

# CHANCELLOR'S REPORT



*Producing Lawyer Leaders*

JUNE 2024

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# INSIDE STORY

## SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER CELEBRATES SPRING 2024 COMMENCEMENT



On May 18, over 230 students received their Juris Doctorate degree during Southern University Law Center's (SULC) Spring 2024 Commencement Ceremony. The ceremony was held at the F. G. Clark Activity Center on the campus of Southern University Baton Rouge. Louisiana State Senator, Cleo Fields, served as the commencement speaker.

Chancellor John Pierre opened the ceremony warmly by welcoming guests, family, and friends. He went on to introduce platform guests and elected officials. Dennis Shields, president of the Southern University System, also took the podium.

Louisiana State Senator Cleo Fields encouraged the graduates to follow their dreams and serve their community. He recounted memories of his days in the hallowed halls of A.A. Lenoir Hall with classmates, including Chief Justice Judge John Guidry and Interim Chancellor Alvin Washington.

He went on to describe pivotal moments that molded his career. Fields ended the speech by motivating the graduates to use their time wisely and be bold.

The ceremony was live streamed and can be viewed on the Law Center's YouTube channel.



# INSIDE STORY

## LAW CENTER HOSTS CONVERSATION SURROUNDING PARALLELS BETWEEN THE CASTE SYSTEM AND THE HEALTHCARE INDUSTRY



Southern University Law Center, through the Southern University Increasing Clinicians of Diversity Initiative, hosted a conversation titled “Intersectionality between the Caste System and the Medical System” featuring notable author, Isabel Wilkerson on Monday, May 20.

Wilkerson, winner of the Pulitzer Prize and the National Humanities Medal, is the author of the critically acclaimed, New York Times bestsellers *The Warmth of Other Suns*, and *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*. She won the Pulitzer Prize for her deeply humane narrative writing while serving as Chicago Bureau Chief of *The New York Times* in 1994, making her the

first black woman in the history of American journalism to win a Pulitzer Prize and the first African American to win for individual reporting. In 2016, President Barack Obama awarded Wilkerson the National Humanities Medal for “championing the stories of an unsung history.”

The candid conversation discussed the similarities and connections existing between the unfair systems that create inequality and the current imbalance in the American healthcare system. Following the conversation, attendees were able to receive a personal autograph and picture.

# FACULTY FEATURES



## SULC PROFESSOR'S RESEARCH FEATURED IN NON-UNANIMOUS JURY REPORT IN LONDON

Southern University Law Center (SULC) Professor Angela Allen-Bell attended and spoke at a seminar in London titled DOUBT DISMISSED: Race, Juries and Wrongful Conviction.

This seminar, hosted by APPEAL- a charity and law practice dedicated to fighting miscarriages of justice and demanding reform, highlighted Professor Allen-Bell's work regarding non-unanimous juries.

## SULC PROFESSOR SERVED AS DIVERSITY VISITING SCHOLAR AT UNM

Professor Deleso Alford was invited to the University of New Mexico as the 2024 University New Mexico HSC Distinguished Diversity Visiting Scholar. During this time, Alford engaged in several presentations and small group discussions on her research and work with "HER-stories"- the unique and particularized lived experiences of black women intersecting with health care and research.



## SULC PROFESSOR APPOINTED TO AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION HEALTH LAW SECTION

Southern University Law Center Professor, Kimberly LaMotte, was appointed to serve as the 2024-2025 leader of the American Bar Association Health Law Section.

# INSIDE STORY



## ALVIN WASHINGTON NAMED INTERIM CHANCELLOR OF THE SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER

During their May meeting, the Southern University System Board of Supervisors named Alvin Washington as the interim chancellor of the Southern University Law Center.

The Board's approval came at the recommendation of Southern University System President Dennis J. Shields.

Washington is the managing professor for the Law Center's Mediation Clinic. He also serves as a faculty member, teaching courses such as legal research, statutory analysis, alternate dispute resolution, and legal negotiations. Throughout his career, Washington has held community-focused roles, demonstrating expertise in insurance and civil rights.

Washington received his B.S. degree from Grambling State University in 1983 and his J.D. from Southern University Law Center in 1987.

## LAW CENTER PROFESSOR PENS OP-ED PIECE ON CALIFORNIA CONSTITUTION

SULC professor Carlo Pedrioli published an academic paper titled, *In re Marriage Cases, Same-Sex Marriage, and the California Supreme Court as Critical Social Movement Ally*.



Professor Pedrioli's paper draws upon social movement theory in the field of communication to examine how the California Supreme Court played a leading role from within the establishment in attempting to further the social movement for same-sex marriage in the United States. The paper looks at the various opinions in the Court's *In re Marriage Cases* decision to see how the members of the Court, divided four to three in the opinions, constructed or refrained from constructing marriage as a right that might be available to sexual minorities.



