FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 22, 2008

TMSL to Host Indigent Defense Symposium

Thurgood Marshall School of Law, Texas Southern University, The Earl Carl Institute of Legal & Social Policy, and the Clinical Legal Studies Program will host the Indigent Defense Symposium on Tuesday, October 28, 2008. The conference will be held at Thurgood Marshall School of Law located at the corner of Wheeler and Tierwester from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm and offers 7.00 MCLE hours and 1.00 Ethics for attorneys licensed in the State of Texas.

Harris County, Texas, the third largest county in the United States is currently not served by a Public Defenders Office. The Indigent Defense Symposium will provide an overview of the need for a Public Defenders (PD) Office via a discussion of several public defenders models. Remarks from Harris County District Attorney and Judicial candidates on whether or not Harris County needs and/or is ready for a PD office. The main questions this symposium will address are whether there is a need for a PD Office in Harris County and, whether Harris County is providing quality indigent defense?

Invited panelists include: Jim Bethke, Texas Task Force on Indigent Defense; Andrea Marsh, Texas Fair Defense Project; Andrea Keilen, Texas Defender Service; Marshall Shelsy, Counsel, Harris County Criminal Courts at Law; The Honorable Mike Fields, Harris County Criminal Court at Law #14; Loretta Muldrow, Attorney at Law; Alvin Nunnery, Attorney at Law; M. Clara Hernandez, El Paso PD; Marjorie Meyers, Federal PD; Lynn Richardson, Dallas PD; Jeanette Kinard, Travis County PD; Melissa Shearer, Travis County Mental Health PD; David Minchberg, County Judge Candidate; The Honorable Pat Lykos, Harris County DA Candidate; Brad Bradford, Harris County DA Candidate; Bill Moore, 174th District Court Judicial Candidate; Ruben Guerrero, 174th District Court Judicial Candidate; The Honorable Brian Rains, 176th District Court Judicial Candidate; Shawna Reagin, 176th District Court Judicial Candidate; The Honorable Devon Anderson, 177th District Court Judicial Candidate; Kevin Fine, 177th District Judicial Candidate; The Honorable Roger Bridgwater, 178th District Court Judicial Candidate; David Mendoza, 178th District Judicial Candidate; The Honorable Mike Wilkinson, 179th District Judicial Candidate; Randy Roll, 179th District Judicial Candidate; The Honorable Don Stricklin, 337th District Judicial Candidate; Herb Ritchie, 337th District Judicial Candidate; The Honorable Brock Thomas, 338th District Judicial Candidate; Hazle Jones, 338th District Judicial Candidate; The Honorable Caprice Cosper, 339th District Judicial Candidate; Maria Jackson, 339th District Judicial Candidate; The Honorable Mark Kent Ellis, 351st District Judicial Candidate; Mekisha Murray, 351st District Judicial Candidate.

The moderators will be as follows: The Honorable Craig Washington; The Honorable Ronald Green, Council Member At Large; Jeff Blackburn, Innocence Project of Texas; and Pat McCann, Attorney at Law. Dean McKen V. Carrington will deliver the Welcome and Jeff Blackburn will give the Occasion.
Thurgood Marshall School of Law offers continuing legal education courses and symposiums regarding current legal issues, featuring nationally recognized scholars and panelists, at a reasonable cost in a friendly, familiar, and welcoming atmosphere. To view a listing of upcoming CLE programs and to register on-line, go to www.tsulaw.edu/alumni/registration.asp. For additional information contact Prudence N. Smith (713) 313-1142 or Leonard Spearman, Jr. (713) 313-1198.