

CHANCELLOR'S REPORT



Producing Lawyer Leaders

DECEMBER 2024

INSIDE STORY

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER RECEIVES \$100K DONATION FROM ALUMNUS; FACULTY AND STAFF HONORED WITH ABOVE AND BEYOND RECOGNITION



During the November Southern University System Board of Supervisors meeting, alumnus and board chairman-elect, District Attorney Tony Clayton, presented Interim Chancellor Alvin Washington with a \$100,000 donation for the Southern University Law Center.

Additionally, Law Center student De'Naesha Mitchell and Dr. Samantha Thompson, Director of Institutional Accountability and Professional Development, received the Above and Beyond Award in recognition of their excellence and dedication to SULC.



INSIDE STORY

LAW CENTER EMPLOYEE STANDS AS A BEACON OF RESILIENCE WHILE EARNING A PH.D.

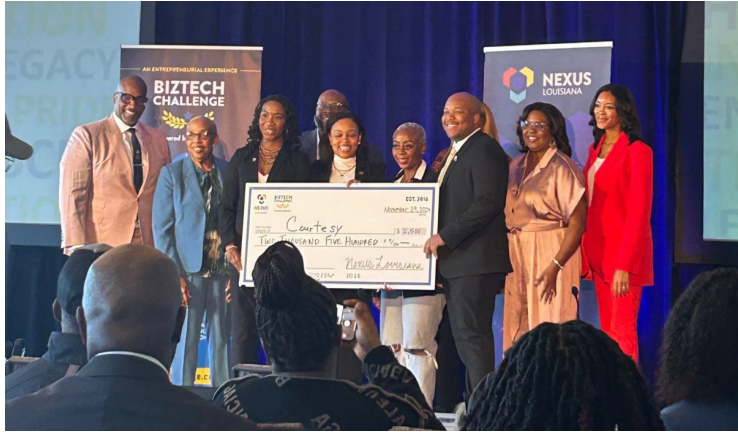


Dr. Lena Mae Johnson exemplified dedication and advocacy, transforming adversity into triumph through her unwavering commitment to professional excellence and community service. As the coordinator of admission and Title IX confidential advisor at Southern University Law Center (SULC), she pursued an Executive Ph.D. in Public Policy to become a policy change agent. Despite working full-time and facing significant health challenges within her family, she produced groundbreaking research on Sickle Cell Disease, publishing two significant articles in 2024. These articles explored healthcare disparities and hospitalization trends for sickle cell patients, driven by her personal connection to the disease through her children.

Dr. Johnson's story is one of resilience, dedication, and unwavering faith. Her contributions to public policy, healthcare, and education underscore her commitment to making a difference. She aimed to secure more resources for sickle cell research and establish a new facility in Baton Rouge, alongside plans to open a non-profit agency to assist patients with chronic illnesses. An active member of the American Society for Public Administrators (ASPA) and the Conference of Minority Public Administrators (COMPA), Dr. Johnson's legacy serves as an inspiring example of overcoming adversity and effecting meaningful change.

INSIDE STORY

SULC STUDENTS ADVANCE TO COMPETE IN BIZTECH CHALLENGE



Four Southern University Law Center (SULC) students advanced to the BizTech Challenge finals hosted by Nexus Louisiana. SULC students Daryl Boyd, Taylor Brown, Kandice Asbury and Lilia Gomez, coached by professor Adrienne Shields, competed in front of a live audience on Friday, November 29, 2024, during the Bayou Classic Weekend in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Nexus Louisiana is a Baton Rouge-based non-profit whose mission is to help accelerate the growth of tech and innovative startups across the state. In alignment with their mission, they hosted the BizTech Challenge, a 15-week STEM-based business pitch competition for students attending Louisiana's Historically Black Colleges & Universities (HBCUs).

Boyd's project, "Moot", focused on an innovative legal tech platform designed to transform the resolution of traffic infractions. Moot's solution enables drivers to access local, law-compliant driving programs efficiently, streamlining the process and enhancing accessibility to justice.

