



SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY  
LAW REVIEW

JUNIOR EDITOR  
INDUCTION  
CEREMONY

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# ORDER OF CEREMONY

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Meghan Matt, Managing Editor

Introduction of Distinguished Speaker  
Catherine Smith, Executive Editor

Distinguished Speaker, Candace Ford  
Associate in Commercial Litigation,  
Breazeale Sachse and Wilson LLP

Induction of Junior Editors  
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Closing  
Olivia Montgomery, Articles Editor

# DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER

## BIOGRAPHY



Candace Bostic Ford is an Associate Attorney at Breazeale, Sachse & Wilson LLP. She joined Breazeale after serving as an Assistant Parish Attorney for the City of Baton Rouge/Parish of East Baton Rouge. She also served as a federal law clerk to the Honorable Brian A. Jackson of the United States District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana. At Breazeale, Candace's practice focuses on commercial litigation and consumer financial services litigation in state and federal court. Her principal areas of practice include litigation involving unfair trade practices and unfair competition; contract disputes; and general business and commercial litigation issues. Candace also has experience representing financial institutions, mortgage banks and lenders, mortgage loan servicers and issuers, and other consumer financial services providers in lender liability actions.

Candace is a native of Shreveport, Louisiana. In 2013, she received her Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice, *summa cum laude*, with a concentration in Pre-law and Paralegal Studies from Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana. In 2017, she received her Juris Doctor, *magna cum laude*, from Southern University Law Center. She was ranked in the top 5% of her class. As a law student, Candace was the 2016-2017 Articles Editor of the Southern University Law Review, where she published an article in the Spring Edition of Volume 43. She was also the 2016-2017 Secretary of the SULC Moot Court Board, where she received a top oral advocate award at a national inter-school moot court competition.

Candace is a member of the Baton Rouge Bar Association, where she serves as the Chair of the Youth Education and Teen Court Committee, and where she received the Judge Joseph Keogh Memorial Award in recognition of her outstanding service to the Baton Rouge Bar Association. Candace is also a member of the Greater Baton Rouge Chapter of the Louis A. Martinet Legal Society, where she serves as the Special Events Committee Chair. Lastly, she is also a member of the National Bar Association, American Bar Association, and Louisiana Bar Association.

In her leisure time, she enjoys participating in community service with the Gamma Eta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated; traveling and spending time with her husband, Aaron V. Ford Jr.; taking her beagle, Bentley, to the dog park; and managing C Ford Notary & Editing Services.

# JUNIOR EDITOR BIOGRAPHIES

## Steven Abide

Steven is a third-year evening student from Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He was raised in Louisiana, California, and Idaho. Steven attended Council High School in Council, Idaho and earned his B.A. in Politics at the University of Dallas in Texas. During and after college, he spent three seasons as a Wildland Firefighter with the United States Forest Service, then worked in hospitality until returning to Baton Rouge to work for an interior finishing contractor. In addition to attending law school, he owns and manages an interior finishing company specializing in window treatments. He is an active member of his parish choir, enjoys traveling with his wife, son, and dog, visiting his very large family, and working on cars. After graduation he plans to take the bar exam in Louisiana and Texas.

## Lauren S. Bennett

Lauren is a third-year part-time day student and a native of New Orleans, Louisiana. She received a bachelor's degree from Loyola University New Orleans and a Master of Public Administration from University of New Orleans. Prior to attending law school, Lauren was a human resources analyst at a Louisiana state civil service agency. In law school, Lauren has received the CALI Award in Contracts and Advanced Legal Writing. Her favorite class thus far has been Human Rights, and she is considering continuing her education with a Master of Laws in Human Rights. Lauren has interned with the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, the Jefferson Parish Public Defender's Office, and the Louisiana State Bar Association Suit Up for the Future program. Lauren is currently interning at the Louisiana Supreme Court. Outside of law school, Lauren is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Lauren is also a member and former neighborhood team captain of GirlTrek New Orleans, a national civil-rights inspired health movement encouraging women to increase physical activity through walking.

