Do you remember August 14, 2009? We do! Congratulations Class of 2012!
FROM THE DEAN

This academic year has been one of great challenge for the legal profession in general and for law schools in particular. Economic pressures which have transformed so many aspects of social life in the United States made themselves felt with a vengeance on the legal profession. Large law firms questioned their business model with some venerable firms either merging or dissolving. And law schools increased in number while at the same time coming under withering criticism for failing to deliver employment opportunities which some students believed were promised. These trends amounted to a perfect storm for legal education in America.

Although buffeted by these difficult trends, the Howard University School of Law continues to build on its unique tradition. We remind people on a daily basis that that tradition is one of nurturing and training lawyers of excellence as social engineers. You will see evidence of how we embrace that legacy in the pages of this magazine. It shows in the work of our students, faculty, and alumni.

Faculty members were active producing articles in leading journals. They were invited to speak at symposia in the United States, Latin America, Africa and Europe. Howard faculty members were also involved in government service at the local, state and national government levels. Noteworthy was the fact that two of our faculty members served in legal counsel roles in Executive Departments of the Obama Administration.

Alumni assisted in several ways. The reorganized Board of Visitors provided important insight into the changes in the legal profession and helped us think through the adjustments that had to be made in our curriculum to make sure that we were educating for the challenges of the future, not those of the past. Financial contributions from alumni also helped to provide fellowships for students who wished to work for public interest organizations such as legal aid, public defender services, and housing agencies.

The students made us proud in many ways. They took a leading role in exposing the problems associated with the shooting of Trayvon Martin in Florida. Through the use of social media and by using their training in legal research, our students helped to educate the country about the injustice associated with the initial handling of that case. Howard students touched the conscience of the nation and helped to redirect a criminal justice system that was far off course.

All of us recognize that in our profession there are no final victories. The Howard Law School community rose to face challenges this year, and we know that there will be new challenges next year. We are confident in our ability to meet and overcome these challenges as long as the students, faculty, and alumni continue to work together to make certain that the legacy of social engineering lives on.

Congratulations to the Class of 2012!

Kurt L. Schmoke
Dean, Howard University School of Law
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ON THE CAMPUS OF HOWARD LAW

NEWS UPDATE

Praise for Moot Court Teams

Howard Law students bring pride and recognition to the law school through their exceptional performances in moot court competitions. Each year, the lists of accomplishments and awards grow longer. This year was no exception!

Goler Teal Butcher
International Moot Court Team

Members of the Goler Teal Butcher International Moot Court Team competed in the Susan J. Ferrell Moot Court Competition in Miami, Florida, and won Best Team and Best Brief awards! Nicholas Collins, Yahshuah Ford, Alexander Gee, and Onaivi Momoh represented the School of Law with great skill. Mr. Momoh, a member of the class of 2012, also placed third as Best Oralist in the competition overall. “This is a very impressive victory for our team,” said Dean Kurt L. Schmoke. “I’m told that 15 law schools entered this competition and that the issues debated were among some of the most difficult law and public policy questions facing the world community today. Great work on the oral argument and the brief,” he said as he thanked them on behalf of the entire law school community.

In February, team members Christina Cobb, Francine Foote, Arssy Hagos, and Daphne Rubin-Vega, all members of the class of 2012, competed at the Phillip C. Jessup International Moot Court Competition, one of the most prestigious and largest competitions in the world. The team won a Best Brief award.

“This is a tremendous accomplishment,” said Associate Dean Okianer Christian Dark. “The Best Brief at the Phillip C. Jessup Moot Court Competition is a truly outstanding win. We salute this superb achievement.”

Team members Stella Adegite, Tiffany Green, and Jasmine Negron won a Best Brief Award for their Prosecutor’s Brief at the U.S. National Rounds of the International Criminal Court Moot Court Competition in New York. Ms. Green had primary responsibility for writing the brief that won.

Huver I. Brown Trial
Advocacy Moot Court Team

“Remember that we achieve only excellence, striving to win first place every time.”

Members of the Huver I. Brown Trial Advocacy Moot Court Team competed several times during the year and finished strong in each competition. In September, Andrea Campbell, Erick Gracia, Christopher Lee, and Natasha Major represented the Howard University School of Law in the 12th Annual National Trial Advocacy Competition in East Lansing, Michigan. In February, members Elijah Johnson, Christopher Lee, Bobby Codjoe and Kendra Courtney Adjei competed at the 2012 National Trial Competition hosted by George Washington University School of Law. Other members of the team, Brian Jackson, Mark Simmons, and Courtney Scrubbs, competed at the 4th Annual John L. Costello Criminal Law Competition hosted by George Mason University School of Law. In each competition, members of the Huver I. Brown Moot Court Team achieved their goal of excellence.

