

# CHANCELLOR'S REPORT



*Producing Lawyer Leaders*

**APRIL 2025**

---

# INSIDE STORY

## LOUISIANA SUPREME COURT JUSTICES CONDUCT ORAL ARGUMENTS AT SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER

The Louisiana Supreme Court held oral arguments at Southern University Law Center (SULC) on Monday, March 17, 2025. Law Center students, faculty, and staff were invited to attend. Each of Louisiana's four law school deans traditionally invites the Supreme Court to conduct oral arguments on their campuses.

The Louisiana Supreme Court's docket included four cases. The 19th Judicial District Court retired Judge Richard Anderson sat as Justice ad hoc for Justice Griffin who recused for one case. Three cases were heard at LSU on Tuesday, March 18, 2025. After oral arguments concluded, the Justices had discussions with students and faculty about the justice system and the importance of professionalism in legal practice. Notably, Chief Justice John L. Weimer and Justices Jefferson Hughes, William J. Crain, Jay B. McCallum, and Piper D. Griffin are graduates of LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center; Justice John Michael Guidry is a Southern University Law Center graduate and Justice Cade R. Cole is a Tulane University Law School graduate.

This event marked the first time that newly elected Louisiana Supreme Court Justice Guidry and Justice Cole participated in law school visits as Supreme Court Justices. In January 2025, Justice John Michael Guidry was elected as an Associate Justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court for the Second District, after serving 27 years on the First Circuit Court of Appeal, including two years as chief judge.



In March, Justice Cade R. Cole, who served as Louisiana's first state and local tax judge, was elected Associate Justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court for the Third District.

Following the oral arguments, the Law Center hosted a reception to honor Justice John Michael Guidry and celebrate his historic appointment.

# INSIDE STORY

## SULC FACULTY HOSTS ALTERNATIVE PUBLICATION PATHWAYS WORKSHOP

The Southern University Law Center hosted a Faculty Alternative Publication Pathways Workshop, an informative session designed to help faculty explore new avenues for publishing their legal research.

The workshop, led by Vice Chancellor Regina Ramsey and Professor Gail Stephenson, provided insights on alternative publication opportunities and strategies for successful submissions to Louisiana publishers.

Vice Chancellor Ramsey opened the session by emphasizing the importance of making legal scholarship more accessible and impactful. Professor Stephenson followed with a detailed discussion on practical steps faculty could take to navigate alternative publishing options.

The workshop equipped SULC faculty with fresh strategies to enhance their research visibility and influence. It was a productive reinforcing the Law Center's commitment to academic excellence and innovation.



## SULC JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, BUSINESS, AND POLICY SYMPOSIUM HIGHLIGHT GLOBAL INTERSECTIONS

Southern University Law Center's Journal of International Law, Business, and Policy hosted its 2nd Annual Symposium on Global Intersections: Navigating the Nexus of International Law, Business, and Policy.

This virtual symposium provided a comprehensive exploration of key global issues, including International Criminal Law, National Security, and Global Health Threats. A featured presentation by LexisNexis highlighted how to use legal research tools and methodologies.

During the symposium, speakers discussed the impact of federal AI regulations on data privacy, global labor standards, and cross-border labor relations. Additionally, participants learned about the Temple University Japan's study abroad program and other critical topics shaping international law and policy.



# INSIDE STORY

## SULC's Mock Trial Team Shine at National BLSA Competition

The Southern University Law Center (SULC) was proudly represented at the National Black Law Students Association (NBLSA) Mock Trial Competition by law students William Gaspard Jr., Jada Haynes, Aaron Manzy, and Alexis Blanton. Competing against top teams from across the nation, the team showcased exceptional advocacy skills, earning an impressive team score of 80 out of 100.

Haynes and Gaspard secured a ballot victory in the second preliminary round, while Manzy and Blanton achieved the team's highest individual scores. Earlier in the season, the team made history by winning the first Mock Trial championship for an SULC team since 2021 at the regional tournament



## LOUIS A. BERRY INSTITUTE HOSTS “JUVENILE JUSTICE ON THE BALLOT” SYMPOSIUM TO EMPOWER VOTERS

Southern University Law Center's Louis A. Berry Institute for Civil Rights and Justice hosted a symposium examining the legal landscape and the critical role of informed voting on justice-related policies.

The discussion featured Meghan Matt, a juvenile defense attorney and SULC graduate, who led a conversation on Amendment Three and its impact on youth, the juvenile justice system, and adult corrections. The event was moderated by Ada Goodly Lampkin, Director of the Louis A. Berry Institute for Civil Rights and Justice, who encouraged participants to stay informed and actively contribute to shaping the future of justice.

# STUDENT FEATURES

## MORGAN JOHNSON



Morgan Johnson secured a new role as Deputy District Attorney with the Denver District Attorney's Office.

## JASMINE BELLARD



Jasmine Bellard secured an internship with Entergy-sponsored Access to and a summer 2025 externship with Honorable Judge Erin Wilder-Doomes in the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana.

## MICHAELA WEEKS



Michaela Weeks landed a full-time position as Assistant District Attorney at the Orleans Parish District Attorney's Office

## GENESIS ABRAM



Genesis Abram accepted a full-time position as a staff attorney at the Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo, Inc. in the Criminal Defense Unit.

