

# CHANCELLOR'S REPORT



*Producing Lawyer Leaders*

**FEBRUARY 2024**

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# INSIDE STORY

## SULC INTRODUCES NEW ALUMNI AT FALL 2023 COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY



On January 20, 31 graduates received their Juris doctorate degree during the Fall 2023 Commencement Ceremony for the Southern University Law Center (SULC). The prestigious ceremony was held at the F.G. Clark Activity Center on the campus of Southern University Baton Rouge. Deidre Deculus Robert, state director of rural development of the USDA, served as the commencement speaker.

Chancellor John Pierre opened the distinguished gathering by welcoming the accomplished graduates, guests, family, and friends.

Over two decades, Robert has proclaimed a successful career as a legal, administrative, and executive management professional with experience in local state, and federal governance. Currently, she is honored to serve in the Biden-Harris Administration as a Presidential Appointee leading the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development Office in Louisiana and is the first black woman to do so. Previously, Robert served as general counsel of the Southern University and A&M college system, the only HBCU college system in the country, wherein she was the chief legal officer for the president-chancellor and five campuses that make up the system. Among her many accolades, Robert also serves as the first black female president of the Louisiana Bar Foundation.

Throughout her address, Robert, a 2000 alumna of the Southern University Law Center, reminded graduates on the importance of taking care of yourself and having self-determination.

Following the commencement address, Dennis J. Shields, president of the Southern University System and chancellor of the Southern University and A&M College, shared closing remarks.

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



# INSIDE STORY



## SULC COLLABORATES WITH ABBVIE FOR LEGAL ACADEMIES PROGRAM

SULC students participated in the AbbVie Legal Academy where they spent two days sharpening their skills in intensive training courses with attorneys from various law firms including, Baker Donelson, Kirkland & Ellis and Arnold and Porter.

Designed as an intensive intercession experience, each academy offered students focused task-oriented training through actual practice experience such as how to build real world business cases in a team-based environment. The goal of this program is to show students practical cross-functional learning, pivotal networking, and mentorship opportunities through exposure to attorneys and law firms.

## STUDENTS LEARN IAPP FUNDAMENTALS IN CISCO TRAINING COURSE

Our students started the new year by participating in a two-day course to become a Certified Information Privacy Professional (CIPP) sponsored by Cisco and International Association of Privacy Professionals. The course was led by Harvey Jang, vice president and chief privacy officer at Cisco. During the training, students focused on topics such as state privacy laws, government and court access to private-sector information, and more.

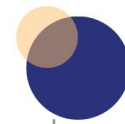


# JOINT VENTURES

## SULC ESTABLISHES PARTNERSHIP WITH THE NATIONAL BLACK PROSECUTORS ASSOCIATION TO COMBAT DIVERSITY IN PROSECUTION

LAW  
SCHOOL  
PARTNER

**SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY**  
LAW CENTER



NBPA FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIP



Southern University Law Center (SULC) is proud to announce a new partnership with The National Black Prosecutors Association (NBPA) Foundation to encourage diversity in prosecution. SULC joins Boston University School of Law, Temple University Beasley School of Law, and the University of Florida Fredric G. Levin College of Law as part of a new partnership with the NBPA Foundation to increase the number of Black students introduced to a career in prosecution. As part of the partnership, each school will fund fellowships for Black law students enrolled at their schools to intern at a prosecutor's office over the summer – positions that are traditionally unpaid.

Founded in 1983, the NBPA is the only organization dedicated to the hiring, retention, and promotion of Black prosecutors at all levels of government. Since 2016, the NBPA Foundation has provided scholarships to Black students who demonstrate an interest in prosecution. In 2021, the NBPA Foundation launched a fellowship program, providing funding and placement to students who desire to secure an unpaid summer internship at state prosecutors' offices.

In addition to financial support, SULC Fellows will have access to networking and mentorship opportunities through the NBPA, including attendance at the Association's annual conference and career fair, which is scheduled for August 3 - 10, 2024, in Boston.

# JOINT VENTURES



## SULC PARTNERS WITH PLATFORM TO ESTABLISH ESPORTS LEAGUE FOR LOUISIANA SCHOOLS

Southern University Law Center (SULC) is proud to announce its partnership with Vanta to revolutionize the landscape of esports education and foster diversity in the gaming industry. SULC and Vanta will launch the SULC Louisiana Esports League. This collaboration will see Vanta operating esports tournaments in conjunction with the Southern University Law Center's Mixed Reality Virtual Innovation Gaming and Esports Institute.

Vanta is a full-service esports platform that specializes in operating scholastic esports leagues for students across the United States. With a focus on creating safe and inclusive environments, Vanta provides students with an authentic competitive gaming experience while offering schools the opportunity to collaborate with certified coaches who facilitate students' growth and success in a healthy and constructive environment.

Louisiana schools can register as teams to participate in the tournaments. Teams will compete in multiple tiered tournaments during the season. Fortnite, League Of Legends, Tetris, and Super Smash Bros Solo are just a few of the games that teams will play.

The partnership between Vanta and the Southern University Law Center represents a significant step forward in promoting innovation and diversity within the esports education realm. By combining the strengths of Vanta's scholastic esports expertise with SULC's commitment to underrepresented populations, this collaboration aims to inspire and empower the next generation of esports leaders, emphasizing inclusivity, education, and community engagement.



