



Reuben V. Anderson Institute for Social Justice/Pre-Law Program
Progress Report: September 2021 – May 2022

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INTRODUCTION

The Reuben V. Anderson Pre-Law Program has been one of the bedrock career and leadership development programs here at Tougaloo College since its inception in 1993. Under the visionary leadership of Dr. Charles Holmes and others along with the tireless efforts of Ms. Ida Guice, the program has successfully graduated nearly 180 lawyers who have led distinguished legal careers throughout the nation. Our goal is to re-establish the pre-eminence of the pre-law program as well to take these efforts to the next level through the establishment of the Reuben V. Anderson Institute for Social Justice. The purpose of this report is to document our progress with the program so far and to outline the vision of the program going forward.

*****CURRENT HIGHLIGHTS AND MOST RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

The following are brief highlights from the RVA Pre-Law Program and its students for the Fall 2021 semester:

Here are the results so far of the current seniors as it relates to their law school acceptance:

- **Precious Thompson**, English/Pre-Law, who is also President of the Reuben V. Anderson Pre-Law Society, has been accepted to the following law schools and has received partial and full scholarship support: The George Washington University Law School, Vanderbilt University Law School, Suffolk University Law School, University of San Francisco Law School, University of California at Hastings Law School, University of Mississippi School of Law, and Mississippi College School of Law. She was wait-listed at University of California, Berkley Law School and Harvard Law

School. She will be attending the George Washington University Law School on a full scholarship in the fall. She was accepted as in the prestigious Sidley Austin Fellowship Program. The program is a national fellowship geared toward supporting outstanding, minority pre-law students in their transition into law school. As part of the program, Precious is receiving free LSAT prep, financial assistance for law school applications and the LSAT test, mentorship and connections to competitive law schools, a stipend, as well as a job offer from Sidley Austin, a major international law firm, after law school. She is the first student in Tougaloo history to receive this honor. And she applied for the Rhodes Scholarship. She was an inaugural Bennie G. Thompson Delta Leadership Development Fellow. She interned this semester for the I-Serve project as part of the Arts Infusion Program (in partnership with Greater Jackson Arts Council) as student project lead, mentor and tutor for Jackson Public School students. She is currently a Reuben V. Anderson Pre-Law Scholar.

- **Amber Magee**, Political Science/Pre-Law, has been accepted to Suffolk University Law School on a full tuition scholarship. While she has also applied to Texas Southern University, DePaul Law School, Howard University Law School, Florida A&M University Law School, among others, she will more than likely attend Suffolk Law school and enroll in their joint MBA/JD program. She completed successful internships with Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project and with Attorney John Hall's firm, where she still works. She successfully completed the Duke Law School Pre-Law Summer program last summer. She is currently a Reuben V. Anderson Pre-Law Scholar and was the Miss Reuben V. Anderson Pre-Law Program as part of the coronation in October.
- **Clifford Benton**, Political Science/Pre-Law, has been accepted to Suffolk University Law School on a full tuition scholarship. While he also has applied Howard Law, Texas Southern University, and the University of Michigan School of Law, among others, he will more than likely attend Suffolk Law School. He completed a successful summer internship with the I-Serve Project as part of the Reuben V. Anderson Center for Justice. He currently works as a runner for the firm Wise, Carter, Child & Caraway. He was among the first group of Tougaloo pre-law students to participate in the Diversity Pipeline Program sponsored by Forman Watkins & Krutz, LLP. He is currently a Reuben V. Anderson Pre-Law Scholar.
- **Pierrerasha Goodwin**, Psychology/Pre-Law, has applied to Northwestern Law School, UC Berkley Law School, Emory Law School, George Washington University Law School, and the University of Alabama School of Law. She got a scholarship to Howard Law. She has also received a \$30,000 scholarship to attend the University of Alabama in the fall, where she will be attending. She has the highest LSAT score in the program. She became the first student in Tougaloo history to be accepted into the TRIALS Program sponsored by Harvard Law and NYU Law. TRIALS is a national program geared toward exceptional, first generation minority pre-law students to provide LSAT prep, connection to prestigious law schools, as well as a corporate law internship She was also the second student in Tougaloo history, after Tia Patrick, to be the recipient of the prestigious SEO Catalyst in the Law Fellowship, a national fellowship supporting outstanding first-generation pre-law students in their application and transition into law school. She was an inaugural Bennie G. Thompson Delta Leadership Development Fellow. She interned this

