Dear Alumni,

On behalf of the Thurgood Marshall Law Review, I would like to announce the second edition of the Law Review’s annual alumni newsletter: The Thurgood Editorial. In addition, we celebrated our 45th anniversary this past August 2015, and are continuing to raise the bar.

Thus far we have published eight student articles, available on TMLR Online, on a very vast range of topics regarding: electronic cigarettes, the homeless feeding ban in Houston, claims of antitrust within the NCAA, governmental executive action relating to immigration, Texas riparian rights law, the treatment of the mentally ill in prison, police ability to enforce the law, and the effects of U.S. Supreme Court law on employee health insurance coverage. We still have more to come. All of our articles can be accessed at tmlawreview.org.

Of the many students that applied to join Law Review, 19 were extended an offer and recently recognized at the Annual Pinning Ceremony. Of those 19 students, 4 were offered publication of their associate article in TMLR Online (Volume 42). The Law Review invited back 1999-2000 Editor-In-Chief and partner at Norton Rose Fulbright Alaina King Benford to serve as the keynote speaker. Ms. Benford was honored at the pinning ceremony and awarded the title Editor-In-Chief Emeritus, to be listed in the mastheads of all issues in the upcoming Volume 41.

For the Spring 2016 semester, we have invited multiple alumni to speak as we continue our Alumni Lecture Series. In February 2016, the Law Review featured alumni Alexia McWhinney with Shell and Reginald Wilson with Norton Rose Fulbright. In March 2016, the Law Review will host alumni Shanisha Smith and Christopher Lopez, term clerks for the Honorable George Hanks and alumnus the Honorable Kenneth M. Hoyt, respectively. In April 2016, the Law Review will bring back alumna Alaina King Benford. Finally, in approaching the conclusion of my tenure as Editor-In-Chief, I must recognize the efforts and hard work of the Law Review staff. The Associate Editors, Senior Editors, and all members of the Editorial Board—none of this would be possible without them. We have our staff to thank as we finalize and prepare print for Volume 41, Issues 1 & 2.

Matthew W. Bourda
When the Mentally Ill and the Criminal Justice System Collide—The Result

Broken: The Social, Political, and Legal Implications of America’s Immigration Dilemma


Judge Blows the Whistle on the Compensation Cap: How the NCAA’s False Claim of Amateurism is Beginning to Crumble
**SUMMER LEGAL EXPERIENCE**

Matthew W. Bourda is a J.D. Candidate at Thurgood Marshall School of Law and the current Editor-In-Chief of the Thurgood Marshall Law Review. He graduated from Tulane University in New Orleans with a bachelor’s degree in political science and a minor in African and African Diaspora Studies. During the summer of 2015, Matthew Bourda served as a judicial intern for the Honorable Kenneth M. Hoyt of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas. While there, he worked on the case of Landrum. Landrum v. Harris County Emergency Corps, 4:14-CV-1811, 2015 WL 4394010 (S.D. Tex. July 16, 2015), a case of first impression for the Fifth Circuit regarding liability waiver provisions under the Fair Credit Reporting Act. This was his second internship with Judge Hoyt. When asked to describe his experience, Matthew mentioned that “this is one of the greatest opportunities that a law student could have. It helps promote your writing and research skills, but also rules of evidence and civil procedure. Additionally, because you’re encouraged to observe other courtrooms, you get to see magistrate, bankruptcy, and if you’re lucky, appellate hearings. I’d recommend it to any law student—it’s invaluable.” Matthew plans to enter into the fields of consumer and bankruptcy law in the future. In a final message, Matthew gives this one piece of advice: “Always be humble and willing to learn. Even a judge learns something every day, but appreciate a learning moment when one is presented to you, because it could make a huge difference on your perspective and practice of the law.”

