



Dean Louis A. Berry

Civil Rights and Justice Institute



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About Us

Vision

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.

Mission

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

When the Students Became the Teachers: Roots Camp 2019 Civil Rights & Justice Panels

The students enrolled in Professor Bell's Civil Rights Litigation class are taught through a combination of lectures and restorative justice projects. This month, they were the experts who taught those in attendance at RootsCamp 2019. There were a total of five restorative justice projects presented over the course of the two-day conference.

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. Mr. Howard was an indigent man who, in 1962, was charged with murder. Oddly, Mr. Howard was not convicted of the murder. Instead, he was involuntarily committed to a mental hospital for schizophrenia and, while there, was charged with the murder of a patient. For that crime, he was sentenced to prison. This team unearthed a cosmic size piece of penal history in the form of Dr. Albert Tucker Butterworth. They discovered that Dr. Butterworth had been injecting Lysergic Acid Diethylamide (LSD) into prisoners without their informed consent. As a restorative justice measure, this team decided to publish their findings. Using the case of Lemon Howard as a springboard for a larger discussion about the interplay between race, medical ethics, mental illness and incarceration, their publication will urge needed reforms for this vulnerable population. Their presentation ended with this observation relative to the conditions surrounding civil commitments: "Calling it an institution doesn't mystically transform it into one. It still bears a concerning kinship to a prison."

Written by: Justin Bullard



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News (Con't)

When the Students Became the Teachers: Roots Camp 2019 Civil Rights & Justice Panels

The Intersectionality of Race and Rape Team



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

Meghan Matt and Chelsea Hale discussed the case of an African American man sentenced to serve 100 years at hard labor for a civil rights era rape conviction involving white women. 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. Focusing on the racial disparities explicit and implicit in the investigation, conviction, and sentencing of African American men, this team provided research suggesting African American women are required to prove their worth, chastity, and purity when alleging rape while white women often need only utter the allegation of rape. Meghan Matt said: "It truly never mattered to the system if this modern day Emmett Till was innocent or guilty... his status as poor and African American justified taking 100 years of his life on a little more than an allegation. From his ineffective assistance of counsel at trial, to the questionable grand jury process, to the decades he spent representing himself, his standing as a African American teenager in a small segregated town is what cost him his life. Moreover, it seems that no amount of Civil Rights Acts passed by Congress has effectively corrected these injustices."

Written by: Desni Scaife

The Malik Rahim Project



Justin Bullard (2L)

Justin Bullard spoke about his restorative justice efforts on behalf of Louisiana Living Legend Malik Rahim. Mr. Rahim is a founding member of the Louisiana Chapter of the Black Panther Party, Sister Helen Prejean's anti-death ministry, the Fisher Project's Health Clinic and GED studies program, and the Angola 3 Support Committee.

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina in 2005, Mr. Rahim immediately leapt into action, instinctively using his house as a center of rescue and support operations. "Common Ground Collective" served over an estimated half a million citizens of Louisiana by providing free healthcare, legal services, and restoration services. Mr. Rahim continues to be a warrior in the fight for human, environmental and social justice, as well as housing, prisoner, and civil rights.

Justin sought to preserve Mr. Rahim's legacy in the most esteemed way possible, first seeking a national site registry of his home, then conclusively deciding on the Sites of Consciousness to preserve his home internationally. Justin ended his presentation with these questions: "How many more Malik's are there in our communities? Have we repaid them for their sacrifices? If you responded in the negative, you must leave here today and continue my work."

Written by: Justin Bullard



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When the Students Became the Teachers: Roots Camp 2019 Civil Rights & Justice Panels

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. The late Thurgood Marshall argued his case before the United States Supreme Court in 1961. In *Garner v. Louisiana*, 368 U.S. 157 (1961), the SCOTUS ruled that Louisiana could not use its Disturbing the Peace law to convict peaceful sit-in protesters who refused to leave segregated dining establishments. Mr. Garner's tremendous accomplishments came at a great personal cost. This team is committed to ensuring his legacy is preserved and known to law students and the public at large. During their presentation, they shared the insights they have gained on legislation as a instrument of restorative justice.