## Nicole Crain

Nicole is a second-year student from Covington, Louisiana. Prior to law school, Nicole attended Southeastern Louisiana University where she studied criminal justice and sociology. This summer she interned with Innocence Project New Orleans, working on a special grant initiative to help reduce the sentences of individuals serving near-life sentences for drug offenses. Nicole is currently serving as a student advisor on the Board of Student Advisors as well as treasurer of Women In Law. She has received the CALI Award for Excellence in Basic Civil Procedure. Upon completion of her law degree, Nicole would like to pursue a career in criminal law and post-conviction litigation. She has been married for seven years and has two kids. In her free time, Nicole enjoys spending time with her children and husband, traveling, reading, and watching investigation TV.

## Yadira Crespo-Orosco

Yadira is a second-year student from Baton Rouge, Louisiana. She is a member of the SULC Student Ambassadors, and further serves as Contracts teaching assistant on the Board of Student Advisors and Articles Editor for the school newspaper, The Public Defender. She has received the CALI Excellence Award for Legal Writing and maintains Dean's List Honors. Yadira is bilingual, with fluency in English and Spanish, and has also completed courses in American Sign Language (ASL). This past summer, she worked as a law clerk at Taylor, Porter, Brooks and Phillips, LLP where she assisted attorneys with both litigation and transactional legal practices. Before attending law school, Yadira graduated from Louisiana State University with a Bachelor of Science in kinesiology, with a concentration in human movement science. Some of her hobbies include traveling, working out, cooking, and trying new foods.

### **Braden Victoria Jones Darville**

Braden is a second-year student and a native of Houston, Texas. She earned a Bachelor of Science in psychology and a Master of Science in human science from Prairie View A&M University. As a law student, Braden has been awarded a CALI Excellence Award in Basic Civil Procedure and has maintained Dean's List Honors. She is also currently a member of the SULC Student Ambassadors and serves as a research assistant for The Pro Bono Project. This past summer, she split her time working as a law clerk for Edwards Sutarwalla PLLC and Forman Watkins & Krutz LLP. Braden is currently working as a legal technology and contract analytics intern for Knowable. Outside of law school, Braden is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and enjoys traveling and spending time with her friends and family. Upon graduation, Braden plans to take the Louisiana and Texas bar exams.

### **John Fourcade**

John is a second-year student from Chalmette, Louisiana. He is a graduate of Brother Martin High School in New Orleans, Louisiana, and Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. While at LSU, John earned his bachelor's degree in business and served as a Student Senator for the E.J. Ourso College of Business. Additionally, he earned the titles of Philanthropy Chair and President of Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity. As a law student, John has maintained Dean's List Honors and received SULC's Top 5% Scholarship. He is currently the President of SULC's Federalist Society. John has been with Cazayoux Ewing Law Firm for several years, where he works as a law clerk. In his free time, he enjoys fishing, hunting and watching football. After graduation, John plans to take the Louisiana bar exam and begin his career as a lawyer.

### **Jaina Dara Green**

Jaina is a second-year student and a native of New Orleans, Louisiana. She attended Southeastern Louisiana University where she graduated *summa cum laude* and earned an Honors bachelor's degree in English with a minor in political science. In law school, Jaina has received the CALI Excellence Award for Legal Writing II and maintains Dean's List Honors. She also is a member of SULC's Board of Student Advisors and serves as a Torts teaching assistant. This summer, she interned with Southeast Louisiana Legal Services as a summer clerk and research assistant. Upon passing the bar exam, Jaina plans to work in civil rights advocacy, tort law, and family law litigation in Louisiana. In her free time, Jaina enjoys traveling, dining, reading, and spending time with loved ones.

### **Derion Hall**

Derion is a second-year student, a New Orleans native, and the daughter of two U.S. Army Veterans. She received her Bachelor of Arts in sociology, with a concentration in criminology, and a minor in social work from Louisiana State University, with the highest honor distinction of *summa cum laude*. At SULC, Derion serves as the Projects Co-Chair of Women in Law and research assistant for Professor Russell Jones. Additionally, she is a member of the Pro Bono organization and the Student Bar Association's American Bar Association Committee. Derion has received the CALI Excellence Award for Basic Civil Procedure and SULC's Top 5% Scholarship. Derion also maintains Dean's List Honors. This past summer, she interned at Jones Walker, L.L.P. in Baton Rouge. After law school, Derion plans to sit for the Louisiana bar exam and practice as a litigation attorney. In her free time, she enjoys traveling, game nights, eating, shopping, competing at Main Event, and spending time with her goddaughters, family, and friends. Derion has a burning passion for community service and desires to provide resources for other Black women to attend law school.



