

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

LAW CENTER TM

SU Law Center Prospectus



PROSPECTUS

Chancellor of Southern University Law Center

The Southern University System invites applications and nominations for the position of Chancellor of the Southern University Law Center.

Nomination and Submission Process: Nominations should include information about the candidate and a current email address and/or telephone number.

Interested individuals should electronically submit a letter of interest which details (1) the individual's education, philosophy, and experiences that align with the stated qualifications, a current curriculum vitae or resume, and at least three (3) current letters of reference to SULCChancellor@sus.edu. Incomplete submissions will not be considered.

HISTORY OF THE LAW CENTER

On December 16, 1946, in response to a lawsuit by an African-American resident seeking to attend law school at a state institution, the Louisiana State Board of Education took "positive steps to establish a Law School for Negroes at Southern University... to be in operation for the 1947-1948 session."

Plans for the law school were approved by the State Board of Education at its January 10, 1947, meeting. On June 14, 1947, the Board of Liquidation of State Debt appropriated \$40,000 for the operation of the school. The Southern University Law School was officially opened in September 1947 to provide legal education for African-American students.

Southern University Law Center graduates, beginning with the legendary civil rights attorney, political leader, and educator Jesse N. Stone, Jr., Alvin Basile Jones, Leroy White, Ellyson Fredrick Dyson, and Alex Louis Pitcher of the class of 1950, spread across the state and nation as trailblazers in the legal profession, securing equal rights for others. To date, the Law Center has more than 2,500 graduates and is one of the nation's most racially diverse law schools.

After 38 years of operation as a School of Law, the Southern University Board of Supervisors re-designated the school as the Southern University Law Center, enhancing its image in the region and the nation.



SULC'S MISSION

The mission of SULC is to provide access and opportunity to a diverse group of students from underrepresented racial, ethnic, and socio-economic groups to obtain a high-quality legal education with special emphasis on Louisiana civil law. Additionally, the mission is to train a cadre of lawyers equipped with the skills necessary for the practice of law and for positions of leadership in society.

The mission of the Law Center is consistent with the rich heritage of the Southern University System. The Law Center stresses legal education of high quality for qualified students from diverse backgrounds.

The Southern University Law Center is proud of the tradition established by the original School of Law — to provide quality legal education commensurate with high professional standards. This legacy has inspired the Law Center to develop as a progressive, innovative institution that prepares students for success in all law-related segments of society. Excellence in legal education is the resounding goal of the Law Center.

BUSINESS INFORMATION

- SULC's total revenue is more than \$41 million.
- Its physical plant is part of the Southern University Landmass and consists of two buildings (one under construction), providing 108,000 net square space.
- SULC has started, and plans to continue, its off campus instructional site in the Shreveport/Bossier Region.
- SULC employs approximately 200 full- and part-time employees (faculty and staff).
- The Oliver B. Spellman Law Library supports the academic program, faculty research and teaching, and service programs of the Law Center.

ACCREDITATION

Southern University Law Center is an individual, independent campus of the Southern University System. Prior to 2015, SULC was accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges ("SACSCOC") as part of Southern University and A&M College at Baton Rouge, Louisiana. However, in 2015, SULC applied for and was granted separate SACSCOC accreditation as a separate institution to award the juris doctor (JD) degree.

The Law Center's accreditation was reaffirmed by the SACSCOC Board of Trustees on December 2, 2021, for the next 10 years.

The Law Center is and has been accredited by the American Bar Association (ABA Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar Council since 1953. Standard 509 information can be found at [Official_Guide2023 \(sulc.edu\)](#). Additionally, SULC is a member of the Association of American Law Schools.

CURRICULUM

The Law Center's legal program prepares students in both civil and common law; and offers a three-year, full-time day program; a four-year, part-time day program; and a four-year part-time evening program.

Southern University Law Center offers a dual degree Juris Doctor/Master's in Public Administration (JD/MPA) program, in cooperation with the Southern University Nelson Mandela College of Government and Social Sciences. The JD/MPA prepares graduates for the challenges of the 21st century; particularly with respect to those of an increasingly competitive global environment.

