

CHANCELLOR'S REPORT



Producing Lawyer Leaders

FEBRUARY 2025

INSIDE STORY

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER'S BLSA Mock Trial Team Claims Regional Championship Victory



The Southern University Law Center's (SULC) Black Law Students Association (BLSA) Mock Trial Team achieved an outstanding victory, claiming the title of Southwest Region Champions in the prestigious Constance Baker Motley Mock Trial Competition. This highly competitive event was part of the 9th annual National Black Law Students Association's (NBLSA) Southwest Regional Convention. This year's convention, themed "Radical Reformation: Revolutionizing Today for a Better Tomorrow," took place from January 22-26, 2025, at the Dallas Marriott Downtown in Dallas, Texas.

The championship-winning team consisted of Law Center student's William Gaspard Jr, Jada Haynes, Aaron Manzy, and Alexis Blanton. Their journey to the regional title was no small feat, as they faced fierce competition from top-tier law schools, including Tulane University and the University of Texas at Dallas.

Haynes and Gaspard showed incredible skill as attorneys, handling three intense rounds, while Manzy and Blanton delivered compelling performances as witnesses.

Adding to the team's success, Manzy earned the prestigious Best Advocate Award, a testament to his outstanding courtroom advocacy and ability to command attention with his argumentation and legal acumen.

Angela A. Allen-Bell, professor at Southern University Law Center, served as the keynote speaker during the event. This victory marks a significant milestone for SULC's BLSA Mock Trial Team, reinforcing the institution's commitment to fostering top-tier legal talent and empowering students to excel in the competitive field of trial advocacy.

INSIDE STORY

LAW CENTER ALUMNA RETURNS TO SULC TO SHARE CAREER INSIGHTS WITH LAW STUDENTS



The Southern University Law Center (SULC) proudly welcomed 2013 alumna, Chiquita Hall-Jackson, for a special book signing event where she shared invaluable career insights with law students.

Author of “We Gon Be Alright: A Black Executive’s Guide to Navigating Workplace Dynamics,” Jackson engaged in candid discussions about the challenges and strategies of building a successful career after law school. She provided real-world advice on navigating workplace culture, overcoming obstacles, and positioning oneself for leadership roles.

The event served as an inspiring opportunity for students to gain firsthand knowledge from a seasoned professional who has excelled in her field.

INSIDE STORY

SULC INTRODUCE NEW ALUMNI AT FALL 2024 COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

On January 25, the Southern University Law Center (SULC) proudly celebrated its Fall 2024 Commencement Ceremony, where graduates were awarded their Juris Doctor degrees. The ceremony took place at the F.G. Clark Activity Center on the campus of Southern University Baton Rouge.

The event began with a warm welcome from Interim Chancellor Alvin Washington, who addressed the distinguished graduates, their families, friends, and esteemed guests.

The Honorable Judge Erika L. Green delivered the keynote address, offering heartfelt congratulations to the graduates and officially welcoming them into the



SULC alumni family. A proud 2010 alumna of the Law Center, Judge Green reflected on the transformative power of an SULC education and the doors it opens for aspiring legal professionals.

Judge Green, who was elected to the Family Court for East Baton Rouge Parish, Division B, in November 2021, shared insights from her accomplished legal career. Before taking the bench, she operated her own law firm, The Law Office of Erika Green, LLC, where she specialized in estate, family, and civil matters. Her dedication to public service was evident in her roles as a Child in Need of Care Attorney for Southeast Legal Services, a Foster Care Provider for the Department of Children and Family Services, and an Administrative Hearing Officer for the Louisiana Workforce Commission. In addition to her legal practice, she also served as an adjunct professor at SULC, further cementing her commitment to shaping future legal minds.

Throughout her address, Judge Green emphasized the profound responsibility that comes with being a legal professional.

She concluded her speech with a powerful reminder of the graduates' duty to contribute meaningfully to society.

