

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2 FALL 2024

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**\*\*DATA FROM PRINCETON REVIEW AND U.S NEWS & WORLD REPORT**

# FROM THE CHANCELLOR



## Dear Southern University Law Center Community,

As we close out another incredible year, I reflect on all we've accomplished together. This year has been marked by remarkable progress, innovative milestones, and a shared commitment to excellence that has elevated both our academic community and our global impact.

I am constantly inspired by the brilliance and dedication of our SULC administrators, faculty, staff, and students. Looking back, I am deeply proud of all we've achieved as a collective. Your determination and passion have set a standard of excellence that drives us forward.

As we prepare for the year ahead, let us build on this momentum and always work to be our best.

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alvin Washington". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Alvin Washington**  
*Interim Chancellor*

FALL 2024

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**SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY**  
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*The Southern University Law Center is a  
unit of the Southern University System*

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University System, and John K. Pierre,  
chancellor of the Southern University Law  
Center*

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# SEEING THE WHOLE PICTURE

## NEWS, ACHIEVEMENTS, AND EVENTS FROM AROUND SULC



*An engaging discussion on cultural reality at the Second Annual Henrietta Lacks Symposium, featuring distinguished visitors Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Nikole Hannah-Jones and renowned civil rights attorney, Ben Crump.*

## SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER WELCOMES NIKOLE HANNAH-JONES, BEN CRUMP TO THE STAGE FOR SECOND ANNUAL HENRIETTA LACKS SYMPOSIUM

The Southern University Law Center, in partnership with the "Increasing Clinicians of Diversity" Initiative through the Louisiana Department of Health, Southern University A&M College and the Southern University Museum of Art Cultural and Heritage Center, hosted the second annual Henrietta Lacks Symposium in March.

This year's theme was "Humanizing HER: Elevating the conversation of fertility, health equity, and maternal health". The symposium aimed to elevate Henrietta Lacks' family's 70-year quest for justice and illuminate the crucial intersections of health equity, fertility,

medical racism, and Black maternal well-being.

The two-day conference began with an intimate dialogue titled "Cultural Reality: A Conversation with Nikole Hannah-Jones and Ben Crump". The Pulitzer Prize and Emmy award-winning journalist and nationally recognized civil rights attorney, respectively, conversed about the junction between academia and advocacy. In addition, both authors discussed excerpts from their award and best-selling books that have sparked global conversations regarding the legacy of US enslavement and the discriminatory practices of the US criminal justice system.

Healthcare professionals, legal scholars, and advocates also joined to provide insight on fertility and black maternal health, along with updates on the historical Henrietta Lacks court cases as well as attending Lacks' family members.

The panel conversations included Dr. Neil Chappell, fertility specialist and advocate; Frankie Robertson, president and founder of The Amandla Group, LLC, Dr. Yolunda Taylor, obstetrician gynecologist; and more.

*(Right photo) A moment of connection and celebration as attendees honor the legacy of Henrietta Lacks. (Bottom photo) Celebrating unity, progress, and impact with honored guests and host Professor Deleso Alford.*



# SEEING THE WHOLE PICTURE

## SULC PARTNERS WITH EAST BATON ROUGE CITY-PARISH TO HOST EXPUNGEMENT INTAKE EVENT FOR PARISH RESIDENTS

The Southern University Law Center's Office of Innovation and Strategic Partnerships and Initiatives' expungement initiative aims to increase the availability of individuals to be employed in the workforce; therefore, allowing residents to build a more sustainable life for their families.

During the sessions, residents had their criminal records reviewed to determine their eligibility for expungements.

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

In May, Southern University Law Center (SULC), 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, author of the critically acclaimed, New York Times bestsellers *The Warmth of Other Suns*, and *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*.

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 can purchase Wilkerson's books and receive a personal autograph.



*Author Isabel Wilkerson*



*(Right) Ada Goodly-Lampkin, director of the Louis A. Berry Institute for Civil Rights and Justice. (Top photo) Panelist discuss solutions for community empowerment. (Bottom Photo) Attendees view “Let’s Be Clear” documentary.*

## SULC CIVIL RIGHTS INSTITUTE TO HOST SOCIAL JUSTICE SYMPOSIUM

The Southern University Law Center’s (SULC) Louis A. Berry Institute for Civil Rights and Justice and Measures for Justice hosted a symposium focused on the realm of civil rights within the community themed “From Chaos to Community: Road mapping Where We Go From Here.”

