



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

SULC Lawyer-Leader Lectures Civil Rights Litigation Students



Attorney Natalie Blackman

On February 6, 2019, Natalie Blackman, a 2014 graduate of the Southern University Law Center, left a lasting impression on the students in Professor Allen-Bell's Civil Rights Litigation class when she spoke about her career as a civil rights attorney. In addition to discussing a number of federal civil rights laws, Ms. Blackman shared cherished pleading and settlement negotiation tips. She also shared invaluable advice about the intricacies of jury selection and discovery before she told the students some financial truths about beginning a career as a solo practitioner. Ms. Blackman well demonstrated both the workload and benefits of being a civil rights attorney. The class of future agents of change were profoundly impacted by her example, experiences and insights.

Written by: Justin Bullard



Civil Rights Litigation Students



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Events

We are excited to share details about a number of stimulating and impactful programs. Please grace us with your presence and invite others.

03/08/19: 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Women from around the Cancer Alley area became new filmmakers this year, each crafting two-minute stories of their experience living next to petrochemical plants. Using footage from their own lives, these new filmmakers are ready to take their stories on the road as leaders and strategists for the Louisiana environmental movement. Includes a panel discussion with women in the film.

Hosted by: The Women of Cancer Alley, Louisiana Bucket Brigade, 350 New Orleans and the Unitarian Church of Baton Rouge

Location: 8470 Goodwood Blvd
Baton Rouge, LA 70806

Further Details: https://www.facebook.com/events/233196150968830/?notif_t=plan_user_joined¬if_id=1550255539997878

03/09/19: 9:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Roots Camp Day (1 of 2)

RootsCampLA is the convening of activists in the state. It has been the progressive event of the year for the past eight years whether your issue is maintaining democratic control of schools, worker's rights, #BlackLivesMatter, voting rights, women's rights, transit, racial equality, LGBTQIA, disability rights, 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. This doesn't mean "experts" aren't in the room. They are - many of them are you. RootsCampLA is about fostering homegrown talent.

Hosted by: Solidarity Project Advocacy Network and the Louis A. Berry Civil Rights and Justice Institute

Location: Southern University Law Center
2 Roosevelt Steptoe Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70813

Agenda: <https://spanlouisiana.org/rootscampla/agenda/>

Registration: Advance Registration required. Admission is free to SULC students who present an ID and register with the code that was sent by email.

To register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/9th-annual-rootscampla-2019-tickets-53843628743>



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Events (Con't):

- 03/10/19:** **10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**
Roots Camp (Day 2)
- Hosted by:** Solidarity Project Advocacy Network and the Louis A. Berry Civil Rights and Justice Institute
- Location:** Southern University Law Center
2 Roosevelt Steptoe Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70813
- Agenda:** <https://spanlouisiana.org/rootscampla/agenda/>
- Registration:** **Advance Registration required. Admission free to SULC students who present an ID and register with the code that was sent by email.**
To register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/9th-annual-rootscampla-2019-tickets-53843628743>
- 03/13/19:** **12:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.**
When Lady Justice is Not Ladylike:
Narratives from Female Prisoners in Louisiana
This is an interactive and educational exchange of information that challenges your assumptions about incarcerated people. Through the mouth of women who are “in custody,” you will better understand the criminal justice system from the commission of the crime through pretrial, trial, plea, sentence, incarceration and reentry.
- Hosted By:** Judge Trudy White and the Louis A. Berry and Civil Rights and Justice Institute
- Location:** Southern University Law Center
2 Roosevelt Steptoe Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70813
Room 129
*Free and open to the public





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**DID YOU
KNOW?**



That the distressing photo of "Whipped Peter's" scarred back was taken during a medical examination in Baton Rouge, Louisiana in 1863?

"Whipped Peter" joined the Union Army after his escape from slavery. This is when, during a medical examination, he exposed his scars.

"A photograph of Peter's back became one of the most widely circulated images of slavery of its time, galvanizing public opinion and serving as a wordless indictment of the institution of slavery. Peter's disfigured back helped bring the stakes of the Civil War to life, contradicting Southerners' insistence that their slaveholding was a matter of economic survival, not racism. And it showed just how important mass media was during the war that nearly destroyed the United States."

Learn more here: <https://www.history.com/news/whipped-peter-slavery-photo-scourged-back-real-story-civil-war>



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Prior Events

Professor Angela A. Allen-Bell Presents: "The Role of the People in Justice Battles: An Overlooked Aspect of Civil Rights Litigation"

On February 17, 2019, the Louis A. Berry Civil Rights and Justice Institute joined forces with the Red Shoes for an African American History Month presentation. Professor Angela A. Allen-Bell, director of the Institute for Civil Rights and Justice, explained how "working from the streets" was used to fight injustice during the civil rights era and how it is still necessary today. During her talk, she cited some local change agents as examples and she recognized them briefly. Each person in attendance learned how to take an active role in creating social and criminal justice changes.



