

CHANCELLOR'S REPORT



Producing Lawyer Leaders

JUNE 2025

INSIDE STORY

SPRING 2025 COMMENCEMENT MARKS NEW CHAPTER FOR SULC GRADUATES



On May 17, the Southern University Law Center (SULC) proudly celebrated its Spring 2025 Commencement Ceremony, where graduates were awarded their Juris Doctor degrees. The ceremony took place at the F.G. Clark Activity Center on the campus of Southern University Baton Rouge.

The event began with a warm welcome from Chancellor Alvin Washington, who addressed the distinguished graduates, their families, friends, and esteemed guests.

The keynote address was delivered by Attorney Ronald Gathe Jr., member of Law Center's Class of 2000 and 2025 Hall of Fame honoree. Gathe is a senior special prosecutor for the 18th Judicial District Court. Appointed by President Joseph R. Biden and unanimously confirmed by the U.S. Senate in 2021, Gathe made history as the first Black U.S. Attorney to serve the Middle District of Louisiana. In his role, he leads transformative work in federal law enforcement, civil rights investigations, and strategic public

safety initiatives that span nine parishes and serve over one million residents.

Throughout his keynote, Gathe emphasized themes of perseverance, purpose, and service.

He concluded his speech with a powerful reminder of the graduate's duty to contribute meaningfully to society. He also reminded the class of their broader responsibility to use their legal education to advocate for justice and equity.

The ceremony concluded with closing remarks that celebrated the graduates' accomplishments and officially ushered them into the next chapter of their legal careers as proud members of the SULC alumni network. The ceremony was live-streamed and recorded on the Law Center's YouTube channel.

INSIDE STORY

LAW CENTER LAUNCHES SULC VIRTUAL LOUISIANA BAR EXAM ASSISTANCE FOR ALUMNI

Southern University Law Center (SULC) has launched the Virtual Louisiana Bar Exam Assistance Program, a targeted initiative designed to support alumni preparing for the Louisiana Bar Exam. This virtual program, held via Zoom on Saturday afternoons, offers structured guidance and resources to enhance bar exam readiness. Participants benefit from in-depth presentations and discussions on topics commonly tested on the exam, as well as opportunities to practice responding to bar-style questions. Additionally, alumni receive personalized, constructive feedback on their responses to help refine their test-taking strategies and boost confidence.

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER HOSTS BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF THE 1825 CIVIL CODE

Southern University Law Center commemorated a pivotal moment in Louisiana's legal history with its Bicentennial Celebration of the 1825 Civil Code on Friday, May 30, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. in Rooms 129-130 of the Law Center.

This historic event was added to the Louisiana Supreme Court Historical Society's official schedule, signifying its importance to the state's legal community.

The event began with opening remarks, followed by a presentation from Vice Chancellor Shawn D. Vance, the Justice Revius Ortique Endowed Professor. His paper, "A Mirror to Society – The Legacy of the 1825 Civil Code of Louisiana: What We Are, What We Could Have Been, and What We Will Be," offered a thoughtful exploration of the Code's past, present, and future.

The program also featured Ana Litvinoff, who will spoke on the profound contributions of Saul Litvinoff to the Civil Code, as well as Phelps Gay, who offered commemorative reflections. The evening concluded with remarks by Justice John Michael Guidry and a reception in the Law Center Atrium.

This event celebrated the enduring influence of the 1825 Civil Code and its continued relevance to legal scholarship and practice in Louisiana.



STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

BRIONNA GREER



Brionna Greer landed an internship at the District Attorney's Office in New Orleans.

ALIYAH McCARY



Aliyah McCary secured a legal internship with the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

WILLIAM MEANES, JR.



William Meanes, Jr., accepted an internship with the Port of New Orleans.

TAYLOR RUFFIN



Taylor Ruffin secured an internship with Ombi Group.

HANNA ESPY



Hanna Espy secured a split internship with Transcendent Law Group and Empowering Professional Women and Girls in New Orleans.