The event aimed to explore critical issues facing our communities and to chart a path forward. It served as a platform for strategic planning, workshops, and insightful discussions on various topics, including the use of data in legal offices, the impact of redistricting on voters’ rights, movement lawyering, and more.

In addition, Measures of Justice screened its recent documentary, “Let’s Be Clear,” which features 12 people who have experienced the criminal justice system in multiple ways.



# CHANCELLOR WASHINGTON LAUNCHES BAR WELLNESS PROGRAM TO ASSIST LOUISIANA TEST TAKERS

Graduates have invested countless hours preparing for the Bar exam. Under Interim Chancellor Alvin Washington's leadership, the Bar Wellness Program was launched to support test takers, enabling them to concentrate fully on their exam preparation. This overall program offered housing discounts, lunches, mental health counselors, and additional resources.

The exam was administered on July 19, July 21, and July 23 in New Orleans. Throughout these days, students were warmly welcomed by the enthusiastic and supportive SULC faculty as they entered and exited the testing facility. Faculty members were also available throughout the week to address any questions and provide guidance.



Interim Chancellor Washington and Law Center alumnus Silas Thomas

## SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER AND LPB PRESENT DOCUMENTARY SCREENING ON CIVIL RIGHTS LEGACY

Southern University Law Center proudly premiered the new Louisiana Public Broadcasting documentary short, Southern University Law Center: A Civil Rights Dream Come True. This film highlights the significant impact the Law Center has had over the years and explores legacy of our historic institution.



The screening was followed by a panel discussion that included SULC professor Angela Bell; Rachel Emanuel, former director of communications at SULC; Professor Deleso Alford, Rachel Emanuel Endowed Professor; Eric Hatfield; and Clarence "C.C." Copeland, LPB president and CEO.

Moderator Whitley Parker, SBA president, leads a panel discussion following the screening, featuring SULC professors Angela Bell and Deleso Alford, former SULC communications director Rachel Emanuel, Eric Hatfield, and Clarence "C.C." Copeland, LPB president and CEO.

# IN THE SPOTLIGHT

## CURRENT STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

### SULC STUDENT NAMED 2024 IAPP WESTIN SCHOLAR AWARD HONOREE



The Southern University Law Center (SULC) announced the 2024 IAPP Westin Scholar Award honoree as Chelsea Garin. With the growing need for well-qualified privacy and data protection professionals, the annual Westin Scholar Awards were created by the International Association of Privacy Professionals to support students who are identified as future leaders in the field of privacy and data protection.

The IAPP is the largest and most comprehensive global information privacy community and resource, helping practitioners develop and advance their careers, and organizations manage and protect their data. The IAPP's academic achievement award—the Westin Scholar Award -- recognizes high-performing students enrolled in privacy-focused courses around the globe. Our mission is to foster student's interest in privacy and data protection as a discipline and help them transition to the field as a profession.

| *Chelsea Garin, SULC student and 2024 IAPP Westin Scholar Award honoree.*



## PRODUCING LAWYER LEADERS

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TO BEGIN YOUR LEGAL  
EDUCATION JOURNEY.



# JOHN PAUL STEVENS FOUNDATION NAMES FOUR SULC STUDENTS AS 2024 JOHN PAUL STEVENS FOUNDATION PUBLIC INTEREST FELLOWS

The John Paul Stevens Foundation has named four Southern University Law Center (SULC) students as 2024 John Paul Stevens Foundation Public Interest Fellows.

Law Center students Bengy Baptiste, Krystal Bell, Lindsay Garcia, and Devan Kimble are four of the 67 Fellows from across 38 law schools across the United States selected for the Justice John Paul Stevens Public Interest Fellowship Program.



In honor of Justice Stevens' retirement from the U.S. Supreme Court, a group of his former law clerks established the Foundation in 2010. An independent nonprofit organization based in San Francisco; the Foundation provides a formal home for the Justice John Paul Stevens Public Interest Fellowship Program.

