal rights and justice.

#### <u>Mission</u>

The Louis A. Berry Institute for Civil Rights and Justice is committed to the advancement of civil and human rights and social and restorative justice, especially in Louisiana and the South.

## News

## Distinguished Lawyer-Leader Lectures SULC Civil Rights Litigation Students and Others



Upon completion of the assigned chapters on damages and attorney's fees in her Civil Rights Litigation class, Professor Bell went in search of a practitioner who could complement these theoretical discussions. One attorney impressively emerged from the pool of options. This lawyer, who has served as both a prosecutor and a judge, has secured hundreds of millions for his clients in some of the largest verdicts in the state. He won his first million dollar case just five years after passing the bar. In 2018, he won three cases that netted more than \$81 million in settlements and verdicts. Not only is Tony Clayton the best at what he does, he is also an alumnus of this law center and he is a member of the Southern University System Board of Supervisors. His April 3, 2019 presentation did not disappoint. He opened a rich treasure trove of knowledge and generously shared it with the students in his uniquely effective way. He shared civil practice tips, discovery strategies, insights for bar success, lessons in fiscal responsibility and reflections on law school and the practice of law. There were moments of laughter and sorrow, periods of reflections and times of shock and awe. Pride and adoration never ceased.



Distinguished Lawyer-Leader Lectures SULC Civil Rights Litigation Students and Others



"It was inspiring to witness a renowned SULC graduate encourage and motivate students to think outside the box and to urge us not to question the education earned from SULC. I left this room and started dreaming bigger dreams."

Desni Scaife



"Mr. Clayton's presentation reaffirmed my purpose. To see such a successful practitioner, not only be a graduate of Southern University Law Center, but also be a African American man, was inspirational. Mr. Clayton's presence and transparency made his accomplishments seem attainable. Mr. Clayton's statements resonated when he said, "I wasn't the smartest person in my class; I just worked hard." This sent a shockwave of hope. It encouraged us to push further, in spite of the circumstances and obstacles we presently face."







## **Civil Rights Litigation Students Take To The Airwaves**

The students enrolled in Professor Bell's Civil Rights Litigation class ended the semester with radio interviews about their respective restorative justice projects. The interviews were conducted by Wayne Parker of the Baton Rouge Community Radio Station.



## Tangipahoa Parish Guards Team

Desni Scaife (2L), Imani Robinson (3L)

Imani Robinson and Desni Scaife spent their semester working on the case of some Louisiana men who took up arms and guarded the home of their neighbor, M.C. Moore, after the Ku Klux Klan instituted a terror campaign against him in retaliation for him filing a 1965 school desegregation suit. During their interview, they, through the examples of these unsung heroes, urged the audience to embrace a more encompassing view of patriotism. They also illuminated alarming racial disparities regarding application of the Second Amendment to whites and African Americans who legally possess weapons. Additionally, this team taught the audience about the important restorative justice outcomes that are achieved when instances of African American heroism are celebrated. They closed with an announcement of their ongoing efforts to publish the first official account of this piece of suppressed legal history.

Listen to Desni Scaife and Imani Robinson's radio interview here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CrJrC7zWyNI&feature=youtu.be



# News (Con't)

The John Garner Team



Katherine Read (2L), Saba Negatu (2L)

Katherine Read and Saba Negatu spent the semester exploring ways to apply some form of restorative justice in the case of the late John Garner. Mr. Garner was a student at the Southern University Law Center when, during the civil rights era, he decided to protest segregation in downtown Baton Rouge. Instead of being hailed a hero or a patriot, Mr. Garner was first criminalized then later expelled from school. Their restorative justice efforts involves legislation and a publication.

