

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1 FALL 2023

THE LEGAL LENS

ANNUAL RECAP MAGAZINE



BUILDING BRIDGES:
TRANSFORMING OUR
COMMUNITIES THROUGH
COLLABORATIONS AND
HEALTH INITIATIVES

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FROM THE CHANCELLOR



Dear Southern University Law Center Community,

As the year draws comes to an end, I want to reflect on the momentous journey together. This year has been a testament to our unwavering dedication and seriousness of purpose which has culminated with innovative achievements that have shaped not only our academic landscape but also our global footprint.

Throughout this year, I remain inspired by our brilliant faculty, staff and students as they embarked on valuable research and community activism endeavors. Their passion and relentless pursuit of justice led to innovative solutions. From pro bono legal services to crucial initiatives, our efforts have made a tangible difference in the lives of many.

As I look back on this remarkable year, I am filled with immeasurable pride for what we have accomplished together. The dedication, resilience, and passion exhibited by the campus community have been instrumental in shaping a year marked by progress and excellence.

Let's continue to push forward and strive to be transformational change agents.

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John K. Pierre". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

John K. Pierre

Chancellor

THE LEGAL LENS

ANNUAL RECAP MAGAZINE

FALL 2023

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 1

DIRECTOR OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

JASMINE HUNTER

WRITER

I'TYONNIE JACKSON

ART DIRECTION AND DESIGN

ORRIEL PAUL

PHOTOGRAPHY

APRIL BUFFINGTON

STEVE JARREAU

JACOB DUCOTE

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
LAW CENTER

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

*Dennis J. Shields, president of the Southern
University System, and John K. Pierre,
chancellor of the Southern University Law
Center*

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SEEING THE WHOLE PICTURE

NEWS, ACHIEVEMENTS, AND EVENTS FROM AROUND SULC



NOTABLE SCHOLARS AND ADVOCATES DISCUSS HUMAN INJUSTICE IN THE INAUGURAL HENRIETTA LACKS SYMPOSIUM AT SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER

In March, Southern University Law Center (SULC) held its inaugural Henrietta Lacks Symposium to bring light and truth to Henrietta and the medical racism committed by John Hopkins University Hospital in 1950. The theme was “Seeing Women Through the Lens of Genetic Justice, Reproductive Justice, and Criminal Justice”

The event featured three panels consisting of renowned speakers, thought leaders, and academics. It provided a venue for a 21st-century demand for justice from legal classrooms, political corners, and medical/scientific institutions to the court of law. Speakers included Ben Crump, civil rights attorney; Dr. Edgar Feinberg,

cardiothoracic surgeon; LaToyia Porter, social worker and founder of Walk With Me Community Improvement Center; Victor Jones, education special counsel at the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.; Nancy Davis, advocate and founder of The Nancy Davis Foundation; Caprice Roberts, Louisiana State University law professor; and more.

The Lacks family, including Henrietta’s eldest son, Lawrence; his son, Ronald, and a host of cousins, attended the historic event. Ron Lacks published a book titled “Henrietta Lacks: The Untold Story” to dispel the propaganda portrayed about his grandmother for so many years. Following the luncheon, Ron signed

copies of the book for attendees.

Each panel discussed timely topics from an academic and lived experience perspective. It continued with each speaker sharing their part in fighting to bring social justice to the family and get them what they deserved after several corporations made billions of dollars from Henrietta's cell.

(Top photo) Ron Lacks addresses the audience during the Symposium. (Right photo) University leadership, panel speakers, and the Lacks family commemorate the inaugural symposium with a reception. (Bottom photo) Attorney Ben Crump speaks to the audience regarding the Lacks court case.



AI IN LAW: TRANSFORMING LEGAL PRACTICES

Artificial Intelligence (AI) may appear to be a recent discovery, but it has been present in our lives for years through various AI-driven products and technologies. Autonomous vehicles, facial recognition systems, and recommendation algorithms all exemplify the integration of AI into our everyday routines. This development may seem beneficial, but it is important to understand the implications this technology can pose on the legal profession.

