

# CHANCELLOR'S REPORT



*Producing Lawyer Leaders*

APRIL 2023

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# INSIDE STORY

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

The Southern University Law Center (SULC) held its inaugural Henrietta Lacks Symposium on March 14, bringing light and truth to Henrietta and the medical racism committed by John Hopkins University Hospital in 1950. This year's theme is "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, 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 symposium opened with the "Genetic Justice & Medical Racism Panel" featuring Civil Rights Attorney Ben Crump and fellow panelists Kim Parker, Doug Rendleman, Yusuf Henriques, Caprice Roberts, and Robert Klonoff. SULC professor Deleso Alford moderated the discussion.

The Lacks family attended the historic event. Henrietta's eldest son, Lawrence Lacks, and his son Ron Lacks were also present. 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.

Two panel discussions followed in the afternoon. "Reproduction Justice Panel: 50 Steps Forward, One Fall Back" moderated by Kimberly LaMotte and panelists included Nancy Davis, Bree Anderson, Dr. Edgar Feinberg, Alma Stewart, Kaitlyn B. Joshua, Frankie Robertson, and Dr. Sandra Brown.

The panel discussion titled "Criminal Justice: Disparate Incarceration of Black Women and Women of Color" closed the day. Leslie R. Chambers moderated the conversation and featured panelists Latoyia Porter, Victor Jones, Stephanie Willis, and Jee Young Park.



# INSIDE STORY

## SULC STUDENT BAR ASSOCIATION DIVERSITY COMMITTEE HONOR SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AMBASSADORS AT RECOGNITION PROGRAM

For the past year, the SULC's Student Bar Association Diversity Committee has honored individuals who have made an impact to the campus of Southern University and beyond by presenting them with a "Creating a More Respectful World" plaque. Recipients of this award have proven to display the characteristics of loyalty and commitment to their community.



## SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER LAUNCHES ESPORTS INNOVATION LAB WITH OFFICIAL RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY

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 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 goal for 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.

# INSIDE STORY

## SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER HOSTS 2023 ESPORTS SUMMIT



Southern University Law Center's (SULC) Mixed Reality Virtual Innovation Gaming and Esports Institute hosted its second annual Esports Summit on March 16-17 at the Smith-Brown Memorial Union on the campus of Southern University.

During the summit, participants heard from many innovative and progressive leaders within the esports industry. Speakers included Jeffery Harrison, director of networks and operations at East Baton Rouge Parish School System; Bradford Harris, education strategist at PubSec; Ryan Morrison, chief executive officer of Evolved Talent and founding partner of Morrison Rothman LLP; and Adrienne Moliere, FACS teacher/esports coordinator at University View Academy, and more.

The two-day summit included keynote sessions and panel discussions on topics such as Esports Careers and Pathways, Law within the Esports and Gaming Industry, Esports Clubs and Programs in Virtual Schools, Music within Gaming and Esports and more. In addition, collegiate teams, including Southern University, Boise State, and others competed in a showcase.

## INTEGRITY AND NEGOTIATION TACTICS WERE ON THE AGENDA FOR THE SECOND ANNUAL SPORTS AGENT BOOTCAMP

Southern University Law Center hosted its second Sports Agent Bootcamp on March 10-11 at the Smith-Brown Student Union on the campus of Southern University.

The two-day program featured several panel conversations and fireside chats on topics ranging from Strategies for Agent Exam Studying to Best Practices for Securing a Job in the Sports Industry. Speakers included Kelton Crenshaw, national football league agent at Klutch Sports Group; Joe Branch, head of On-Court Basketball Strategy and Business Development at WME Sports; Josh Beauregard-Bell, basketball sports agent at Octagon Sports; Jovan Barnes, vice president at Independent Sports & Entertainment, and more. The speaker's agencies represented several athletes ranging from Jalen Hurts (Philadelphia Eagles), LeBron James (Los Angeles Lakers), Stephen Curry (Golden State Warriors), Giannis Antetokounmpo (Milwaukee Bucks), and more.





# STUDENT EVENT

## LAW CENTER STUDENTS PRESENT INGENUITY AT STUDENT BAR ASSOCIATION'S "BRUNCH AND BUSINESS" EVENT



SULC's Student Bar Association hosted a "Brunch and Business" event that provided students with the unique opportunity to serve as vendors and display their talents and side hustles outside of law school.

# STUDENT FEATURES

## JAYLA SIMS



Law Center student Jayla Sims accepted an offer to serve as Bricker & Eckler's summer 2023 Charles H. Walker Fellow.

## SHANELLE STATEN



Law Center student Shanelle Staten secured an internship at ACLU of Louisiana.

## IKE DURU



Law Center student Ike Duru accepted a law clerk position with the Baton Rouge Parish Attorney's Office.

## DONOVAN JACKSON



Law Center student Donovan Jackson obtained a legal affairs internship with T-Moblie.

# STUDENT FEATURES

## ALVIN CASIMERE



Law Center student Alvin Casimere accepted an in-house legal internship with Aflac.

## SEMAJ FIELDING



Law Center student Semaj Fielding will join Irwin Fritchie Urquhart Moore & Daniels LLC as a summer associate.