Listen to Katherine Read and Saba Negatu's radio interview here: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IDeGi1kIAPY&feature=youtu.be">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IDeGi1kIAPY&feature=youtu.be</a>



## The Malik Rahim Project

Professor Bell, Justin Bullard (2L)



## The Malik Rahim Project (Con't)

Justin Bullard and Professor Bell spoke about his restorative justice efforts on behalf of Louisiana Living Legend Malik Rahim. Justin sought to preserve Mr. Rahim's legacy by seeking to have his home recognized as a historic landmark. Justin explained why this was a fitting response to a life of service, first as a founding member of the Louisiana Black Panther Party and later as a anti-death penalty and civil and human rights advocate, and the founder of Common Ground Collective, an operation that served over one million Louisiana citizens following Hurricane Katrina.

Listen to Justin Bullard's radio interview here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2IWpokVRDdA&feature=youtu.be



## The Intersectionality of Race and Rape Team

Meghan Matt (2L), Chelsea Hale (2L)

Meghan Matt and Chelsea Hale spent their semester working on the case of a modern day Emmett Till, an African American man sentenced to serve 100 years at hard labor for a civil rights era rape conviction involving white women and questionable evidence. This team juxtaposed the harsh reality of African American men accused of rape by white women in comparison to the lax sentences received by white men accused of raping African American women. Their restorative justice efforts involves a publication.

Listen to Meghan Matt and Chelsea Hale's radio interview here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=atRp9j-RXZM&feature=youtu.be



## **Civil Rights Litigation Students Take To The Airwaves**

The Lemon Howard Team



Hayden Carlos (2L), Cameron Pontiff (2L)

Hayden Carlos and Cameron Pontiff discussed their efforts on behalf of the late Lemon Howard. They used the case of Lemon Howard as a springboard for a larger discussion about the interplay between race, poverty, medical ethics, mental illness and incarceration. They urged needed reforms for this vulnerable population and revealed their restorative justice project to be a publication.

## Listen to Hayden Carlos and Cameron Pontiff's radio interview here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Jwet6ZoCxQ&app=desktop



## "When Bells & Berries Mix, A Unique Brand of Justice Results"



SULC's 2019 "Diversity Week" ended with an April 1, 2019 presentation where Professor Bell shared insights about the late Louis A. Berry who was the Dean of this law center from 1972-1974. A picture of a legal giant emerged as she spoke about him being a part of the litigation team to integrate LSU's dental school, LSU's medical school and LSU's law school. She was quick to point out that he didn't stop at that. He successfully sued the Louisiana State Athletic Commission in 1955 because it prohibited interracial prizefighting (while the legislature prohibited all interracial sports competitions). He also acted when Louisiana couldn't get any federal money for state hospitals because of its segregated hospitals. Mr. Berry's actions led to a 1966 desegregation order by the State

Hospital Board. He also successfully fought for voting rights and wage equality and represented a number of indigent defendants. The audience also learned that Mr. Berry initiated the "seriousness of purpose" axiom that we have all come to know. During this presentation, Professor Bell also discussed the mission, aims and vision of the Louis A. Berry Institute for Civil Rights and Justice.













## Sharon Willis Makes History as the Institute's First Donor

The late Herman Wallace, affectionately referred to as the "Muhammad Ali of Justice," was a member of the Angola 3, three, former, Louisiana inmates who collectively spent in excess of 100 years in solitary confinement (termed Closed Cell Restriction in Louisiana). Mr. Wallace's incarceration began during the civil rights era. He lived under isolated conditions in a 6 x 9 cell until a 2013 ruling that found discrimination in his grand jury led to his release (after he spent over forty-one years in solitary confinement). The Angola 3's civil settlement resulted in meaningful penal reforms in Louisiana and the nation.

Mrs. Willis corresponded with Mr. Wallace from 1987 until his death in 2013. After seeing the work of this Institute, she felt it was the appropriate place to donate her cherished collection of letters, documents and images from Mr. Wallace. This collection grants unprecedented access to life in his extreme conditions of isolation and it offers a rare window into the man who inspired a movement from behind bars and whose death prompted a tribute in the United States Congressional Record. Currently, there are in excess of 80,000 inmates held in solitary confinement in the United States. Excerpts of this collection are unveiled here. The entirety of the collection will appear on the Institute's website in the upcoming months.