Change Agent Katie Fetzer



Change Agent Joan Garner representing the late John Garner



Change Agent Reverend Alexis Anderson



The Kennon Sisters, Change Agents



SULC Staff Members Angela Mason, Marla Dickerson



Professor Delseo Alford, Professor Angela Allen-Bell, Tiffany Rainey, Institute Facilitator



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Prior Events (Con't):



Afterwards, one audience member shared:

"Thank you for a phenomenal talk that stirred everyone in the room. I heard stories that I will never forget and stories that I have been woefully unaware of. I am so grateful for the beautifully constructed presentation that was the perfect mix of facts, emotion and personal story."



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Prior Events (Con't):

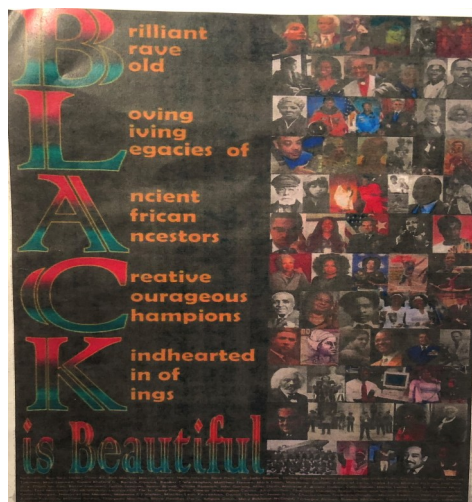
African American History Month Address at Louisiana Correctional Institute for Women



Law Student Desni Scaife, Professor Angela Allen-Bell, Tina Washington (SULC Staff), Law Student Kenyatta Barthelemy

On February 20, 2018, Professor Angela A. Allen-Bell and law students Kenyatta Barthelemy and Desni Scaife, on behalf of the Institute, presented an African American History Month address to the women at the Louisiana Correctional Institute for Women. During her address, Professor Allen-Bell urged the ladies to celebrate African American leaders by "emulating them and not just remembering them." Kenyatta Barthelemy read an original poem, entitled "Shackles." Thereafter, Desni Scaife read the poem "Blackness" by the late Gwendolyn Brooks.

In reflection, Kenyatta Barthelemy wrote: "The creativity the women put into the production truly impressed and inspired me. Their bodies may be locked down, but their minds and souls are not bound by their conditions." Desni Scaife experienced momentary joy over the fact that their spirits were not broken. According to her, "It was inspiring to see all of the creativity demonstrated to commemorate black history."



Professor Angela Allen-Bell, Warden Frederick Boutte, Tina Washington (SULC Staff), Law Student Kenyatta Barthelemy

One of the justice-impacted ladies wrote to us: "The message you delivered...was powerful...what I call greatness. Thank you for shedding light on our history. I was inspired in so many ways. I was touched in my mind, body and soul. The program was very inspirational."



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Prior Events (Con't):

Jena 6 Member Theo Shaw Visits SULC for African American History Month



Jena 6 Member Theo Shaw

On Monday, February 25, 2019, Jena 6 member Theo Shaw, now a law school graduate, recounted his experiences as an innocent, seventeen-year-old-child incarcerated for eight months because financial obstacles prevented his parents from posting the \$130,000 bond required to secure his release as one of the Jena 6 defendants. Quoting Bryan Stevenson, the founder of the Equal Justice Initiative, Mr. Shaw stated, "The system rewards you if you're rich and guilty, and punishes you if you're poor and innocent." He also observed what he described are two justice systems at this moment. This disparity was the basis of his discussion of the many challenges that plague minorities and indigents in the criminal justice system. While in custody, Mr. Shaw learned advocacy and became committed to improving the justice system. He ended by urging the audience to join him in his efforts because, in his view: "We can't afford to be hopeless. It's too expensive." This event was jointly hosted by the SULC Lecture Series Committee and the Louis A. Berry Civil Rights and Justice Institute.

Written by: Desni Scaife



Professor Angela Allen-Bell



Theo Shaw with Southern University Laboratory School Students and Staff



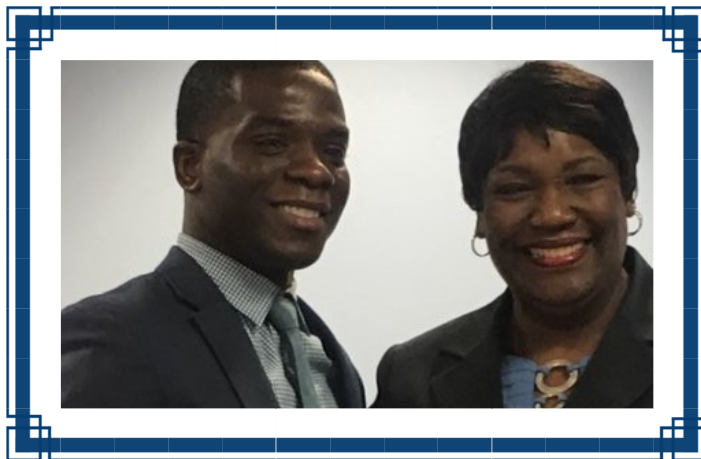


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Prior Events (Con't):