The Foundation is dedicated to promoting public interest and social justice values in the next generation of American lawyers. Through this program, the Foundation supports law students who spend the summer working in unpaid public interest law internships.

The Fellowship Program reflects Justice Stevens' deep belief that a dynamic and effective justice system depends on a cadre of trained and committed lawyers committed to public interest work.

## CHAMPIONING GLOBAL JUSTICE: A LAW STUDENT'S JOURNEY IN INTERNATIONAL LAW

International law is the framework that protects and governs all humans, sovereign states, and international organization, and the interplays and obligations therein. At Southern University Law Center (SULC) one student is making waves with his passion for international law by showcasing the power of education, mentorship, and an unyielding pursuit of justice.

Nicolas Garon, a third-year law student, is dedicated to reforming policy and law to bring justice closer to others in the international arena. His drive for international law ignited during his undergraduate studies at Louisiana State University, where he majored in Political Science, with concentration in International Politics and Law. While there, Garon took a course on the Introduction to International Politics that explored the function of

treaties, laws, and governance in international relations.

At the Law Center, Garon is gaining a solid foundation on the analysis of current law, and the rationales behind amendments and new legislation.

During his legal studies, he has undertaken extensive research in human rights challenges, comparative immigration law, and treaty law. One notable project involved analyzing the relationship between national security concerns and austere immigration policies. His research found data to suggest that implementing harsh immigration policies on certain nationalities is more based on migration pressure rather than public safety concerns.

Garon's dedication to his field extends beyond research. He is a prolific writer, with his law review articles being published nationally. His first article was published in the Connecticut Journal of International Law in his first year of law school.

He also actively participates in academic conferences, sharing his insights and expanding his knowledge. He has presented his research at the law schools of Louisiana State University, Texas A&M, and Southern University, as well as at the University of Tokyo. Presented topics ranged from immigration law to

human rights violations.

Looking ahead, he envisions a program where first year law students can learn about the role of international law and meet former career diplomats. His goal is to work with organizations like the United Nations and the IOM to help reform existing human rights and migration-based issues. He also is interested in diplomatic law and consular affairs, which are handled by the U.S. State Department's Office of the Legal Adviser.

Upon graduation, Garon aspires to take on leadership roles that bridge the gap between legal theory and practice, ensuring that international laws are well-crafted and effectively implemented, and international obligations are preserved.

**"HIS ADVICE FOR FIRST-YEAR LAW STUDENTS IS TO CARVE THEIR OWN PATH AND TO NEVER FEAR TO DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT."**

Garon's story is one of dedication, innovation, and relentless pursuit of knowledge. His journey at SULC and beyond is an inspiration for aspiring lawyers, demonstrating that with passion and hard work, one can carve a unique and impactful path in the legal field.

| *Nicolas Garon, SULC student*



# SULC STUDENT SELECTED AS HBCU SCHOLAR BY WHITE HOUSE INITIATIVE ON HBCUs

The White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity through Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) has announced cohort of HBCU Scholars, marking the 10th anniversary of this transformative program. Law Center student, William Gaspard Jr., is among 110 outstanding students from 77 HBCUs across the nation have been selected for their exceptional academic achievements, leadership potential, and dedication to their communities.

Since its inception in 2014, the HBCU Scholars program has been committed to recognizing and supporting the brightest and service-oriented minds from HBCUs. Over the past decade, the program has

empowered over 500 students, providing them with invaluable opportunities for personal and professional growth, mentorship, and networking.

HBCU Scholars were also invited to the 2024 HBCU Week National Annual Conference, held on September 15-19, 2024 in Philadelphia, PA. This year's conference themes are, "Raising the Bar: Where Excellence and Opportunity Meet." During the conference, HBCU Scholars participated in conference sessions designed to engage a spirit of innovation, leadership, and personal and professional development. Most importantly, HBCU Scholars had opportunities to engage with one another, initiative staff, and partners to further showcase their individual and collective talent.

| *William Gaspard Jr., SULC student*



# SULC STUDENTS PRESENT LANDMARK CASES AT CRRJ INTERNSHIP GRAND ROUNDS



*RayVon Addison and Breanna Magee, SULC students*

The Louis A. Berry Institute for Civil Rights & Justice at Southern University Law Center (SULC) held its Summer 2024 Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project (CRRJ) Internship Grand Rounds on July 14 at the Orleans Parish District Attorney's Office in New Orleans, Louisiana.

