

# CHANCELLOR'S REPORT



*Producing Lawyer Leaders*

MAY 2025

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# INSIDE STORY

## SULC STUDENTS AWARDED SCHOLARSHIPS FOLLOWING LOUISIANA SUPREME COURT CASE WRITING COMPETITION

Following the Louisiana Supreme Court's visit to Southern University Law Center in March, students were offered a unique opportunity to engage in a case analysis writing competition, aimed at sharpening their legal reasoning and writing skills. The challenge invited participants to submit a written analysis of one of four cases recently published by the state's highest court.

Students were tasked with summarizing the essential facts of their chosen case, including the events leading up to the legal dispute, the parties involved, and the central issues considered by the court. In addition to analyzing the case, each participant was required to present a personal conclusion on how they believed the court should have ruled, supported by a well-reasoned legal argument and applicable law.

The top three submissions were awarded scholarships, providing financial support toward their legal education. The first-place prize of \$1,500 was generously sponsored by Attorney Tony Clayton. Chancellor Alvin Washington sponsored the second-place prize of \$1,000, and the third-place award of \$500 was made possible through the support of Attorney Tony Clayton.

## SULC RECRUITMENT RECEPTIONS WELCOME FUTURE LAW STUDENTS

Southern University Law Center (SULC) recently welcomed the next generation of aspiring legal minds with a recruitment reception experience that stretched across Port Allen and Shreveport. The events served as a firsthand introduction to the vibrant community, impactful leadership, and transformative legal education that define the SULC experience.

The first reception was held at the Clayton, Frugé & Ward law firm in Port Allen, LA, where prospective students mingled with SULC faculty, staff, and current students. The reception was filled with meaningful conversations, lasting connections, and warm hospitality while giving attendees an authentic glimpse into what it means to become a law center student.





# INSIDE STORY

## CONT. RECEPTIONS WELCOME FUTURE LAW STUDENTS

A second reception was held in Shreveport, LA at Morris and Dewett law firm. Prospective students from across the region gathered to meet with alumni, faculty, and future classmates while exploring the limitless opportunities available through the Law Center.



## SULC CELEBRATE ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS AT 2025 ALUMNI ROUND-UP



The Southern University Law Center (SULC) proudly hosted its annual Alumni & Friends Round-Up from April 2–5, 2025. The multi-day celebration served as a powerful tribute to the outstanding achievements of alumni who continue to make significant strides in the legal profession.

# INSIDE STORY

## CONT. 2025 ALUMNI ROUND-UP



Throughout the week, SULC recognized trailblazing graduates for their professional accomplishments and unwavering commitment to justice, community, and service. The Round-Up offered a dynamic lineup of events and networking opportunities to foster reconnections, celebrate shared history, and honor excellence.

The Round-Up kicked off with a Continuing Legal Education (CLE) seminar series where we welcomed The Legal Defense Fund for a panel discussion on voting rights. The CLE was followed by a professional development seminar featuring Judge Nicole Sheppard and alumnus Drake Vargas. The CLE series continued with sessions on managing trust accounts, legislative updates, and more.

On Thursday, April 3, the Law Center held the Judicial Wall of Fame Unveiling Ceremony, honoring distinguished alumni who have served with honor and integrity on the bench. The 2025 inductees were: Honorable Brittany B. Arvie '15; Honorable Guy E. Bradberry '89; and Honorable Brittany B. Jorden '14.

Later that evening, the Distinguished Alumni & Friends Reception was held at the River Terrace of the Shaw Center for the Arts, overlooking the Mississippi River. This event recognized alumni who have made exceptional contributions to the Law Center, their communities, and the legal profession. Honorees included: Victor J. Suane, Jr. '07; April Winston Brumfield '11; Eddie M. Clark '04; and Patrick D. Magee '04.

On Friday, April 4, the energy shifted to the greens of Copper Mill Golf Course for the Chancellor's Annual Scramble Golf Tournament. Alumni and friends brought their best game for a morning of friendly competition and camaraderie.

The celebration culminated on Saturday, April 5, with the prestigious Alumni Hall of Fame Gala at the Renaissance Hotel in Baton Rouge. The evening honored an elite group of alumni who have left an indelible impact on the legal landscape, their communities, and beyond. This year's inductees included: Deleso A. Alford '90; Quincy Cawthorne '05; Ronald C. Gather, Jr. '00; Barry A. Roach '92; Larry Roach, Jr. '92.



# INSIDE STORY

## SULC CELEBRATES STUDENT EXCELLENCE AT SUPPORT-A-SOUTHERNITE CAMPAIGN LAUNCH

Southern University Law Center proudly hosted the 2024 Scholarship Presentation and 2025 Support-A-Southernite Campaign Kick-Off, bringing together students, alumni, faculty, and supporters for a powerful evening of celebration and purpose.

The event honored outstanding students who have demonstrated academic excellence.

In addition to recognizing student achievements, the event marked the official launch of the 2025 Support-A-Southernite campaign. This annual initiative, in collaboration with the Southern University Alumni Federation, will raise funds and resources that directly support law students in their educational journey.



# INSIDE STORY

## SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER'S TECHNOLOGY AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP CLINIC EMPOWERS STUDENTS AND ENTREPRENEURS THROUGH REAL-WORLD LEGAL PRACTICE



In partnership with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), Southern University Law Center's Technology and Entrepreneurship Clinic reached a major milestone this spring by successfully issuing 22 licenses to students, authorizing them to practice before the USPTO.