Tre Meredith is a 3L law student at Thurgood Marshall School of Law. He graduated from The University of Houston in December 2012 with a bachelor’s degree in finance. This past summer Tre was a summer associate with Thompson Coe, LLP and Coats Rose, P.C., two reputable firms. Tre “gained a wealth of knowledge and real world practice expertise at both firms.” Tre says that the experience of interning with a law firm is “invaluable.” Tre is among the top ten percent of his law class and is involved in many student organizations and activities. Tre explains that his outstanding “academics and personable leadership qualities enabled his abilities to obtain this reputable summer law firm internship.” He currently serves as the Vice President on the Executive Board of the Student Bar Association. Tre is also an active member in many student organizations including the Thurgood Marshall School of Law Review, Student Ambassadors, Black Law Students Association, and the Men of TMSL. In his free time, he enjoys researching, discovering lucrative investments, and adding to his impressive library of over 200 books. Mr. Meredith will be graduating Magna Cum Laude.

Monica Alyssa Lopez is a 2016 J.D. candidate at Thurgood Marshall School of Law. Currently she is a 3L and Senior Editor for TMSL Law Review. Monica received a Bachelor of Arts in Government with a minor in Business Administration at the University of Texas at Austin. In summer 2015, Monica worked at Jackson Walker, LLP, as a summer associate, where she has accepted an offer to work upon graduation in Corporate and Securities. Previously, she clerked for Judge Alexandra Smoot-Hogan of the 164th Civil District court and solo-practitioner Julie Pi Evans Law Firm. During her summer internship with Jackson Walker, Monica worked in Corporate, Real Estate, Labor Employment, and Litigation. Monica chose areas of interest that were largely transactional because she felt she had less exposure to those areas in law school and was interested in...
learning more about them. Monica knew she wanted to work at Jackson Walker, LLP, when she was first exposed to them during her 1L year. “Everyone is really personable and welcoming and the diversity within the firm is very appealing.” Monica has gained invaluable mentors from her internship that continue to reach out to her and include her in event hosted by the firm. Her advice would be “to always be yourself and do your best, and, in the worst-case scenario, always reach out to your mentors—they know exactly how to lift you up and get you through any hurdles you may encounter.” Ms. Lopez will be graduating valedictorian of the class of 2016.

Kendrack Lewis
TMLR Former Editor in Chief

TMSL Class of 2014-2015

Advice for new lawyers?

I would advise new attorneys to seek out mentors that are experienced in their specific practice areas. As a new attorney, you’re going to have questions. A mentor can serve as a point of reference for a new attorney and offer them practical guidance, which is essential for a new attorney’s growth and development.

Where are you currently employed?

I am a federal prosecutor for the U.S. Department of Justice. I work in the Asset Forfeiture & Money Laundering Section of the Criminal Division, where we investigate and prosecute complex criminal cases involving financial institutions and individuals who violate money laundering statutes, the Bank Secrecy Act, and other related statutes. We also litigate civil and complex criminal forfeiture cases.

What was the most unforgettable day or moment in your career?

The day I passed the Texas Bar Exam was the most memorable day of my young career. After three years of law school and months of studying for the bar exam, there is no greater feeling than knowing you’re licensed to practice law. And that, you’ve achieved your childhood dream of becoming a lawyer.

Upcoming Events

Thurgood Marshall Law Review Symposium

“Gun Violence in the Wake of Campus Carry and Open Carry”

Friday, April 1st at Thurgood Marshall School of Law
What is the highlight of your law school experience?
My highlight is working in the clinic, being able to use the tools I received the first two years of law school and apply it to helping real clients.

What advice do you have for incoming law students?
The advice I have for incoming law students is to participate in extracurricular activities such as moot court, mock trial, law review, and law journal. It will take up time in your day but these activities will help you in the long run with experience, networking, and something to add to your resume. Also, being a member of many societies or associations is good, but be on the board of at least one society or association. Being on the board shows leadership.

How do you balance law school and your personal life?
My personal life is just as busy as my law school life. I have two kids, infant and toddler, and I have to use my time efficiently. I try to get school work done at school in between classes to reduce the amount of school work I have to work on at home. At home, the time I am not spending with the family, I am working on school work. Outlines are a big help because I do not have to carry around books, highlighters, and a whole notebook of paper.
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