This summer's Grand Rounds marked the culmination of a two-day celebration of the tenth anniversary of SULC's partnership with CRRJ at Northeastern University School of Law (NUSL).

During the event, SULC students RayVon Addison and Breanna Magee had the opportunity to present their detailed investigations on potentially racially motivated murders in the Jim Crow-era South before a panel of scholars and experts.

Addison presented the case of Hosea Carson Vernon,

who was murdered in Hinds County, Mississippi on May 23, 1936, while Magee's presentation focused on the case of Robert Icer Ray, who was also murdered in Hinds County, Mississippi on May 12, 1952.

The audience was comprised of the Civil Rights Division at the Orleans Parish District Attorney's Office.

The panelists of scholars and experts for were Margaret Burnham, CRRJ founder and director and co-director of NUSL's Center for Law, Equity, and Race (CLEAR); Rose Zoltek-Jick, NUSL professor and CRRJ associate director; Melissa Nobles, chancellor at MIT; Raymond Wilkes, May 2018 SULC graduate, former CRRJ legal fellow and current research fellow at Harvard University; and Anwen Tormey, PhD, Emmett Till project manager, Civil Rights Division, Orleans Parish District Attorney's Office.

Upon the conclusion of Grand Rounds, the students, panelists, and the Institute were invited to discuss the students' research and presentations with Orleans Parish District Attorney, Honorable Jason Williams

*CRRJ founder professor Margaret Burnham, MIT Chancellor Melissa Nobles, and legal experts engage with SULC students during Grand Rounds*





*Interim Chancellor Alvin Washington joins SULC students and trainers from the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (FMCS) as they celebrate the successful completion of an intensive 40-hour mediation training*

## SULC STUDENTS GAIN CONFLICT RESOLUTION SKILLS THROUGH FEDERAL TRAINING

A select group of Southern University Law Center (SULC) students successfully completed an intensive 40-hour mediation training with the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (FMCS). Alvin Washington, mediation professor and interim chancellor of the Southern University Law Center, selected each participant and emphasized the value of this experience in preparing them for their future careers.

The program, led by FMCS experts, emphasized active listening, analysis techniques, and effective conflict management. The training concluded with the presentation of certificates to the participants.

*Phebe Huderson-Poydras, Dr. Raquel Square Ayles, Whitley Parker (SULC SBA President), Carlos Pollard (SULC student and Power Coalition Program Coordinator), Dr. Kimberly LaMotte, and Dr. Robyn Merrick.*

## SULC STUDENTS EMBODY CIVIC DUTY THROUGH COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

During this election season, Law Center students researched and presented on various legal challenges facing the community, including access to voting. The Louis A. Berry Institute for Civil Rights & Justice at SULC hosted an Election Protection Training in collaboration with The Legal Defense Fund and the Power Coalition, preparing attendees to safeguard voting rights.

Experienced voting rights attorneys and civic leaders guided attendees to identify and address voting barriers and advocate for solutions to assist Louisiana voters.

Whitley Parker, president of the SULC Student Bar Association, and Carlos Pollard, an SULC student and program coordinator with the Power Coalition for Equity & Justice, were recognized for their outstanding civic engagement. The La-Capitale Links Chapter honored them with a Certificate of Appreciation for organizing a successful week-long voter registration drive.





| Daryl Boyd, Taylor Brown, Kandice Asbury and Lilia Gomez, SULC students

## SULC STUDENTS ADVANCE TO COMPETE IN BIZTECH

Four Southern University Law Center students advanced to the BizTech Challenge finals hosted by Nexus Louisiana. SULC students Daryl Boyd, Taylor Brown, Kandice Asbury and Lilia Gomez, coached by professor Adrienne Shields, competed in front of a live audience on Friday, November 29, 2024, during the Bayou Classic Weekend in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Nexus Louisiana is a Baton Rouge-based non-profit whose mission is to help accelerate the growth of tech and innovative startups across the state. In alignment with their mission, they hosted the BizTech Challenge, a 15-week STEM-based business pitch competition for students attending Louisiana's Historically Black Colleges & Universities (HBCUs).

