

2013 YEARBOOK



THE ILLINOIS STATE BAR ASSOCIATION & JUST THE BEGINNING FOUNDATION



Highlights of the Second Annual ISBA-JTBF Law & Leadership Institute at Southern Illinois University

Thirty-two high school scholars participated in the ISBA-JTBF Law and Leadership Institute's downstate residential program at the Southern Illinois University School of Law in Carbondale from June 23 to 29, 2013.

Scholars worked long days on an exciting lineup of law-related activities, all of which were designed to develop knowledge of the legal system while building leadership, professionalism, and academic skills.

Highlights of the week included a mock trial in a federal courtroom before Magistrate Judge Philip M. Frazier, a high stakes labor negotiation hosted by Sandberg Phoenix & von Gontard in St. Louis, an oral argument workshop and networking reception at Husch Blackwell LLP in St. Louis, and a moot court competition with final arguments before Illinois Supreme Court Justice Lloyd Karmeier. Scholars also spent an evening on the Team-Building Course at SIU's Touch of Nature and enjoyed the opportunity to talk with a wide variety of people who work in law-related careers.

The Law and Leadership Institute is a partnership between Just The Beginning Foundation and the Illinois State Bar Association. JTBF has hosted a Summer Legal Institute in Chicago for many years as part of its mission is to inspire interest in legal careers among students from various socioeconomic, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds that are currently underrepresented in the legal profession. The ISBA also views diversity as part of its longstanding commitment to improving the profession and expanding access to justice and, in furtherance of that goal, joined forces with JTBF in 2012 to sponsor Law and Leadership programs in Chicago and Carbondale, Illinois.

More than 150 people contributed time or money to make this program possible. These contributions included the generous financial support of our sponsors; the expertise of the lawyers, judges, law professors, law students, and JTBF/LLI staff who delivered the curriculum; and the great care shown by the administrative personnel who arranged the housing, meals, transportation, and recreation.



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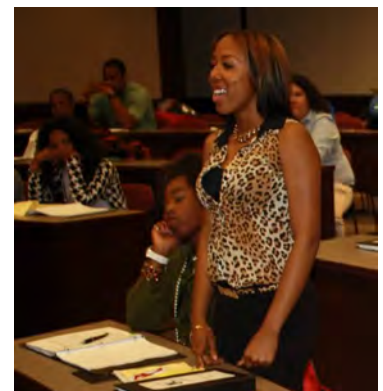


Introduction to the Law

We began the week with an introduction to the legal system from Professor Twinette Johnson, who put us to work as associates interviewing a new client to our law firm. Beyond practicing our interviewing and note-taking skills, we learned to think about what legal claims we could pursue on behalf of the client and whether we should file the lawsuit in state or federal court.

We then started work on our big case for the week, which involved a high school student who was found to be carrying drugs when strip-searched by the school principal. After analyzing the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *New Jersey v. TLO*, we began critically evaluating the relevant and irrelevant facts and anticipating the arguments that might be raised by the parties on both sides of the case.

In the afternoon, Professor Alice Noble-Allgire led a mock law school class on a finder's rights to lost or mislaid personal property. It didn't take us very long to figure out why the "finders keepers" claim we learned in kindergarten isn't really the law. Most importantly, we learned that in the practice of law, there may be more than one "right answer."



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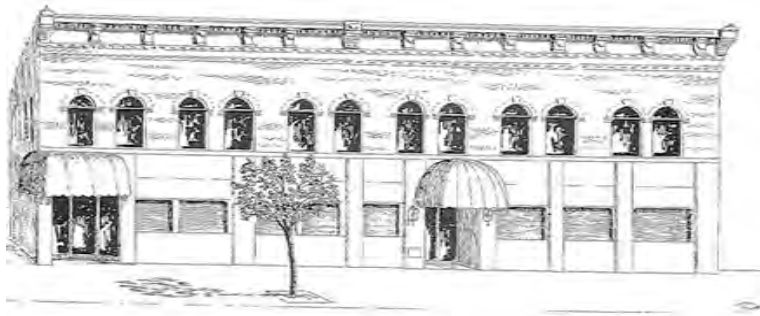
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- Secretary of State Drivers License Hearings





Leadership and Team Building

After a long day in the classroom, we ventured outdoors to learn about leadership and problem-solving as a team. SIU's Touch of Nature staff led us through various challenges, which included balancing a boat on high seas, traversing crocodile-infested waters on magic carpet squares, and how to get a dozen people to put one foot on a small box with the other foot in the air for five seconds.