Charles Hamilton Houston
Moot Court Team

The team hosted the Annual Charles Hamilton Houston Moot Court Team Alumni Brunch on Saturday, October 22, 2011, and in February 2012, changed the name of their intramural civil rights competition to honor alum-
The Justice and the Civil Rights Clinic

On March 7, Associate Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan visited the law school to have a conversation with students. Students of the Civil Rights Clinic were thrilled to host the Justice’s visit, and to share ideas with her over lunch. Pictured with the Justice are (left to right) Clinic students Ayesha Smith, Awaish Khaleel, June Williams, D.J. Williams, Athar Haseebullah, Brandon Gillard, Nurudeen Elias, Brittany Gause, Francine Foote, and Emmanuel Tedder, and Supervising Attorney Ajmel Quershi.
A panel of highly regarded experts from the fields of law, medicine, academia, and public service addressed the issue of health care reform and its impact on America’s poorest communities. “There are many detractors who make claims against health care and the new laws,” said editors of the *Howard Law Journal*. “But with a growing number of unemployed and underemployed Americans, the issue of health care reform is particularly relevant and ripe for discussion.” The Symposium proceedings will be published in the Spring 2012 issue of the *Howard Law Journal*. 

Howard Law Journal Member Leila Siddiky with keynote speaker Congresswoman Donna M. Christensen (D-VI) and Dean Schmoke. 

Stephen Thomas, Professor of Health Services Administration, School of Public Health, University of Maryland, delivered remarks on the state of health care in vulnerable communities.

Howard Law Journal Members Jeanette Curtis, Maryam Mujahid, Ebony Griffin, and Jessica Martin at the fall Symposium.

Dr. Perry Payne Jr., Assistant Professor in the Department of Clinical Research and Leadership at George Washington University Medical Center, discussed the financial impact of health care reform. His article on the constitutional challenges of the individual mandate will appear in the *Howard Law Journal*.

(Left to right) Presenters Mary Crossley, Lisa Ikemoto, Sidney Watson, Gwendolyn Majette, and Karen Rothenberg at the Branton reception hosted by the Howard Law Journal.
A Beloved Professor Retires

Professor of Law Laurence C. Nolan retired from Howard University School of Law in 2011. The law school hosted a reception for the beloved professor, who taught at the law school for almost 30 years. Former and current students alike paid tribute to Professor Nolan’s teaching. Faculty colleagues spoke of her extensive scholarship, her service to the law school, and her “caring mentorship.” Employees of the law school spoke of her friendship and concern for others. Former faculty members, former staff, and many of Professor Nolan’s friends shared in the momentous occasion. The law school presented Professor Nolan with gifts, flowers, and lots of love to express their gratitude and respect. She will be truly missed.
Historian and lawyer Annette Gordon-Reed (seated, second from left) with Dean Schmoke and students, faculty, and staff, on October 17, 2011. The School of Law presented Gordon-Reed with the J. Clay Smith Jr. Award for her research and scholarship on Thomas Jefferson, Sally Hemings, and the legacy of slavery. Her book, *The Hemingses of Monticello: An American Family,* won the 2009 Pulitzer Prize in History as well as the Frederick Douglass Book Prize. Gordon-Reed currently teaches law and history at Harvard Law School. She said that she was “honored” to receive the award named for J. Clay Smith Jr., a scholar, historian, and former Howard law professor.

Mid-Atlantic People of Color Conference 2012

Howard law students (left to right) Oliver Davis, Class of 2013, Daphne Rubin-Vega, Class of 2012, Christina Cobb, Class of 2012, and Brittany Gause, Class of 2013, at the Mid-Atlantic People of Color conference hosted by the School of Law in January. The students presented their research to conference attendees on a range of topics, including the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, affordable housing and gentrification in New York, the mass incarceration of minorities, and the diagnosing of minority students with disabilities. “The conference theme was Law and the Historical Moment: The Law’s Response to 21st Century Issues, and the students topics were very relevant,” said Academic Dean Okianer Christian Dark. “Congratulations to all of the students on a job extremely well done,” she said.
Mid-Atlantic People of Color Conference 2012

**Law and the Historical Moment: The Law’s Response to 21st Century Issues**

*Celebrating Charles Hamilton Houston and Contemplative Lawyering*

Dean Kurt Schmoke and Associate Dean Okianer Christian Dark along with Professors Lisa Crooms, Cynthia Mabry, Cheryl Nichols, Mariela Olivares, Reginald Robinson, and Patrice Simms attended the Mid-Atlantic People of Color Legal Scholarship Conference hosted by the law school in January. The conference theme, “Law and the Historical Moment: The Law’s Response to 21st Century Issues,” covered a number of topics, including Social Unrest and the Response of Contemplative Lawyering, The Response of Contemplative Lawyering to the Economic Dominance of the Corporate Structure, and Opportunities for Advocacy and Shameless Self-Promotion Outside of the Classroom. Howard faculty presented works-in-progress or moderated panels. Dean Dark, site coordinator for the two-day conference, said participants were impressed by the content of the presentations and with the overall conference. Several Howard law students also presented their research papers at the conference.

