

CHANCELLOR'S REPORT



Producing Lawyer Leaders

APRIL 2024

INSIDE STORY

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER WELCOMED NOTABLE FIGURES FOR SECOND ANNUAL HENRIETTA LACKS SYMPOSIUM



The Southern University Law Center, in partnership with the “Increasing Clinicians of Diversity” Initiative through the Louisiana Department of Health, Southern University A&M College and the Southern University Museum of Art Cultural and Heritage Center, hosted the second annual Henrietta Lacks Symposium on March 22-23.

This year’s theme was “Humanizing HER: Elevating the conversation of fertility, health equity, and maternal health”. The symposium aimed to elevate Henrietta Lacks’ family’s 70-year quest for justice and illuminate the crucial intersections of health equity, fertility, medical racism, and Black maternal well-being.

The two-day conference began with an intimate dialogue titled “Cultural Reality: A Conversation with Nikole Hannah-Jones and Ben Crump”. The Pulitzer Prize and Emmy award-winning journalist and nationally recognized civil rights attorney, respectively, conversed about the junction between academia and advocacy. In addition, both authors discussed excerpts from their award-winning and best-selling books that have sparked global conversations regarding the legacy of US enslavement and the discriminatory practices of the US criminal justice system.

Healthcare professionals, legal scholars, and advocates also joined to provide insight on fertility and black maternal health, along with updates on the historical Henrietta Lacks court cases.

The panel conversations included Dr. Neil Chappell, fertility specialist and advocate; Frankie Robertson, president and founder of The Amandla Group, LLC, Dr. Yolunda Taylor, obstetrician gynecologist; and more.

STUDENT EVENTS

SULC MOCK TRIAL TEAM WINS BEST PERFORMANCE IN BAYOU CHALLENGE MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION



In March, the Southern University Law Center (SULC) Bayou Challenge Mock Trial Team won outstanding performance in the Bayou Challenge Mock Trial Competition at the 19th JDC.

Members of the team included Xavier Flavien (3L), Abigail Fontenot (1L), Emily Senrra (2L), and Andrew Garcia (2L).

The team was coached by Professor Shenequa Grey and assisted by members of the Honors Board of Advocates. Professor Grey also received the award for “Best Judge” in the competition.

JOINT VENTURES



SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER PARTNERS WITH CITY/PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE TO HOST EVENTS FOR SECOND CHANCE MONTH

April is Second Chance Month, which brings awareness to formerly incarcerated persons reacclimating themselves to society and reality. To bring awareness to issues surrounding re-entry and clemency, Southern University Law Center (SULC) and the Office of Mayor Sharon Weston Broome hosted two-day fireside chat and movie screening.

On Monday, April 1, Sibil Fox and Rob Richardson sat down with attendees to share their experiences with incarceration and how their marriage and family conquered this momentary separation. Widely known as “Fox and Rob”, they are a New Orleans-based couple who experienced twenty-one years as an incarcerated family and whose story is told in the acclaimed, award-winning documentary, *Time*, which was shown at the event. Following the screening, Fox

and Rob engaged in a conversation where they gave the audience a lens into their lives and fight for justice.

Clemency and re-entry were on the agenda for day two. On Tuesday, April 2, attorney and civil rights advocate, Brittany Barnett, discussed her expertise and experience with achieving executive clemency for her clients and establishing non-profits to assist families with navigating the impact of the criminal justice system. Barnett’s recent memoir, “A Knock At Midnight”, was chosen by the Amazon Editors as the number one Best Book of 2020, an NAACP Image Award nominee, and Los Angeles Times Book Prize Finalist.

STUDENT FEATURES

SHALELA DOWDY



Shalela Dowdy was awarded the 2024 Foot Soldier Award by the Alabama NAACP for her dedication to voting rights and many other social justice initiatives.

COREY GRIDDINE



Corey Griddine received the Reed Smith 1L Dinisia Hardley Folmar Fellowship.

DEKOREE FREEMAN



DeKoree Freeman accepted an offer with the New York State Office of the Attorney General as a legal aide.

ZYON EL-KHALIFA



Zyon El-Khalifa has accepted summer internships at both the American Civil Liberties Union and Irwin Fritchie Urquhart Moore & Daniels LLC.

SEMAJ FIELDING



Semaj Fielding joined Irwin Fritchie Urquhart Moore & Daniels LLC as summer associate.

ALUMNI FEATURES

WILLIAM BRADFORD JR CORNELIUS GRAVES



William C. Bradford, Jr. was named vice president of external affairs at Southwestern Electric Power Company.



Cornelius Graves was named Executive Director & CEO of the Norfolk State University Research & Innovation Foundation.

LORI GRAHAM



Lori Graham was named among SB Magazine's Top Attorneys for 2024.

KRYSTIN FRAZIER-SANTIAGO



Krystin Frazier-Santiago joined the New Orleans office of Gordon Arata as a member attorney.

ALONZO JACKSON



Alonzo Jackson was named among SB Magazine's Top Attorneys for 2024.

CURRENT & FUTURE EVENTS

MAY 18TH



Save the Date

SPRING COMMENCEMENT

SATURDAY, MAY 18TH | 10 A.M.
F.G. CLARK ACTIVITY CENTER

Stay tuned for more details.



SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER
P.O. Box 9294, BATON ROUGE, LA 70813
(225)-771-2552 | 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
John K. Pierre, Chancellor of Southern University and A&M College
Alvin Washington, SULC Interim Chancellor

Produced by the SULC Office of External Affairs | Photography by April Buffington