semester for the I-Serve project as part of the Arts Infusion Program (in partnership with Greater Jackson Arts Council) as a mentor and tutor for Jackson Public School students. She is a Reuben V. Anderson Pre-Law Scholar. She also completed the University of Alabama LSAC Summer Pre-Law and was named the top student and won all of the top awards.

- **Kevana Funches**, Political Science/Pre-Law, has received the HBCU Fellowship to pursue a Master of Science in Conflict Resolution and Negotiation at Columbia University; she also plans to apply to Howard Law School and attend in the fall of 2023. She is the second student to receive this fellowship after Tia Patrick. She was an inaugural Bennie G. Thompson Delta Leadership Development Fellow. She completed a successful internship for MS Votes this summer; and interned this semester for the I-Serve project as part of the Arts Infusion Program (in partnership with Greater Jackson Arts Council) as a mentor and tutor for Jackson Public School students. She is also a Reese Brooks Gilbert Leadership Fellow. She is a Reuben V. Anderson Pre-Law Scholar.
- **Samuel Patterson**, 2021 Summa Cum Laude Graduate in Economics, minor in Pre-Law, received a full tuition scholarship to attend Drake University Law School. He is waiting on a response from Fordham Law, Columbia Law, Vanderbilt Law, and Tulane Law.
- **Thomasina Hearon**, 2018 Cum Laude Graduate in History, received a scholarship and acceptance to Mississippi College School of Law.
- The following remaining seniors and graduates/alumni are also applying to law school for the 2021-22 school year: Mirah Reed, Octavius Henderson, Ayanna Hill, Marvin Dale, Jr., and Brittany Cross. Marvin, Octavius, and Mirah will be attending the CLEO/CLIC program this summer and will receive admission into law school upon successful completion of the program.
- The following students serve as Reuben V. Anderson Pre-Law Scholars for the 2021-22 school year: Precious Thompson, Amber Magee, Clifford Benton, Kevana Funches, Pierrerasha Goodwin, Malcolm Walker, and Jada Pittman.
- The following students serve as interns this year as part of the I-Serve, educational equity program as part of the Anderson Institute in partnership with the Arts Infusion Program with Greater Jackson Arts Council, where the students mentor and tutor Jackson Public School students as part of an arts enrichment after-school program: Precious Thompson, Montae'l Williams, Malcolm Walker, Zuri Williams, Destiny Hall, Kelan Pickett, Corrin Dixon, Kevana Funches, Pierrerasha Goodwin, Xhana Thompson, and Zannie Montgomery.
- Amber Magee completed an internship with Attorney John Hall. Clifford Benton worked as a part-time runner for Wise, Carter, Child & Caraway. Both Amber and Clifford have been excepted for externships with Judge Latrice Westbrook of the Mississippi Court of Appeals. Senior Precious Thompson is currently serving as a legislative intern this

semester for Senator Rod Hickman of the Mississippi Senate. Rod is also a distinguished member of our pre-law faculty.

