

CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

OCTOBER 2021



“PRODUCING LAWYER LEADERS”

NEWS

LEADING ENTERTAINMENT COMPANIES TAKE CENTER STAGE AT ANNUAL SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENT SYMPOSIUM

Despite a global pandemic, the sports and entertainment industry has continued to rocket with groundbreaking initiatives and accomplishments. In an effort to engage students with industry leaders, Southern University Law Center, in conjunction with its Sports and Entertainment Legal Association, is hosting its second annual Sports and Entertainment Symposium taking place on October 28 and 29. This year's theme is "Legally Connected".

"After a successful inaugural event, it became apparent that we needed to further develop programming stemming from this soaring industry," said Marla Dickerson, associate vice chancellor of Innovation and Strategic Partnerships and Initiatives at the Southern University Law Center. "This year, we want our students to get "connected" and hear from to c-suite executives on where the industry is progressing and how our students can be at the forefront of this innovative journey."

Participants will receive noteworthy legal knowledge and the "inside scoop" from the leading and trending companies and firms. Panelists include representatives from Sony Pictures Entertainment, Diverse Representation, Disney Pixar, The Fowlkes Firm, Atlanta Hawks, LinkedIn, Echo Lake Entertainment, Loeb and Loeb Law Firm, Black News Channel, and a host more.

The two-day student-led virtual event schedule includes panels, such as "The Right to Copy", "Deep Dive with the Black News Channel", "Women in Sports Entertainment", and more.

"We've developed a robust schedule of presentations for our participants that will allow them to immerse themselves within the industry," said Dickerson. "The goal

LEADING.. (CONT'D)



and focus of this symposium is exposure of our students. This symposium is meant to be educational, informative, and to broaden the acceptance and implementation of the concepts of diversity, inclusion and access for all.”

The symposium began as a concept developed by a group of students that expressed interest in the sports and entertainment industry. Shortly after the inaugural event, the Law Center began fostering partnerships with executives and organizations to develop programming and secure internships and externship. Recently, the campus has begun a well-attended Entertainment Law Speaker Series where legal and entertainment professionals speak to students on the up-to-the minute topics plaguing the walls of the industry.

Registration for the virtual event is now open at www.sulc.edu/getconnected. The website also contains the event schedule, as well as bios on the panelists. To participate in the event, fees are \$35 for students and \$60 for general admissions, and the event is open to the general public.

For more information, contact Marla Dickerson at mdickerson@sulc.edu.

NEWS

*The Native American Law and Policy Institute
hosts the*

TRIBAL COURTS AND TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY SYMPOSIUM

October 1ST

1 P.M. - 5 P.M.

VIRTUAL EXPERIENCE VIA ZOOM

REGISTER AT
SULC.EDU/TRIBAL

LEGAL PROFESSIONALS EARN 3.75 HOURS OF
LOUISIANA CLE CREDIT

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
LAW CENTER
Native American Law & Policy Institute

PANELISTS INCLUDE:



ROBERT MILLER
*Professor of Law at Arizona
State University*



DAVID SICKEY
*CEO, Sickey Global Strategies
LLC.*



ALFRED URBINA
*Attorney General, Pascua
Yaqui Tribe*



JESSICA DUGAN
*Senior Counsel at Holland &
Knight*

CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE MISSING WOMEN'S CRISIS ON THE AGENDA FOR THIS YEAR'S TRIBAL COURTS AND TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY SYMPOSIUM

The Native American Law and Policy Institute at the Southern University Law Center hosted the annual Tribal Courts and Tribal Sovereignty symposium on October 1 that discussed various topics such as the missing and murdered

indigenous women and girls crisis, tribal violence and the violence against women act, climate change, and more.



**MINORITY BUSINESS
DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER AWARDED FEDERAL GRANT TO ESTABLISH MINORITY BUSINESS CENTER

The Law Center received federal funding to establish a Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) Business Center from the U.S. Department of Commerce's Minority Business Development Agency as part of its MBDA Business Center Program. The MBDA Business Center will be able to help minority-owned businesses increase their sales, have access to matching opportunities for public and private contracts, and build capacity by developing their management, financial, and technological capabilities.

NEWS

DO YOUR PART, TAKE THE SHOT VACCINATION DRIVE

The Law Center held a vaccine drive in the SULC Atrium on Friday, September 17. Sponsors included Gordon McKernan Injury Attorneys, The SU Alumni Home Chapter, and Representative C. Denise Marcelle. Participants had the chance to win prizes including gift cards, swag bags and cash awards. In addition, the Office of Student Affairs held a program to demystify the COVID vaccine and share experiences with the disease.



ENTERTAINMENT LAW SPEAKER SERIES

The Southern University Law Center, SULC's Sports and Entertainment Legal Association, and Diverse Representation are hosting an Entertainment Law Speaker series for students interested in the entertainment industry. The conversations feature various entertainment attorneys and executives as they speak about their personal and professional experiences in the industry, share valuable tips and pointers as it relates to how they got started in their career and what it takes to be successful in their current roles.