“As an Intellectual Property attorney, I witness firsthand the increasing intersections between AI and the legal field,” Marina Biragova, executive director of the SULC Technology & Entrepreneurship Clinic.

“THE RAPID ADVANCEMENT OF AI TECHNOLOGY PROMPTS NOVEL LEGAL CHALLENGES THAT REQUIRE LEGAL EXPERTISE AND, IN SOME CASES, INTERFERENCE.”

The progress made in AI software development has brought unprecedented capabilities and potential across various sectors, including the field of law. This shows the potential to reshape all industries as we know them today.

Lawyers and lawmakers are increasingly directing their attention to matters related to AI liability, accountability, and intellectual property rights concerning AI-generated content. As AI technology becomes more capable of creating original works, it raises many questions regarding the ownership, protection, and commercialization of these AI-generated products.

“When it comes to the use of AI in the legal profession,

one of the most significant concerns revolves around professionalism and competence,” said Biragova. “As lawyers, we must provide competent and diligent representation to our clients that include understanding the limitations and potential biases of AI products and the potential harm that can arise from excessive reliance on AI without proper supervision.”

It’s also important for students to use a clear approach to AI technology. Should academic institutions establish guidelines and frameworks for responsible AI use? Without such parameters, determining what constitutes ethical or unethical AI use by students may become a challenging and subjective task.

As society’s use of AI increases, so do the associated risks. Users should remain ethical when using this fast-paced technology and carefully ensure we follow proper protocol in legal intuitions, firms, classrooms, and more.

Marina Biragova, executive director of the SULC Technology and Entrepreneurship Clinic, provides insight on Artificial Intelligence in today’s legal sphere.





(Top photo) John Pierre, SULC chancellor, welcomes guests and presenters to the LaRue Development Summit. (Right photo) Panelist at LaRuE summit (Bottom photo) Donald Cravins, Jr., Under Secretary for Commerce for Minority Business Development, served as luncheon keynote speaker on September 11, 2023.

SULC, TUNICA BILOXI TRIBE TO HOST ANNUAL RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT

The Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana is partnered with the Southern University Law Center (SULC) and the Southern University College of Business University Center for Economic Development to co-host the second annual Louisiana Rural and Economic (LaRuE) Development Summit. LaRuE keynote speakers and panelists included business executives, industry experts, state and local elected officials and candidates for political office.

The summit discussed economic development in rural communities by connecting business owners with local, state, and national leaders who are committed to improving economic opportunities in Louisiana's rural communities.

LaRuE kicked off with a health and wellness fair. Health, financial, and economic vendors were on-site at the Mari Showroom at the Paragon Casino to provide information and awareness to attendees. The Southern University Human Jukebox provided entertainment for attendees throughout the afternoon.

VICTIM'S FAMILY RECEIVES ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FROM NEW ORLEANS CITY COUNCIL AFTER THREE DECADES



Staff from the Louis A. Berry Institute for Civil Rights and Justice and the Borden family showcase a proclamation on behalf of Kenneth Borden from the New Orleans City Council following their September meeting.

During their September meeting, the New Orleans City Council acknowledged and honored the life of Kenneth Borden. Family members and staff from the Southern University Law Center's (SULC) Louis A. Berry Institute of Civil Rights and Justice were invited to attend the meeting to offer remarks.

"There is so much racism in the government today, and you cannot do anything about it," expressed Reginald Borden, brother of Kenneth Borden. "I started to not even come, but the truth has to come out whether you do something about or not."

Borden was killed by a New Orleans police officer on September 15, 1970. This day is familiar to local New Orleanians as it is referred to as the infamous "Showdown in Desire," or the "Standoff with the Black Panthers". Because of this common association, Borden

gets lost in the story of COINTELPRO and how officers used infiltration and other subversive tactics to undermine self-determination in Black communities. He spent his brief life battling sickle cell anemia before being killed in the Desire neighborhood following a standoff between the Black Panther Party and law enforcement. Unfortunately, Borden's family suffered more injustice in the wake of his murder in the courts, with the truth of his death buried.

