

CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

MARCH 2020



SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

LAW CENTER

SERIOUSNESS OF PURPOSE

NEWS

PRE-LAW DAY



DISRUPTING THE INJUSTICE NARRATIVE



Event panelists and attendees.

The Louis A. Berry Institute for Civil Rights and Justice at the Southern University Law Center and the Center for African and African American Studies (CAAAS) at Southern University at New Orleans hosted an advocacy seminar entitled "Disrupting the Injustice Narrative: The Inaugural Underground Railroad to Justice Summit" on Friday, February 7 at the Baker Municipal Center in Baker, Louisiana.

Over 100 attendees gathered to hear presentations from legal professionals, social

justice advocates, and non-profit organizations. Calvin Duncan, social justice advocate; Checo Yancy, Voters Organized to Educate (VOTE); Jee Parks, Innocence Project of New Orleans and more served as speakers. The seminar was a component of a two-part criminal justice reform series hosted by both organizations. Angela Allen-Bell gave a presentation entitled "When Law & Injustice Become Bedfellows: Justice Becomes the Business of the People" on February 3 during SUNO's Charles Frye Memorial Lecture Series symposium.

PARTNERSHIPS

CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP SERIES



(l-r) Guest speaker Sophia Nelson and Chancellor Pierre

Legal and political commentator Sophia A. Nelson was the keynote for the Congressional Leadership Series on Monday, Feb. 17 at the Law Center. This edition, "Impeachment Debrief 101: What We Learned and Where Do We Go from Here" was presented by the Southern University Nelson Mandela College of Government and Social Sciences, the Southern University Law Center and the South Central Region of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc.

Nelson delved into political hot topics while answering participant questions.

SULC launches mental health teletherapy app

Southern University Law Center has become the latest institution of higher learning to offer the META mental wellness program to students. META, a teletherapy app, offers mobile counseling to help college students gain easy access to mental wellness providers.

"We have a proud tradition of equipping our diverse group of students with the best possible tools to help them succeed," said John K. Pierre, Chancellor of Southern University Law Center. "The META mental wellness program allows students to choose their own counselor and avoid the stigma of anyone knowing they're in therapy. META's positive messaging inspires students to consider their emotional health."

META's mission is to circumvent the stigma surrounding mental health by offering users an easy way to receive counseling without having to visit an on-campus location. The app connects students to a network of licensed counselors, therapists, and psychologists. Students download the app, choose a provider, and receive counseling through the privacy and convenience of their smart phones via chat, video, or voice calls. The technology powering the app provides students the freedom to choose a therapist who's a good fit, and the ability to reach them quickly and easily. The app is free to download, and sessions can be paid for via credit card or insurance.



POVERTY INNOVATION PROJECT

During its February meeting, the Southern University Board of Supervisors approved a partnership with the Southern University Law Center (SULC) and the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). The innovative collaboration will provide guidance and direction for policies that can impact those living in poverty in Louisiana.

The funding provided by DCFS will allow SULC to create the Vulnerable Communities & Peoples Initiative (VCPI), which will be led by attorney Alfreda Tillman Bester who will serve as Special Counsel for Human Services at the Law Center. The center will work to create a menu of research services and innovative practices to transform the lives of those impacted. Initial projects for the VCPI may include earned income tax credit assistance, expungement assistance, access to employment and entrepreneurial development, low-income housing assistance, and more.

UNIVERSITIES STUDYING SLAVERY

The Southern University Law Center has recently joined Universities Studying Slavery (USS), a consortium dedicated to organizing multi-institutional collaboration as part of an effort to facilitate mutual support in the pursuit of common goals.

USS is an ancillary organization through the University of Virginia. Over 40 institutions, such as Davidson College, Georgetown University, Tougaloo College, and more make up the alliance. Additionally, it allows participating institutions to work together as they address both historical and contemporary issues dealing with race and inequality in higher education and university communities as well as the complicated legacies of slavery in modern American society. They host semi-annual meetings to discuss strategies, collaborate on research, and learn from one another.

STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

DE'JONIQUE CARTER



De'Jonique Carter, 3L, was recently announced as one of the National Bar Association Commercial Law Section's 2020 Essay Scholarship recipients.

ALUMNI NEWS



CANDACE FORD

Candace Ford, '17, was presented with the 2020 Judge Joseph Keogh Memorial Award during the Baton Rouge Bar Association's Installation Ceremony and Reception. The award is presented to an outstanding young lawyer who is a member of the Young Lawyers Section.



DIGGER EARLES

Alumnus Digger Earles was featured in the renowned Super Lawyers publication. Earles has been selected for inclusion as a Super Lawyers top lawyer every year since 2018. Prior to this, he was a Super Lawyers Rising Star, spanning the years 2013 to 2015.



ALYSSON BOURQUE

Alumna Alysson Bourque's latest addition to award-winning "The Alycat Series" was sent to the Top 25 Oscar Nominees for the 2020 Academy Awards in a Hollywood swag bag. Once a practicing attorney, Alysson Foti Bourque has turned into an award-winning author. The Alycat Series books are a delight to read and filled with inspiring messages.



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The Southern University Law Center is a unit of the Southern University System

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Dr. Ray L. Belton, Southern University and A&M College System President
John K. Pierre, SULC Chancellor

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CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

APRIL 2020



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LAW CENTER LAUNCHES MENTAL HEALTH TELETHERAPY APP

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STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

TAYLOR KRONE



TREZELL RAGAS



Taylor Krone and Trezell Ragas won the 2020 Regional Patent Drafting Competition for the Texas Regional United States Patent and Trademark Office, a headquarters that serves Louisiana, among other southern states. They were scheduled to attend the 14th Annual Design Day in Virginia, but it has been cancelled until further notice.

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

DONALD NORTH



North, vice chancellor of student affairs and professor of law, was recently voted Faculty Member of the Year for his dedication to his work and students.

ALUMNI NEWS



ANEATRA BOYKIN

Boykin was recently named the new Chief Legal Officer for BREC Parks. She has 15 years of law practice experience, including employment law, legislative drafting, civil rights, contracts, ethics, tort claims and procurement.



SHERRON PHAE WILLIAMS

Williams, '15, was recently promoted as the Director of Human Resources for the city of Shreveport. She was previously an assistant city attorney.



ANNETTE EDDIE-CALLAGAIN

Eddie-Callagain's career was recently highlighted by a media platform in Japan. Eddie-Callagain was the first African-American to obtain a license to practice law in Japan.



JOSHUA WILLIAMS

Williams, '13, was recently named a 2020 top attorney by SB Magazine. Currently, he has a private practice where he fights for injured workers across north Louisiana in workers' compensation matters.



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