The program concluded with closing remarks, celebrating the graduates' hard work and ushering them into the next chapter of their legal careers.

The ceremony was live-streamed and recorded on the Law Center's YouTube channel.



JOINT VENTURES

SULC's OFFICE OF INNOVATION AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS AND INITIATIVES PARTNER WITH ABBVIE FOR LEGAL ACADEMIES



Over 70 Law Center students participated in the third installment of the AbbVie Legal Academies at Southern University Law Center. Designed as an intensive intercession experience, each Academy offered students focused task-oriented training, through actual practice experience.

During the four-day experience, students listened to and learned from practicing attorneys from Baker Donelson, Kirkland and Ellis LLP, Arnold & Porter, Consilio, Jones Day and more, who equipped them with the knowledge and connections to become successful attorneys.

In the Academies, students learned about the basics of compliance, patent law, eDiscovery, and trial preparation. Each Academy provided participants with innovative and strategic skills that will enable them to be prepared to the evolving demands of the legal field.

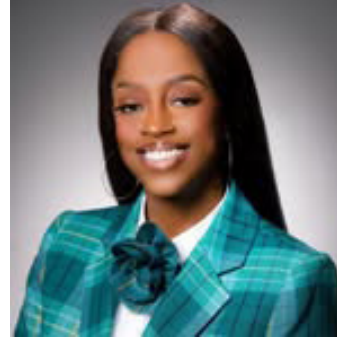
STUDENT FEATURES

CHANTEL N. MBAEYI



Chantel N. Mbaeyi was selected to join the 2025 Baker McKenzie & National Black Law Students Association Tax Mentor Program.

SHASHONNIE STEWARD



Shashonnie Steward is appointed to board president of the East Baton Rouge Parish School Board.

FACULTY FEATURES

DELESO ALFORD



Professor Deleso Alford received the 2025 Impact Legacy Award from the Association of American Law School.

ALUMNI FEATURES

JAYLON DENKINS



Jaylon Denkins joined Groom Law Group as an associate.

DONALD CRAVINS



Donald Cravins is named on the inaugural Forbes BLK 50 list.

HOLLIS LEWIS



Hollis Lewis has been elected to the West Virginia House of Delegates, representing the 57th District (Kanawha County).

ALEX PROCHASKA



Alex Prochaska is elected as partner at Jones Walker LLP.

JOHN COLLINS



John Collins is appointed to the Board of Directors for the O'Brien House.

PEARLINA BOYD



Pearlina Boyd was selected to serve as a mediator for the Missouri Bar with its Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Program.

ALUMNI FEATURES

BRIANNA RHYMES



TAYLOR SCOTT



Brianna Rhymes and Taylor Scott joined Bradley Law as associates.

SHASHONNIE STEWARD



Shashonnie Steward is appointed to board president of the East Baton Rouge Parish School Board.

CURRENT & FUTURE EVENTS

FEB 19TH

You're invited to attend the

LUNCH & LEARN

UNDERSTANDING MORTGAGES AND
THE HOME BUYING PROCESS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH | 12 P.M. CS

Room 227

SPEAKER

 TANYA LIPSETT
Community Mortgage Lender
BankPlus

BankPlus
SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
Office of Innovation and Strategic Partnerships
and Initiatives

APRIL | 2ND-5TH



Save The Date

APRIL 2ND - 5TH

 VISIT [BIT.LY/ALUMNIANDFRIENDSROUNDUP25](https://bit.ly/AlumniandFriendsRoundUp25)
FOR MORE DETAILS

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

APRIL | 24TH-25TH



**ESPORTS
SUMMIT
2025**

APRIL 24-25, 2025

SMITH-BROWN MEMORIAL UNION
500 JESSE STONE AVE
BATON ROUGE, LA 70813

GAMING, GIVEAWAYS
PANELS, & MORE

REGISTER NOW
WWW.SULC.EDU/ESPORTS



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
Alvin Washington, SULC Interim Chancellor

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