In a collaboration between SULC and the Southern University and A&M College, College of Business (SUBRCOB), students can enroll in a dual degree program that allows them to earn the JD and the MBA degrees concurrently.

SULC offers a robust clinical education program that prepares students for the practice of law through a combination of real-world experience, intensive supervision, externships, and dynamic seminars. Clinics are offered in various practice areas including bankruptcy, civil, family, and administrative law, disaster law, poverty and successions, elder and estate planning, juvenile law, low-income taxpayer, mediation, real estate and housing, technology and entrepreneurship, and workers compensation.

Students are also offered an opportunity to obtain a certificate in public or tax law by successfully completing a formal course of study within the curriculum.

STUDENTS

SULC has an enrollment of more than 850 students and confers roughly 250 degrees annually.

The Law Center's comprehensive admissions standards have resulted in one of the most diverse student bodies in the nation. The Fall 2021 incoming class was 72% students of color and 57% women. The Fall 2020.

incoming class was 70% students of color and 59% women. The Fall 2019 incoming class was 68% students of color and 66% women. The students come from a wide range of professional backgrounds and life experiences. Many are from rural areas or small towns, from various states across the country, and abroad.

The Law Center offers opportunities for students to participate in organizations of special interest such as identity-based affinity groups.



SULC CHANCELLOR - POSITION PROFILE

As the chief executive officer, the Chancellor is responsible for the administration of all campus activities, including academic, financial, student, faculty, administrative affairs, and other support activities. The Chancellor reports to the Southern University System President and, through him, to the Southern University Board of Supervisors.

Responsibilities

Responsibilities of the position include:

- Leading the development and execution of the Law Center's strategic plan
- Overseeing the academic programs to ensure high standards and innovative approaches
- Managing financial operations to ensure fiscal responsibility and resource optimization
- Supporting faculty development, recruitment, retention, and ensuring equity
- Enhancing student services and engagement to promote academic success and personal growth
- Advocating for the Law Center within the Southern University System and to external stakeholders
- Leading fundraising efforts to support the institution's goals
- Ensuring compliance with Law Center policies and procedures
- Promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion within the campus community



Qualifications

Preferred qualifications for the position include:

- A dynamic individual with a vision and proven record of leadership
- Five years of executive leadership, preferably in the legal field or legal education
- Possesses a Juris Doctorate from an ABA accredited law school
- Excellence in academic and intellectual accomplishments
- Significant administrative experience in higher education administration and management
- Demonstration of prior fundraising experience for an academic or non-profit agency
- Ability to work collaboratively with faculty, administrators, and staff
- A deep understanding of and commitment to the mission of HBCUs

In addition to these threshold qualifications, the SULC Chancellor search committee will be conducting an in-depth review of each candidate to ascertain if the individual possesses the qualities to lead and create success in the following areas:

Leadership and Vision

- Visionary leader and communicator
- Transparent with stakeholders
- Ability to create systems and structures related to faculty and staff organization and maximum utilization of the physical plant of SULC

Fundraising and Development

- Proven track record in fundraising
- Ability to effectively create a fundraising plan to engage stakeholders and end users of the Law Center and also attract corporate partners



Staffing and Team Management

- Innovative ways to increase staff
- Knows how to build a high performing team
- Implements morale-building opportunities and increased incentives for increased staff retention
- Strategically creates growth opportunities for existing staff
- Recruits and retains based on skill set, effort, and effectiveness
- Focuses and maximizes revenue producing departments
- Leads faculty through a time of change with firm expectations set and follow through to ensure compliance with new policies

Accountability and Governance

- Enforces adherence to policies and procedures
- Readily makes changes based on assessments
- Understands the Southern University System and promotes fidelity in shared governance

Student Engagement

- Engages with students and addresses their concerns
- Focuses on improving admissions and bar passage rates
- Advocates for students, particularly with faculty issues
- Implements strategies to improve writing skills and bar passage rates starting from 1L
- Ensures uniformity in writing style based on best practices for bar exams
- Prepares students for practice by providing more frequent and a larger variety of practical experience opportunities