- The following students are participating in a research internship with the Mississippi Center for Investigative Reporting and the Innocence project focused on cold cases and for those convicted of a crime that they did not commit: Pierrerasha Goodwin, Amber Magee, Kevana Funches, Montae'l Williams, and Jada Pittman. The students will be responsible for researching Mississippi law as it relates to inequities in the criminal justice system and produce an article addressing these issues based on the criminal cases assigned. They plan to publish their written work product as a law journal article in the Brown Undergraduate Law Review.
- Seniors Amber Magee and Clifford Benton successfully completed an externship this semester for Judge Latrice Westbrook of the Mississippi Court of Appeals.
- Senior Precious Thompson successfully completed a legislative internship with Senator Rod Hickman, who is part of our pre-law faculty, as part of the Mississippi Senate.
- Seniors Precious Thompson and Clifford Benton completed summer internships with the Reuben V. Anderson Center for Justice, working with JPS middle school students as part of the I-Serve mentoring and academic enrichment program. Senior Amber Magee completed a summer internship with the Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project. Senior Kevana Funches completed a summer internship with Mississippi Votes.
- Programming activities for the fall semester were successful. This semester featured Attorney Angela Givens-Williams, Chief of the Civil Division of the US Attorney's Office in Jackson, as well as Attorney Daphne Robinson, an expert on juvenile law, as part of our Lawyer in the Classroom Speaker Series. We hosted a Social Justice Conference in September which featured several prominent civil rights activists and pioneers. We plan to bring the panelists back to develop a policy advocacy training program for our public policy students. The students plan to participate in major food distribution drive to address food insecurity in downtown Jackson on December 21st as part of our Tougaloo Agri-Growth Initiative project. This event was in partnership with Greater Jackson Arts Council and several other community organizations in the Greater Jackson area. The students virtually attended the National HBCU Pre-Law Summit in September. We attended the LSAC Forum in Atlanta in October in person to meet with and network with over 100+ law schools and their admissions representatives.
- For this spring semester, Atty. KaShonda Day of Adams & Reese spoke to the students about education law practice in January. We are also planning to have a Black History Program focused on environmental justice issues and advocacy. Daniel Blackmon, EPA Administrator for Region 5, would be a keynote speaker. Additionally, we would have the following panelists to speak with Atty. Miller serving as moderator: **Panelists** –Ms. Taaka Bailey, *Environmental Engineer*, Office of Community Engagement, Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ); Dr. Charlotte Keys, *Pastor* and *Founding Executive Director* of Jesus People Against Pollution

(JPAP); Dr. Natasha Woods, Esq., *Associate Professor of Legal & Environmental Studies*, American Public University System. Black admissions directors and recruiters from the HBCU Law Schools North Carolina Central, Southern University, and Florida A&M University along with representatives from Seton Hall Law School, University of Miami Law School, and Ole Miss Law made Tougaloo the first stop on their HBCU Law School Tour. Vanderbilt Law School along with Vermont Law School will be conducting a law school admissions forum.

- Additionally, we hosted a Conversation with the Black Presidents of the Mississippi Bar in March. The program featured Justice Reuben V. Anderson, Dean Patricia W. Bennett of Mississippi College School of Law, and current MS Bar President Robert Gibbs of Gibbs, Travis, LLC. All three have the distinction of being the only black presidents of the MS Bar and also alumni of Tougaloo College! We held a forum and celebration in their honor in March at the historic Woodworth Chapel at Tougaloo. Several members of the Magnolia Bar along with our pre-law students were in attendance. We recognized our outstanding pre-law seniors at the program as well.
- We also hosted Social Justice Week as well as our second annual Social Justice Conference where we had several noted social justice activists and organizers as speakers, completed a community service activity with our Tougaloo Agri-Growth Initiative farm, and worked with Brown University student and partners on ideas to expand the Brown-Tougaloo partnership to focus on our social justice initiatives.
- We are working with the pre-law society on several community service projects for this semester, including the Justice Court Navigator Project in partnership with the Mississippi Center for Justice, the Court Watch Program with the Bail Fund Project and the People's Advocacy Institute, as well as a project working with students at the Early High School to develop a pre-law program there. We hosted a Pre-Law and Public Policy Preview Day for Early College High School students interested in pre-law and public policy on Friday, April 22, 2022 at the Bennie G. Thompson Auditorium. Students will also volunteer with the Anderson Institute projects listed below as part of the program's community service requirement. We also have implemented the Court Watch Program in partnership with the Bail Fund Project with the students in the fall. Representatives from the Bail Watch Fund and the MS Center for Justice's Court Watch Program met with the students virtually.
- Additionally, the faculty approved a new public policy minor as part of the Eric Holder Public Policy Program under the Anderson Institute here at Tougaloo College this past spring. It will begin in the fall of 2022 officially. We have hired a public policy professor to oversee the program. Dr. Lawren Long, who is the National Policy Coordinator for Restaurant Opportunities Center United, assumed the position in January 2022.
- The faculty also approved a new Certificate of Law and Legal Studies program that will operate as a post-baccalaureate law program for college graduates seeking to enter law

school. We are working with the Office of Academic Affairs to implement the program for the fall of 2022.