## KIERAN WILLIAMS



Kieran Williams secured an internship as a Legislative Aide with the Texas House of Representatives.

## MATTHEW REED



Matthew Reed received the Judge Ed Lombard Scholarship Award from the Louisiana Judicial Council/National Bar Association Foundation.

## MADISON DIEZ



Madison Diez accepted a position as an associate attorney at Long Law Firm in Baton Rouge.

## SAMANTHA BLOEMER



Samantha Bloemer secured a post-graduation employment opportunity as a partner-track associate attorney at Kean Miller LLP

# ALUMNI FEATURES

## PAULA H. CLAYTON



Paula Hartley Clayton was appointed to Judge Pro Tempore for Division “A” of East Baton Rouge City Court.

## DEIDRE D. ROBERT



Deidre Deculus Robert was appointed to President and CEO of Build Baton Rouge.



APR | 2<sup>ND</sup> - 5<sup>TH</sup>



**EVENT SCHEDULE**

**APRIL 2025**

2 WED	<b>CLE</b> "The Voting Rights Act @ 60: The Enduring Fight for the Vote" Presenters: Judge Nicole Sheppard and Attorney Drake Vargas Location: Oliver B. Spillman Library, Alicia A. Roche Room   12 p.m. <i>Please review additional flyers for more CLE seminars</i>
3 THURS	<b>THE STUDENT PROFESSIONAL WORKSHOP</b> Presenters: Judge Nicole Sheppard and Attorney Drake Vargas SULC Room 130   12 p.m.
4 FRI	<b>JUDICIAL WALL OF FAME UNVEILING CEREMONY</b> Join us as we recognize the newest Judges to be inducted into the Judicial Wall of Fame which hangs in the North Wing of the Law Center. Bert & Sue Turner Gallery Show: Center for the Arts   4 p.m.
5 SAT	<b>DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI &amp; FRIENDS RECEPTION</b> Join us for one of the best views of the Mississippi River as we recognize those Alumni and Friends who have distinguished themselves in service to the Law Center, their communities, and the pursuit of justice everywhere. River Terrace Show: Center for the Arts   5:30 p.m.

**CHANCELLOR'S ANNUAL GOLF SCRAMBLE TOURNAMENT**  
Alumni & Friends of the Law Center bring their best golf game to Raise Green on the Green. With good food and friendly, but fierce competition, the event is a fun day for those who participate.  
7 a.m. Registration | 8 a.m. Shotgun Start | Copper Hill Golf Course

**ALUMNI HALL OF FAME GALA**  
Join us for the pinnacle event of the Round-Up weekend where alumni classes gather and the Law Center recognizes the newest inductees into the Alumni Hall of Fame.  
6 p.m. Reception | 7 p.m. Dinner & Program | Renaissance Hotel, Baton Rouge, LA

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON REGISTRATION AND SPONSORSHIP, CONTACT ROBBIN THOMAS AT (225) 771-5878 OR VIA E-MAIL TO [rthomas@sulc.edu](mailto:rthomas@sulc.edu)

APR 8<sup>TH</sup>

SULC's Agricultural Law Institute and the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry present

## HEIRS PROPERTY WORKSHOP

GAIN EXPERT INSIGHTS AND PRACTICAL TRAINING ON ESSENTIAL TOPICS SUCH AS HEIRS' PROPERTY RIGHTS, ESTATE PLANNING AND TRUSTS, LAND DEVELOPMENT, LEGAL ASSISTANCE, AND MORE.

**APRIL 8<sup>TH</sup>**

**10 A.M.**

**OPELOUSAS CIVIC CENTER**  
1638 CRESWELL LANE, OPELOUSAS, LA

**FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**  
LIMITED NUMBER OF FAMILIES WILL RECEIVE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE WITH REGISTRATION FEE.

**REGISTER HERE:**  
[WWW.SULC.EDU/HEIRSPROPERTY](http://WWW.SULC.EDU/HEIRSPROPERTY)  
REGISTRATION REQUIRED



Office of Innovation and Strategic Partnerships and Initiatives  
Agricultural Law Institute  
Heirs' Property Institute



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY



APR | 24<sup>TH</sup> - 25<sup>TH</sup>



DR. CHRIS HASKELL



MYKIAH BONHOM



ADRIAN OWEN JONES



WAYNE MEEKINS



MARC AUBANEL



CHRISTOPHER DOUGLAS



JOHN CASH



WIM STOCKS



ADRIENNE MOLIERE



JOSHUA WETHERHOLT



LUMEN VERA



DR. LEALON L. MARTIN

## ESPORTS SUMMIT

**APRIL 24-25, 2025**  
REGISTRATION: [SULC.EDU/ESPORTS](http://SULC.EDU/ESPORTS)



SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY  
Office of Innovation and Strategic Partnerships and Initiatives



SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER  
P.O. Box 9294, BATON ROUGE, LA 70813  
(225)-771-2552 | [www.sulc.edu](http://www.sulc.edu)

The Southern University Law Center is a unit of the Southern University System

Dennis J. Shields, President of the Southern University System  
Alvin R. Washington, SULC Chancellor

*Produced by the SULC Office of Communications and External Affairs*