### Hacer Kandara

Hacer is a second-year student from Baton Rouge, Louisiana. She received her bachelor's degree in sociology, with a concentration in criminology, from Louisiana State University in May of 2019. During her first year of law school, she received the CALI Excellence Award in Torts I, Torts II, and Contracts. This past summer, she interned at East Baton Rouge Office of the Public Defender as a summer law clerk, and she currently continues as a law clerk under their Fall 2020 program. Upon graduation, Hacer plans to take the bar exam in Louisiana.

### Emily Alexis Labatut

Emily is a second-year student from Gonzales, Louisiana. She attended Louisiana State University where she received her bachelor's degree in sociology, with a concentration in criminology, and a minor in psychology in May of 2018. As a law student, Emily has been awarded the CALI Excellence Award in Family Law and has maintained Dean's List Honors. This summer, she interned with Southern University's Cannabis Compliance, Law, & Policy Institute. Additionally, Emily is a part-time student pursuing her master's in clinical mental health counseling at Southern University. Upon passing the bar exam, she plans to work in family law and mental health counseling services. In her free time, she enjoys traveling, going to concerts, and watching documentaries.

### Brittany D. LaCombe

Brittany is a second-year student from Crowley, Louisiana. She received her bachelor's degree in anthropology and political science with a focus on international matters at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette where she graduated *magna cum laude*. As a law student, she has maintained Dean's List Honors, and has been awarded the CALI Excellence Award for Legal Writing and Family Law and the SULC Top 5% Scholarship. She has served as a teaching assistant for Obligations and the Summer Pre-Law Program, is a member of Delta Phi Theta Law Fraternity, and is currently serving in the Juvenile Law Clinic. Brittany has participated in an externship with the Pelican Center for Children and Families and an internship with the East Baton Rouge Public Defenders Office as a summer law clerk. Outside of law school, Brittany enjoys spending time with her family and friends and being outdoors. Upon passing the bar exam in Louisiana, she plans to specialize as a children's attorney and work with children and families.

### Alexandra LeBlanc

Alexandra is a second-year student from Mandeville, Louisiana. She attended Mandeville High School and later attended Southeastern Louisiana University where she graduated *summa cum laude* with a Bachelor of Arts in political science. As a law student, she has maintained Dean's List Honors. Ali has worked as a legal assistant at a personal injury firm in Hammond, Louisiana and currently works as a research assistant to Professor Marc Roark, an associate professor of law and a managing fellow of the Native American Law and Policy Institute. In her free time, she enjoys playing beach volleyball. Upon graduation, she plans to pursue her legal career in Louisiana.

### **Shearil Matthews**

Shearil is an evening student and a native of New Orleans, Louisiana. Prior to law school, Shearil obtained a Bachelor of Science in marketing and management with concentrations in human resources and sales from the University of New Orleans. After college she worked full-time in a variety of roles before deciding to further her education. Shearil earned her Master of Business Administration with specialization in human resources with honors from Louisiana State University at Shreveport. After graduating, she decided to fulfill a long-time dream of earning a Juris Doctorate. Shearil continues to work full-time while pursuing her law degree. She has served on SULC's Trial Advocacy Board, Diversity Committee, and Women in Law. After law school, she plans to pursue a career in transactional law. When she is not studying or working, Shearil's time is spent exercising, reading, and crafting.

### **LaCrisha L. A. McAllister**

LaCrisha is a third-year student hailing from Chicago, Illinois. She earned her Bachelor of Science in criminal justice and Master of Social Work from Illinois State University. LaCrisha previously served as a Junior Editor on the Journal of Race, Gender and Poverty, as well Vice President of the Trial Advocacy Board. She has earned the CALI Award of Excellence in Legal Writing and was named a Thurgood Marshall Leadership Institute Scholar. She has served as a teaching assistant for Contracts and a research assistant for the Louis Berry Institute for Civil Rights and Injustice. She has published several articles with the Institute as well as an article with The Public Defender. Operating in the spirit of Sankofa, LaCrisha will use her law degree to make a difference by righting the wrongs that have shaped our society, while empowering her community along the way. With the desire to be a more effective truth-teller, LaCrisha is inspired by both Constance Baker Motley and Brian Stevenson. As a Black woman in today's society, LaCrisha draws on the words of Lucille Clifton, "come celebrate with me that everyday something has tried to kill me and has failed." #BreonnaTaylor