Boyd's project, "Moot", focused on an innovative legal tech platform designed to transform the resolution of traffic infractions. Moot's solution enables drivers to access local, law-compliant driving programs efficiently, streamlining the process and enhancing accessibility to justice.

Brown, Asbury, and Gomez created a project called

"Courtesy." Courtesy is a community management app that allows residents to pay rent or place work orders at their apartment. What sets Courtesy apart from other community management apps is that it also allows residents to contact the property's Courtesy Officer with the touch of a button.

During the BizTech pitch competition, "Courtesy," was named Fan Favorite, and students won \$2,500.

In conjunction with the competition, serial entrepreneur and brand strategist Pinky Cole-Hayes, founder of Slutty Vegan, provided keynote remarks and served as a judge, giving the students an unparalleled opportunity to receive expert feedback from a national icon regarding their business ideas.

The BizTech Challenge also presented a great opportunity to represent your school pride as we honor the tradition, legacy, and pride of HBCU's.

| BizTech coach and SULC professor Adrienne Shields





# VISIONARY INSIGHTS

## KERII LANDRY-THOMAS



**K**erii Landry-Thomas, associate vice-chancellor of equity, inclusion, and Title IX published an article discussing the emphasis of diversity, equity, and inclusion within institutions of higher education.

The article can be viewed in the University of Toledo Law Review.

## MARLA DICKERSON



**M**arla Dickerson, vice chancellor for Innovation and Strategic Partnerships and Initiatives at the Law Center, has been appointed by the president of the American Bar Association to serve as Special Advisor of the Council for Diversity in the Educational Pipeline.

## PROFESSOR ANGELA ALLEN-BELL'S GLOBAL IMPACT ON JURY REFORM AND LEGAL SCHOLARSHIP



Professor Angela Allen-Bell

**S**outhern University Law Center (SULC) professor Angela Allen-Bell continues to make waves in the legal community through groundbreaking scholarship and global advocacy. Recently, professor Angela Allen-Bell spoke at DOUBT DISMISSED: Race, Juries, and Wrongful Conviction in London, hosted by APPEAL, a justice reform organization. Her research on non-unanimous juries shaped APPEAL's advocacy efforts to end such practices internationally.

Expanding her impact further, she also released two new books: *Under Indictment: Race, Juries & Justice in Louisiana*, exploring the state's move to jury unanimity, and *Diversity in the Jury Box and Beyond*, highlighting the importance of diverse juries. Both works are now available on Amazon, providing invaluable resources for those dedicated to justice and equity.

## LAW CENTER EMPLOYEE STANDS AS A BEACON OF RESILIENCE WHILE EARNING A PH.D.



*Dr. Lena Mae Johnson, coordinator of Admissions/ Title IX confidential advisor*

For some "adversity" is just another word that refers to life's challenges. However, for one Southern University Law Center (SULC) employee, overcoming adversity can be summed up by saying: never quit.

Dr. Lena Mae Johnson stands as a paragon of dedication and advocacy, embodying the spirit of a true change-maker. A native of Bayou Goula, Dr. Johnson's journey has been marked by an unwavering commitment to professional excellence and community service.

Dr. Johnson's 'passion for the profession' acted as a guiding light through layers of adversity that likely would have derailed others.

Her aspiration to effect meaningful change in society led her to pursue an Executive Ph.D. in Public Policy.

This advanced degree equips Dr. Johnson with the expertise to recruit students effectively and uphold the Law Center's mission to train a cadre of lawyers equipped with the skills necessary for the practice of law and positions of leadership in society.

What makes Dr. Johnson's story remarkable is that while working full-time and pursuing her doctoral degree, she and her family overcame serious health challenges which led her to produce groundbreaking research on Sickle Cell Disease.

Dr. Johnson's academic accomplishments include publishing two significant articles in 2024. The first, published in the Journal of Health, Nursing, and Medicine, is titled "Trends in Hospitalization, Treatment Costs, And Length of Stay for Sickle Cell Disease Patients in the United States: A Comprehensive Analysis."