# STUDENT FEATURES

## TONY BLACK



Tony Black joined the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Post Graduate Internship Program.

## BRIA WALLACE



Bria Wallace received the Natalie E. Williams scholarship.

## SHEMIAH RUTLEDGE



Shemiah Rutledge accepted a law clerk position at Tucker Disability Law Firm.

## ELEAZAR CRAIG



Eleazar Craig received a Spring 2024 clerkship with Tucker Disability Law Firm.

## JADA HAYNES



Jada Haynes accepted an adjunct professor position at the Honors College on the campus of Southern University and A&M College.

## ALVIN CASIMERE



Alvin Casimere accepted a law clerk position at Brown Sims.

# STUDENT FEATURES

## CAROLINE PARRINO



Caroline Parrino received a fall externship at the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Louisiana.

## MAYA JONES



Maya Jones graduated from Southern University A&M College as a dual enrolled undergraduate student and law student for the Fall 2023 semester.

## CHELSEA GARIN



Chelsea Garin was named the 2024 IAPP Westin Scholar Award recipient.

# ALUMNI FEATURES

## SA'TRICA WILLIAMS



Sa'trica Williams was appointed to magistrate judge for Fenton, Louisiana.

## PERLINA BOYD



Pearlina Boyd received the Delux Power 100 Award from Delux Magazine.

## DEVON JONES-STEWART



Devon Jones-Stewart accepted a position as an adjunct professor at Seminole State College of Florida. He has also been named assistant athletic director of compliance for the University of South Florida.

## MEGAN EARLY-SOPPA



Megan Early-Soppa for started a new position as trial attorney at Yarborough Applegate Law Firm.

## MEGHAN MATT



Meghan Matt received the Lucy McGough Juvenile Justice Award from the Louisiana Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

## SHEVA SIMS



Judge Sheva Sims was installed as Chief Judge of the Shreveport City Court.



# ALUMNI FEATURES

## CHRISTOPHER GREEN



Christopher Green was elected to a 4-year term as county prosecutor for Warren County in Mississippi.

## JOHN M. GUIDRY



Chief Judge John Michael Guidry was named secretary-treasurer and chair of the finance committee of the Council of Chief Judges of the State Courts of Appeal.

## CLYTISHA G. SMITH



## DEMARIO THORNTON



Clytisha G. Smith and DeMario Thornton were named fall associates with Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP.

# CURRENT & FUTURE EVENTS

MAR | 8<sup>TH</sup> - 9<sup>TH</sup>

MARCH 8-9

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY  
Office of Academic and Strategic Planning  
1000 University Blvd.  
Baton Rouge, LA 70803

★★★★★

## SPORTS AGENT BOOTCAMP

### THIRD ANNUAL

MARCH 8 <sup>TH</sup>	
8:45 A.M.	OPENING REMARKS
9:00 A.M.	PLAYMAKER POWER: UNLEASHING THE WINNING STRATEGIES OF SPORTS AGENTS
10:05 A.M.	FROM LOCKER ROOM TO BOARDROOM: TRANSITIONING TO CAREERS IN THE SPORTS INDUSTRY
11:05 A.M.	THE WINNING PITCH: STRATEGIES FOR SPORTS AGENTS IN PLAYER NEGOTIATIONS
12:00 P.M.	LUNCH BREAK
1:05 P.M.	NAME, IMAGE, AND LIKENESS: WINNING STRATEGIES FOR ATHLETE BRANDING
2:05 P.M.	SHATTERING GLASS GOALS: WOMEN IN SPORTS MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP
3:00 P.M.	JOURNALISTIC MVPs: TACKLING SPORTS REPORTING WITH STYLE AND SUBSTANCE
MARCH 9 <sup>TH</sup>	
8:45 A.M.	OPENING REMARKS
9:05 A.M.	MASTERING THE SPORTS AGENT EXAM
11:05 A.M.	CLOSING REMARKS

SULC.EDU/SPORTSBOOTCAMP

MAR | 22<sup>ND</sup> - 23<sup>RD</sup>

Second Annual Henrietta Lacks Symposium  
HUMANIZING HER: ELEVATING THE CONVERSATION OF  
FERTILITY, HEALTH EQUITY, AND MATERNAL HEALTH

MARCH 22-23, 2024

SUMA CULTURAL AND HERITAGE CENTER

FREE EVENT!

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SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY SYSTEM  
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SUMA  
CULTURAL AND HERITAGE CENTER

BRANDS, DISPARITY  
KANSAS CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY  
THROUGH EDUCATION

APR 13<sup>TH</sup>

## SAVE THE DATE

### HEALTH AND HARMONY WELLNESS FAIR

SATURDAY, APRIL 13<sup>TH</sup>

9:30 A.M. - 2 P.M.

F.G. CLARK ACTIVITY CENTER

*Stay tuned for details!*

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY  
LACEN CENTER

pb  
Painbridge Biomedical  
Pharmaceuticals  
Clinical Advisory Health

LLENA (AI)  
aetna  
Aetna Better Health<sup>SM</sup>  
of Louisiana

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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*