The exercises taught us the value of collaborative thinking, how to employ the various skills sets and assets that each team member can offer, the need to respect the personal boundaries that differ from person to person, and that sometimes, the only way out is to ask for help!





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Inspiring Leaders In the Legal Field

Throughout the week, we heard inspiring stories about attorneys, judges, and other political leaders from diverse backgrounds who have served with great distinction.



Gloria Campos

We were fortunate to hear first-hand from one of them — Gloria M. Campos, who is the current chair of the Jackson County Republican Party. Ms. Campos shared her story of growing up in Nicaragua, but having to flee the country with her newborn son in 1979 when guerilla forces took over the country and targeted her family. She was reunited with her husband in Mexico and came to the United States seven years later when they were granted political asylum. We gave her a standing ovation after she concluded her talk with the great pride she felt in becoming a naturalized U.S. citizen in 1995 and her civic responsibility for participating in our political system.

In other cases, we were introduced to legal pioneers through “Spotlight” presentations from our team leaders. Michael Levy, for example, shared the story of Judge Laninya Cason, who became one of the youngest sitting judges in Illinois when she was appointed to the bench in 2003. Judge Cason received her J.D. from the University of Tennessee in 1996 and joined the Hinshaw Culbertson firm in Belleville, Illinois. She was elected partner six years later,



Judge Cason

becoming the first African-American female partner of the firm since it was founded in 1934. She has said that her background of growing up in the impoverished city of East St. Louis, as well as attending college and law school, gave her the ability to work with a wide range of people in a compassionate manner.



Judge Parsons

Other team leaders exposed us to several other “firsts” including U.S. District Judge James Benton Parsons, who became the first African-American appointed to the federal bench when he was appointed in 1961 by President John F. Kennedy, and U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, who became the first African-American on the nation’s highest court in 1967.

The most recent Supreme Court “first” occurred when Justice Sonia Sotomayor took her seat on the Court in 2009. She was the 111th Justice to be appointed, the Court’s third female, but the very first Hispanic.



Justice Sotomayor

In the spotlight on Asian American and Middle Eastern lawyers, Team Leader Sarms Jabra divided us into teams, with each team reading facts about a lawyer of great reputation and distinction. We then argued for our respective lawyer in an attempt to convince other teams that our lawyer’s achievements were more noteworthy.



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Big League Negotiations

On a field trip to St. Louis, we had the opportunity to work and learn in two of the city's largest law firms. Our first stop was at Sandberg Phoenix & von Gontard, where we worked on a high stakes labor negotiation involving the players and teams from the National Basketball Association.

The assignment began with a press conference in which representatives of both sides discussed the NBA's lockout of the players and publicly presented their demands — punctuated with a bit of “trash talk” along the way. We then broke into two-lawyer teams to negotiate a resolution to the dispute, with assistance from lawyers at the firm as well as ISBA President Paula Holderman.

At the end of the exercise, we convened as a large group to compare the deals that were reached. The law firm then treated us to lunch and a panel discussion about life as a lawyer.





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Oral Argument Workshop & Networking Reception

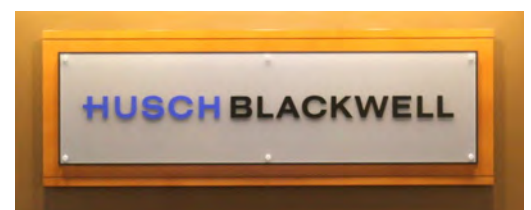


At our second stop in St. Louis, lawyers at Husch Blackwell LLP worked with us on our oral arguments for the strip search case we would be arguing in the moot court competition later in the week.

After an opening presentation on the fine points of giving an oral argument, we broke into small groups so that lawyers from the firm could coach us on our arguments. It also gave us a feel for what it would be like to work in a large, urban office environment.