**SBA Faculty Member of the Year**

The Student Bar Association (SBA) chose Professor Claire Raj (center) as Faculty Member of the Year and presented her with an award at the annual Achievement Awards Ceremony on April 17. Professor Raj is the Equal Justice Program Coordinator in the Clinical Law Center and an instructor in the externship program. She recently organized the Eighth Annual Benefit Auction, a charitable event that benefits Howard law students who serve in unpaid summer public interest internships. Dean Kurt Schmoke and SBA representative Athar Haseebullah presented Professor Raj with the award.
J. Clay Smith Jr. Exhibit Unveiled

Mrs. Patti Smith (left) and members of the family of J. Clay Smith Jr., Professor Alice Gresham Bullock, Dean Schmoke, and Library Director Rhea Ballard-Thrower unveil the new J. Clay Smith Jr. Exhibit in the Law Library. The event was held on October 17, 2011, on the occasion of the annual Clarence Clyde Ferguson Jr. Lecture, to recognize Professor Smith’s contributions as a professor of law, dean, and scholar. In 1986, Professor Smith obtained funding to initiate the Clyde Ferguson Lecture Series at the law school. The exhibit includes Professor Smith’s books, papers, and photographs of historical events.

The Justice and the Faculty

Associate Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan visited the law school in March to participate in the Ninth Annual James M. Nabrit Jr. Lecture Series. After her conversation with students, the former dean of Harvard Law School met with the deans and faculty of Howard Law School. Pictured with the Justice are (left to right) Dean Kurt Schmoke, Professors Claire Raj and Tamar Meekins; Assistant Dean Reginald McGahee; Associate Dean Dione Duckett; Professors Lisa Crooms, Ajmel Quereshi, and Josephine Ross; Associate Dean Okianer Christian Dark, and Professor Mariela Olivares.
Benjamin Todd Jealous, President and CEO of the NAACP, was the guest lecturer at the March 7 event. Here is an excerpt from his lecture on justice and the ongoing struggle for civil and human rights:

“I would argue that today, if we just want to hold on to what we have, and get what we are fighting for, but also regain what we have lost, then we have to get our justice system under control. Our justice system has to serve the purposes of justice. Our justice system frankly is the first purpose of our Constitution—to establish justice. Our justice system has become sort of a mythical panacea for every problem that we have. Incarceration: drug addict, incarcerate them; homeless person, incarcerate them; somebody who is mentally ill, incarcerate them too. Immigrants, don’t know what to do with them, incarcerate them...

It is no longer enough for black people, for people of color, for people of good conscience, of all colors, to aspire to be PART of the legal system. We must aspire to take control of that system because it has taken control of our community. And in order to do that—that means that so many of us who are inspired to be civil rights lawyers or public defenders, really need to think hard about becoming prosecutors. We must represent our people well and we must understand where the levers of power are, get our hands on those levers of power, and yet maintain the same heart of a public defender, the same heart of a civil rights activist, the same heart of somebody who believes that our Constitution is living and breathing, and that we are entitled to everything it entitles us to and more.

We are entitled ultimately to a whole range of human rights, and a broader, divine notion of justice, and we have never as a people—again black people, people of color, people of good conscience of all colors in this country, as American people—have never allowed ourselves at any point from colonial days to today, to simply accept that justice is whatever is on paper at that moment.

We must understand that most of the great human rights battles of this moment are about legislation, not litigation. Even if that battle is just to get more funding for public defenders. Or more court appointed lawyers. And therefore all of us who really believe that we are called to be social engineers of a better society, rather than parasites of a dying society, must create some space in our lives, in our professional plan, for being active. As I was today, in Maryland, trying to get them to abolish the death penalty, and we are very close... I want all those bills before a committee so that they understand that Troy Davis’ spirit lives and that the death penalty must be abolished in this country. I tell you it is something to watch. I had worked on that case for 15 years. It is something to stand outside a prison as they kill your friend...

Finally, we must commit ourselves to conduct our lives with courage. You will climb the ladder higher, and there will be moments when you get scared. And when you get scared, when you get fearful, when you worry about your political career, when you worry about becoming partner, understand that you are sitting in that seat because you stand on the shoulders of people—not giants—domestic workers, former slaves, people who are martyred whose names you do not even know.

And you are there for a reason, which is to do justice, to do justice, to do justice, and there is no justice without courage.”

Ben Jealous with Dean Schmoke and Alvincent Hutson, Vice President of the Student Bar Association and member of the Class of 2012. Hutson presented a gift to Mr. Jealous on behalf of the law school community.
The students of Howard University are outraged and determined to have justice realized in Sanford, Florida and around the nation. More than five decades ago, a young man took a trip to visit his family and returned to his mother in a pine box. The assassination of Emmett Till in 1955 was one of the primary catalysts of the modern Civil Rights Movement in America, sparking outrage across the country and around the world.