At the meeting, family members and associates, including Ruth Borden, sister of Kenneth Borden; Reginald & Eboni Borden, brother and niece of Kenneth Borden; Green Stevens, a former member of the Black Panther Party; Whitley Parker, third-year law student and Student Bar Association president; Ada Goodly Lampkin, director of the Louis A. Berry Institute of Civil Rights and Justice; and Judge Calvin

“I STARTED TO NOT EVEN COME, BUT THE TRUTH HAS TO COME OUT
WHETHER YOU DO SOMETHING ABOUT OR NOT”

Johnson, retired criminal court judge, gave heartfelt remarks about Borden's death, the false narrative created, and the generational trauma still plaguing the family. After their remarks, the council members echoed their sentiments. They, too, agreed that police brutality and false narratives create generational trauma that truly never heals until restorative justice takes place.

“New Orleans City Council was extremely receptive to the idea and understood the importance of creating space to center the truth for the Borden family,” said Ada Goodly Lampkin, director of the Louis A. Berry Institute of Civil Rights and Justice. “They have been extremely gracious and intentional about the preservation of local history as well as reckonings with that history.”

The case was first researched and presented by Whitley

Parker during her tenure with the Margaret Burnham Honors Cohort which is a result of a decades-long partnership with the Civil Rights & Restorative Justice Project. The cohort is comprised of pre-law and law students who research unfamiliar civil rights cases. Then, students present their findings to a review panel during their annual residency. Since the case is in a neighboring parish, the Institute petitioned the council for an acknowledgment.

The Institute creates opportunities for communities and systems to reckon with historical acts of racial violence that have left families and whole communities with unhealed wounds that continually get passed down, until faced. The Institute uses public reckonings, historical markers, podcasts, mini-docs, and other means to educate the public and develop ways to “course correct.”



PRODUCING LAWYER LEADERS

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TO BEGIN YOUR LEGAL
EDUCATION JOURNEY.



WELLNESS OPTICS

SULC KICKS HOMECOMING ON THE BLUFF WITH HEALTH IS WEALTH FESTIVAL

The Southern University System hosted a “Health is Wealth” Community Festival. The festival featured a live remote broadcast with Get Up Mornings with Erica Campbell. During the live remote, attendees heard panel discussions on all things health and wealth and gained valuable information on ways you can prioritize your mental and physical health. The Southern University Gospel Choir and the Human Jukebox performed for the audience.

During the community festival, the School of Nursing Jag Mobile and the SU Ag Center’s Mobile Lab were on site to provide health information and conduct live food demos.



Marla Dickerson, vice chancellor for Innovation and Strategic Partnerships and Initiatives at Southern University Law Center, discusses community engagement with Gospel singer and radio host, Erica Campbell.

SULC HOSTS COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLNESS EVENT TO TACKLE DISEASE STIGMA

On October 26, the Southern University Law Center (SULC) hosted “GOALden Living,” a total wellness event.

During the event, community members took part in wellness screenings and received information on local resources available addressing nutrition, wellness, and more. Attendees experienced vendor shopping and a panel discussion surrounding nutrition and healthy living led by local community health experts. The discussion included topics such as mental health

awareness.

Participating vendors included representatives from, Baton Rouge General, Southern University School of Nursing, Southern University Mental Health Center, SU Alumni Federation, Pennington Biomedical Research Center, Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center, Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center, Humana Healthcare, Louisiana Primary Care Association, Be the Match, and The Blood Center.

The Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center's Nutrition Education Department provided resources and information for guests on healthy food choices, plating options, and more.



Health care, mental health, and nutrition experts participated in a panel discussion that touched on topics such as weight management, mental health practices, food choices, and more.



Southern University School of Nursing students provided guests with blood pressure, vision screenings, and more to event attendees.



Representatives from Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center distributed materials and information on cancer trials and resources.

