

# CHANCELLOR'S REPORT



*Producing Lawyer Leaders*

MAY 2024

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# INSIDE STORY

## SULC CELEBRATE ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS AT 2024 ALUMNI ROUND-UP



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 Golf Scramble on Friday, April 5.

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.

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



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## CONT. 2024 ALUMNI ROUND-UP

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.

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



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 hosted 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, Afac, 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.

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## SULC CIVIL RIGHTS INSTITUTE PARTNERS WITH MEASURES FOR JUSTICE 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.



## SULC, PARTNERS HOST COMMUNITY HEALTH AND HARMONY WELLNESS FAIR

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 Lena(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 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.



# INSIDE STORY

## PLANT-BASED FOOD DEMONSTRATIONS STIR THE POT AROUND LAW CENTER



As a working professional and graduate student, devoting time to wellness and self-care is not a top priority at times. During the spring semester, the Office of Innovation and Strategic Partnerships and Initiatives, through the “Increasing Clinicians of Diversity” initiative, sponsored bi-weekly food demonstrations and lunch for the campus community. Owned by Terrez Collins, Wags Trap Kitchen provided plant-based cooking demonstrations and education which showed the simplicity of living and eating well. The menu consisted of vegetable and fruit juices, smoothies, soups, and more. As lagniappe, Collins conducted a 30-minute outdoor yoga session.



## CHANCELLOR JOHN PIERRE EARNS DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR AWARD

Chancellor John Pierre received the Distinguished Professor Award from the Louisiana Bar Foundation during their annual gala at The National WWII Museum. In a video presentation, colleagues and friends boasted about his leadership and visionary spirit and described him as a “lovable giant.”

# STUDENT FEATURES

## MARNITIA WALKER



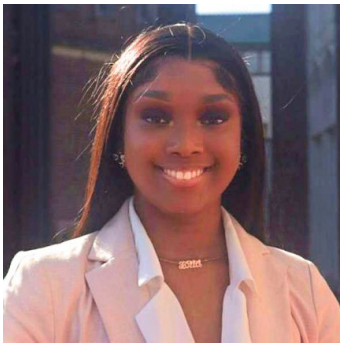
Marnitia Walker accepted a summer externship position with the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

## KENEDI RUTHERFORD



Kenedi Rutherford accepted a summer internship position with Chevron.

## BRIA BACCHUS



Bria Bacchus secured an internship with the chief of counsel at the General Counsel's office for the Federal Aviation Administration.

## TERENCE MELVILLE



Terence Melville accepted a summer associate position at Fabian VanCott.

## ASIA HOPE



Asia Hope landed a law clerk opportunity with Alliance for Children's Rights.

## ALEXIS GRANT



Alexis Grant accepted a position as a legislative aide in the Louisiana State Senate for Senator Joseph Bouie.

# STUDENT FEATURES

## JALISE BLACKER



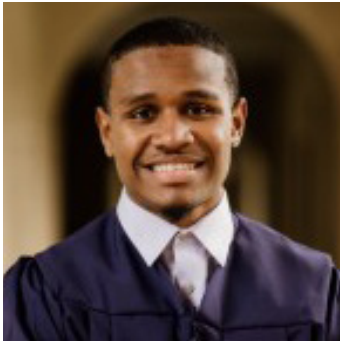
Jalise Black secured an internship with the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC).

## JOIA HERMAN



Joia Herman joined Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC) as a Glynn D. Key Summer Fellow.

## ADRIAN DUBOSE



Adrian Dubose was selected as an American Constitution Society Next Generation Leader.



# ALUMNI FEATURES

## VALERIA WILLIAMS



Valeria Williams was promoted to vice president, general counsel at Tennessee Titans.

## EBONY MORRIS



Ebony Morris was named among Nation Bar Association's 2024 Top 40 Under 40.

## RASHID YOUNG



Rashid Young was named on the Louisiana State Bar Association Young Lawyers Division's Top 40 list.

## QUIANA-JOY OCHIAGHA



Quiana-Joy Ochiagha started a new position as an assistant general counsel at the NAACP.

## KRISTEN CACCAVO



Kristen Peel Caccavo was listed among Marquis' Who's Who in America.

## STEPHEN CRUTHIRDS



Stephen Folk-Cruthirds was appointed as an assistant district attorney of the First Judicial District in Caddo Parish.



MAY 20<sup>TH</sup>

Join us for a conversation on

**INTERSECTIONALITY BETWEEN THE CASTE SYSTEM AND THE MEDICAL SYSTEM**

FEATURING

*Isabel Wilkerson*

MONDAY, MAY 20<sup>TH</sup>

5 P.M.

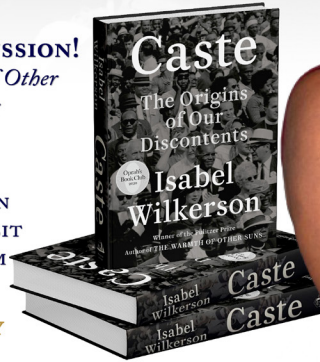
SULC Room 129/130

REGISTER AT [SULC.EDU/CASTE](http://SULC.EDU/CASTE)

**BOOK SIGNING TO FOLLOW THE DISCUSSION!**  
*Caste and The Warmth of Other Suns* will be available for purchase at the event.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON SPEAKER, PLEASE VISIT [WWW.PRHSPEAKERS.COM](http://WWW.PRHSPEAKERS.COM)

**SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY**  
LAW CENTER



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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  
and Chancellor of Southern University and A&M College  
John K. Pierre, SULC Chancellor

*Produced by the SULC Office of External Affairs | Photography by April Buffington*