Sadly, it appears that America has not learned its lesson or that we have regressed to one of our more blatantly painful moments in our history. Trayvon Martin, a 17-year-old young man from Miami, Florida, was visiting his father in Sanford, Florida, in late February 2012. Trayvon, like Emmett all those years ago, returned to his mother in a pine box, along with the hopes and dreams that she had for her son.

On Wednesday, April 11, 2012, after two million signatures on a change.org petition started by Howard law alumni; after students, parents, and civil rights advocates mobilized across the country and around the world; after Howard students redefined civic activism by creating a comprehensive online-based community which gained national acclaim; and after a group of nine students traveled to Sanford, Florida, to participate in a march and rally, the first piece of justice arrived. The State of Florida charged George Zimmerman with second-degree murder.

Despite its delayed arrival, we applaud Attorney General Eric Holder of the United States Justice Department, Assistant Attorney General Thomas Perez of the Civil Rights Division, and others at the Justice Department for heeding the ardent calls to investigate the Sanford Police Department and the circumstances surrounding this case. As the Justice Department investigates, we ask the Justice Department to unearth answers to several questions: Why the city coroner’s office did not release Trayvon’s body for three days? Why was Trayvon drug tested but not Mr. Zimmerman? Why the police failed to interview key eyewitnesses even after they offered to give statements?

Florida’s law allows persons to “Stand their ground” if they are attacked, and then can only use force—including deadly force—if he or she reasonably believes it is necessary to do so to prevent death or great bodily harm to himself ... or to prevent the commission of a forcible felony. See Fla. Stat. Ann. § 776.013 (3) (West) (2006) (emphasis added). It is unclear to us how Trayvon could have attacked Mr. Zimmerman to cause him death or “great bodily harm,” or how he could have attempted to break into someone’s home while speaking on the phone, holding his iced tea and Skittles.

Trayvon Martin was our younger brother, cousin, friend, and neighbor. He and others like him are America’s children. Three days in a morgue and not released to his father. The victim tested for drugs but not the admitted killer. What do we tell our children, our brothers, our sisters, and our friends if this stands? We will no longer tolerate this violence and treatment of young black men as if their lives are inconsequential.

The arrest and charge is the first step of many. We must repeal or constrain the Stand Your Ground laws that
Howard University students joined in with thousands of other citizens who marched on Sanford, Florida. The students met with Congresswoman Corrine Brown, who represents the District where Trayvon Martin was killed. Pictured with the Congresswoman are (left to right) Rickeysha Godfrey, Krystal Leaphart, Devin Coney, Trell Thomas, Shanequa Brooks, Omari Anderson, Khyla Craine, and Alija Harrison.

allow vigilantism instead of a controlled dispute resolution. We must hold our elected and appointed leaders accountable for the safety of ALL who live and visit within their jurisdiction. Lastly, we must recognize that our children and our communities deserve much more than we give. Our opportunity to change the landscape of America is now. The world, once again, is watching.

The students also met with Sanford Mayor Jeff Triplett (center).
What Happens When I Become Trayvon Martin?

By Scott Craft, Law Librarian
Howard University School of Law

It has been decades since the last remnants of the Jim Crow south ceased to exist and America supposedly began taking steps toward true liberty and justice for all. Yet, in the year 2012, a chilling and horrific blight on justice continues to plague this country.

I am a Black American male. Every day that I step outside of my door, I become Trayvon Martin.

America, and many countries around the world, have been brainwashed and programmed for over a century to view the Black male as dangerous, a threat to society, a pillager of White women, a murderer, a sexual deviant, and a threat to the masculinity of White men. Black men and Blacks in general are also viewed as unintelligent, lazy, unpatriotic and as having a feeling that society owes them something. These disgusting and bigoted stereotypes could not be farther from the truth than saying that the earth is flat. Yet many of these mischaracterizations continue to be spewed by media pundits, news reporters, politicians and various other media outlets.

A notion is carried like a virus through generations of whites and blacks in America that white is better than black and that black is not in any way equal to white. Even in the Black community, certain Blacks consider white to be better than black. White schools are better than black schools. White dolls are better than black dolls. Lighter skin is better than darker skin. Straighter or curly hair is better than coarse or kinked hair. These pervasive outlooks on blackness carry over into hatred from Whites and self hatred from Blacks. So what does this all have to do with Trayvon Martin? Well, let’s look at the facts. Trayvon Martin was unarmed. Trayvon Martin was not a threat to anyone. Trayvon Martin was carrying only a bag of Skittles and a bottle of iced tea. Trayvon Martin was targeted and profiled by a man who only saw skin color. George Zimmerman, saw a young black male, which to him, was a representation of the aforementioned stereotypes of Black men and the Black American community as a whole. He saw a threat. He saw a criminal. He saw a threat to society. He also saw someone who he perceived as less than pure, a non-white.