Tangipahoa Parish Guards Team



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

Imani Robinson and Desni Scaife discussed the case of some Louisiana men who took up arms and guarded the home of their neighbor after the Ku Klux Klan instituted a terror campaign against him in retaliation for him filing a 1965 school desegregation suit. During their panel presentation, 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 also 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.

Written by: Desni Scaife



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News (Con't)

SULC Represented at Invitation - Only Celebration For Those at the Forefront of Recent Non-Unanimous Jury Reforms

On March 7, 2019, those directly involved with the historic November 6, 2018 election that ended the use of non-unanimous juries, celebrated this victory at the Governor's Mansion with Louisiana's Governor John Bel Edwards, a supporter of the change in law. Several members of the Southern University Law Center family attended this invitation-only event.



Erin Monroe-Wesley, Professor Bell, Gov. John Bel Edwards, Carlton Miller, Desni Scaife

Long before the conversation of a legislative remedy was en vogue, Professor Bell undertook the issue as a research project because of her scholarly interest in the intersection of race and justice. Her research revealed a disturbing history associated with this lynching era law. In 1803, when Louisiana became a territory, unanimous verdicts were required. The change from unanimity was to: (1) obtain quick convictions that would funnel people into Louisiana's newly-created convict leasing system (as a replacement for free slave labor); and, (2) ensure African American jurors would not block convictions of other African Americans.

In reflection on her efforts, Professor Bell reminds us that "Racism, oppression and discrimination are sustained not only by humans, but also by laws, policies and systems. Efforts to address one, but not all will produce outcomes instead of changes. Emancipation was not just about physical freedom. The Civil Rights Movement was not just about physical presence. The struggle has always been about social, legal and political equality."



Will Snowden,
Professor Bell



Sateria Tate-Alexander, Professor Bell



Professor Bell, Mary-Patricia Wray



Ed Tarpley, Will Harrell,
Professor Bell



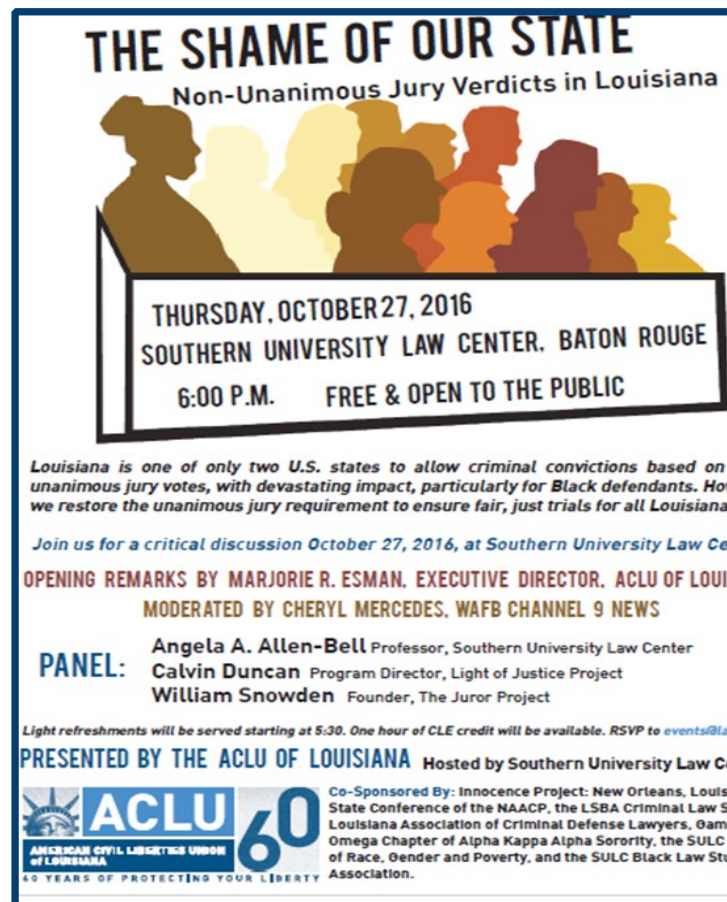
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SULC Represented at Invitation - Only Celebration For Those at the Forefront of Recent Non-Unanimous Jury Reforms