Professon Angele A. Allen Bill Director of Louis & Berry Institute Southern University Law Center PO Dof 9294 USPS TRACKING NUMBER 9534 6104 3856 9028 1562 29 Bator



4/2/02. "Diston in Not seeing things as They are ... Diston is seeing Things As They will be... Dear Charon, I just gat your 3/23 letter - You aladays about me! You've been watching over me 15 years - 15 long years, one zon're still there. The worse past is that In still here. No, your quessing That Im feelin "desparalized" for from reality. You know me better than that. You know I feed off Infounded Repression. It keeps me alert of my keepens, sharpens. my wit, and believe it on not, it keeps me alive. I queen what In saying to you is that my keepen are my best teacher.



Quoting the Magistrite Judge (Docia Dalby) " Indeed specially one in prison, it is difficult to imagine or extracredinary confinement." Rulings by higher Courts suggest that only in (extracilences circonstonces) con prisoners sue soletany confinement." kept in over being Here is a quate from the newspoper steff writer: spomined cases dealing with prolonged stints in solitary confinement and found the longest that inmates vesually remain there is three on your years Based on that, Dalby concluded 30 years is ("far bayond the gale") of ony other similar case." Back to the gudge: " The Court would think It is self evident that 25 to 28 years of soliton Confinement presents on atypical and significant hardship and mast extraordinary Rircunstances. These are quotes from the greas - I should get the actual ruling today from my atterney and D'll Move from There . But as I said, low year who the actual rulin seen the actual report are jumpin with joy. Chec "Joe Cook, executive director of the This out: In Lauisione, which is groveding attorneys for the men, said the plaintiffe wont a fair review system for inmates in salitary confinement. This is a significant Victory. resolvin This It's the first step, we have, in forsan ." are Words Coming for touch me. to you see, The help all prisoners around the be gree of long term confinement in saleta for me; just tell me that you and on't lie sad



3/1/07 See you are out in your back you sucking up the Sun , So glad to prove you are at peace and holy some joy in your life - even if you are ginding it in your life - even if you are ginding it in your own back your. You at lease have a back your. You at lease have a back your. Yes, In very hoppy you you -you are living your dream. I wanty years is a very long time to be in friendship with out ever ones meeting in the flead quite incredible if I should day so myself. My Dear Sharon, of Course & intend to have my own backyard as well. I haven't quite make up my mind speatly where I want to build That house, I want to build it in S.F. on Vallejo - That is what my theast tell me to do but I very seldome listen to my Heart in this prison - for galitical reasons In strongly leaving towards building it in the Kower 9th Ward of Thew Orleans and 9 out of 10 That is what I will do. It all Degenda if I tould locate the signable piece of lond to build the House as D've designed it. By the way, I do have the Domas



you know, My life is being shoped as I sit in this kell. There is so much expected of me - so much belief in solutions rest in The ond even Though I Anow I don't forseas all what people Think of me, I don't Think it is my Thinking on skills That will make a Defferense. Think it is my presence, the energy that helps people to believe in them selves. I Recall when I was a kid and how afraid I was to walk the dark streets at night Coming from The Movies. However, when I was with my Mon & falt no year. I had This belief Nothing Could touch me because I felt safe in her presences It is the Some the world with one person who they believe in. Anywhy, whatever it is that people see in me,



# News (Con't)

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## Sharon Willis Makes History as the Institute's First Donor

Intervention of the senses my hurt and in his own way he fights to give me that needed support. I don't like the idea placing that sort of hardship on others