Brown, Asbury, and Gomez created a project called "Courtesy." Courtesy is a community management app that allows residents to pay rent or place work orders at their apartment. What sets Courtesy apart from other community management apps is that it also allows residents to contact the property's Courtesy Officer with the touch of a button.

During the BizTech pitch competition, "Courtesy," was named Fan Favorite, and students won \$2,500.

In conjunction with the competition, serial entrepreneur and brand strategist Pinky Cole-Hayes, founder of Slutty Vegan, provided keynote remarks and served as a judge, giving the students an unparalleled opportunity to receive expert feedback from a national icon regarding their business ideas.

The BizTech Challenge also presented a great opportunity to represent your school pride as we honor the tradition, legacy, and pride of HBCU's.

FACULTY FEATURES

DELESO ALFORD



Professor Deleso Alford has been honored with the prestigious Impact Legacy Award by the AALS Section on Minority Groups. This award recognizes her sustained commitment and transformative impact on legal education, legal systems, or social justice through her teaching, public service, and scholarship. Professor Alford will be celebrated at the annual meeting in January.

STUDENT FEATURES

JAYLIN FAIR



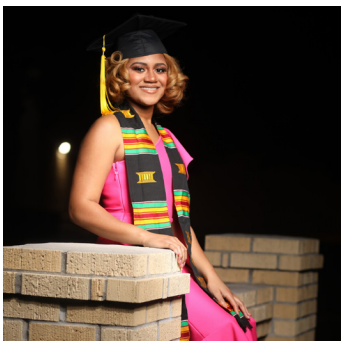
Jaylin Fair is named as the Black Entertainment and Sports Lawyers Association's Historically Black Law School Scholarship recipient.

MARIAH CATHEY



Mariah Cathey won The Defense Best Overall Advocate Award at the Battle of the Law Schools.

MAYA JONES



Maya Jones is awarded the 2024 Corporation Scholarship Group's Godfrey-Kee Scholarship.

ALUMNI FEATURES

MEGAN EARLY-SOPPA



Megan M. Early-Soppa joined Spencer Fane LLP as Of Counsel.

JENNIFER CRUZ



Jennifer Cruz joined McGlinchey Stafford as a Financial Services Litigation Associate.

EBONY MORRIS



Ebony Morris is recognized as one of the New Orleans City Business 2024 Leadership in Law honorees.

APRIL FORD JACKSON



April Ford Jackson is promoted to Transportation Section Chief and Assistant Attorney General at the Louisiana Department of Justice.

KRISTINA DOUGLAS



Kristina Douglas is named on the Greater Shreveport Chamber of Commerce's Young Professional Initiative 40 Under 40 list.

MICHAEL VICTORIAN



Michael Victorian is elected to Phelps Dunbar's newest counsel class.

ALUMNI FEATURES

JONATHON WHITE



Jonathon White joined American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) as a Legal Rights Attorney.

JARED EVANS



Jared Evans is appointed as Chief of Staff for Congressman-elect Cleo Fields.

CURRENT & FUTURE EVENTS

DEC | 1ST -10TH

2024
END OF YEAR
CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION

DECEMBER 13TH - 14TH
7 A.M. - 5:15 P.M. DAILY

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER

REGISTER AT [SULC.EDU/EOYCLE2024](https://sulc.edu/eoycle2024)
Legal professionals can earn 16 Louisiana credit hours, including 1 hour of ethics and 1 hour of professionalism.

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
LAW CENTER
Continuing Legal Education

JAN 25TH

Save the Date

FALL 2024 COMMENCEMENT

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 2025 | 10 A.M.
F.G. CLARK ACTIVITY CENTER

STAY TUNED FOR MORE DETAILS.

FEB 1ST

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
LAW CENTER
Office of Investment and Strategic Partnerships, Paralels and Services

SAVE THE DATE

EXPUNGEMENT INTAKE SESSION

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2025
9 A.M. - 4 P.M.

RIVER PARISHES COMMUNITY COLLEGE
RESERVE CAMPUS
181 REGALA PARK RD,
RESERVE, LA 70084

STAYED TUNED FOR MORE DETAILS.



SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER
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The Southern University Law Center is a unit of the Southern University System

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

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