The research led to advocacy efforts, which resulted in the formation of a diverse coalition and ended with an uncontainable movement. Those efforts were unveiled in this law center when Professor Bell partnered with Marjorie Esmen, then director of the ACLU of Louisiana, to host the first organized public forum to discuss the need for a remedy and to discuss the potential for that remedy being new legislation, given Louisiana's status as a civil law jurisdiction.



The historic flyer that started the successful campaign

Chancellor John Pierre enthusiastically supported this research project and the subsequent efforts to end the practice in Louisiana. His commitment to the continuing pursuit of equality and justice is inspiring. There were many lawyers who attacked this system in court over the years. They are unsung heroes. There are countless other individuals and entities who joined the campaign to confront this change at the legislature or the polls. They are social justice warriors.



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News (Con't)

SULC Represented at Invitation - Only Celebration For Those at the Forefront of Recent Non-Unanimous Jury Reforms

Representatives Edmond Jordan and J.P. Morrell both filed bills and masterfully led the effort to bring this change in law to the voters. They are true patriots.



Professor Bell, Vera Lynn Vampeer



Professor Bell, Representative
Edmond Jordan, a SULC graduate

The change in law did not address the plight of those already convicted or those awaiting trials for offenses that occurred before January 1, 2019. It also didn't end the continued use of non-unanimous juries in Oregon. Thankfully, the United States Supreme Court has agreed to hear the *Ramos v. Louisiana* case, filed by Ben Cohen of the Promise of Justice Initiative. Mr. Cohen and his legal assistant, Calvin Duncan, have spent years seeking a grant of a certiorari from the United States Supreme Court by way of the Light of Justice Project. Thanks to their efforts, the attack on the legal injustice called non-unanimous juries lives on.

For details about *Ramos v. Louisiana*, see:

<https://www.scotusblog.com/case-files/cases/ramos-v-louisiana/>



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**DID YOU
KNOW?**



That “Racial Battle Fatigue” is more than an imagined condition?

In the early 2000s, University of Utah researcher William A. Smith coined the term “racial battle fatigue” while studying how racialized microaggressions—relatively inconspicuous, but potent, degradation of marginalized people—affected African American students at predominately white colleges and universities. His research found that students of African descent constantly worry, have trouble concentrating, become fatigued, and develop headaches when navigating personal and professional spaces that have historically favored white people. Since then, a series of studies have expanded this discussion, with some scholars finding that the stress of victims of racial microaggressions is comparable to the stress of soldiers of war. “White America tells Black people to get over the past, while Black people are suffering from the trauma of past and present racial oppression, and are tired of engaging in debates over racism, and justifying or explaining their experiences. That the physical and psychic effects of racism are being acknowledged in the medical and scientific communities goes a long way in developing solutions for those who experience the daily indignities of racism.”

Learn more here: https://atlantablackstar.com/2016/11/11/racial-battle-fatigue-is-real-victims-of-racial-microaggressions-are-stressed-like-soldiers-in-war/?fbclid=IwAR2XVhcx2w5_zjP7nHgENuz_Nfr69giLRDcytVgmlzPftA3gAzWAndvs2Fo