# STAFF FEATURES



## MARLA DICKERSON

Marla Dickerson, vice chancellor for Innovation and Strategic Partnerships and Initiatives at the Law Center, has been appointed to serve on several 2024-2025 American Bar Association committees. Committees include:

- Immediate Past Co-Chair of the Committee on Diversity and Inclusion Standing Committee
- Chair Appointment to the Committee on Outreach to Law Students Standing Committee
- Vice-Chair Appointment to the Cannabis Law and Policy General Committee
- Member Appointment to the Section Conference Standing Committee



## KERII LANDRY-THOMAS

Kerii Landry-Thomas, associate vice-chancellor of equity, inclusion, and Title IX, has published an article titled, *Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) In The Era Of Hostility: A Plea For Action And A Roadmap For Moving Forward*, discussing the emphasis of diversity, equity, and inclusion within institutions of higher education. Landry-Thomas' essay explores the importance of DEI in higher education, some of the legal frameworks against DEI, and the impact of counter legislation on DEI efforts in higher education.

# STUDENT FEATURES

## CORNELIUS FOXWORTH



Cornelius Foxworth II joined Sherman & Howard as a summer associate.

## KALEENA ARNOLD



Kaleena Arnold landed an externship opportunity with the United States Department of Labor's Administrative Review Board.

## JAMERSON JACKSON



Jamerson Jackson secured a summer internship opportunity with the Office of the Public Defender.

## J'LEN BESTER



J'Len Bester secured a summer clerkship position with the Law Offices of Manuel Solis.

## SEMAJ FIELDING



Semaj Fielding joined McGlinchey Stafford as a summer associate.

## TYRELL HAMILTON



Tyrell Hamilton accepted an externship position with Southeast Louisiana Legal Services.

# STUDENT FEATURES

## TAYLOR BRICE



Taylor Brice landed an externship with the Office of the State Public Defender in Colorado.

## THIERRY SIEWE YANGA



Thierry Siewe Yanga has been selected as a Garvey-Nkrumah fellow.

## CHELSEA YOUNG



Chelsea Young has been selected to join Liskow's 2024 Summer Clerk Program.

## TIERRA BUTLER



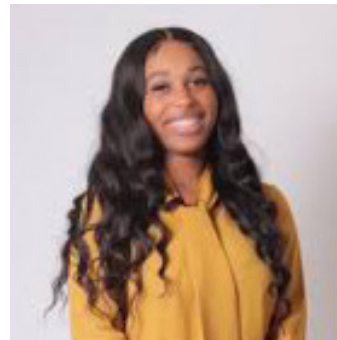
Tierra Butler was chosen to participate in the Access to Justice Developing Leadership Intern Program.

## CARMAN THORNTON



Carman Thornton will serve as a judicial intern for the Honorable Judge Erika L. Green in East Baton Rouge Parish Family Court Division B.

## ALEXIS BLANTON



Alexis Blanton will intern at the Cochran Law Firm and the public defender's office in Dallas for this summer.



# STUDENT FEATURES

## NOLAN JOHNSON



Nolan Johnson secured an internship with the Fulton County Solicitor General in Atlanta, GA.

## MAYA JONES



Maya Jones accepted an externship offer from the United States District Court in Los Angeles, California.

## DANIEL SWEET



Daniel Sweet was awarded a Peggy Browning Fund Fellowship.

## ALIYAH McCARY



Aliyah McCary will work at Jefferson County's Bessemer Division District Attorney's Office, with Honorable Patricia Stephen, and with Honorable Debra Weston-Pickens.

# ALUMNI FEATURES

## KRIS BOZEMAN



Kris Bozeman joined the Blake Jones Law Firm LLC as an associate.

## ALVIN CASIMERE



Alvin Casimere accepted an associate position at Schouest, Bamdas, Soshea, BenMaier & Eastham PLLC.

## CHARLES SCHEXNAILDRE



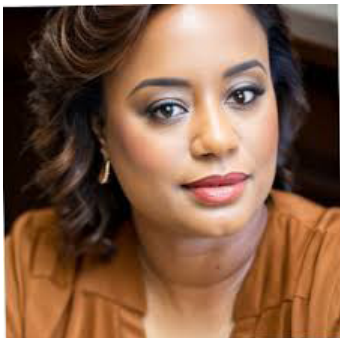
Charles F. Schexnaildre joined Baker Donelson as Of Counsel.

## STASHA RHODES



Stasha Rhodes started a new position as senior fellow at Center for American Progress

## NICOLE HAZEY



Nicole Hazezy started a new position as attorney advisor for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

## MARLINA DANGERVIL



Accepted a full-time fellowship as a junior lawyer at luxury conglomerate, Louis Vuitton Moët Hennessy.

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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  
John K. Pierre, SULC Chancellor

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