We then enjoyed the opportunity to practice our networking and social skills over hors d'oeuvres and soft drinks during a reception hosted by the firm. The event gave us a chance to learn more about the work that the lawyers do — and to share with them our own goals and aspirations for the future.

To foster continuing communications with our new mentors, we traded business cards with the lawyers and asked if we could keep in touch. Of course they said we could!





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Federal Courts Day

We began our federal courts visit by observing U.S. Magistrate Judge Philip M. Frazier preside over detention hearings for several criminal defendants. The federal prosecutor reported that one of the defendants, nicknamed "Boomer," was seriously burned in an explosion while cooking methamphetamine.

The Assistant U.S. Attorneys then turned the podium over to us for a mock trial of the drug charges in our high school strip search case. Judge Frazier presided over the trial while we assumed roles as prosecutors, defense counsel, jurors, witnesses, and bailiff. The jury reached a split verdict, convicting the defendant on one count but acquitting on the second.

During lunch, we talked with several federal employees and learned about jobs in the federal court system, ranging from the U.S. marshals and probation officers to federal prosecutors, law clerks, and courtroom deputy clerks. We learned that there are a number of ways we can serve the public in the legal system.

At the conclusion of our visit, Deputy U.S. Marshal Jim Robertson demonstrated the restraining techniques that marshals use to secure criminal defendants during transport to court or other locations. Courtroom Deputy K. Jane Reynolds told us that the best way to ensure that we never ended up in the criminal system was to stay in school and get a good education.



Oral Arguments & Closing Ceremonies



On Friday morning, we faced our ultimate challenge of the week — each of us gave an oral argument before a three-judge panel of lawyers, law professors, and law students. It was nerve-wracking, but we all did a great job of advocating for our respective clients, and earned a retreat to the recreation center for some well-deserved relaxation that afternoon.

Parents joined us on Saturday for closing ceremonies that included a final round of our oral argument. Oralists Terra Randolph and Brendon Bush gave impressive arguments before a distinguished panel that included the Hon. Lloyd Karmeier, justice of the Illinois Supreme Court, and team leaders La'Mont Williams and Paula Roa.

The program concluded with the presentation of individual and team awards. On behalf of the SIU School of Law, Professor Alice Noble-Allgire awarded \$5,000 scholarships to the top five oralists (top photo, from left to right: David Watson, Tyler Knutson, Terra Randolph, Briana Higgins, and Brendon Bush).

Top team honors for the week (the King's Cup) went to the Black Mambas (bottom right photo). Every scholar in the program, however, was recognized for some "superlative" trait by their team leaders. At the bottom left, Jonathon Stewart receives his award from Team Leader Ashley Starks as Martin Jenkins looks on).



The Black Mambas, led by team leaders Paula Roa and Tania Linares, included (from left to right): Briasia Bell, Robert Smith, Brianna Higgins, Brendon Bush, Enrique Galarza, Lamont Williams, Robert Caldwell, and Salamatu Bass.