This article delves into the disparities in healthcare costs and hospitalization trends for sickle cell disease patients, a condition predominantly affecting African Americans.

The second article, published in the Journal of Public Policy and Administration Research, titled "The Influence of Demographic and Insurance Factors on Hospitalization Rates, Treatment Costs, and Length of Stay for Sickle Cell Disease Patients Among African Americans," highlights the complex relationship between demographic

# LAW CENTER EMPLOYEE STANDS AS A BEACON OF RESILIENCE WHILE EARNING A PH.D.

factors, insurance coverage, and healthcare outcomes for African Americans with sickle cell disease.

Dr. Johnson's motivation to focus on this topic stems from a personal connection—her daughter, who was tragically murdered in 2006, who had a sickle cell trait, and her son who also carries the trait.

The health disparities, unmet needs in research and treatment, and the impact on the quality of life for sickle cell patients are areas that need urgent attention," says Dr. Johnson. "I hope my research will improve public policy and healthcare practices in the United States by enhancing access to healthcare, advancing research funding, and advocating for policy changes.

Looking ahead, Dr. Johnson remains committed to lobbying for increased funding for sickle cell disease from the federal government, especially in Louisiana. She aims to network with legislators to secure more resources for sickle cell research and establish a new facility in Baton Rouge.

Dr. Johnson also plans to open a non-profit agency dedicated to assisting patients with sickle cell disease and other chronic illnesses, providing educational sessions, medical resources, and scholarships for students at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) who will further sickle cell research. She is an active member of American Society for Public Administrators (ASPA) and Conference of Minority Public Administrators (COMPA).

Dr. Lena Mae Johnson's story is one of resilience, dedication, and unwavering faith. Her contributions to public policy, healthcare, and education are a testament to her commitment to making a difference in the lives of others, embodying the true spirit of a change-maker.

## YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

Planned gifts are as varied as the lawyer-leaders who make them. By partnering with Southern University Law Center, along with your family and trusted advisors, you can create a plan that reflects your charitable goals, maximizes potential tax benefits, and creates a lasting legacy for you that will help the Law Center students for years to come. *For more information, contact Robbin Thomas, Director of Alumni Affairs/Annual Fund, at [RThomas@sulc.edu](mailto:RThomas@sulc.edu)*



# WELLNESS OPTICS

## SULC AND CITY OF EAST BATON ROUGE PARTNER FOR TWO-DAY SECOND CHANCE MONTH EVENTS

April is Second Chance Month, which brings awareness to formerly incarcerated persons reacquainting themselves to society and reality. To bring awareness to issues surrounding re-entry and clemency, Southern University Law Center (SULC) and the Office of Mayor Sharon Weston Broome hosted two-day fireside chat and movie screening.

Sybil Fox and Rob Richardson sat down with attendees to share their experiences with incarceration and how their marriage and family conquered this momentary separation. Widely known as "Fox and Rob", they are a New Orleans-based couple who experienced twenty-one years as an incarcerated family and whose story is told in the acclaimed, award-winning documentary, *Time*, which was shown at the event. Following the screening, Fox and Rob engaged in a conversation where they gave the audience a lens into their lives and fight for justice.



*Author Brittany Barnett and SULC student*

Clemency and re-entry were on the agenda for day two. On Tuesday, April 2, attorney and civil rights advocate, Brittany Barnett, discussed her expertise and experience with achieving executive clemency for her clients and establishing non-profits to assist families with navigating the impact of the criminal justice system. Barnett's recent memoir, "A Knock At Midnight", was chosen by the Amazon Editors as the number one Best Book of 2020, an NAACP Image Award nominee, and Los Angeles Times Book Prize Finalist.

## HEALTH AND HARMONY: SULC PARTNERS TO EMPOWER COMMUNITY WELLNESS

With a commitment to providing access to health and wellness within the community, the Southern University Law Center (SULC) in partnership with the "Increasing Clinicians of Diversity" Initiative through the Louisiana Department of Health, Aetna, Pennington Biomedical Research Center, and

Llena(AI) Health Solutions embraced a day of holistic wellness and empowerment at the Health and Harmony Wellness Fair.