My hope is that one day Martin Luther King Jr. can be memorialized with more than just a large statue in Washington, D.C., but with his words and teachings of peace, justice, and equality...

What Happens When I Become Trayvon Martin?
charged, what does that say about the psyche of those police officials? Was their judgment affected by the color of the victim’s skin? Was it affected by the color of the aggressor’s skin?

This despicable injustice that has happened to a young man on his way from picking up a bag of candy and an iced tea from a store is just another blemish on the questionable history of a very young country. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. envisioned this young country as a Promised Land: “…and I’ve looked over, and I’ve seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you, but I want you to know tonight that we as a people will get to the Promised Land.”

Dr. King’s Promised Land was a place where people are judged by the content of their character and not the color of their skin. Even with the election of a Black American president, Dr. King would still not see the “Promised Land” he once spoke of. He would only see a distorted, warped representation of the social justice he fought and died for.

My hope is that one day Martin Luther King Jr. can be memorialized with more than just a large statue in Washington, D.C., but with his words and teachings of peace, justice, and equality ingrained in the hearts and minds of America. I also hope that with this tragedy, Trayvon Martin can be immortalized in every American as a reminder that we are all a part of one race, the human race.

So what happens when I become Trayvon Martin? What happens when someone else’s son becomes Trayvon Martin? Will there be another outcry from black organizations, churches, community leaders, etc? Will there be another article like this one? Another court case? Another funeral? Another life lost? Will there be…justice?

I Am Trayvon Martin Too:
Fighting Against Racial Profiling of Communities of Color

By Jasbir (Jesse) Bawa, Legal Writting Instructor
Howard University School of Law

One day this past semester, I brought my hoodie to school. I told one of my students that I did that because I am Trayvon Martin too. He looked at me like I was crazy. And rather than simply explain my thought process to just him, I thought it prudent to explain it to our wider community.

In case we haven’t met, I am someone readily identifiable as “foreign” or “other.” I am clearly not black or white. My ancestry is Indian and I was born and raised in Canada. Because I am not African American, I often get asked by prospective employers why I chose to attend Howard University School of Law (HUSL). My rationale is simple: no matter where I am, I will always be an “other” and an outsider that doesn’t quite fit in. I chose Howard because the historical civil rights legacy of legends like Thurgood Marshall and Charles Hamilton Houston, among many others, spoke to my idealistic notion that I could help make the world a better place for everybody. There is no better place to learn to be a social engineer.

I attended this law school long ago enough that many things have changed but recently enough that 9-11 was fresh and new in my classmates’ and my social consciousness. I remember trying to convince my fellow classmates during a presentation in Advanced Evidence that the racial profiling of any community is wrong. I was shocked by how vehemently most of them disagreed with me. This was a time where my particular community was a walking target. The Sikhs, a tiny religious minority out of India whose adherents grow their hair and wear turbans as an article of faith, were being mistaken for the enemy—those that attacked this nation. Hate crimes against my community were rampant and Muslims and anyone perceived as or mistaken for Muslim, including my own Sikh community, was now the object of outright hatred. We were so caught off guard. I had been detained and searched at airports more times than I care to count.
My elderly mother was strip searched at the airport because of her ethnic dress, which she still describes as the most humiliating experience of her life. And my dear husband, a tall Sikh man with a turban and a beard, was viewed with such public suspicion that I truly feared for his personal safety. Verbal abuse from strangers was commonplace, as we walked through the mall or other public places. And yet in this very law school, where discrimination was battled and justice triumphed over injustice in the quest for civil rights, I was being told by my peers that my civil rights weren't the same as their civil rights. My civil rights were not as important because profiling me and those like me was in the interests of national security. My community and I were suspicious and that was justified.

Despite this incident, years later, I came back to Howard to teach Legal Writing. As part of the faculty, I watched with pride as the Howard University School of Law community reacted with outrage to the Trayvon Martin tragedy. Are my students suspicious because they are predominantly black and wear hoodies? Certainly not.

On March 24, 2012, in California, Shaima Alawadia, a 32-year-old American mother of five children ranging in ages from 8 to 17, was beaten to death with a tire iron simply because she wore a Muslim head-covering (hijab) and was of Iraqi descent. The note next to her body told the family to “go back to where they came from” and called them “terrorists.” Just as frightening are the comments posted online about any article referencing Shaima’s death. Over a decade after 9-11, there is still a very strong public animus against Muslims even though the truth is that all Muslims are not terrorists.