## Dean Louís A. Berry

Civil Rights and Justice Institute

## News (Con't)

## Sharon Willis Makes History as the Institute's First Donor

#### CONDITION OF CCR

- 1. The Bull Pen where all food is prepared shows the ceiling to be falling apart. The plaster, fiberglass insulation, and drippings of water are constantly falling from this ceiling. It is true, they have fixed the roof over the (kitchen) they have painted the front of the CCR building in view of passing cars, but there has been no painting of the building in its entirety. I believe Don Notti has a manuel that stipulates that the whole of the prisons quarters should be painted white. Well, what we have here is gray and white.
  - CCR is comprised of four wings with A and B back to back, and C and D back to back. I have lived on the A for seven years; the remaindings I have been here on the B tier. Both tiers suffer from bad plumbing. Commodes tend to back up at times, and quite a few of them do indeed leaks from the botton due to the deteriation of pipes and rings that holds the water. When it rains it leaks in the hall way and some cells, especially this cell that I live in (B-12). The entire A & B wing has been broken in half; the crack from the ceiling
    to the floor from one side of the wing to the other side shows that the foundation of the building is giving out and should be torn down.
  - 3. The lighting system is also not adequate for the eyes. There is a polocy by the supervisor of GCR to not pass out inmates mail until after 6 p.m., however, the florescence lights that are in the ceiling of the hall-way are turned out at 10:30 p.m. This gives the inmate approximately four hours to respond to all mail acquired before he is left in the dark. Such long standings in such situations as this has caused both Woodfox and I to have subscribed glasses for the effect taken upon us.
  - 4. The heating system is also not consistant. Every winter we practically freeze in CCR, on the A & B tiers. There is a duck linning that is fixed above the outside of every cell where the heat is suppose to blow out and heat the whole tier, But for these two tiers particularly. the system never works properly.
  - 5. In the summer time we have a somewhat similar problem. In the shaft (which is in the center of both A & B tiers) are two to three large blowers that sits on the roof designed to pull the heat from the building in order to mantain a normal temperture. There has also a large fan that stands at the front gate of the tier that is also designed to quill the heat on the tiers. Inspite of the two mention set-ups.. each day through this whole summer, the temperture haweremained at 94 to 95 degrees hot. I have a thermometer here in the cell with me specifically for that purpose, therefore I speak with facts backing me up.

## Dean Louís A. Berry

Cívíl Ríghts and Justice Institute

## News (Con't)

## Sharon Willis Makes History as the Institute's First Donor

#### STATEMENT OF FACTS

It is a documented fact that each of the plaintiff's in this lawsuit are being forced to live in cell's for the duration of their stay here in the Louisiana State Penitentiary, at Angola. Your plaintiff's has been in these cells ranging from three years to a period up to seven and a half years which has equiped them with enough knowledge that they are without doubt of being unfairly treated.

Plaintiff's claim that their lives are intentionally being placed in danger by the defendants for mixing inmates that are emotionally disturbed with other inmates that are emotionally stable. These emotionally disturbed inmates are being treated with heavily nervicus type medication initiated by doctor's of the psychiatry branch of medicine. These men are so mentally and emotionally disturbed, all through the day and nights, they indulge in irresponsible agitation, noise making and the like. These men lay in their own waste material; and on many occassions, they take this waste and throw it in another inmate cell (which is also well known by the defendants because they 'defendants' have numerous of records from charging these inmates with such described acts that some has witnessed themselves) i.e., the records.

There is this set pattern with these emotionally disturbed inmates that each time they wish to be moved to another living quarters, they save as much of their manure as possible and throw it inside the cells of two to three other inmates knowing for his own protection the officer's in charge will be forced to move him: since it is the only guaranteed way of an immediate removal FROM THE PRESENT living quarters.



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| Respectfully submitted by,<br>Herman J. Wallace, Petitioner<br>POLITICAL PRISONER<br>PWB #76759-CCR |
| Angola, Louisiana 70712   |
|   |



## Sharon Willis Makes History as the Institute's First Donor

They wish to break my spirit and have me plead to them to release me from this bottomless pit. I cannot do that! The day that I surrender that part of me is the day I will lose all sense of respect for myself.