The day-long fair aimed to provide a comprehensive platform for individuals and families to access vital

*Dr. Patrice A. Harris, CEO and co-founder of eMed, inspires attendees with a message on integrating mental health into comprehensive healthcare.*



| Guest registration



| Fair attendees explore health and wellness activities, from health screenings to massages, creating a community of empowerment and care.

health resources and engage with wellness services. To kick off the event, Dr. Patrice A. Harris, chief executive officer and co-founder of eMed, brought a motivational message on incorporating mental health into comprehensive healthcare. From massages to vaccines, attendees participated in an array of activities catering

to various aspects of well-being, including health screenings, light exercise, financial planning resources, and more. In addition, guests won exciting giveaways such as six-month gym memberships to the YMCA, meal prep vouchers, and Walmart gift cards.

# LOCAL EVENT BRIDGES THE GAP BETWEEN DIVERSE CLINICIANS AND HEALTH DISPARITIES



*(Top Right) Ananya Roy, Sc.D., Mayor Sharon Weston Broome, Stacie Walters Fujii, EDF/AAMA Fellow, and Nisha Kumar (Top Left) Dr. Rani Whitfield and Kiara Carnes engage in a powerful panel discussion addressing critical issues in maternal health. (Bottom Left) Dr. Uché Blackstock, author and founder of Advancing Health Equity. (Bottom Right) Dr. Pierre Johnson, board-certified OB/GYN*

Southern University Law Center and the Southern University Increasing Clinicians of Diversity Initiative hosted the DiverseMed: Breaking Barriers in Healthcare event on Friday, June 14, at the J.K. Haynes Building on the campus of Southern University and A&M College.

The day-long event focused on conversations with clinicians about issues affecting the minority community, such as maternal mortality, advancing pregnancy care, the stigma associated with seeking medical care, and

more. Speakers included Dr. Uché Blackstock, author and founder of Advancing Health Equity; Dr. Pierre Johnson, a board-certified obstetrician and gynecologist; Dr. Rani Whitfield, a board-certified family physician; Kiara Carnes, a board-certified lactation consultant and co-owner of Maternal Love, and others.

Beyond the seminar, the Law Center raffled off five virtual consultations with Dr. Pierre Johnson, offering women the opportunity to discuss their medical diagnoses.

# OPTICAL ALLIANCES

PARTNERSHIPS/EXPANSION

## ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT WERE ON THE AGENDA FOR THE THIRD ANNUAL ESPORTS SUMMIT



| *Esports industry leaders and Marla Dickerson, vice chancellor for Innovation and Strategic Partnerships and Initiatives*

As Esports continues to forge a path forward in the competitive gaming landscape, the Southern University Law Center's (SULC) Mixed Reality Virtual Innovation Gaming and Esports Institute Dhosted its third annual Esports Summit scheduled on April 4-5 on the campus of Southern University.

The event brought together gaming enthusiasts, industry professionals, and students for two days of networking, learning, and competition.

The summit kicked off with The HBCU Heroes' "Secure the Bag" Tour at the Dr. Leon R. Tarver, II Cultural and Heritage Center. The tour included a series of workshops and panels that revolve around topics such as name, image, and likeness (NIL), entrepreneurship, establishing and maintaining good credit, building generational wealth, etc. The tour includes professionals and sports veterans from JP Morgan Chase, Aflac,

HillChase, LLC., Tronus Official and more.

The second day of the summit brought together key industry leaders across the esports ecosystem. Speakers included Kimberly Thomas, president of the companies IGL Foundation, GameHedz Productions and Independent Gaming League; Sergio Brack, director of esports at the University of Maryland; Danny Martin, co-founder/chief executive officer of Esposure Inc., and more.

Located in the Esports Innovation Lab, participants heard a diverse array of presentations and panel discussions that covered a wide range of topics pertinent to the industry. From learning how to build a successful esports facility to gaining knowledge about careers in esports, the summit allowed attendees to engage in insightful discussions, share innovative ideas, and build valuable connections.