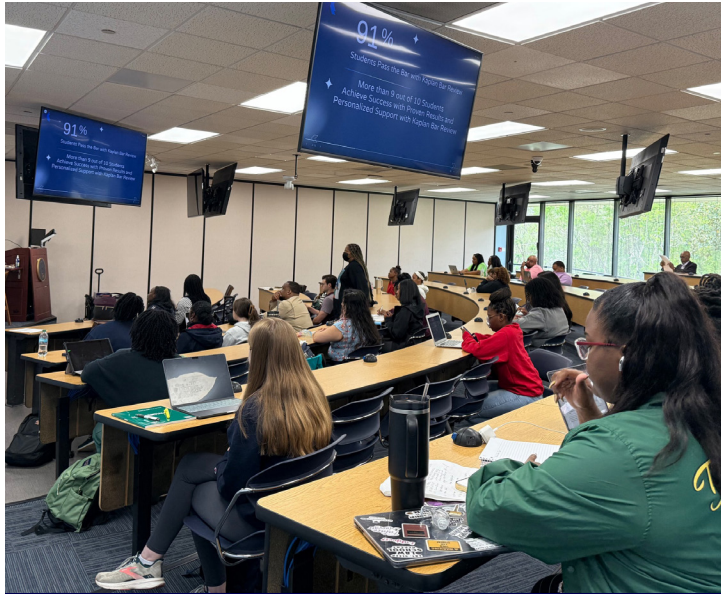
Demonstrating their commitment to innovation and access, the students also published their first clinic lecture guide, which was distributed to peer clinics and students at no cost. Throughout the semester, clinic students engaged in a variety of impactful legal matters, including conducting a privacy and publicity review for a published author, advising a software developer on business formation and employment agreements, and assisting an inventor seeking a patent for a new playpen design. They also provided trademark strategy and compliance support to a local barber, counseled a Mardi Gras umbrella designer on copyright issues, and supported both the GU272 Descendants Association and a Southern University Baton Rouge student entrepreneur with trademark and business planning needs.

A standout project involved preparing a formal response to a final refusal from a USPTO trademark examiner—an opportunity that offered students valuable experience and professional writing samples. In recognition of the graduating student attorneys who contributed to this work, the clinic hosted a heartfelt reception following its Pro Bono Clinic Day, where students provided legal guidance to local entrepreneurs. Two groups, a nonprofit led by the family of beloved SU football coach Sean Wallace and a roofing and construction company, were later accepted as full clinic clients. Through these real-world experiences, the clinic continued to empower students and support community growth across Louisiana.





# INSIDE STORY



## KAPLAN PARTNERS WITH SULC FOR BAR TALK LUNCH & LEARN

The Southern University Law Center (SULC) was joined by Kaplan Bar Review for a Bar Talk Lunch & Learn seminar. During the event, SULC students were joined by Katherine Abalos, Sr. Director of Legal Education at Kaplan, where she shared exclusive bar prep resources. Attendees learned proven strategies to maximize study time, received unlimited access to Kaplan's MBE, MEE, and MPT practice banks, and took advantage of special enrollment discounts.

## SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER HOSTS HEIRS PROPERTY WORKSHOP TO EMPOWER LOUISIANA LANDOWNERS

The Agricultural Law Institute at Southern University Law Center, in partnership with the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF), hosted a Heirs Property Workshop at the Opelousas Civic Center.

The workshop offered hands-on training in heirs' property rights, estate planning, trusts, land development, and access to legal assistance. Community members gained practical knowledge and tools to protect and preserve their land for future generations.



# FACULTY FEATURES

## LENA MAE JOHNSON



Dr. Lena Mae Johnson was appointed as At-Large Member of Conference of Minority Public Administrators.

# STUDENT FEATURES

## VANESIA CAMPBELL



Vanesia Campbell started a Bureau Law Clerk position with the Louisiana State Senate.

## CRYSTAL AMMONS



Crystal Ammons secured a position at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

## LAMARCUUS BUCKER



LaMarcus Buckner landed an internship with the Orleans Parish District Attorney's Office.

## McKENZI MARLER



McKenzi Marler accepted a full-time associate position with Gibson Law Partners.



# STUDENT FEATURES

## MICHAEL GIBSON



Michael Gibson secured an externship at the Montgomery County Public Defenders Law Office.

## DONALYNN DANIELS



Donalynn Daniels landed a law clerk internship at Entergy.

## ADRIENNE BOUTTE



Adrienne Boutte secured a summer associate position at Forman Watkins & Krutz LLP.

# ALUMNI FEATURES

## DADRIUS LANUS



Dadrius Lanus is named Executive Director of the Louisiana Democratic Party.

## KAYLA JACOB



Breazeale, Sachse & Wilson named Kayla Jacob to its Rising Stars list.



# CURRENT & FUTURE EVENTS

MAY 17<sup>TH</sup>

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY  
LAW CENTER <sup>TM</sup>

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*Save the Date*  
**SPRING 2025 COMMENCEMENT**  
SATURDAY, MAY 17, 2025 | 10 A.M.  
F.G. CLARK ACTIVITY CENTER

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 **LIVE**  
STREAMING

#SULCGRAD25

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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  
Alvin R. Washington, SULC Chancellor

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