September 11, 2001, is a defining moment for every American. For Sikh Americans, it marks the day that we became walking targets for hate. And we continue to do so to this day. In March 2011, two elderly Sikh men, a 78-year-old father Gurmej Atwal and his 67-year-old friend Surinder Singh were shot and killed while taking their daily afternoon stroll in their neighborhood in Elk Grove, California. In March of this year, National Public Radio reported the case of a Sikh family in Leesburg, Virginia that in a span of nine years had their home vandalized with graffiti, and recently received their third death threat despite moving to another state. This most recent letter was addressed to “The Turban Family.” The letter accuses the parents, grandparents, and children of being members of the Taliban. The letter reads, in part: “We ask you to leave the country as soon as possible, otherwise one of our people is going to shoot you dead.” One of the previous threats: “We will kill you; we will sell your children in Cuba, and tie up your women with your turbans.” These innocent people are not terrorists, but they are being terrorized.

I imagine that members of this Sikh family cannot live their day to day life without a palpable fear that impacts every move and decision they make. This fear is parallel to the struggles of black males and their families who live every day with the fear that they too will be profiled as suspicious simply for being black. I am not saying this is exactly the same, clearly the black community has a long history of maltreatment and racial profiling that stems back to slavery and the Jim Crow era, but there are common elements to the current civil rights of these different communities. The oneness is rooted in the fear of being profiled, the hatred, and the very real potential for violence against them. Every parent of a child of color wonders if their child will be victimized next simply on the basis of appearance.

This past year, as part of my support and involvement with a Sikh civil rights group in this area, the Sikh American Legal and Education Fund (SALDEF), I invited some former students and some of my Legal Writing colleagues to their gala event. It was a colliding of my worlds: my personal fight for the civil rights of Sikh-Americans and my separate world teaching at Howard. I wanted to reconcile the
Increasingly in our nation, ethnicity and race fuel the suspicion that one isn’t really American and does not really belong here.”

“Increasingly in our nation, ethnicity and race fuel the suspicion that one isn’t really American and does not really belong here.”

Through the criminal trial of George Zimmerman, as we continue to act and react to the tragic death of Trayvon Martin and the demonization of black males more broadly, I implore you to remember all those that are profiled based on their appearance and are targeted or killed because of it. Fight for all of them by declaring all racial profiling wrong and unjust in every situation. Even back in 1967, Dr. King recognized that “returning violence for violence multiplies violence, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that.”

In the future, my now four year old son will sport a turban and beard. I wonder if I will have to fear for his safety the way I still fear for my husband. Will you be the social engineers fighting for his rights too? Within his first month of preschool at age three, he learned that he is viewed as “different” and that people don’t understand him and his long hair wrapped in a religious head covering. I will continue to teach him to celebrate differences and fight for justice for everyone. I fully anticipate challenges in his climb through adolescence as he learns to navigate the judgmental nature of people who don’t know what to make of his appearance and react with suspicion and distrust.

He will be innocent, yet suspicious. And in that sense, he is Trayvon Martin too.

And thus so am I.
Howard University School of Law
Congratulates the Class of 2012!

MASTER OF LAWS
Waidi Bamidele Afolabi
Boma Balafarwa Ejesi
Makgatho Mathari Motshekga
Andrea N. Taclit-Lampert
Elizabeth N. Tattung

JURIS DOCTOR/MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
Najah Nicole Hopkins
Errol Sherman Lloyd
Malik Sironåe Sanders

JURIS DOCTOR
Stella R. Adegite
Linda A. Ajawara
Kayla Michelle Anderson
Omari Hanif Anderson
Elienne Amoriscat
Kerry-Ann Archer
Maria-Daniel Asturias
Mahlet Ayalew
Tiffany Monique Baker
Michael Anthony Blackmon, Jr.
Danielle Mari Blancada
Genoveva Nana Abena
Nyarko Boama
Generra Cameron Boozer
John Allen Borden, Jr.
Shari L. Brewster
Clarence F. Stanback
Steve Andrew Smith
Harrison Monfort Smith
Ariana C. Smith
Gabrielle L. Sims
Louis Nana Kwame Sarpong
Linsey Alaine Peña
Christian Enrique Izaguirre
Angelica Denetra Jenkins
Ellyjah Johnson, Jr.
Ashley Lauren Tusan Joyner
Judith Ofohussiana Koranteng
Debbie Lovinsky
Jonathan Darnell Luckett
John Paul Lujan
Lindsey Janelle Mahoney
Christopher James Martin
Jessica Drina Martin
Golden Marzett
Rochelle Jannie Marie McAllister
Anouch A. McCall
Kelrel M. McCrimons
Yolanda Nicole Melville
Lauren-Ashley Nicole Miller
Taneka S. Miller
Onaivi Toyin Momoh
Craig J. Moore
Marcus Childs Moore, Jr.
William Reid Morris
Maryam Fatima Mujahid
Elen Negasi
Jennifer Chika Okafor
Dorcas Owusu-Frimpong
Rainey Lynn Perez
William H. Pope III
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Mariel Prevatt
Saman Qadeer
Raven A. Radley
Jouya Rastegar
Ariel Whitney Reed
Tornea S. Romeo
Justin S. Ross
Daphne Amalia Rubin-Vega
Peña
Brittany Karyn Ruffin
Linsey Alaine Ruhl
Thomas Russell III
Sana Saleh
Nana Kwame Sarpong
Louis Ryan Shaffer
Pinal R. Shah
Leila R. Siddiqui
Leslie L. Simmons
Charles Edward Morris Sims
Gabrielle L. Sims
Kyra D. Sims
Jessica Lynn Sinkfield
Ariana C. Smith
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Udeme Bassey Uwan
Shannon Noyes Veezy
Marcus A. Ware
Landon M. White
Maya Aaliya Whitmyer
Jaclynn Nicole Williams
Jennifer Noelle Williams
June Anita Williams
Prince Williams
Veronika Williams
Kimberly Natasha Wilson
Abeni Wilson-Williams
Courtney Leigh Winston
Betselot Alemu Zeleke