MARY BIRD PERKINS CANCER CENTER

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

CURRENT STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS



| *SULC fellow, Demario Thornton, posed with Marshall-Brennan student scholars.*

SULC STUDENTS PROMOTE CIVIC ENGAGEMENT THROUGH THE MARSHALL-BRENNAN CONSTITUTIONAL LITERACY PROJECT

Southern University Law Center is a proud chapter member of the Marshall-Brennan Constitutional Literacy Project, a project that teaches high school students in underserved communities about their constitutional and civic rights through an introduction to Supreme Court cases and moot court arguments.

The Marshall-Brennan Constitutional Literacy Project is an educational fellowship program in which law students act as teaching fellows that instruct on constitutional law, civic responsibility, and appellate oral advocacy skills to high school students known as scholars.

The scholars compete in a regional competition. The top four students advance to the National Marshall Brennan Moot Court Competition where they compete against high schools across the country.

Fellows use critical thinking and analysis as educational tools to support scholars in developing 21st-century skill sets that focus on creativity, problem-solving, and collaboration to promote democratic engagement, constitutional literacy, and legal advocacy.

The project has expanded to include law schools nationwide to show various high school students that



| Scholars, Lucas Schwehm and Kahlila Bandele, are named the winners of the project's Annual Moot Court Competition in Washington, D.C.

law school is an attainable goal. Chapter law schools that participated in the project this year were American University, Rutgers University, Southern University Law Center, Suffolk University, and Yale University, among others.

In March, the high school students competed in mock appellate court arguments during the project's Annual Moot Court Competition in Washington, D.C.

The judges for these arguments were Judge Carlos

Acosta, Montgomery County Circuit Court; Reggie B. Walton, former associate judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia; and Zuberi Williams, associate judge of the District Court of Maryland, for Montgomery County.

The Southern University Law Center Marshall-Brennan Chapter won the competition. The winners were Lucas Schwehm as Top Petitioner and Kahlila Bandele as Top Respondent. Both were students at Baton Rouge High School.

HBCU STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN CIVIL RIGHTS AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE RESEARCH COHORT

The Southern University Law Center's Louis A. Berry Institute for Civil Rights and Justice partnered with three prominent Historically Black Colleges to pilot a collaborative HBCU project that trained college and law students to investigate racially motivated cold cases from the Jim Crow and Civil Rights eras. The Burnham Honors Cohort is a new experiential learning opportunity that introduces high-performing undergraduate and law school students to civil rights case investigations and restorative justice. It expands on SULC's decade-long summer fellowship/externship with The Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project (CRRJ) at Northeastern University School of Law and creates new partnerships with the historic Tougaloo and Philander Smith colleges. The CCRJ's founder and director, Margaret Burnham, is the inspiration for and namesake of this new research cohort to uncover and address racial harms from the civil rights period.

Margaret Burnham started this program in 2007. The objective was to find all the cases where African Americans, during the Jim Crow period, had lost their lives to racist violence.

The cohort was comprised of six high-achieving students from three HBCUs that are geographically located in states of interest: Louisiana, Mississippi, and Arkansas. Southern University Law Center, Tougaloo College, and Philander Smith College were selected for their historical contributions to civil rights and aligned missions of access to education for African Americans.

The cohort members selected from Southern University Law Center are Whitley Parker and Victoria Ardoin. Philander Smith's students are Dasia Turner and Amari

Brantley. Lastly, students from Tougaloo College are LaChassity Jackson and Blaise Adams.

The idea for this cohort was birthed in the spring of 2021 when Southern University Law Center, Tougaloo College, and the National Civil Rights Conference teamed up with Frontline PBS to assist with a yearlong unveiling of the UnResolved Project. Collaborators wanted to continue this Restorative Justice work, involve student researchers, and honor Margaret Burnham for the exceptional work that she has done for the country. As a result, the Margaret Burnham Honors Cohort was established.