- We are currently working to establish a lawyer mentoring program with the Magnolia Bar. I will be reaching out to individual members to establish the formal mentorships by February 2022. Attorney Amorya Orr, who is an attorney at Cosichs, Simmons, & Brown, is volunteering to spearhead this initiative as well as open the door for other opportunities for our pre-law students. Additionally, I am working on a partnership with a national organizations, Dear Future Colleague, to provide the pre-law students with mentors to support them in the law school admissions process. Additionally, we are seeking a partnership with the National Bar Association to establish lawyer mentoring and national support for our students.
- We implemented a summer “boot camp” to prepare admitted Tougaloo and Jackson State pre-law students entering law school in the fall for their first year of law school as part of the Charles. H. Holmes Leadership in the Law Initiative. We started the “Boot Camp” in partnership with my firm, Forman Watkins & Krutz LLP. It began with an all-day, in-person orientation at my firm that will include a law student panel on the first year of law school, a seminar on law school outlining and case briefing, as well as a mock law school lecture from Prof. Larry Pittman at Ole Miss Law, on Monday July 12, 2021. Classes took place virtually at 6pm, Monday through Friday, from July 12 – August 2, 2021. Sam Kapoor, an associate at my firm who has taught Legal Research at Ole Miss Law, served as co-faculty with me for this Boot Camp. We will implement the Boot Camp this summer for current graduating seniors.
- Additionally, we hosted our second corporate law pipeline partnership with my firm, Forman Watkins & Krutz LLP. The program took place April 25-29, 2022 and was attended by pre-law students Precious Thompson, Amber Magee, Pierrerasha Goodwin, Kevana Funches, and Octavius Henderson. The nearly one-week-long program a quasi-internship, seminars on law school and clerking with a law firm, a legal writing activity, shadowing a lawyer, attending a professional development and resume workshop, attending speaker sessions led by diverse in-house counsel who are major firm clients, and attending criminal court hearings before U.S. Magistrate Judge Lakeysha Greer-Issac of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi. She hosted a question-and-answer session with the students at the conclusion of court. The students also received a \$1,000.00 stipend. The program was so successful that my firm has agreed to expand it into a year-round program that will include a summer Boot Camp (second annual), Christmas internship, and stipend for pipeline students for law school.
- We hosted the End of Year Pre-Law Celebration after graduation at the Ecoshed in Jackson. Prof. Cornell Brooks, Professor of the Practice of Social Justice and Leadership and former President of the NAACP, was the keynote speaker who honored Dr. Holmes. The following graduating seniors received honors: (1) **Precious Thompson** received the **Ida. M. Guice Trailblazer in the Law Award** for being the top graduating senior female student in the RVA Pre-Law Program; (2) **Clifford Benton** received the **Charles H. Holmes Trailblazer in the Law Award** for being the top graduating senior male student

in the RVA Pre-Law Program; (3) **Amber Magee** received the inaugural **Constance Slaughter-Harvey Trailblazer in the Law Award** for being the graduating senior with the highest GPA in the RVA Pre-Law Program; (4) **Pierrerasha Goodwin** received the inaugural **Amanda G. Alexander Trailblazer in the Law Award** for the having the graduating senior with the highest LSAT score in the program; (5) **Kevana Funches** received the **Judge Denise S. Owens Trailblazer in the Law Award** for being the graduating senior with outstanding achievement in legal writing and research; (6) **Anthony Moore and Marquise Hunt** were inaugural recipients of the **Congressman Bennie G. Thompson Changemaker Award** for outstanding achievement in public policy and advocacy as part the Eric Holder Public Policy Program; (7) **Octavius Henderson, Mirah Reed, Zuri Williams, Destiny Hall and Anthony Moore** were recognized for **successful completion of the Reuben V. Anderson Pre-Law Program.**