*Christopher Turner, director of Southern University Law Center's Mixed Reality Virtual Innovation Gaming and Esports Institute and Marla Dickerson, vice chancellor for Innovation and Strategic Partnerships and Initiatives*



*Gaming enthusiasts and professionals connect during hands-on workshops and panels.*



# SPECTRUM OF SUCCESS

## ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

### SULC ALUMNI, JUDGES RECEIVE HONORABLE AWARDS AT ANNUAL ROUND-UP



*(Left photo) SULC 2024 Distinguished Alumni honorees; (Right photo) SULC 2024 Judicial Wall of Fame honorees*

The Southern University Law Center (SULC) held its annual Alumni and Friends Round-up from April 4-6. The event served as a platform to celebrate the achievements of its alumni who are making significant strides in the legal profession.

Throughout the week, the Law Center honored its trailblazing alumni, highlighting their contributions and successes within the legal field.

Attendees participated in various activities and events designed to foster connections and celebrate the achievements of Law Center alumni. From a continuing legal education seminar to networking receptions, the Round-Up offered a diverse range of opportunities for alumni to engage with each other.

On Thursday, April 4, the Law Center held a continuing legal education seminar titled Life After the Bar 10 Years Later and Beyond. Alumni from the Class of 2014

shared their experiences as they navigated various legal roles. Following the CLE, SULC honored five alumni during its Judicial Wall of Fame Unveiling Ceremony. Honorees were: Honorable Wilford D. Carter (Retired) '75; Honorable Charles Cravins '07; Honorable Collette M. Griggs '06; Honorable Kimya M. Holmes '00; and Honorable Paul Lynch (Posthumously) '62.

On Thursday evening, the esteemed alumni who have distinguished themselves in service to SULC, their communities, and the pursuit of justice were celebrated at the Distinguished Alumni Ceremony at the River Terrace of the Shaw Center for the Arts. Honorees included: Gregory Brumfield, Jr. '09; Booker T. Carmichael '03; Courtney T. Joiner '07; and Samuel J. Spurgeon '12.

The Round-Up continued with a fun game of golf where alumni and supporters gathered at Copper Mill Golf Course for the annual Chancellor Freddie Pitcher

# SPECTURM OF SUCCESS

Golf Scramble on Friday, April 5.

The week concluded with the Hall of Fame Gala which took place at the Baton Rouge Renaissance Hotel on Saturday, April 6. Inductees were selected from among thousands of SULC alumni. Through their great work, the members of this elite group have made an indelible mark on the community and throughout the nation and the world. The honorees were: Lee “Jody” Amedee, III ’96; Monique M. Edwards, ’86; Keith E. Gammage, Esq. ’00; Edward B. Jones ’96; Tedrick Knightshead, Esq. ’02;

Erin Monroe ’02; and Dennis Damonn Spurling, Esq. ’00.

The Round-Up not only celebrated the accomplishments of SULC alumni but also reaffirmed the strong bonds and sense of community within the Law Center's network. By providing a platform for alumni to reconnect and celebrate their successes, the event highlights the enduring legacy of Southern University Law Center and its commitment to excellence in legal education.

| *SULC 2024 Hall of Fame honorees*



# SULC CELEBRATES THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEGAL TRAILBLAZERS AT FALL AND SPRING COMMENCEMENTS

Southern University Law Center (SULC) honored its graduates with two momentous commencement ceremonies at the F.G. Clark Activity Center on the Baton Rouge campus.

On January 20, 2024, 31 graduates received their Juris Doctorate degrees during the Fall 2023 Commencement. Deidre Deculus Robert, state director of rural development for the USDA, inspired the graduates as the keynote speaker.

On May 18, over 230 students earned their Juris Doctorate degrees at the Spring 2024 Commencement. Louisiana State Senator Cleo Fields delivered a powerful address, encouraging the new graduates to lead with purpose.

These events celebrated the accomplishments of SULC's newest legal professionals, ready to shape the future of justice and equity.

| *SULC Fall 2023 top students with former Chancellor John Pierre*



| *Fall 2023 speaker and alumna Deidre Deculus Robert*



*SULC graduates celebrate their hard-earned achievements.*



*Spring 2024 speaker and alumni Louisiana State Senator Cleo Fields*



*A proud member of the Golden Alumni Class of 1974 is celebrated during the Spring 2024 Commencement*



# Save The Date

APRIL 2<sup>ND</sup> - 5<sup>TH</sup>



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

*If you have any questions, contact Director of Alumni Affairs  
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