

# CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

OCTOBER 2022



**PRODUCING LAWYER LEADERS**

# NEWS



## SULC CELEBRATES 75 YEARS WITH 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY GALA

This year, the Southern University Law Center is celebrating 75 years of opening doors for legal professionals. The institution has been a transformational force in legal education and has remained a beacon for access and opportunity for thousands of individuals who have sought to pursue legal training and their dreams to become change agents, advocates, and leaders in society.

On September 2, the Law Center hosted an elegant gala at L'Auberge Casino & Hotel Baton Rouge to celebrate this momentous occasion. During the ceremony, alumni, past leadership, and supporters expressed their memories and well wishes for the institution. Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights at the U.S Department of Justice, Kristen Clarke, delivered the keynote address.

## ALUMNUS CLAIRE BABINEAUX- FONTENOT OPENS WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP SERIES

The Southern University Law Center's Office of Equity, Inclusion & Title IX opened their fall Women in Leadership Series featuring SULC alumna and Feeding America chief executive officer, Claire Babineaux-Fontenot. Fontenot delivered a conversation about her life as a first-generation CEO and offered advice on how to climb the corporate ladder.



## ALUMNI JUDGES RETURN TO THE LAW CENTER FOR BOOK SIGNING EVENT

Alumni Judge Freddie Pitcher Jr. and Judge John W. McClarty returned to the Law Center to discuss their recent publications at an alumni book signing event.

In his book *Breaking Barriers*, Judge Pitcher describes how he made history in Baton Rouge by becoming the first African American to be elected to judgeships at three levels of the court system. In addition, in his autobiography titled, *The Dreamer: John W. McClarty*, Judge McClarty shares his story of a Black youth's dream to become a lawyer.



## LABOR UNIONS AND MOTORSPORTS INDUSTRY UPDATES WERE ON THE AGENDA FOR THE 3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENT SYMPOSIUM



The Southern University Law Center hosted the third annual Sports and Entertainment Symposium in conjunction with the SULC's Sports and Entertainment Legal Association.

During the symposium, themed "The Evolution of Creativity," students explored how the sports and entertainment industry has evolved through the decades. Participants attended general sessions and roundtable workshops on topics, such as motorsports, labor unions, contract negotiation, diversity, and more.

Panelists included representatives from Paramount Pictures, Diverse Representation, OMBI Group, 300 Entertainment, and more.

# PARTNERSHIPS

## BRCC AND SU LAW CENTER SIGN PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT TO ELIMINATE BARRIERS TO EMPLOYMENT, FACILITATE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES



Baton Rouge Community College and the Southern University Law Center signed a partnership agreement focused on promoting the education of students in the legal profession and eliminating obstacles that prevent graduates from securing employment.

The agreement will remove barriers for BRCC students seeking to enter the workforce who need assistance with expungement services for prior justice related issues. Additionally, the agreement will provide BRCC paralegal students with an experiential learning environment to develop their skills and competencies through facilitated opportunities at SULC.

Several of the efforts that will be implemented to educate and assist students with barriers to employment, include: developing educational resources for students who enter college with legal issues, developing an early screening program to determine what students are in need of expungements services, and streamlining access to expungements.

# STUDENT EVENTS



## SULC's LOUISIANA COLLEGE PRISON PROJECT HOST DOCUMENTARY SCREENINGS FOR COLLEGE BEHIND BARS SERIES

SULC's Louisiana College Prison Project (LCPP) hosted a documentary showing of the four-part series, "College Behind Bars." The documentary focuses on the lives and academic careers of inmates in the Bard Prison Initiative, which is an initiative LCPP plans to replicate here in Louisiana.

## LAW CENTER STUDENTS ATTEND 2022 SOUTHWEST BLACK LAW STUDENTS ASSOCIATION ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP RETREAT

Several students represented the Law Center at the 2022 Southwest Black Law Students Association (SWBLSA) Academic Leadership Retreat. The retreat is rooted in the development of SWBLSA students' ability to maximize all opportunities that they encounter during their law school journeys.

During the retreat, students explored practical ways to utilize hard and soft skills to achieve positive career outcomes and success. They received specialized academic support from professors, lawyers, employers, recent graduates, and tenured law students. The event included development in resume writing, headshots, interviewing skills, advocacy skills, social interactions, bar preparation, a job fair and more.



# STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

## JAYLON DENKINS



Law Center student Jaylon Denkins will return to Groom Law Group as a 2023 summer associate.

## TONY BLACK

SULC student Tony Black accepted to join the Texas Attorney General's Office as a legal clerk for summer 2023.



## EDRIUS STAGG



Edrius Stagg will return to Reed Smith LLP as a first-year associate upon graduation.

## RANA FREEMAN

Law Center student Rana Freeman will join Shook, Hardy & Bacon L.L.P. as a 2023 summer associate. She is also a recipient of the Shook Foundation Diversity Scholarship award.



# STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

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## NAUDIA FOSTER



Student Bar Association president, Naudia Foster, has been named a McAngus Goudelock & Courie 2022 MGC Diversity Scholarship recipient.

## MARINA CASTRO

Law Center student Marina Castro is selected as one of Propel Center's 2022 Student Impact Scholars.