### **Micaela M. Simpson**

Micaela is a third-year student in the part-time evening program. She is a native of Eunice, Louisiana and attributes her "take life by the horns" attitude to her rural "country" roots. Micaela received her bachelor's degree in behavioral science from McNeese University. She is an avid proponent of community service and social justice. SULC has inspired her to further commit to a seriousness of purpose within her community. This past year, she worked alongside a fellow law student to create the non-profit Waves of Success, geared to helping underprivileged youth within the community. Currently, Waves of Success has served over 300 students within the Breaux Bridge/Lafayette area. Throughout her matriculation at SULC, Micaela has pushed herself to excel academically while working a full-time job and raising three kids. She is a member of SULC's Women in Law organization and The Public Defender. In her free time, she enjoys writing and performing poetry. She has authored three books, including one children's book, and hopes to publish again soon. Upon graduation, Micaela plans to take the Louisiana and Texas bar exams. She is interested in commercial and tort litigation.

### **Destiny Theriot**

Destiny is a second-year student from Lafayette, Louisiana. Prior to attending law school, she worked as a nurse for a Federally Qualified Health Center and assisted the organization in the development and growth of its referral department. While continuing to work full-time, she earned a Bachelor of Science in health services administration from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Currently, she serves as a teaching assistant for the Southern University Board of Student Advisors. Upon passing the bar exam, she plans to pursue a career in health care policy. In her free time, she enjoys traveling with her husband and daughter, reading thrillers, and volunteering with the church and her local shelter.

### **Shaliza Antoinette Tolliver**

Shaliza is a second-year student from Rayville, Louisiana. She received her bachelor's degree in history from Louisiana State University, and her master's degree in history from the University of Louisiana at Monroe. As a law student, Shaliza has been awarded the CALI Excellence Award for Legal Writing II, the SULC Top 5% Scholarship, and maintains Dean's List Honors. She also serves as a Contracts TA for SULC's Board of Student Advisors and is a member of the Black Law Student Association. This past summer, she interned with the Pelican Center for Children and Families, and she is currently a junior fellow with the National Defense Industrial Association. Upon passing the bar exam, Shaliza plans to practice labor and employment law for the federal government. In her free time, she enjoys reading, cooking, watching television, and spending time with her family.

### **Kayla E'Lana Watson**

Kayla is a third-year student from Macon, Georgia. She received a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Middle Georgia State University. Currently, she is serving as the 2020-2021 Black Law Students Association President, and also as a member of the Trial Advocacy Board. She has been awarded the CALI Award for Excellence in Legal Writing I, and she is a scholar of the competitive 20th annual Thurgood Marshall College Foundation Leadership Institute. Kayla is working with the SULC Board of Student Advisors as a teaching assistant and with the Louisiana Department of Health as an administrative law intern, where she reviews health law policies. Having a background in healthcare, she developed a passion to help others and advocate for equality in healthcare. Kayla's drive and ambition motivated her to pursue a law degree, where she decided to combine her passion for law and healthcare into her studies. She plans for her career to demonstrate her zeal for mitigating disparities and implicit bias in healthcare through policy and advancement. Ultimately, Kayla desires to become an in-house counsel for a hospital.

### **Derrick Eugene West**

Derrick is a third-year student from Belle Glade, Florida. Derrick received his bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Bethune Cookman University. While in law school, Derrick has worked as a legal intern to the Honorable Sandra Jenkins at the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal in New Orleans. He has further been involved in various organizations, including the SULC Pro Bono Project and the SULC Moot Court Board. Derrick is also a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and serves on the Judicial Committee Board for the Law Center's Student Bar Association. In addition to being very organizationally active, Derrick was recognized for his writing skills when he received the CALI Award in Advanced Legal Writing II. Upon graduation, Derrick plans to take the Louisiana and Florida bar exams, and aspires to open a firm and practice in the areas of personal injury, criminal law, and civil rights.



# THANK YOU!

Thank you all for attending  
and congratulations to  
our new inductees!

The Editorial Board would also like express our sincerest gratitude to our Administrative Coordinator, Ms. Carol Septs, and Faculty Advisor, Professor Gail Stephenson. We are incredibly thankful for your dedication and hard work towards the betterment of our publication.