

CHANCELLOR'S REPORT



Producing Lawyer Leaders

AUGUST 2025

INSIDE STORY

THE LAW CENTER TAKES EARLY ACTION TO ALIGN CURRICULUM WITH NEXTGEN BAR EXAM



Southern University Law Center (SULC) is taking proactive measures to ensure its students are fully prepared for the NextGen Bar Exam. Recently, the Law Center engaged a consultant from the Law School Admission Council (LSAC) to conduct a thorough review of the common law curriculum, measuring it against the National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE) Content Scope Outlines for the new exam format.

The review also examined programmatic and course-level learning outcomes and evaluated the inclusion of formative assessments in course syllabi. Recently, the consultant presented findings and recommendations to the faculty, offering a clear roadmap for enhancing bar exam readiness.

Among recommendations were a review of programmatic learning outcomes to ensure compliance with ABA Standard 302(a), the adoption of a uniform syllabus template that standardizes course details and assessment methods, and closer alignment of course coverage with NextGen Bar Exam content. She also advised increasing opportunities for students to develop essential skills, such as drafting memos, briefs, and client letters, throughout the common law curriculum, as well as providing faculty with training on creating course-level outcomes and incorporating small, frequent formative assessments.

The consultant noted that SULC is in a strong position to meet these goals because it is starting the process early, nearly three years before graduates will face the new exam and well in advance of its next accreditation site visit.

INSIDE STORY

SULC LAUNCHES BAR EXAM READINESS FACULTY COMMITTEES TO SUPPORT STUDENT SUCCESS



As part of Southern University Law Center's ongoing commitment to strengthening students' readiness for the bar exam, the Law Center has established Bar Exam Readiness Faculty Committees.

These committees will identify the essential skills students need for bar exam success and track when those skills are introduced, reinforced, applied, assessed, and practiced throughout the academic journey, from pre-law and doctrinal courses to bar preparation and supplemental programs. They will also recommend strategies to integrate, align, and enhance these skills across the curriculum.

The committees include Civil Law Committee, Common Law Committee, and NextGen Committee.

Each committee is encouraged to convene next week to define objectives, set timelines, and develop action plans. The planning process will include reviewing curriculum, aligning with bar exam requirements, researching best practices, and preparing recommendations for faculty consideration.

Through these coordinated efforts, SULC aims to further equip graduates with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to excel on the bar exam and in their legal careers.

INSIDE STORY

NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION WELCOMES INCOMING CLASS TO SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER

Southern University Law Center recently welcomed its newest class of future legal professionals during New Student Orientation. Over the course of the two days, students met faculty and staff, connected with classmates, and gained knowledge into the academic rigor and supportive community that define the Law Center experience.



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI HONORED AT ANNUAL ALUMNI BREAKFAST

Southern University Law Center proudly celebrated excellence and achievement this summer. In Chicago, SULC hosted its Annual Alumni Breakfast during the 100th Annual National Bar Association Convention, honoring Kerri D. Brown ('06) and Chiquita Hall-Jackson ('13) for their outstanding leadership and advocacy.

INSIDE STORY



SULC STUDENTS AT COLUMBIA LAW SCHOOL'S U.S. BUSINESS LAW ACADEMY



Through a partnership between Southern University Law Center's Office of Innovation and Strategic Partnership and Initiatives (SULC) and Columbia Law School, students Diana Copeland and Breanna Magee embarked on a transformative three-week journey at the U.S. Business Law Academy at Columbia Law School in New York City. From July 6–25, 2025, they joined more than 100 aspiring legal professionals from over 25 countries to study U.S. business law through interactive courses, discussions, and immersive cultural experiences throughout the city.

Thanks to Columbia Law School's generous sponsorship, Copeland and Magee gained not only an in-depth understanding of U.S. business transactions but also access to a global network of future legal leaders.

Both students left New York with a deeper sense of confidence, pride in representing SULC, and clarity about their professional goals.

Beyond the classroom, the program offered moments of connection and discovery. Networking with leading New York attorneys and building friendships with peers from countries such as India, France, and Mexico, participants experienced firsthand how the legal profession can bridge cultures and foster a shared commitment to justice.

INSIDE STORY

SULC, OPD, AND BPDA LAUNCH DIAMONIQUE WHALEY FELLOWSHIP TO HONOR ALUMNA AND ADVANCE PUBLIC DEFENSE



Southern University Law Center (SULC), in partnership with the Orleans Public Defenders (OPD) and the Black Public Defender Association (BPDA), proudly announces the launch of the Diamonique Whaley Attorney Fellowship. This yearlong fellowship with the Orleans Public Defenders provides recent Southern Law graduates with a unique and impactful opportunity to launch their careers in public defense and community advocacy.

The fellowship is named in memory of Diamonique Whaley, a graduate of Southern University Law Center, and dedicated Staff Attorney with OPD in New Orleans. Throughout her legal career, Whaley zealously represented people navigating the legal system, but her passion was working with kids in both the juvenile and adult legal systems. Whaley was deeply committed to advocating for her clients and fighting against the injustices of the criminal legal system and harms of system interaction.

The Diamonique Whaley Attorney Fellowship honors a legacy of fierce advocacy and aims to equip rising public defenders with the tools and experiences needed to advance justice in marginalized communities. In honoring Whaley's memory, the fellowship ensures her passion for zealous representation and advocacy continues through others.

Launching in the fall of 2026, the Diamonique Whaley Attorney Fellowship is a one-year, full-time

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CONT. LAUNCH DIAMONIQUE WHALEY FELLOWSHIP TO HONOR ALUMNA

Launching in the fall of 2026, the Diamonique Whaley Attorney Fellowship is a one-year, full-time opportunity for recent SULC graduates to begin powerful careers in public defense while advocating for and representing people in New Orleans. The fellow will gain immersive legal experience within OPD and benefit from structured mentorship and receive targeted and robust professional development through BPDA.

SUMMER SEND-OFF UNITES SHREVEPORT-BOSSIER LEGAL COMMUNITY IN SUPPORT OF SULC STUDENTS



The Black Lawyers Association of Shreveport-Bossier, led by alumna and president Felicia M. Hamilton ('14) hosted a Summer Send-Off Celebration for Law Center students from the Shreveport-Bossier area. The gathering welcomed four incoming 1Ls, two returning 3Ls, and multiple Law Center alumni in the Shreveport-Bossier City area. The celebration reflected the strength of the SULC family where students, alumni, and the local legal community come together to encourage, support, and uplift one another.

STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

LYNDSI FELDER



Lyndsi Felder joined Markovich Grover PLLC as a summer intern.

CALEB MAYO



Caleb Mayo secured a position as a law clerk with the 14th Judicial District Court.

ANDREW GARCIA



Andrew Garcia accepted a law clerk position with Stockstill Defense Firm.

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

VALENCIA BENNETT



Valencia Carter-Bennett was recognized by Influential Women for her achievements and impact in the legal profession.

LANCE BEAL



Lance Beal was named one of the National Trial Lawyers Top 100 Civil Plaintiff attorneys.

JASON BONAVENTURE



Jason Bonaventure started a new role as Special Counsel at Hammonds, Sills, Adkins, Guice, Noah & Perkins.

JARED NELSON



Jared Nelson was named as a 2025 On the Rise - Top 40 Young Lawyer.

JUANITA ESCARMENT



Juanita Escarment secured a position as an Immigration Law Clerk at the Law Office of Mitchell Cohen.

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

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