Jena 6 Member Theo Shaw's Visit to SULC



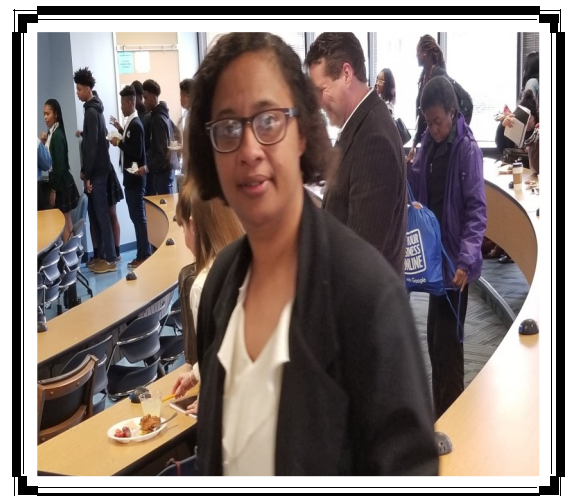
Theo Shaw, Attorney Alfreda Tillman-Bester



Chancellor Pierre, Theo Shaw, Law Student Kenyatta Barthelemy



Star Brandon, Desni Scaife, Theo Shaw, Justin Bullard



Joan Garner, daughter of the late civil rights legend, John Garner



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Reading Assignment



“They Call Me Baby Doll”

The Baby Dolls are one of the numerous social aid and pleasure clubs that can be found in New Orleans African American neighborhoods. They are a group of African American women carnival maskers who dress up on Mardi Gras day in short satin skirts, with bloomers, and garters. Like other clubs, they participate in the second-line tradition of dancing, singing and chanting while accompanying a brass band on public streets in a display of collective identity. The baby dolls date back to 1912 when Jim Crow was the law of the land in the South.

Learn more: <https://64parishes.org/baby-dolls>

Krewe of Freret Imposes Lifetime Ban on Guest Rider with Confederate Monuments Throws

The Krewe of Freret has banned a guest rider from future parades after an investigation found she tossed yellow penalty flags that said New Orleans was “robbed” of Confederate monuments. The rider said in an interview that she also threw “Forever Lee Circle” beads with an image of Robert E. Lee on the pendant, an item she created and sold last year.

Learn more: <https://www.nola.com/politics/2019/02/krewe-of-freret-imposes-lifetime-ban-on-guest-rider-with-confederate-monuments-throws.html>

Understanding the “Legacy of Oppression” Behind Blackface

The practice became popular in mid-1800's minstrel shows when white performers darkened their faces to depict African Americans in prejudicial and offensive ways. Civil rights organizations complain that blackface dehumanizes African Americans and reinforces racial stereotypes.

Learn more here: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/understanding-the-legacy-of-oppression-behind-blackface/>



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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 our partners by attending these programs and/or sharing these event details:

Can You Vote?

A Conversation About Newly Restored Voting Rights

Tuesday, March 6, 2019

Baton Rouge, LA

jenniferharding@vote-nola.org

Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates (COPAA)

21st Annual Conference

Thursday - Friday, March 7-10, 2019

New Orleans, LA

www.copaa.org/2019conference

Unlocking Employment Opportunities

Rehabilitating Individuals through Strategic Encounters

Friday, March 8, 2019

Baton Rouge, LA

<https://shonhopwoodbr.org/>

Medical Bondage with Dr. Deirdre Cooper Owens

Tuesday, March 12, 2019

New York, NY

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-lapidus-center-presents-medical-bondage-with-dr-deirdre-cooper-owens-tickets-54182464209>



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Announcements (Con't)

Janai S. Nelson, Esq.

The Social, Political, and Legal Relevace of, and to, the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.

Hosted by: SUNO's Center for African & African American Studies (CAAAS)

Monday, March 18, 2019

New Orleans, LA

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

A Splendid Body of Tigerish People

A conversation about the Center for Constitutional Rights' renewed commitment to help build and strengthen the social justice movements in the South.

Tuesday, March 19, 2019

New Orleans, LA

tjackson-mau@ccrjustice.org

Visionary Women Conference: Champions of Perseverance, Persistence and Progress

Wednesday - Friday, March 20 - 22, 2019

Shreveport, LA

<https://www.nawj.org/>

Conference for Men, Boys and the Women Who Love Them

Friday, March 29, 2019 @ 6:00 p.m.

Baker, LA

<https://fo-fo.facebook.com/events/1380222812117335/>

9th National Civil Rights Conference

Monday - Tuesday, June 17 - 19, 2019

Birmingham, Alabama

<http://civilrightsconference.com>

SULC Diversity Committee Program

Monday, April 1, 2019, at 12:00 p.m.

SULC

MGarrard@sulc.edu



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Contact Us:

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Tiffany Rainey
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Justin Bullard (2L)
Student Worker



Desni Scaife (2L)
Student Worker



John K. Pierre is the Chancellor of SULC. Phone: 225-771-2552 Email: Jpierre@sulc.edu



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“ I am persuaded that justice will come when the ideas in our minds are fueled by the convictions in our hearts. It’s not just minds that we have to change. We have to change people’s hearts.”

Bryan A. Stevenson
Equal Justice Initiative

