



Texas Southern University  
THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW

**DEAN'S WEEKLY UPDATE**

January 12, 2006

**Significant Activities, Requests, or Information**

**Highlights**

• **TMSL ALUMNI RUN UNOPPOSED**

Thurgood Marshall School of Law proudly salutes its alumni in public service. For the elected officials, there is re-election. Monday, January 2, 2006, was the deadline to file for electoral office in many Texas communities. For the most part, the incumbent graduates will run unopposed. The candidates are:

- Hon. Alexander Green ('74) U.S. Representative - 9th District
- Hon. Senfronia Thompson ('82) State Representative - District 141
- Hon. Harold V. Dutton ('91) State Representative - District 142
- Hon. Judge Marc Carter ('93) District Court #228th
- Hon. Judge Belinda Hill ('82) District Court #230th
- Hon. Sylvia Garcia ('78) County Commissioner - Precinct 2
- Hon. Roberto Alonzo ('84) State Representative - District 104
- Hon. Joe Deshotel ('79) State Representative - District 22
- Hon. Aaron Pena ('87) State Representative - District 40
- After serving 12 years in the Texas House of Representatives, TMSL alumnus Jim Solis ('82) has decided not to seek re-election. Rep. Solis represented District 38 in Cameron County.

• **TMSL ALUMNUS WINS APPEAL**

Currently serving as the attorney for Brandy Briggs, TMSL Alumnus Charles Portz ('82) has become a recognizable name in the legal profession. Portz, a partner in Houston's Portz & Portz Law Firm, represented Briggs in her appeal of a 17- year conviction in the death of her two month old son. After serving five years in prison, Portz won a reversal of the conviction in the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals.

• **LAW SCHOOL LEADS D.C. FORUM**

Texas Southern University Thurgood Marshall School of Law , The Earl Carl Institute for Legal and Social Policy.& The Center for Government Law in collaboration with The Historically Black Colleges & Universities Law Schools: Florida A&M University College of Law, Howard University School of Law, North Carolina Central University School of Law, Southern University Law Center, and the University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law sponsored "[A Scholar's Forum: Judge Samuel A. Alito, Jr. - An African-American Perspective on January 4, 2006](#)" at the

David A. Clarke School of Law, 4200 Connecticut Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20008. C-SPAN covered the event. The speakers included L. Darnell Weeden of TSU, David Green of North Carolina Central University, Wade Henderson of University of the District of Columbia, Russell Jones of Southern University, and John Brittain of the Lawyers Committee on Civil Rights. The panels were moderated by Deans James Douglas of FAMU, Freddie Pritcher of Southern University, Raymond Pierce of North Carolina Central University, Shelly Broderick of the University of the District of Columbia, and Kurt Schmoke of Howard University.

- **LAW CLINIC REPRESENTS PARTY IN MLK PARADE**

Professor Morris Overstreet of the Law Clinic represented one of the parties seeking permits for the Houston MLK parade. Alumnus Melvin Houston represented the other side. The parties agreed to a joint parade for the first time. In the past 10 years, there have been two separate MLK parades in Houston.

### **Professor's Activities**

The Texas Court of Appeals has cited citing **Professor Deana Pollard**, Banning Child Corporal Punishment, 77 TUL. L. REV. 575, 582 on the declining frequency of corporal punishment, (2003).

**\*NOTE:** The Weekly Report is presented to the Provost each week to highlight the School of Law activities, events and accomplishments.