- The ten (10) recipients of the Inaugural Bennie G. Thompson Delta Leadership Development Initiative Undergraduate Research Fellowship completed their fellowship projects at the end of the summer. These outstanding students chosen received training in community-based research to work with grassroots organizers and community developers in the Mississippi Delta to develop community and economic development projects that can be leveraged for policy recommendations for the federal Farm Bill and the programs in USDA it funds. They also received a generous stipend of \$3500 for this semester. This project is the first of its kind in Tougaloo's history and brought an opportunity to train students in community-based research skills and methods. The following were the inaugural BGT Fellows for the 2020-21 school year: Precious Thompson, Michael Owiredu, Samuel Patterson, Pierrerasha Goodwin, Kyla Smith, Kevana Funches, Sharon Jimerson, Mon'tael Williams, Destiny Hall, and Zannie Montgomery. We plan to re-launch this program in March of next year.
- We have established pipeline partnerships with both Harvard Law School and Yale Law School. We hosted and admissions events and interviews with them (virtually) in the fall similar to last fall. We are also working on establishing pipeline programs with Howard, George Washington University, Vermont Law, Vanderbilt Law, Washington University School of Law, Southern Illinois University Law School, and Southern University Law Center. We have completed a template for the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the law schools and hope to get all of them completed and approved (as well as for our current partners Ole Miss Law and MC Law) by the spring. We have finalized partnerships with Southern University Law Center (SULC), Vermont Law School, Southern Illinois University, George Washington University Law School, Ole Miss Law and MC Law. We are awaiting on Seton Hall Law.
- Prof. Julian D. Miller completed a national Common Future Bridge Fellowship for his work around economic justice, social enterprise, and addressing the racial wealth gap through founding of the organization Delta Fresh Foods Initiative, which addresses food justice issues through building sustainable community food systems in the Mississippi Delta. Also, he was named to the list of Best Lawyers in America: Ones to Watch for 2021. Additionally, he was appointed by the Mississippi Supreme Court to serve on the Mississippi Access to Justice Commission.

- We received a \$50,000 grant from Southern Poverty Law Center to support the Tougaloo Agri-Growth Initiative. We received a \$500,000 grant from the Mellon Foundation to support the Reuben V. Anderson Institute for Social Justice. Additionally, we received \$1 million from the Gilead Sciences Foundation, \$525,000 of which would go to supporting the Anderson Institute. We received \$345,000 from a USDA subgrant award from the Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers Policy Center at Alcorn State University for the Bennie G. Thompson Leadership Development Program. (More details about these program below.) We received a \$25,000 grant from Higher Purpose Co., an organization providing technical assistance and funding to black entrepreneurs in Mississippi, to develop pro bono legal clinics in partnership with the Magnolia Bar to serve HPC entrepreneurs as well as compile policy research on black entrepreneurship in Mississippi. We will be receiving \$50,000 from Justice Anderson to support the pre-law program at the end of the year.

Also, we have laid the groundwork for the Reuben V. Anderson Institute of Social Justice here at Tougaloo by working on the following major policy initiatives with the Pre-Law Society students:

- **Tougaloo Agri-Growth Initiative (Economic Justice)** – This project will establish a community food system through the establishment of a worker-owned cooperative farm here at Tougaloo College. The first phase, through funding from the Anderson Justice Center, will involve planting a community garden behind Kincheloe this summer to include raised beds as well as a hoop house. The second phase of production involved the building of a high tunnel for high yield vegetable and fruit production. This project will include a marketing campaign in partnership with Jackson Heart Study and Owens Health & Wellness Center around black women heart health to sell the produce. We will establish the Tougaloo Agri-Growth Initiative as a separate non-profit for the benefit of Tougaloo College. The project will combine economic justice, food justice, public health equity, and social entrepreneurship. Phase 1 has been completed and we have planted crops for the winter as well as building a new high tunnel. We also planted crops for the spring in the new high tunnel behind New Women’s Dorm we just completed. We finished fencing and re-planting the Kincheloe garden and re-planted the high tunnel with winter crops – which included collard greens, mustard greens, and kale. We also completed a focus group with Tougaloo students during Social Justice Week regarding developing a sustainable food system on campus. We conducted a city-wide food distribution in Jackson on December 21st. We are currently preparing the farm for our spring production. We plan to meet with Food Service Director here at Tougaloo to so we can get crop recommendations for our spring production for the Tougaloo cafeteria. And we plan to unveil the farm on campus on March 30th. Next Steps/Action Items: (1) Complete spring planting and harvest; (2) Finalize marketing