## CHRISTINE TILLMAN



Law Center student Christine Tillman's Southern University Law Review article was cited by the Louisiana Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal.

## WHITNEY TRIPLET



Law Center student Whitney Triplet received the LexisNexis African Ancestry Network Rule of Law Foundation Fellowship.

## DANASIA RICH



Law Center student Danasia Rich accepted an offer to join Orleans Public Defenders.

# FACULTY FEATURES

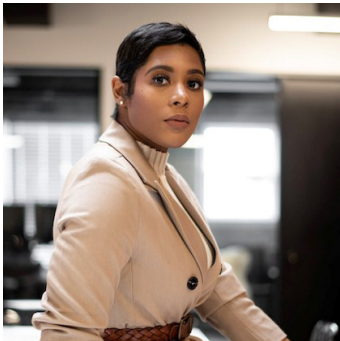
## REGINA L. RAMSEY



Professor Regina Ramsey served as a panelist during Touro Law Center's Journal of Race, Gender, and Ethnicity virtual symposium.

# ALUMNI FEATURES

## JORDAN FRANKLIN



Law Center alumna Jordan Franklin joined Harley-Davidson as trademark corporate counsel.

## CHARLOTTE CRAVINS



Law Center alumnus Charlotte Cravins is the new chief of staff/executive assistant to Public Service Commissioner Davante Lewis.

## BILL SHEA



Law Center alumnus Bill Shea is elected board president of Louisiana Appleseed.

## REGINA RUDISILL



Law Center alumna Regina Rudisill joined Appalachian State University in North Carolina as assistant general counsel.

# ALUMNI FEATURES

EBONY NORRIS

LORI GRAHAM

J. DHU THOMPSON



Law Center alumni Ebony Norris, Lori Graham, and J. Dhu Thompson are each named Shreveport's top attorneys.

KATRENA KING




Alumna Katrena King is named a Top 20 Under 40 Acadiana Leadership Award honoree.



# CURRENT & FUTURE EVENTS

## MARCH 29 - APRIL 1

**MARCH 29 -  
APRIL 1, 2023**



**EVENTS  
AT-A-GLANCE**

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29		
<b>REED SMITH AMBASSADOR WORKSHOP</b> <small>Reed Smith LLP will answer students' questions about preparing for OCI, landing a summer associate position, and Big Law in general.</small>	8 AM - 10 AM	SULC Atrium
<b>CLE &amp; LUNCH</b> <small>"Why the Louisiana Bar Foundation is Good for the Profession"                      Presenter - Deirdre Deculus Robert                      Louisiana Bar Foundation Vice President</small>	NOON	SULC Room 130
THURSDAY, MARCH 30		
<b>STUDENT PROFESSIONAL WORKSHOP &amp; LUNCH</b> <small>Class of 2013</small>	NOON	SULC Room 129
<b>JUDICIAL WALL OF FAME UNVEILING CEREMONY</b> <small>Join us as we recognize the newest Judges to be inducted into the Judicial Wall of Fame which hangs in the North Wing of the Law Center.</small>	4 PM	Bert & Sue Turner Gallery Shaw Center for the Arts
<b>DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI &amp; FRIENDS RECEPTION</b> <small>Join us for one of the best views of the Mississippi River as we recognize those Alumni and Friends who have distinguished themselves in service to the Law Center, their communities, and the pursuit of justice everywhere.</small>	5:30 PM	River Terrace Shaw Center for the Arts
FRIDAY, MARCH 31		
<b>CHANCELLOR'S SCRAMBLE GOLF TOURNAMENT</b> <small>Alumni &amp; Friends of the Law Center bring their best golf game to Raise Green on the Green. With good food and friendly, but fierce competition, the event is a fun day for those who participate.</small>	7 AM Registration 8 AM Shotgun Start	Beaver Creek Golf Course
<b>ADMITTED STUDENT'S RECEPTION &amp; ALUMNI MIXER</b> <small>Join Chancellor Pierre as he welcomes the newest attorneys to be admitted to the Louisiana Bar from the Law Center. The event provides networking opportunities for new attorneys to talk with experienced alumni and friends about their area of legal expertise.</small>	6 PM	Atrium A. A. Lenoir Hall
SATURDAY, APRIL 1		
<b>ALUMNI HALL OF FAME GALA</b> <small>Join us for the pinnacle event of the Round-Up weekend where alumni classes gather and the Law Center recognizes the newest inductees into the Alumni Hall of Fame.</small>	6 PM Reception 7 PM Dinner & Program	Renaissance Hotel Baton Rouge, LA

For more information on registration and sponsorship, contact Robbin Thomas at (225) 771-5878 or via e-mail to [rthomas@sulc.edu](mailto:rthomas@sulc.edu).

## MARCH 31<sup>ST</sup>



The SULC Alumni Roundup & Office of Equity, Inclusion, and Title IX

### THE STATE OF DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

PANEL AND LUNCH RECEPTION

FRIDAY, MARCH 31<sup>ST</sup>

11:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

Room 129

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



## MAY 20<sup>TH</sup>

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY  
LAW CENTER

## SAVE THE DATE



*Spring Commencement*

SATURDAY, MAY 20<sup>TH</sup>

10 A.M. CST

F.G. CLARK ACTIVITY CENTER

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  
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*