Faculty and Academic Excellence

- Challenges professors to maintain high standards
- Promotes faculty success and addresses equity issues (tenure vs. non-tenure, clinic and library faculty, gender pay gap)
- Holds faculty accountable for timely grading and professionalism
- Conducts observations of classes to ensure quality teaching
- Aligns curriculum to content to better prepare students for bar passage and post-bar practice

Financial and Business Acumen

- Grasps budget management and is business-focused
- Prioritizes resources effectively
- Understands state and federal funding streams for SULC and how to increase them

Commitment to the HBCU Mission

- Upholds and understands the unique mission of HBCUs
- Promotes the importance of HBCUs in legal education
- Advocates for HBCUs at a national level



Alumni and Networking

- Fosters networking relationships with Fortune 500 companies and enhances the national image of SULC
- Engages with alumni through exit surveys and job placement assistance
- Creates opportunities to empower alumni on behalf of SULC and creates connectivity between students and alumni for ultimate success in traditional and non-traditional job paths

Curriculum and Extracurricular Activities

- Ensures compliance with civil and common law tracks
- Provides equal access to internships and clinics for evening and day divisions
- Increases offerings in transitional practices
- Promotes judicial clerkships and is intentional with Rule 20 engagements

Organizational Excellence

- Establishes a culture of excellence and accountability
- Focuses on business development and career services
- Implements stringent vetting for student admissions and customer service
- Assesses current faculty and their experience, emotional intelligence, and engagement with students



SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY SYSTEM[®]

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ABOUT THE SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

What began as a dream more than 144 years ago is today a living legacy of determination, commitment, and success. The Southern University System was created in 1974 by Louisiana constitutional mandate, which fashioned it into the nation's only historically black 1890 Land-Grant University System. Presently, the System is composed of five institutions: Southern University and Agricultural and Mechanical College in Baton Rouge (SUBR, est. 1880), Southern University Law Center in Baton Rouge (SULC, est. 1947), Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO, est. 1956), Southern University Shreveport (SUSLA, est. 1964), and the Southern University Cooperative Extension Program in Baton Rouge (est. 1972), which became the fifth component of the System in 2001 and is now the Southern University Agricultural Research and Extension Center (SUAREC).

The Southern University System strives to achieve global recognition as a premier university system of choice for all students who seek exceptional educational opportunities. Through shared governance, leadership, and a diverse system of unique institutions, the mission of the Southern University and A&M College System is to deliver affordable world-class education, a trained workforce, state-of-the-art research, creative scholarship, and transformational public service to the state of Louisiana, the nation, and the world.

The System has two universities offering baccalaureate, master's and doctoral degrees (SUBR and SUNO); a law center offering professional doctoral degrees (SULC); a community college offering certificates, diplomas, and associate degrees (SUSLA); and an agricultural research and extension center (SUAREC). Campuses are accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC).

The global footprint of the Southern University System allows each of its campuses to advance, support, and promote economic, cultural, and workforce development initiatives that bring benefits beyond the borders of the state of Louisiana. While all campuses of the System have distinct learning environments and brands, they work together to provide a valuable and accessible educational experience.

As of the Spring 2024 preliminary data report, the Southern University System enrolled 11,887 students.

The System is led by President Dennis J. Shields. Committed to diversity, Shields has spent most of his career advocating for better access to higher education, especially for those who have been historically underrepresented. His leadership philosophy is based on four principles: focus on the core mission of the institution through active engagement with all constituencies in furthering that mission; investment in the institution's human capital to aid and support the achievement of the mission; and operational and substantive transparency and accountability.

Under Shields' leadership, each Southern University campus continues to advance, support, and promote economic, cultural, and workforce development initiatives that bring benefits beyond the borders of the great state of Louisiana. He identifies that the critical role of a leader is to purposefully crystalize the System and campuses' priorities and strategies into a unified, understandable plan and to coordinate its execution. This includes specifically aligning the strategic plans of each campus within the Southern University System. Additional priorities are to improve the student experience, enhance community engagement, and have intentional and robust engagement with external stakeholders.