and distribution strategy for Tougaloo as well as early child care centers; (Anthony Moore, Senior Economics/Pre-Law)

- **I-Serve Project (Educational Equity)** – We developed a pilot project called I-Serve to provide academic enrichment, after-school and summer tutoring, and mentoring, and community service to black, middle school students who are members of the Arts Infusion Brotherhood (AIB) and Arts Infusion Sister (AIS) sponsored by Greater Jackson Arts Council (project will be implemented in the fall; it was slated to launch in the spring after Social Justice Week in March but was postponed due to COVID 19); project will look at the viability of universal after schools and we will also address broader issues of education reform and equity in Mississippi . We worked with the Education Division and Dr. Lucy Josey to develop the curriculum. The program provided virtual tutoring and mentoring to students for the summer and will launch fully in the fall. We are funding the summer programming through the Anderson Justice Center. And we began virtual programming in mentoring with the Tougaloo mentors this summer as well through a partnership with JPS. And we of course, implemented the programming for the fall semester in partnership with GJAC. We received a grant from Jackson Public Schools to fund the program for the 2021-22 school year through GJAC. (1) Begin working on implementation for the I-Serve project in the spring; (2) Finalize plans for summer implementation, including conducting Tougaloo student training for the program (Precious Thompson, Senior English/Pre-Law Major)
- **Born 2 Lead (Criminal Justice)** – We are working on a project called Born 2 Lead that would be a pilot project targeted toward formerly incarcerated, disengaged youth and adults to provide transition services, career and job training and placement, academic enrichment and community service. The project will also include legal services around record expungement and other services. This project is in its proposal phase. However, it is Justice Anderson’s signature project that he wants to be a major part of the Institute. We have partnered with Rukia Lumumba’s People Advocacy Institute to complete the work as part of her Dignity Fellowship Program, where she is working with formerly incarcerated youth to provide living wage jobs and career opportunities. The program has begun with the academic enrichment program led by Dr. Cortez Moss of Tougaloo this summer. The cohort are receiving academic services and job placement Next Steps/Action Items: (1) Work on implementation of financial literacy piece; (2) Implement legal clinic for cohort (wrap sheet review and expungements). (Marquise Hunt, Senior Mass Communication Major)
- **Infant Mortality Initiative (Public Health Equity)** –We are Working with Delta Health Partners (DHP) of Owens Health & Wellness Center at Tougaloo to implement an Infant Mortality Initiative to partner the nurses and social workers of

DHP to train nursing and social work students at the local colleges and universities to expand the number of nurse/social worker visits to indigent teenage mothers in order to address infant mortality issues as well as expanding community outreach. Additionally, the project will implement a mobile health clinic to provide preventative health services to the clients of DHP. The pilot project will be in Bolivar County. We are currently seeking funding to support its implementation. (Sharon Jimerson, Junior History/Sociology/Pre-Law Major)