SHAWN DINWIDDIE



Shawn Dinwiddie accepted a summer internship with the Fulton County Solicitor General's Office.

STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

KEITH GAUFF



Keith Gauff has been named a 2025 Summer Honors Intern at the Center for Agriculture and Food Systems at Vermont Law and Graduate School.

TYLER PHILLIPS



Tyler Phillips secured a law clerk position with the Baton Rouge Public Defender's Office.

ALEXIA GALLIEN



Alexia Gallien landed a summer internship with the 22nd Judicial District Attorney's Office.

MACAYLA OWENS



Macayla Owens landed a legislative internship at Louisiana State Capitol.

LARRY JAMES



Larry James secured a summer internship with the DeKalb County District Attorney's Office in Georgia.

MARIAH CATHEY



Mariah Cathey was selected as a 2025 National Black Prosecutors Foundation Fellow.

STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

NICK CARRIERE



Nick Carriere secured a summer law clerk position with Mansfield Melancon – Injury Lawyers.

CHRISTOPHER WEBB



Christopher Webb will serve as a Summer Law Clerk at Hammonds, Sills, Adkins, Guice, Noah & Perkins LLP.

KENEDI RUTHERFORD



Kenedi Rutherford secured a legal internship at Spire Inc.

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

SEMAJ FIELDING



Semaj Fielding accepted an associate position with Phelps Dunbar LLP in its New Orleans office.

ALVAREZ HERTZOCK III



Alvarez J. Hertzock III is named Executive Director of the Louisiana Leadership Institute.

BRANDON BROWN



Brandon Brown joined McGlinchy Stafford as a Partner.

PORTIA JOHNSON



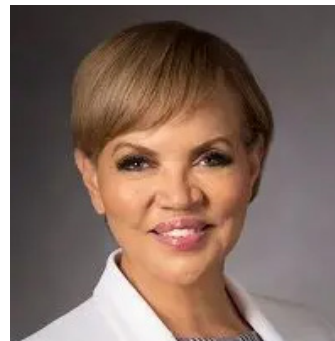
Portia Johnson is promoted to Vice President of Disaster and Grants Management at Franklin Associates.

TERRY LANDRY, JR.



Rep.-Elect Terry Landry, Jr. won the Baton Rouge-area seat in the Louisiana House.

CLAIRE FONTENOT



Clarie Babineaux-Fontenot is named among Louisiana Public Broadcasting's 2025 Louisiana Legends Honorees.

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

ROUSSEAU CHRISOSTOME



Rousseau Chrisostome secured a summer internship with the Office of the State Attorney in Florida's 17th Judicial Circuit.

TYLER BOSWORTH



Tyler Bosworth is appointed as Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

JOHNAE YANCY



Johnae Yancy accepted a position with the Legal Aid Society in New York City.

JUNE 14TH

JOIN US FOR OUR EXPUNGEMENT INITIATIVE EVENT

SATURDAY, JUNE 14TH

9 A.M. – 4 P.M.

23RD JDC ASCENSION PARISH COURTHOUSE, JURY ROOM
607 E. WORTHY STREET, GONZALES, LOUISIANA 70737

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE EMAIL
EXPUNGEMENT@SULC.EDU

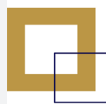
REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

DRIVER'S LICENSE | CERTIFIED COPY OF MINUTES | CERTIFIED
COPY OF BILL OF INFORMATION | BACKGROUND CHECK (FROM
LOUISIANA STATE POLICE HEADQUARTERS)

STAFF ATTORNEYS WILL ONLY SEE GUESTS IF THE REQUIRED DOCUMENTS ARE PRESENT.



JUNE | 26-27TH



Southern University Law Center and the
SU Alumni Federation presents

BEYOND THE BAR: MULTI-DISCIPLINARY APPROACHES IN LAW

JUNE 26-27, 2025

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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 R. Washington, SULC Chancellor

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