# That the AP Stylebook has Changed its Journalistic Guidelines Insofar as the Word Racism is Concerned

The Associated Press has announced that the AP Stylebook will now advise journalists to use the word racism to refer to acts of racism instead of evoking euphemisms like "racially charged," and "racially motivated." "The terms racist and racism can be used in broad references or in quotations to describe the hatred of a race or the assertion of the superiority of one race over others," the AP states. The new guidelines also encourage journalists to "think broadly about racial issues before having to make decisions on specific situations and stories."

Learn more here: <u>https://www.nbltop100.org/2019/04/racism-should-be-called-racism-ap-stylebook-changes</u>\_journalistic-guidelines/



# Dean Louís A. Berry Cívíl Ríghts and Justice Institute

# Reading Assignment



### Louisiana Descendants of Georgetown University Slaves Laud Students' Vote for Restitution

The local descendants of slaves are applauding a nonbinding vote by Georgetown University undergraduates to provide restitution to the descendants of slaves sold to Louisiana plantations to pay off the school's debts nearly 200 years ago. "This was the first major reparations decision made, and it was done by millennials," said Maxine Crump, a former Baton Rouge television news anchorwoman and among the descendants of the slaves sold in 1838 by the Jesuits priests to pay off the Catholic institution's debts.

For more information: <u>https://www.theadvocate.com/baton\_rouge/news/article\_68615d4a-5d5f-11e9-be58-</u> 07c4660eac7f.html

### Study Examines How Racial Bias Leads To Greater Discipline Against Black Students

A new Princeton University study suggests racial bias could play a major role in the increased likelihood of disciplinary action faced by African American students in school. The study, published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, joins an extensive body of research showing Black students are more likely than their white peers to be disciplined for the most minor infractions, paving the way for a range of negative life outcomes as a result.

For more information: <u>http://www.louisianaweekly.com/study-examines-how-racial-bias-leads-to-greater-discipline-against-black-students/</u>

### Who Was Ida B. Wells

Ida B. Wells-Barnett was a prominent journalist, activist, and researcher, in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup>centuries. In her lifetime, she battled sexism, racism, and violence. As a skilled writer, Wells-Barnett also used her skills as a journalist to shed light on the conditions of African Americans throughout the South.

For more information: https://blacksourcemedia.com/who-was-ida-b-wells/

### Language From Police Body Camera Footage Shows Racial Disparities in Officer Respect

The National Academy of Sciences has released a report showing that officer communications (from officers of all races) with blacks is more often disrespectful than are officer communications with whites.

The report is linked here: https://www.pnas.org/content/114/25/6521

# Dean Louís A. Berry

Civil Rights and Justice Institute

# Reading Assignment (Con't)



# Rehab Patients Worked in Louisiana's Sweltering Heat for Exxon, Others. They Didn't Get Paid A Dime.

A nationally renowned drug rehab program in Texas and Louisiana has sent patients struggling with addiction to work for free for some of the biggest companies in America, likely in violation of federal labor law.

For more information: <u>https://www.nola.com/business/2019/04/rehab-patients-worked-in-louisianas-sweltering-heat-for-exxon-others-they-didnt-get-paid-a-dime.html</u>

### Expelled in 1956, Black Woman Gets Doctorate At U of Alabama

Autherine Lucy Foster, 89 years old, was the first African American student to attend the University of Alabama, received an honorary doctorate degree Friday from the university where her presence brought mobs of protesters in 1956. She enrolled at the all-white university in 1956. However, she was expelled three days later after her presence brought protests and threats against her life.

For more information: <u>https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/expelled-in-1956-black-woman-gets-doctorate-at-u-of-alabama/ar-AAATOyx?ocid=st</u>

### Reparations Are Workable and Should Be Provided

As Joe Biden prepares to enter the crowded Democratic field for the 2020 presidential election, it wouldn't be surprising if the former vice president joins the other candidates in using reparations for the Transatlantic Slave Trade as a political platform. Candidates including New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker, California Sen. Kamala Harris, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, and former HUD Secretary Julian Castro have said they intend to seek reparations for African Americans.