KEY
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□ Class Officer
¥ Clinic
□ Dean’s Fellow
Σ Family Law Certificate
£ Goler Teal Butcher International
Moot Court Team
Δ Graduate Trustee 2010-2011
◊ Howard Law Journal
* Howard Law Journal 2010-2011
Only
$ Human Rights and Globalization
Law Review
√ Huver I. Brown Trial Advocacy
Moot Court Team
Ω Pro Bono Pledge
Ψ Student Bar Association Officer

Note: Appearance of a name in this program is
presumptive evidence of graduation, but it shall
not be regarded as conclusive. The diploma of the
University, signed and sealed by its proper officers,
remains the official testimony of the possession of
the degree.
Ambassador Andrew Young’s humanitarian efforts and influence have spanned the globe. From his beginnings as an ordained minister and top aide to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during the civil rights movement to his current position as founding principal and chair of GoodWorks International, an organization that embraces his long-held mission of facilitating economic development in the Caribbean and Africa, Ambassador Young has dedicated himself to improving the lives of all people, particularly those in Africa and the Diaspora.

His “good works” have taken him to more than 150 countries, including 48 of 53 countries in Africa. Through his leadership, countries throughout the world have created a successful model that combines religion, education, democracy and free enterprise in ways that support the public good.

Ambassador Young earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Howard University in 1951 and a Bachelor of Divinity degree from Hartford Seminary in 1955. He has received honorary degrees from more than 60 institutions, including Swarthmore College, Duke University, Emory University, Clark Atlanta University, Howard University, the University of Georgia, and Morehouse College, which named its Center for International Affairs in his honor. He has also received honorary degrees from international educational institutions including the University of Pretoria South Africa and the University of Maiduguri Nigeria. Georgia State University’s School of Policy Studies, which carries his name, is one of the best policy schools in the United States.

Ambassador Young served in the United States Congress and as United States Ambassador to the United Nations during the Carter Administration. In 1996, he was awarded the Olympic Order, the highest award of the Olympic Movement, for his work as International Vice President for Law Engineering and Chair of the Centennial Olympic Games hosted in Atlanta.

Ambassador Young serves or has served on numerous corporate boards of directors and advisory boards including the Southern African Enterprise Development Fund, the Leon H. Sullivan Foundation, the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, Diversapack, Barrick Gold, United Nations, AMC, and the Atlanta Falcons.

While mayor of the City of Atlanta for two terms, Young helped attract 1,100 new businesses and 70 billion dollars in private investments, and created one million new jobs. His leadership helped the City to earn the international reputation it holds today. He is the author of two books, *A Way Out of No Way* and *An Easy Burden*, and co-author of *Walk in My Shoes*. Ambassador Young recently received the Emmy for Lifetime Achievement. Young continues to call Atlanta home where he lives with his wife, Carolyn McClain Young. He is the father of three daughters and one son and the grandfather of eight.
2012

LINDA A. AJAWARA will be clerking for the Chief Judge George A. Yanzhis of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York.


CHRISTINA COBB, KERREL MCCRIMONS, and NANA SAR-PONG served as editors on The Barrister.


GENERRA C. BOOZER received the Deans Leadership Award for 2011-2012.

JOURDAN E. BROOKS will be clerking for Judge Herman Dawson of the Prince George’s County Circuit Court.

RUSTIN BROWN received the Student of the Year Award from the School of Law.

DARNELL COLES JR. will be clerking at the Superior Court of Connecticut.

NURUDEEN ELIAS served as editor-in-chief of The Barrister. He is also a member of the Howard Law Journal. His Note, entitled “America’s Religious Values at a Crossroads: Lifting the Veil on Zoning Decisions to Ensure Victory for the America of the Constitution and Religious Tolerance,” will be published in the Spring 2012 issue.

NICOLE P. GRANT was offered a clerkship with the Honorable Phyllis D Thompson of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals.

