

# CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

MAY 2021



**“PRODUCING LAWYER LEADERS”**

# NEWS



## LAW CENTER STUDENTS, SHOW UP AND SHOW OUT!

Thirty-seven Law Center students participated in the National Bar Association's Women Lawyer's Division "We Empower Mentor" program.

"This experience was unique to me as a first-generation law student because it provided a safe place to learn and ask candid questions," said rising 2L Mollie Ponds. "I look forward to giving back and guiding others, as Judge Moorehead did for me."

## LAW CENTER HOLDS IN-PERSON COMMENCEMENT FOR 2021

On May 14, over 150 graduates crossed the Southern University Law Center Spring 2021 Commencement Ceremony stage. The in-person commencement ceremony was held at A.W. Mumford Stadium on the campus of Southern University Baton Rouge.

Despite the pandemic, ceremony guests filled the venue to cheer and celebrate their graduates.

"There are many blessings I have in being the Mayor-President of this capital city," said Mayor Broome, "One of them is the fact that I have the Southern University is located in the great city of Baton Rouge." Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome gave remarks as she attended as a public official and as a proud parent and employer.

Esteemed alumnus Don Cravins Jr., executive vice president, and chief operating officer of the National Urban League, served as the commencement speaker.

"The Southern University Law Center has given me so much," said Cravins. "It

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has given me the ability to make a living and to make a difference.”

Cravins started his speech by acknowledging the candidates and their families for the hard work to get to the day.

“Due to the pandemic and [the] everyday struggle that we all have to go through, all of you have had to overcome physical as well as mental limitations to achieve this milestone,” said Cravins.

Cravins addressed the resurgence of civil rights issues during a pandemic. He noted that the pandemic should have united the country more than ever, but instead, it’s torn apart. “I’m expecting big and bold things from the classes of 2020 and 2021,” said Cravins. He then ended by saying that our diverse graduates can help make a better America.

Meghan Matt, Olivia Montgomery, and Jay Morris graduated with the honor of summa cum laude.

The Law Center also acknowledged its class from 1971 as its Golden Alumni. This year the school honored Aaron Harris, Washington Marshall, Herman Mouton, Warren Phillips, Robert Richardson, Gail Sandel, Edwin Scott, Raymond L. Simmons, and Elbernetter Smith.

The family of late student William “Bill” Nabors was honored with his degree. Nabors passed away in April in a car accident.



As attendees exited the ceremony, a big brass band greeted them for a second line out of the stadium.

The ceremony was live-streamed and recorded on the Law Center’s YouTube channel.

# STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

## SHANELLE STATEN



Shanelle State received the Major League Baseball's Players Trust Michael Weiner Scholarship for Labor Studies.

## DESTINY S. WELLS

Destiny S. Wells will spend her summer interning for the Corporate Counsel Women of Color.



## NAUDIA FOSTER



Naudia Foster secured an internship with Apple. She is also the new 2L class president and a Leadership Council on Legal Diversity scholar.

## EBONY CORMIER

Ebony Cormier will be interning for the HP Public Sector Programs team for the summer.



# STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

ASHLEY LEONARD FERNANDA CONTRERAS



Ashley Leonard and Fernanda Contreras have accepted internships with Balch & Bingham LLP. Ashley will be located in the Gulfport, Mississippi office, while Fernanda will intern in the Birmingham, Alabama office.

MEGHAN MATT OLIVIA MONTGOMERY JAY MORRIS



Meghan Matt, Olivia Montgomery, Jay Morris all graduated with the honors of summa cum laude in 2020 and 2021.

# ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

TINA BROWN

Tina Brown is now serving as a program officer for the Arnall Family Foundation, a nonprofit organization with the vision to make lasting, transformative improvements to the systems and programs that serve individuals involved with the criminal justice system and at-risk children in our community.



# ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

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## MARISSA JOHNSON



The New York State Bar has appointed Marissa Johnson as a New York State Bar Committee member on Courts of Appellate Jurisdiction.

## FAITH JENKINS

SULC alumna Judge Faith Jenkins of the syndicated television show “Divorce Court” has been nominated for a Daytime Emmy award for “Outstanding Legal/Courtroom Program.”



## LATISHA NIXON-JONES



Latisha Nixon-Jones is now an assistant professor of law at Mercer Law School.

## BRENDA BEDSOLE RICKS

Judge Brenda Bedsole Ricks is now presiding as chief judge in the tri-parish district of Tangipahoa, Livingston, and St. Helena.





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

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*Produced by the SULC Office of External Affairs*