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Prior Events

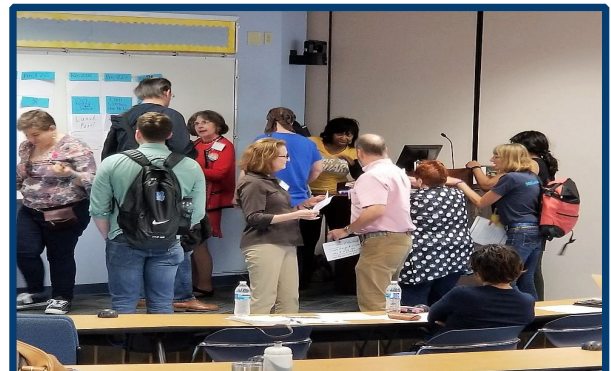
RootsCampLA 2019

RootsCampLA is the convening of activists in the state of Louisiana. It has been the progressive event of the year for the past eight years whether the issue is maintaining democratic control of schools, worker's rights, #BlackLivesMatter, voting rights, women's rights, transit, racial equality, disability rights, LGBTQIA, healthcare, or housing. This isn't your usual gathering; it's an "unconference." Instead of PowerPoints and "expert" panels, participants design sessions and decide the program.



Conference welcome by SULC student Dawn Collins

Time	Rm 170	Rm 172	Rm 225	Rm 227	Rm 129
10:00-11:00					
11:00-11:55	X	X	Sexual Rights Justice	End Economic Inequality for Women: Equal Pay, Paid Sick Leave, Workers Organizing	Leadership Development Institute
12:00-1:15	Lunch Panel	Lunch Panel	Lunch Panel	Lunch Panel	Lunch Panel
1:30-1:55	Organizing: Shared Vision, Shared Power, Shared Success	Organizing: Shared Vision, Shared Power, Shared Success	Organizing: Shared Vision, Shared Power, Shared Success	Organizing: Shared Vision, Shared Power, Shared Success	Organizing: Shared Vision, Shared Power, Shared Success
2:00-2:55	Organizing: Shared Vision, Shared Power, Shared Success	Organizing: Shared Vision, Shared Power, Shared Success	Organizing: Shared Vision, Shared Power, Shared Success	Organizing: Shared Vision, Shared Power, Shared Success	Organizing: Shared Vision, Shared Power, Shared Success
3:00-3:55	Organizing: Shared Vision, Shared Power, Shared Success	Organizing: Shared Vision, Shared Power, Shared Success	Organizing: Shared Vision, Shared Power, Shared Success	Organizing: Shared Vision, Shared Power, Shared Success	Organizing: Shared Vision, Shared Power, Shared Success
4:00-4:55	Organizing: Shared Vision, Shared Power, Shared Success	Organizing: Shared Vision, Shared Power, Shared Success	Organizing: Shared Vision, Shared Power, Shared Success	Organizing: Shared Vision, Shared Power, Shared Success	Organizing: Shared Vision, Shared Power, Shared Success



Imagining Louisiana's Sustainable Future Panel



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Prior Events (Con't)

RootsCampLA 2019 (Con't)



Public Education Panel



Women with a Vision Panel



Jodie Manale teaches valuable lessons about wedding restorative justice approaches with the traditional criminal prosecution process



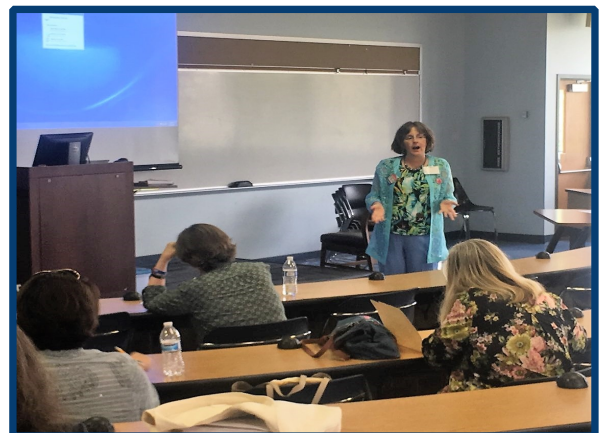
Fundraising Panel



Civil Rights Ordinance Panel



Cyber Security Panel



Camille Moran discusses equal rights



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Prior Events (Con't)

RootsCampLA 2019 (Con't)



Institute Staff with Seafood Workers Alliance after "Organizing Guest Workers Panel"



RootsCampLA Planning Committee



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Prior Events (Con't)

When Lady Justice Is Not Ladylike: Narratives from Female Prisoners in Louisiana

On March 13, 2019, the Institute partnered with Judge Trudy White to bring an interactive and educational exchange of information to SULC. Justice-Impacted ladies challenged our assumptions about incarcerated people. These ladies aided us in our understanding of the criminal justice system, from the commission of the crime through pretrial, trial, plea, sentence, incarceration and reentry.