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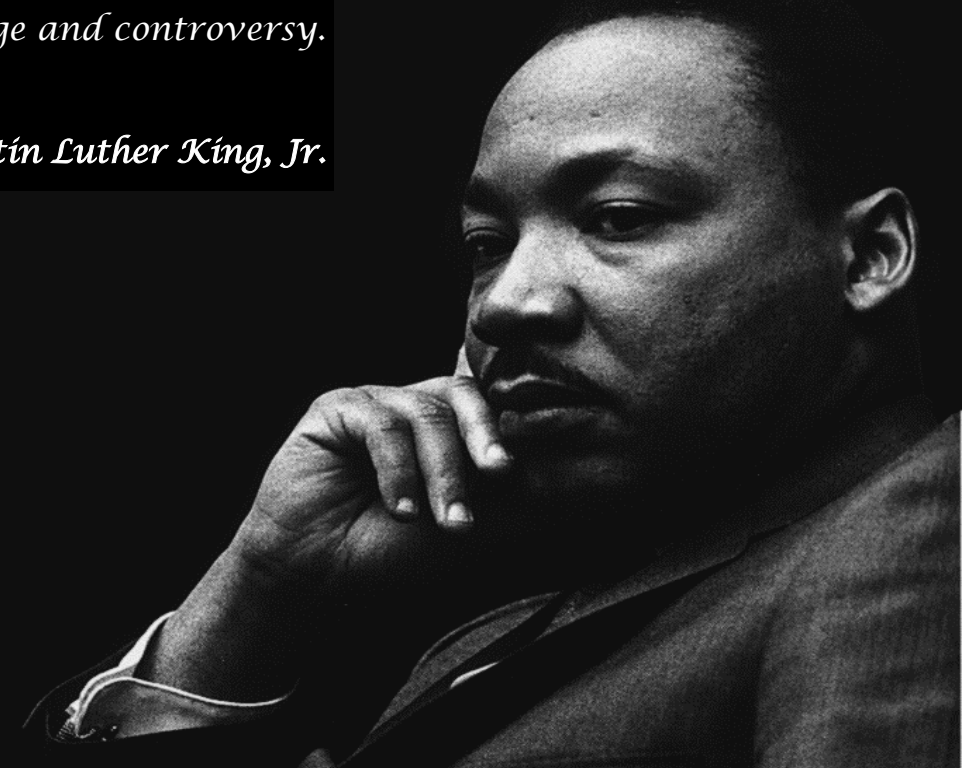
*The ultimate measure of a man is not
where he stands in moments of comfort
and convenience, but where he stands at
times of challenge and controversy.*

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Best wishes to the

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Senator James F. Clayborne Jr.



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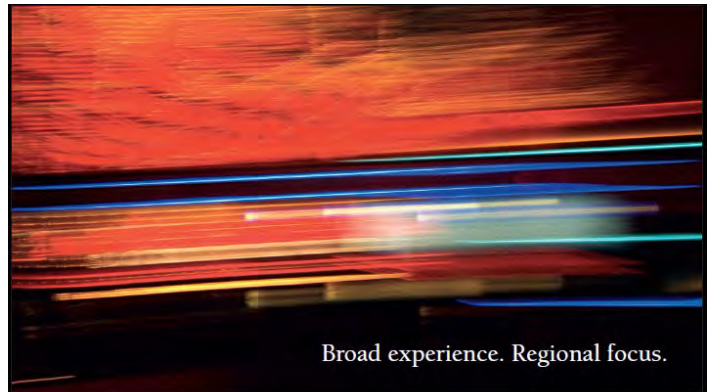
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The Madison County Bar Association is a legal organization of more than 400 attorneys serving the needs of the attorneys and residents of Madison County, Illinois, in the greater St. Louis metro-area.

Members of the Madison County Bar Association engage in a variety of community outreach programs and events throughout the year. The Association is proud to sponsor this program to inspire and inform tomorrow's leaders.

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Judge Leighton has been a tireless advocate in civil rights, equal housing, school desegregation, and voting rights cases, as well as a distinguished jurist who spent more than 20 years on the state and federal bench.

Judge Leighton grew up near New Bedford, Mass., picking cranberries and blueberries with his parents, immigrants from the Cape Verde Islands off Africa's coast. He didn't learn much English early on and never went to high school. Nonetheless, he talked his way into Howard University and later into Harvard Law School.

In 2012, the Cook County, Illinois, Criminal Court Building at 26th and California Avenue was named in his honor, one of many accolades he earned throughout his career.

I hope his story will inspire you to work hard and follow your dreams to your own productive and fulfilling career!

— Professor Wenona Whitfield

Jefferson County Bar Association

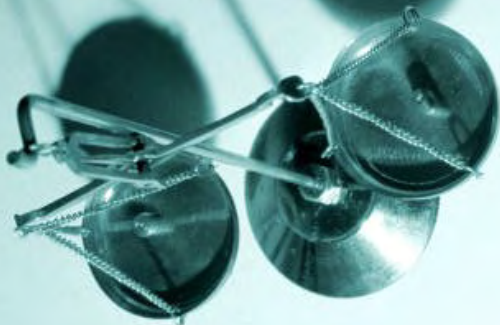
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