A SHARED PASSION FOR LAW LEADS ONE COUPLE TO THE LAW CENTER

Chicago natives Shaul and Teyonnda Israel are excited to begin their journey at the Southern University Law Center (SULC). The Israel's just completed their first month of law school together in addition to celebrating their seventeen-year anniversary!

“We both had a passion for law at a very young age.” said Teyonnda. “I wanted to be a prosecutor and Shaul was an aspiring defense attorney.”

The couple met when they were 23 years old. They both attended Everest University in Orlando, FL. The two quickly connected over their love for law and eventually started dating. After graduation, they went on to pursue their legal studies together at American Public University where they both finished magna cum laude.

“We knew for a fact that we had to attend an HBCU for our legal education needs to be met. We feel that as a people, we would be better served in the presence of our own people who rejoice in seeing us succeed.” said Shaul. “We chose the Southern University Law Center because it was ranked as the second-best law school for African Americans next to Howard.”

When it was time to take the Law School Admission Test (LSAT), they were eager to prepare. After much studying and sacrifice, to their surprise, they earned the exact same score. “We were both so shocked to see that we had the same LSAT score! This doesn't happen often.” said Teyonnda.

The couple currently share two classes and say the advantage of that is they both have a 24-hour study buddy. In the future, the Israel's hope to share the same class schedule.

NEWS

A SHARED PASSION.. (CONT'D)

“The key to our longevity, is we never get tired of each other.” said Shaul.

Their daughter, Miranda Israel, plans to follow in their footsteps; she, too, has a love for law. In the future, she plans to attend SULC just like her parents. Upon graduation, the Israel’s goal is to start their own law firm, which will open the door for new opportunities for not only them, but their daughter as well.

STUDENT EVENTS

TRIAL ADVOCACY BOARD INDUCTIONS

The Trial Advocacy Board held an induction and pinning ceremony for new members on Sept 17. Each year, the board elects a number of the Law Center’s top performing students to become members of this prestigious honors society.



SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER

PARTNERS WITH SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENT COMPANY TO INCREASE DIVERSITY EFFORTS WITHIN TRENDING INDUSTRY

PARTNERSHIPS

The Southern University Law Center and Diverse Representation announce a new one-year partnership and will engage in a collaborative working relationship to increase diversity in the respective positions of c-suite, executive, legal, and management.

Diverse Representation is a Los Angeles-based company whose mission is to competitive sports and entertainment agency that sets out to increase the exposure and hiring of number of African American agents, attorneys, managers, and publicists who work in the sports and entertainment industry. Founded in 2018, Diverse Representation provides the first ever comprehensive directory of African American agents, attorneys, managers, and publicists throughout the country. The company also curates various programs, events, and diversity initiatives, such as the recently launched Black Music Executives Pipeline Program, in partnership with Color of Change.

Through this partnership, the Law Center and Diverse Representation seek to develop and create mutually beneficial programs and projects designed to educate, engage, provide internships, and empower Law Center students and alumni regarding concerning opportunities in the sports and entertainment industries.

Within our partnership, SULC and Diverse Representation are preparing to host numerous networking and educational events throughout the 2021-2022 academic year that will allow students to converse and learn from leading industry thought leaders and legal professionals. One noteworthy component of the partnership is a sports agent bootcamp, the first-of-its-kind HBCU program aimed at equipping students with tools and skill sets to pursue careers as professional sports agents.



STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

VENESIA CAMPBELL



NZHADA HARRIS



Law Center students Venesia Campbell and Nzhada Harris are among 15 high-achieving law school students across the U.S. who were named Fall 2021 George Floyd Memorial Legal Scholarship Fund Recipients. The George Floyd Memorial Fund has awarded more than \$50,000 in scholarships and educational programs. The foundation provides scholarships to deserving law school, college, and high school students. Each law school recipient received a \$1,000 scholarship which will help cover the costs of attending law school and college for students.

JAYLEN THOMAS

Jaylen Thomas is selected for a fall clerkship at the The Center for HIV Law & Policy. The Center for HIV Law & Policy is a national legal and policy resource and strategy center for people living with HIV and their advocates.



KENYATTA BATHELEMY



Kenyatta Bathelemy was awarded the GNO Martinet Legal Society scholarship. Bathelemy is a member of the Dean's list, Moot Court Board, Louis A. Berry Civil Rights Institute, Criminal Law Society, and Martinet Society.

STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

MOLLIE PONDS

Mollie Ponds has been selected as fall student clerk with Chief Justice W. Fields at the 19th JDC.



KORDELL CALDWELL



Law Center student and Southern University- Baton Rouge football player Kordell Caldwell has partnered with Walk On's Sports Bar and Restaurant for a new NIL (Name, Image, & Likeness) program called "Walk-On of the Week." The new NIL movement in collegiate sports means that it is now legal for student-athletes to benefit from their own name, image, or likeness with sponsorship deals, awards, and more. This new program will honor walk-on student-athletes from around the country, each week.