Justice-Impacted Ladies



**Front: Representative Ted James; Academic Counselor and Instructor Mrs. Lamont
Rear: Professor Jones; Professor Oko**



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Prior Events (Con't)

When Lady Justice Is Not Ladylike: Narratives from Female Prisoners in Louisiana

"This event caused me to reflect on my accomplishments in life after being a survivor of domestic abuse myself. I could have very well been one of the presenters at the event."

2L SULC Student



Justice-Impacted Ladies, Judge Trudy White and Southern University Laboratory School Students and Staff



Judge Trudy White, Justin Bullard (2L), Professor Shea, Desni Scaife (2L), Tiffany Rainey, Professor Bell, Professor Collins-Thomas, Justice-Impacted Ladies



Dean Louis A. Berry Civil Rights and Justice Institute

Prior Event (Con't)

When Lady Justice Is Not Ladylike: Narratives from Female Prisoners in Louisiana



Dr. Mary Johnson leading prayer before lunch

“The Thirteenth Amendment is often credited for the abolishment of slavery; however, it did not eradicate all forms of slavery. The law itself states that slavery nor involuntary servitude shall exist, except as punishment for a crime. Therefore, individuals convicted of a crime are susceptible to chattel slavery as a form of punishment. They are stripped of their most basic civil rights and essentially deemed property of the state while imprisoned. In other words, slavery was never abolished; it was simply privatized. Even after their prison term has elapsed, they are marginalized in society with rigid discriminatory policies designed to put them back in prison. This is evident through the narratives of the justice-impacted women.”

—Saba Asebe Negatu



Dr. Mary Johnson, Judge Trudy White, Justice-Impacted Ladies



Chelsea Hale (2L), Justin Bullard (2L), Judge Trudy White



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Prior Event (Con't)

When Lady Justice Is Not Ladylike: Narratives from Female Prisoners in Louisiana



Olivia Montgomery (2L), and Tamara Austin (3L) learning from one of the Justice - Impacted ladies



**Representative Ted James,
Professor Bell, Checo Yancy**



**Professor Bell, Assistant Warden,
Warden Boutte**



**Judge Trudy White, Tiffany Rainey, Professor
Bell, Justice - Impacted Ladies**



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Prior Event (Con't)

When Lady Justice Is Not Ladylike: Narratives from Female Prisoners in Louisiana



Christian Hebert-Pryor (2L), Johnathan White (2L),
Eric Citizen (2L), Professor Bell, Terry George (2L)



Professor Burden, Tiffany Rainey, Professor Alford,
Professor Bell



Rear: Angela Gaines
Front: Justice - Impacted Ladies



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Reading Assignment



Amid The College Admission Scandal, Let's Reflect On The Black Teen Accused Of Cheating On Her SAT's

The news that an [FBI investigation revealed](#) dozens of wealthy white people paid big money to rig admissions procedures for their privileged kids to be accepted into top colleges rocked the entire country. The aspect of the college admissions cheating scandal was quite ironic considering earlier this year a Black high school student was interrogated and shamed for improving her SAT score.

Learn more here: <https://newsone.com/3848402/college-admission-scandal-kamilah-campbell/>

The First Black Catholic Priest In The U.S. Is One Step Closer to Sainthood

The first black Roman Catholic priest in the United States has moved closer to sainthood after a Vatican committee approved the Reverend Augustus Tolton for the next step in the process. Tolton, who was born into slavery and escaped during the Civil War, was rejected by United States seminaries and moved to Rome to receive his priestly training.