The cohort was an attempt to grow a new generation to value and continue this work, but also create pipelines to law school so this work may continue in earnest. Students worked for 10 weeks on case investigations, Restorative Justice projects, and seminars to grow their curiosity and understanding of topics not customary to the traditional college or law school curriculum. They even met with surviving relatives and friends of the case victims to gain perspective for their research.

With the success of the first cohort, Lampkin, Burnham, and collaborators look to continue to host these honor groups to foster research, training, and community relationships.

LAW CENTER STUDENT HELPS STRENGTHEN BLACK VOTING POWER IN ALABAMA REDISTRICTING CASE

The *Milligan v. Merrill* case stems from challenges to Alabama's seven-district congressional map, which included one district in which Black voters form a considerable enough majority that they have the power to elect their preferred candidate. The challengers said that one district is not enough, pointing out that Alabama's population is more than 25% Black overall. This case has opened the door to other states looking at their congressional remapping. In June, the U.S. Supreme Court lifted its hold on a Louisiana redistricting case that could force the state to redraw congressional districts to boost Black voting power before 2024.

One of the plaintiffs in the Alabama case is Law Center student and Alabama native Shalela Dowdy, who has fought for equity and challenged the discriminatory redistricting maps in Alabama. She has played a significant role in protecting voter rights in her state.

Dowdy said she became a part of the case because she knew Alabama's maps weren't drawn fairly. Since then, Dowdy says SULC has provided her with great experiences that have allowed her to go to the Supreme Court again, witness Ketanji Brown Jackson being sworn in, and watch how the redistricting cases play out and be hands-on. Dowdy has continued to work with SULC through its Office of Equity, Inclusion and Title IX.



Shalela Dowdy, SULC student.

"I became involved in this matter at the organizing phase in my capacity as local counsel with Louisiana Justice Institute, a non-profit civil rights legal advocacy organization and law firm, said SULC's director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator. "We have partnered with national organizations on impact Litigation since Hurricane Katrina. Because I have tried voting rights cases in the federal courts in Louisiana and worked with the state NAACP and the POWER Coalition, I've been able to provide Louisiana counsel liaison."

This decision by the U.S. Supreme Court means the case can finally begin to move toward a decision concerning a map with boundaries for a second majority-minority opportunity voting district here in Louisiana. It is long overdue and embodies what a fight for Justice means for people of color. "It strengthens the Black political voting power," she added.

VISIONARY INSIGHTS

PROFESSOR'S RESEARCH IMPACTS THE GROUNDBREAKING HENRIETTA LACKS SETTLEMENT



Deleso Alford, professor at Southern University Law Center, provides a research framework used in the historic court case.

Southern University Law Center (SULC) Professor Deleso A. Alford's legal scholarship is the inception of this landmark journey to genetic justice for the Lacks' family.

A Shreveport native, doing ground-breaking work bridging legal and medical education, Alford uses what she refers to as "HER stories" to discuss the unique and particularized lived experiences of black women intersecting with health care and research. She has moved her scholarship into classrooms, benefiting both law and medical students with her racially inflected lessons such as the story of Henrietta Lacks.

In an effort to be a voice for the Lacks family, Alford's scholarship builds a framework for her training on attaining cultural competence while practicing cultural humility. The historical and present-day impact of this settlement is based upon utilizing a law review article

written by Alford as the theory for this historical case.

For almost two decades, she has researched infamous instances of individuals marginalized by the American healthcare, research, and legal systems as part of her scholarly trajectory.

From law school professor to serving on Governor John Bel Edwards' Louisiana COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force, Alford provides input relative to policies and laws that impact health disparities.

Earlier this year, she chaired SULC's Health Equity Law & Policy Institute's inaugural Henrietta Lacks Symposium: "Seeing Women Through the Lens of Genetic Justice, Reproductive Justice, and Criminal Justice." This event featured civil rights attorney Ben Crump and fellow panelists Kim Parker, Doug Rendleman, Yusuf Henriques, Caprice Roberts, and Robert Klonoff. This symposium was established to acknowledge the humanity of Henrietta Lacks. A major highlight of the conference was the presence of Lacks' family relatives, including heartfelt remarks from her grandson Mr. Alfred Carter, a book signing for "Henrietta Lacks: The Untold Story" written by her grandson, Mr. Ron Lacks and the words of deep gratitude to all for supporting his mother from her only surviving son, 86-year-old, Mr. Lawrence Lacks.