DEMARIO THORNTON

DeMario Thornton has been awarded the 2022 Diversity Scholarship at Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP. Bradley's diversity scholarship promotes the education of law students who reflect the diversity of the legal marketplace and who are traditionally underrepresented in the legal profession. Each scholarship includes a summer clerkship.



ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

SONDRA JACKSON



Sondra Jackson was named a “superb woman” in her community. Jackson is the judge of the Texas 302nd District Court and serves as a member of the Dallas NAACP. She has sat on the boards of Habitat for Humanity, Legal Services of North Texas and the Transformation Ministry.

EDWARD JONES

Attorney Edward Jones was elected to the board of directors of both Patterson State Bank and Patterson BancShares, the holding company of PSB. Jones has been the sole principal of the law firm, Edward B Jones & Associates for 24 years, and the owner of Champions Health Club LLC for 15 years.



ROBERT MARIN



Robert Marin has been elected chief executive officer of Patterson State Bank. Marin has been on the board of directors at Patterson State Bank since 2000 and the chief lending officer since 2007.

BRIANA SPIVEY

Briana Spivey has been hired as a prosecutor with the City Court in Shreveport.



ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

JESSICA GREEN DAVIS



Jessica Green Davis was appointed to assistant district attorney at the Bossier Webster Parish District Attorney's Office.

SHANITA PETTAWAY

Shanita Pettaway was named director of Title IX compliance at the University of Arkansas. Pettaway has held previous roles of contracts manager and policy coordinator, deputy Title IX coordinator, higher education law and ethics instructor and more.



ASHLEY BUTLER



Ashley Butler has accepted the position of associate general counsel for Civil Rights, Employment Law, and Policies and Procedures at the Southern University System.

JOSHUA WILLIAMS

Joshua Williams has been sworn in as the newest member of the Caddo-Bossier Port Commission. Williams has previously worked for the Caddo District Attorney's office and currently works for a private practice in Shreveport. With the Caddo-Bossier Port Commission, Williams will set the policies that guide the development, growth and operation of all the port's facilities and functions.



ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

WHITNEY JOHNSTON



Whitney Johnston joined Witherite Law Group as an attorney fellow. Witherite is one of the largest female-owned law firms in the U.S. and has been ranked one of the Top 100 places to work in the U.S.

ROBERT MARIONNEAUX

Robert Marionneaux obtained one of the largest verdicts of its type in state history. A Pointe Coupee Parish jury returned a record \$20.5 million dollar verdict in the wrongful death and survival damage claim of a local community icon, Charles “Puddin” Glaser, Sr., an accident that took place in March of 2020.



UPCOMING EVENTS

LEGALLY CONNECTED SERIES



*Southern University Law Center and the SULC Sports and Entertainment Legal Association
hosts the*

**LEGALLY CONNECTED:
2ND ANNUAL SPORTS AND
ENTERTAINMENT SYMPOSIUM**

OCTOBER 28TH - 29TH

VIRTUAL EXPERIENCE VIA ZOOM
REGISTER AT [SULC.EDU/GETCONNECTED](https://sulc.edu/getconnected)

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY 
LAW CENTER

ENTERTAINMENT LAW SPEAKER SERIES



ENTERTAINMENT LAW SPEAKER SERIES:

KIREN AHUJA

ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL COUNSEL, HULU

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29TH

1 P.M. CST

VIRTUAL EXPERIENCE VIA ZOOM

REGISTER HERE:

[HTTPS://SULCENTERTAINMENTLAWSPEAKERSERIES.SPLASHTHAT.COM/](https://sulcentertainmentlawspeakerseries.splashthat.com/)



BECOMING FIERCE IN THE PRACTICE OF LAW SERIES

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
LAW CENTER
Continuing Legal Education

**BECOMING FIERCE IN THE
PRACTICE OF LAW:
SSI/SSDI**

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29TH
NOON - 1 P.M. CST

PLATFORM: ZOOM

SECURE YOUR SPOT HERE:
[SULC.EDU/FIERCE](https://sulc.edu/fierce)

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 28TH

FOR MORE INFORMATION,
CONTACT MARLA DICKERSON AT
MDICKERSON@SULC.EDU



**PRESENTER:
LACI HAMILTON**

ENTERTAINMENT LAW SPEAKER SERIES



ENTERTAINMENT LAW SPEAKER SERIES:

REVAÉ THARPS

*DIRECTOR, BUSINESS AFFAIRS,
WARNER BROS. TELEVISION*

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12TH

12 P.M. CST

VIRTUAL EXPERIENCE VIA ZOOM

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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

Domoine D. Rutledge, Esq., Chairman, Board of Supervisors
Dr. Ray L. Belton, Southern University and A&M College System President
John K. Pierre, SULC Chancellor

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