## LAKESHIA WILLIAMS



Law Center student Lakeshia Williams received the 2022 Joel Stern Pipeline Scholarship from the National Association of Minority Women Owned Law Firms (NAMWOLF). She is also a recipient of the Freeborn & Peters LLP 2022 Diversity Scholarship Award.

# ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

## LAUREN DOMINGUE

Law Center alumna Lauren Domingue has secured a role as a government relations associate at Merchant McIntyre & Associates.



## YASHA CLARK

Alumna Yasha Clark is selected as one of National Trial Lawyers Top 40 under 40 Trial Lawyers in the state of Louisiana.



## RHANIA CARTER

Alumna Rhania Carter has been offered a clerkship with Chief Judge Nannette Brown in the United States District Court in the Eastern District for August 2023. Carter will serve as Chief Judge Nannette Brown's first law clerk from SULC.



## PEARLINA BOYD

Alumna Pearlina Boyd has a new position as director of Public Policy & Advocacy at the St. Louis Regional Health Commission.



# ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

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## JAYLEN THOMAS

Law Center alumnus Jaylen Thomas is welcomed as a member of the newest class of assistant district attorneys in support of the fair administration of justice in Queens County.



## EBONY MORRIS

Law Center alumna Ebony Morris is named a 2022 New Orleans City Business Woman of the Year.



## DONALD CRAVINS JR.

Law Center alumnus Donald R Cravins Jr. was sworn in as the nation's first Under Secretary of Commerce for the U.S. Minority Business Development Agency.



# ONGOING AND UPCOMING EVENTS



The Southern University Law Center's  
Office of Equity, Inclusion & Title IX

## WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP IN POLITICS

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21<sup>ST</sup>  
11 :30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.  
*REGISTRATION REQUIRED TO RECEIVE A BOX LUNCH.*

REGISTER: [WWW.SULC.EDU/WOMENLEADERSHIPSERIES](http://WWW.SULC.EDU/WOMENLEADERSHIPSERIES)

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**VANESSA CASTON LAFLEUR**  
*Attorney*

**TERRELL KENT**  
*Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Missouri Bar*

**DAWN COLLINS**  
*First Assistant U.S. District Judge*



**SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY**  
LAW CENTER  
Continuing Legal Education

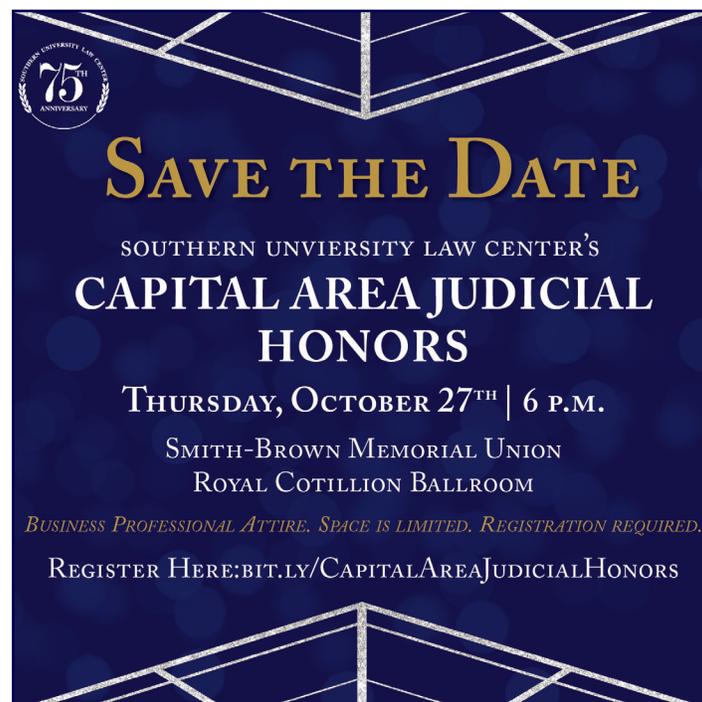
**RESCHEDULED**  
**BECOMING FIERCE  
IN LAW PRACTICE:  
LAWPRENEUR IN ME: THE  
5 STEP LAUNCH TO LEGACY**

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>  
NOON - 1 P.M. CST  
VIRTUAL EXPERIENCE VIA ZOOM

REGISTER AT  
[WWW.SULC.EDU/BECOMINGFIERCE](http://WWW.SULC.EDU/BECOMINGFIERCE)

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT MARLA DICKERSON AT  
[MDICKERSON@SULC.EDU](mailto:MDICKERSON@SULC.EDU)

PRESENTER:  
CYNTHIA GALLARDO  
CEO & Founder of  
Cynthia Gallardo Law, LLC.



**75<sup>TH</sup>**  
ANNIVERSARY

## SAVE THE DATE

SOUTHERN UNVIERSITY LAW CENTER'S  
**CAPITAL AREA JUDICIAL  
HONORS**

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27<sup>TH</sup> | 6 P.M.

SMITH-BROWN MEMORIAL UNION  
ROYAL COTILLION BALLROOM

*BUSINESS PROFESSIONAL ATTIRE. SPACE IS LIMITED. REGISTRATION REQUIRED.*

REGISTER HERE: [BIT.LY/CAPITALAREAJUDICIALHONORS](http://BIT.LY/CAPITALAREAJUDICIALHONORS)



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  
and Chancellor of Southern University and A&M College  
John K. Pierre, SULC Chancellor

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