Alford remains elated for the Lacks family who never gave up seeking justice for their mother and grandmother. Her advice to rising legal professionals wanting to shine a light on existing healthcare disparities is to make right legal wrongs by telling HER-stories.

VISIONARY INSIGHTS

THOMAS DAVENPORT



Professor Thomas Davenport was appointed to the board of directors at Miracle of Innocence.

PETER KOCHENBURGER



The National Association of Insurance Commissioners reappointed visiting professor, Peter Kochenburger as a consumer liaison representative.

GAIL STEPHENSON



SULC Professor Gail Stephenson received the “Long Purple Line” Hall of Distinction award from Northwestern State University. Stephenson was recently inducted into the Long Purple Line at NSU. This award was established to provide recognition and appreciation to individuals whose career accomplishments or service to their fellow man have enhanced the reputation and prestige of the university.

RUSSELL JONES



Retired SULC Professor Russell Jones was presented with the SBA Diversity Committee’s Creating a More Respectful World award. Professor Jones spent 38 years as a law professor and has been instrumental in bringing the Marshall Brennan program to SULC. This program was started to help high school students learn and understand their civil and constitutional rights.



**ANGELA
ALLEN-BELL**

This year, Angela Allen-Bell has been at the forefront of numerous restorative justice and civil rights occurrences. She has served as a speaker at numerous local and national events, planned historical marker ceremonies, and organized class research public presentations. In addition, Bell and her Law and Racism course students secured donations to assist in building the new Colfax Massacre Monument.



**JOHN K.
PIERRE**

The HBCU Campaign Fund named Chancellor Pierre as one of ten most dominant HBCU leaders of 2023.



**MARLA
DICKERSON**

Vice-Chancellor Marla Dickerson was appointed to the 2023-2024 American Bar Association TIPS.

YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

Planned gifts are as varied as the lawyer-leaders who make them. By partnering with Southern University Law Center, along with your family and trusted advisors, you can create a plan that reflects your charitable goals, maximizes potential tax benefits, and creates a lasting legacy for you that will help the Law Center students for years to come. *For more information, contact Robbin Thomas, Director of Alumni Affairs/Annual Fund, at RThomas@sulc.edu*



OPTICAL ALLIANCES

PARTNERSHIPS/EXPANSION

LAW CENTER LAUNCHES ESPORTS INNOVATION LAB TO BRING

The Southern University Law Center launched its Esports Innovation Lab with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Friday, March 10 at the Smith-Brown Student Union located on the campus of Southern University A&M College.

The creation of the lab, which is housed under the Mixed Realty Virtual Innovation Gaming and Esports Institute, was forged through collaborations with industry leaders, such as HyperX, Best Buy, GM, and Esport Supply. Each organization contributed state-of-the-art technology and equipment that will allow students and teams to practice and compete on a national and international level.

“THE WORLD ESPORTS INDUSTRY IS ON TRACK TO REACH FIVE BILLION BY THE YEAR 2029”

The goal of the Esports Innovation Lab is to be a hub of creativity that seeks to develop pathways to the entertainment, gaming, and esports arenas. The lab will serve not only the Southern University landmass but surrounding communities within our network.

Within eight months of its inception, the Lab has hosted an array of camps, tournaments, and seminars. The Southwest Athletic Conference Grand Championship and the Inaugural Bluff Open attracted a national audience to the Baton Rouge gaming room. In addition, the facility is open for free play memberships and tours for area schools and local community groups.

In November, the forum, Safe Spaces Talks, was formed

as a platform to discuss the intersection of mental health and gaming. Student influencers included Jazmon DeRousselle, Gerald Broussard III, and Kendall Sands. They fostered open and enlightening dialogue about critical issues impacting the student community. The discussion focused on how to balance gaming and academics, the importance of prioritizing your mental wellness as a student, maintaining your mental health as an athlete, and more.