- **Economic Justice Initiative (Economic Justice)** – We are working on developing a pilot project that would focus on policy research and advocacy along with legal services for the development of worker-owned cooperatives in Mississippi. This project would partner the Anderson Institute at Tougaloo with the transactional clinic at the University of Mississippi School of Law. We plan to host a legal clinic for the Mississippi Association of Cooperatives to provide legal services to current and potential worker co-ops in Mississippi. Additionally, we are looking to partner with the Mississippi Department of Human Services to use the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) grant to provide a State Earned Income Tax Credit for working families as well as develop worker-owned cooperatives and pilot state job-guarantee for long-term unemployed citizens of Mississippi. Next Steps/Action Items: (1) Review white paper draft on this policy initiative; (2) Begin seeking out relevant partners for implementation (Anthony Moore, Senior Economics/Pre-Law Major)
- **Bennie G. Thompson Leadership Development Program** – The Anderson Institute received a USDA subgrant from the Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers Policy Center at Alcorn Statute University to implement an anti-poverty and leadership development initiative in the Mississippi Delta that would provide leadership development training to community organizations, political leaders, and small businesses in the MS Delta, establishing grassroots community and economic development projects, and compile research for policy recommendations to be included in the Farm Bill. Silbrina Wright was hired as program specialist and Dr. Cassandra Hawkins was hired as the research consultant. We have established the community and economic development project frameworks and have worked with the cohorts and our fellows for project implementation and quantitative and qualitative research cohorts of community leaders from the MS Delta to participate. This project is led by Silbrina Wright. Dr. Cassandra Hawkins serves as the Research Consultant and Evaluator. Next Steps/Action Items: (1) Host conference with cohort and political leaders in August; (2) Work to compile research from students and begin drafting policy recommendations

REVAMPED PRE-LAW SOCIETY

We unveiled a newly revamped Pre-Law Society where student officers were elected and the work of the society will be divided into committees which will address campus issues as well as completing a public policy project along with additional public service initiatives. The Pre-Law Society Committees are as follows:

- **The Constitution Committee** will have the duty of amending the organization's constitution on a continuous basis. The goal would be to have a final constitution drafted and approved by the end of the year for next school year. However, the constitution would be subject to amending.
- **Student Activities Committee** will have the duty of reporting as present at SAC Meetings on campus and coordinating the calendar for the 2019-2020 school year and beyond. Although there is already a calendar in place, things are of course going to be planned during the year. This will be a **long term** committee.
- **Public Policy/Service Committee** will have the duty of coordinating a plan of action in collaboration with the Delta Health Partners Infant Mortality Project as of now. This includes on-site visits with the nurses and social workers who work for the initiative, as well as developing grants for Delta Health Partners. As we proceed, a goal of two service projects per semester is projected, so the committee will be responsible for coordinating and developing those projects as well. This will be a **long term** committee.
- **Institutional Accountability Committee** will have the duty of developing a proposal, database, and plan of action for addressing several administrative issues at Tougaloo. The students proposed this committee stems based on the dire need for greater student advocacy and administrative accountability on this campus. They feel that they have grievances that are being ignored and believe that the Pre-Law Society is the ideal organization to advocate for students on this campus. This will be a **long term** committee.
- **3+3 Committee** will have the duty of this committee would be to look at models of 3 and 3 programs at other institutions and find the most efficient way to implement a model that would work best for Tougaloo students. This would ultimately lead to the proposal of partnership with law schools in other regions.

Students this semester revised the Constitution, implemented a fundraising campaign targeting the 180 alumni of the pre-law program, participated in the I-Serve mentoring program, put together a video birthday tribute for Justice Anderson and Dr. Holmes, organized an email group and group text, and put together a Facebook page promoting their work. And all of this was done in the midst of a pandemic.

180 FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

We have planned aggressive fundraising efforts to not only relieve Justice Anderson of the responsibility of funding this initiative, but to also greatly expand this program to make it a nationally recognized pre-law program. We have started the 180 Fundraising Campaign to raise

funding directly for the pre-law program. This campaign will reach out to the nearly 180 alumni of this program and invite them to both provide a \$1,000 donation to the program and to have their firm or organization sponsor one aspect of the program:

- RVA Pre-Law Scholars (\$2400 per student)
- Pre-Law Field Trips (Atlanta, New York, Law Preview Days, Pre-Law Summits, etc.)
- Internship Stipends (\$2400 per student)
- LSAT Preparation (Kaplan LSAT Prep Course + Adjunct Professor for Spring Course)
- Summer Pre-Law “Boot Camp” for Graduating Seniors
- Senior Scholarships
- Staffing (Program Coordinator, Pre-Law Advisor, Adjuncts)
- Pre-Law Society and its Policy and Public Service Projects