For more information: <u>https://lasentinel.net/experts-reparations-are-workable-and-should-be-provided.html</u>

#### Privileged

When the police break your teammate's leg, you'd think it would wake you up a little. When they arrest him on a New York street, throw him in jail for the night, and leave him with a season-ending injury, you'd think it would sink in. You'd think you'd know there was more to the story.

For more information: https://www.theplayerstribune.com/en-us/articles/kyle-korver-utah-jazz-nba

#### New Orleans Mayor to Apologize for 1891 Lynching of Italian Americans

The city of New Orleans has announced it will apologize for the lynching of 11 Italian Americans in 1891. Some of the victims had been accused of murdering a police chief, but were acquitted after a trial. Angry about the verdict, a mob of racist vigilantes in the city attacked and publicly hanged them.

For more information: https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-47767421

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Dean Louís A. Berry

Cívíl Ríghts and Justice Institute

The Louis A. Berry Civil Rights and Justice Institute is accepting donations of civil rights era documents, memorabilia and/or artifacts. If you wish to donate, please email our director at: ABell@sulc.edu.

## Announcements:

## VOTE BR Monthly Meeting

VOTE is a grassroots organization founded and run by formerly incarcerated people, their families and allies. Vote is dedicated to restoring the full human and civil rights of those most impacted by the criminal justice system.

New Orleans chapter meets the first Wednesday of every month 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm 2022 St. Bernard Ave, New Orleans, LA 70116 Baton Rouge chapter meets the fourth Thursday of every month 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm 251 Florida St, Baton Rouge, LA 70802 Lafayette chapter meets the fourth Saturday of every month 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm 220 West Willow St, Lafayette, LA 70501 For more information: jenniferharding@vote-nola.org

## East Baton Rouge Parish Prison Reform Coalition

The East Baton Rouge Parish Prison Reform Coalition (EBRPPRC) advances solutions and works collaboratively with criminal justice coalitions to reduce mass incarceration and to uphold the basic human rights of those incarcerated at the East Baton Rouge Parish Prison and their families through education, advocacy, transparency and accountability. Thursday, May 16, 2019 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

7711 Goodwood Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70806 For more information: preachisliteracy@hotmail.com

The Green Book Guide to Freedom (This is a documentary from the Smithsonian Channel)

Friday, May 17, 2019 7:30 pm 100 Lafayette St Baton Rouge, LA 70801 For more information: <u>https://www.manshiptheatre.org/show/the-green-book-guide-to-freedom-2019</u>

### **Greer Goff Mendy Performance**

Prelude to A Glorious Revolution Saturday, May 18, 2019 7:00 PM Dillard University Cook Theatre New Orleans, Louisiana For more info: greergoff.law@gmail.com



## Announcements: (Con't)

## 9th National Civil Rights Conference

Monday - Tuesday, June 17 - 19, 2019 Birmingham, Alabama For more info: <u>http://civilrightsconference.com</u>.

#### **ACLU Louisiana Opportunities**

Racial Justice Fellowship Opportunity New Orleans, LA 70156 For more information: <u>https://www.laaclu.org/en/about/careers</u>

### Oliver B. Spellman Library Civil Rights Display

This display, arranged by Baton Rouge native Randall Henry, includes a life-size sculpture of Harriet Tubman, and busts of former President of the United States, Barack Obama, and William Still, known as the Father of the Underground Railroad, and an additional fertility piece. Be sure you visit the exhibit while it is here.









# ~ Marian Anderson



## Contact Us:

The Louis A. Berry Institute for Civil Rights and Justice is not a law office. The Institute does not give legal advice and the Institute does not represent individuals. You may reach the Southern University Law Center's Clinical Education Department at: 225-771-3333

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