In addition to gameplay and tournaments, the Institute launched an Esports Law and Management Certificate. The staff has partnered with knowledgeable and experienced industry professionals such as Danny Martin, CEO and co-founder of Esposure Inc., and Ryan Morrison, CEO of Evolved Talent and founding partner of Morrison Rothman LLP, to develop a comprehensive curriculum that covers all aspects of esports law and management. Within the Esports Law and Management Certification, participants will learn the legal complexities that involve managing a professional esports organization. Learning modules will cover topics, such as media rights, licensing, lawsuits, contracts, and more.



University and East Baton Rouge parish leadership, along with industry partners, attend the Esports Innovation Lab ribbon cutting ceremony.



Industry experts speak to attendees on esports trends during the 2023 Esports Summit.



SPECTRUM OF SUCCESS

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

SULC ALUMNI, JUDGES RECEIVE HONORABLE AWARDS AT ANNUAL ROUND-UP



(Left photo) SULC 2023 Distinguished Alumni honorees; (Right photo) SULC 2023 Judicial Wall of Fame honorees

The Southern University Law Center (SULC) welcomed its alumni and friends for a week of recognition, reconnection and networking at the annual Alumni and Friends Round-Up that took place March 30- April 1.

Throughout the week, the Law Center celebrated the trailblazing alumni who continue to dominate the legal profession.

The round-up events began with a Reed Smith LLP Ambassador Workshop where ambassadors answered questions about preparing for off-campus interviews, landing a summer associate position, and Big Law. This workshop was followed by a continuing legal ed-

ucation symposium titled presented by Deidre Deculus Roberts, Louisiana Bar Foundation vice president and USDA Rural Development state director.

On Thursday, March 30, the Law Center's class of 2013 started the day with a student professional workshop. During this event, students learned about professionalism in the workplace, interviewing, personal branding and marketing, and more.

Following the workshops, three alumni were honored during the Judicial Wall of Fame Unveiling Ceremony on Thursday evening at the Southern University FG Clark Activities Center.

Honorees were: Honorable Erika L. Green '10; Honorable Tonya S. Lurry, '99; and Honorable Briana Westry '13.

On Thursday evening, the Law Center recognized alumni who have distinguished themselves in service to SULC, their communities, and the pursuit of justice at the Distinguished Alumni Ceremony at the River Terrace of the Shaw Center for the Arts. Those honored were: LaToya Jones Burrell '09; Patrick Celestin '15; Anthony "Tony" Heidelberg '02; Petrina Johns '06; Cory P. Roy '00; and Bill Shea '04.

We concluded the round-up with a fun game of golf where alumni and supporters gathered at Beaver Creek

Golf Course for the annual Chancellor's Scramble on Friday, March 31. Later that evening, the Office of Admission and Recruitment held an Admitted Student's Reception and Alumni Mixer to welcome our incoming lawyer leaders.

The week concluded with the Hall of Fame Gala held at the Baton Rouge Renaissance Hotel on Saturday, April 1. Inductees were selected from among thousands of SULC law alumni. Through their great work, the members of this elite group have made an indelible mark on the community and throughout the nation and the world. Those honored were: Andre' P. Gauthier '91; Kimberly Slay Holmes '96; Trey Morris '02; Dewun R. Settle '91; Edwin M. Shorty, Jr. '02.

SULC 2023 Hall of Fame honorees



SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER LAUNCHES NEW LAWYER LEADERS AT COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES

Over two hundred students received their Juris Doctorate during Southern University Law Center's (SULC) fall 2022 and spring 2023 commencement ceremonies. The ceremonies were held at the F. G. Clark Activity Center on the campus of Southern University Baton Rouge. Honorable Judge John Guidry, chief judge of the Louisiana First Circuit Court of Appeal, and Honorable Dana M. Douglas, Fifth Circuit Court Judge of the United States Court of Appeals, served as the commencement speakers for the fall 2022 and spring 2023 ceremonies, respectively.