Learn more here: <https://www.nola.com/news/2019/03/the-first-black-catholic-priest-in-the-us-is-one-step-closer-to-sainthood-report.html>

Civil Rights Leader Medgar Evers' Home Becomes a National Monument

In February, Congress passed a bipartisan public lands bill that included the addition of four national monuments, one of which is Evers' home. The legislation was signed into law by Donald Trump. "It will always be the home that Medgar Evers and I lived, loved and reared our children in until he was shot in the back of the driveway of our home because he fought for his beliefs of justice and equality for all citizens of the United States of America," Evers' wife, Myrlie, said in an interview.

Learn more here: https://www.diversityinc.com/civil-rights-leader-medgar-evers-home-becomes-a-national-monument/?utm_source=hs_email&utm_medium=email&utm_content=70850741&hsenc=p2ANqtz--ntSAtac2l1XJAZWtcYGBhM9LI9WfWoTZXACSjNXvwSRty9j93Mq3urvltp7KC-kleubyZzI_6b9Bw0xM4oLP169yC9sQ&hsmi=70850741

"I am no longer accepting the things I cannot change. I am changing the things I cannot accept."

—Angela Davis



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Announcements:

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.

Please consider supporting these programs and/or sharing these event details:

Reconstruction: America After the Civil War (Documentary)

This new, four hour documentary series will tell the full story of the misrepresented and misunderstood Reconstruction Era. It will show how the past informs the present.

Airing: 04/09/19 on PBS

To view: <https://www.pbs.org/video/reconstruction-america-after-civil-war-featurette-iotwjo/>

A Movie Screening & Roundtable Discussion (Documentary and Panel Discussion)

The Role of Ethnicity in Nigeria Social Conditions

Hosted by: Center for African and African American Studies (CAAAS), Association of Nigerians in New Orleans (ANNO) and the New Orleans Museum of Art (NOMA)

Friday, April 12, 2019

For more info: <http://www.suno.edu/news/category/announcements>

Black Spirit-Black Power: Africana and Liberation Conference

Keynote by: Oba Adegbolu Adefunmi, II

Friday, April 19, 2019

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

SUNO

New Orleans, LA

For more info and registration: www.asrsa.org

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.

Thursday, April 25, 2019

251 Florida St, Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Contact: jenniferharding@vote-nola.org



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Announcements: (Con't)

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.

Please consider supporting these programs and/or sharing these event details:

Operation Restoration: CANScantSTAND Symposium

A conversation with individuals who have been impacted by Louisiana's Crime Against Nature law.

Tuesday, April 30, 2019

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Tulane University

Newcomb Art Museum

6832 St. Charles Ave. Bldg. #81

New Orleans, LA 70118

New Energy For A New Day Conference: Collaborating for Stronger Communities

Sunday, May 4, 2019

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Alexandria, LA

For more info: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/new-energy-for-a-new-day-conference-tickets-58006441829>

Greer Goff Mendi 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

9th National Civil Rights Conference

Monday - Tuesday, June 17 - 19, 2019

Birmingham, Alabama

For more info: <http://civilrightsconference.com>



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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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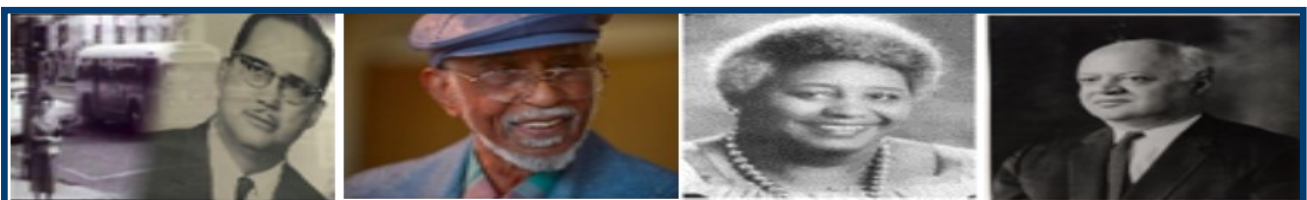
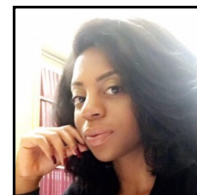
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Student Worker



Desni Scaife (2L)
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