SHONTAE D. GRAY will be clerking for the Honorable Gerald J. Council of the New Jersey Superior Court-Mercer County.

TIFFANY I. GREEN will be clerking with the Honorable Bruce D. White of the Fairfax County Circuit Court, Nineteenth Judicial Circuit.


AARIEL HOLMES served as President of the Howard Public Interest Law Society 2011-2012 Auction Committee and Executive Board.

ALVINCENT HUTSON II received the ALI-ABA Scholarship and Leadership Award.

SHEILA ISONG, CHRISTOPHER MARTIN, HARRISON SMITH, and JACLYNN WILLIAMS received Service Awards from the Office of Student Affairs.

ROBERT JACKSON and ROBERT MEDINE received the 2011 Crowell and Moring Public Interest Fellowship.

Elijah Johnson Jr. will be clerking for Judge Gwendolyn Blue of the New Jersey Superior Court-Camden County.

Judith O. Koranteng will be clerking with Judge Natalia Combs-Greene of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

Christopher L. Martin will be clerking for the Honorable Sheila R. Tillerson Adams, Administrative Judge of the Prince George’s County Circuit Court, 7th Judicial Circuit.

Yolanda N. Melville will be clerking for the Honorable Susan F. Maven of the New Jersey Superior Court, Appellate Division.

Anthony Middelbrooks received the Office of Admissions Volunteer of the Year Award.

Maryam F. Mujahid’s Note, “Romeo and Juliet-A Tragedy of Love by Text: Why Targeted Penalties that Offer Front-End Severity and Back-End Leniency are Necessary to Remedy the Teenage Mass-Sexting Dilemma,” was published in the Fall 2011 issue of the Howard Law Journal and has been nominated for a Burton Award for Legal Achievement.

Elen Negasi will be clerking for the Honorable Susan F. Maven of the New Jersey Superior Court.

Lanre Popoola will be clerking for the Honorable Beverly J. Woodward of the Prince George’s County Seventh Judicial Circuit.

Tomeala S. Romeo will be clerking for Judge Eric M. Johnson, Circuit Court of Maryland, Sixth Judicial Circuit.

Linsey Ruhl received the Public Interest Student of the Year Award.

Leila R. Siddiky published “Keep the Court Room Doors Closed So the Doors of Opportunity Can

HARRISON SMITH served as Firm Committee Chair for the Howard Public Interest Law Society 2011-2012 Auction Committee and Executive Board.

LUZ A. TORRES received the L. Douglas Wilder Award for Academic Achievement.

JENNIFER N. WILLIAMS served as a White House Intern in Vice President Joe Biden’s Domestic Policy Office during the Spring of 2012. Williams conducted research on several issues, including healthcare, education, and alternative energy sources.


2013 & 2014

Yahshuah Ford, Michelle Mills, and Carl Essel-Mensah were elected to the 2012-2013 Executive Board of the GOLER TEAL BUTCHER INTERNATIONAL MOOT COURT TEAM. In addition, the team selected new members, including Alexia Brown, Michael Browne, Jada Cain, Brian Caldwell, Richard Carlton, China Dickerson, Laura Harding, Megan Lynch, Shannon McNeal, Heran Medhin, Caleb Pearson, Germael Ross, and Kevin Russell.

THE HUVER I. BROWN TRIAL ADVOCACY MOOT COURT TEAM welcomed new members Durriyah Rose, Janeese Lewis, Ashley Sawyer, Sierra Wallace, Tamika Hawkins, Danielle Jones, Janelle Christian, Matthew Emmick, Anilu Chadwick, Carmel Henry, Kia Smith, Ashlee Lewis, Casey Payton, Justin Bell, Montez Cobb, Edward Hill, Maso Hamilton, Michael Browne, Nicole George, Felicia Hunter, Chad Clinton, and Brandon Taylor.

THE CHARLES HAMILTON HOUSTON MOOT COURT TEAM elected 18 new members for the 2012-2013 team, including Breanna Bledsoe, Blair Burnett, Monique Cobb, George Davis, Amber Jordan, Dierra Luckett, Adrienne Ferrell, Carlos Segarra, Keith Gilmore, Christen B’anca Glenn, Michael Goode, Cindy Unegbu, Elizabeth Ward, Parand Kashani, Courtney Malden, Candice Smith, Tiana Towns, and Amanda Butler Jones.

Angela Porter, Roselle Oberstein, Nadine Mompremier, Alyssia Bryant, and Sharaya Cabansag were elected to the executive board of the Howard Law Journal for 2012-2013.

Tetteh Quaynor, Afua Ofosu, Giovanna Jean-Baptiste, Peter Davidson II, Kristin Woods, Laura Harding, Anna Bruton, and Darcey Thompson were elected to the executive board of the HUMAN RIGHTS & GLOBALIZATION LAW REVIEW.

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