"You are the future," said Guidry. "You are the future Thurgood Marshall. You are the future Kentanji Brown Jackson." Guidry, a 1987 alumnus of the Southern

University Law Center, started his address by reminding graduates that through these "weary years" of law school they must not forget the bridges that were built nor those that stood as the "wind beneath their wings".

Guidry poured positive affirmations into the graduates. He reminded them that they are the legacy of Charles Hatfield and the institution's first five graduates.

"Law schools like Southern in particular, give you more than research, writing, and critical thinking skills," said Douglas. "There are many intangibles that you have gained during your tenure at Southern University Law Center that will help you push through unexpected trials."

SULC Fall 2022 graduates



During her speech, Douglas reflected on her career trajectory and went on to describe how her career froze during the inevitable tragedies of 9/11, Hurricane Katrina, and Covid 19. She added, “You will not know how prepared you are to face the practice of law until you have to rely solely on the foundation that this university has given to you.”

Both ceremonies can be viewed on the Southern University Law Center’s YouTube channel.

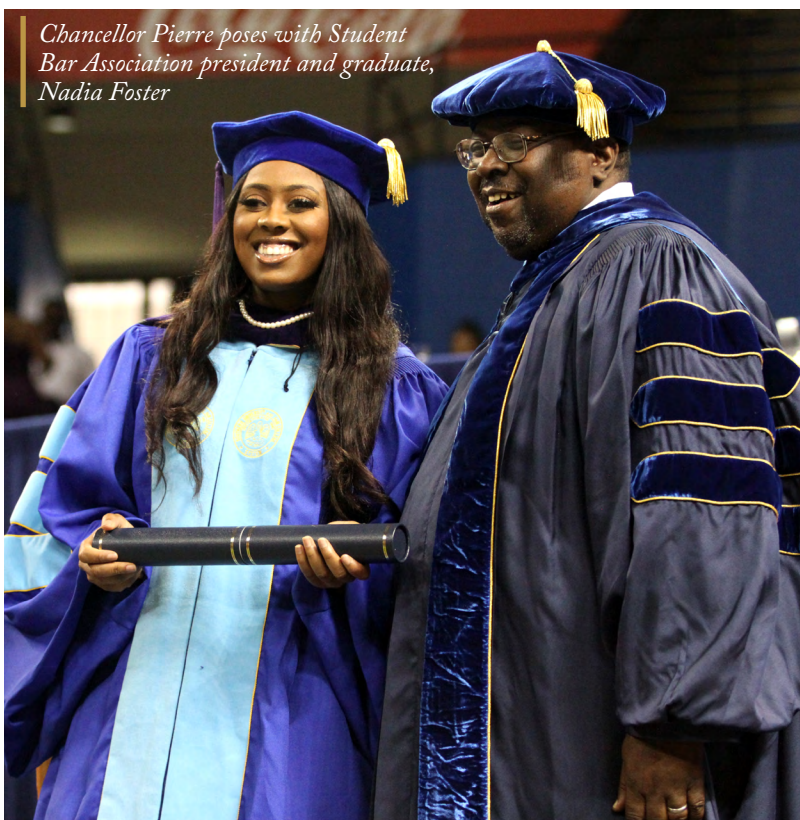
John Pierre, SULC chancellor, addresses graduates and guests during the fall commencement ceremony.



Honorable Judge John Guidry served as the commencement speaker at the Fall 2022 ceremony.



Chancellor Pierre poses with Student Bar Association president and graduate, Nadia Foster



Honorable Dana Douglas served as the commencement speaker for the Spring 2023 ceremony.





Save The Date

APRIL 3RD - 6TH



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*If you have any questions, contact Director of Alumni Affairs
Robbin Thomas at RThomas@sulc.edu*

OFFICE OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
2 ROOSEVELT STEPTOE DRIVE
P.O. Box 9294
BATON ROUGE, LA 70813

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