

# T HBCU COMMUNITY Trilogy

## If Not Us Then Who?

Barbara Jordan Mickey Leland  
School of Public Affairs Auditorium



Human Trafficking  
**UNDERSTAND, THIS IS  
NOT A DATE!**



Gun Violence  
**MAY I ASK YOU A  
QUESTION? WHEN DID  
KILLING EVER HELP?**



Student Electorate  
**YOUR ISSUES  
ARE REAL**

*Student Forum*

**SEPTEMBER 16, 2024  
10 AM - 4 PM**

- ☒ Panel Discussion
- ☒ Breakout Sessions
- ☒ Concurrent Workshops
- ☒ Q&A

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**HBCU COMMUNITY TRILOGY**  
***If Not Us, Then Who?***  
**Texas Southern University – Houston, Texas**  
**Barbara Jordan Mickey Leland – School of Public Affairs Auditorium**  
**September 16, 2024 – 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM**

## Program

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM	Doors Open / Registration	Continental Breakfast
10:00 AM – 10:05 AM	Welcome & Introductions	<b><i>Chrystle Swain</i></b> Western Area Program Coordinator
10:05 AM – 10:15 AM	Overview of the Day's Events	<b><i>Stephany Powell</i></b> WA National Trends & Services Chair <b><i>Jocelyn Kidd</i></b> Western Area HBCU Chair
10:15 AM – 10:25 AM	Western Area Director's Message	<b><i>Dr. Karen Cole</i></b> Western Area Director The Links, Incorporated
10:25 AM – 10:55 AM	Keynote Speaker	<b><i>Judson W. Robinson III</i></b> President & CEO Houston Area Urban League
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Workshop I	Student Electorate; Get out the Vote

## 12:00 – 12:30 PM      Lunch Break

12:30 PM – 1:00 PM	PSA (Public Service Announcements)	Student Presentations
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM	Workshop II	Human Trafficking
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM	Workshop III	Gun Violence

## Afternoon Break

3:10 – 4:00 PM	Closing /Adjournment	Presentation of Student Awards Main Meeting Room Session Evaluation / Feedback
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## Western Area HBCU Trilogy Presenter



**Dr. Karen Cole**, has been a member of the Beverly Hills West (CA) Chapter of The Links Incorporated since 2000. She has served in various levels of leadership and most recently served as the Western Area Vice Director of The Links, Incorporated. Dr. Karen Cole was elected as the 19th Western Area Director at the 45th Western Area Conference. She's a graduate of Stanford University, UCSF, School of Medicine, holds a master's degree in public health, UC Berkeley, and MBA from UCLA Anderson School. Dr. Karen Cole is a physician, a Neuroradiologist in private practice at Long Beach Memorial. She's married to Robert Cole and has two children, Karsten and Raleah. As the Western Area Director, she believes through meaningful relationships and collective action, the dedicated members of the Western Area of The Links, Incorporated come together to fulfill our organization's mission and vision of enriching communities and improving the quality of life for people of African descent through friendship and service. In addition, she wants you to know, whether you're a community leader seeking partnerships or a donor wanting to make a difference, we invite you to join the Western Area's mission.

## HBCU Keynote Speaker



**Judson W. Robinson III** assumed the role of *President & CEO of the Houston Area Urban League* in 2008, viewing it as an opportunity to be a civic and advocate leader for the under-served in the Houston Area. As a civic leader for many years, Robinson helped shape the landscape of many Houston landmarks like the METRO Light Rail, NRG Stadium, Minute Maid Park, and the Hilton Americas Hotel. For the past 16 years, Robinson has led the award winning Houston Area Urban League. Culminating his tenure, he proudly hosted over 10,000 attendees at the National Urban League conference in Houston. Under his leadership, HAUL is poised to lead the development of a diverse, well-educated workforce in Houston for the next 55 years. Most recently, he was appointed to the Board of Trustees at his esteemed alma mater, Fisk University, and will focus his efforts and contributions on ensuring students have the tools and resources they need to contribute to the future of the United States. A third-generation Houstonian, Mr. Robinson boasts a successful background in business, politics, and community service. Raised in Pleasantville, recognized as a historically Black neighborhood, he learned from an early age the importance of dedicating one's life to civil service. Judson earned a Bachelor of Arts in Business administration from Fisk University and began his professional career at IBM, excelling in sales, marketing, and account management. Ultimately entering local politics, Robinson was elected to the Houston City Council serving from 1992-1997 as Council Member At-Large Position 5. Serving as Vice Mayor ProTem, he chaired four Council committees, including the Redevelopment and Revitalization Committees, and founded the City's Committee on Business and Tourism. Focused on community development, he led initiatives like the Cotswold Project and the effort to redevelop Texas Avenue, home to the headquarters of the Houston Area Urban League. After three terms on the Houston City Council, Mr. Robinson worked as an entrepreneur in his consulting firm. Later, he accepted a Regional Vice President position with Professional Service Industries (PSI), one of the country's largest materials testing laboratories. After five years at PSI, Mr. Robinson became the Deputy Commissioner for Commissioner Sylvia R. Garcia at Harris County, helping manage the Precinct's \$30 million operating budget. He is a member of The Coalition - Harris Health System Community Benefit, where his passion for the elimination of health disparities is a major priority. Judson can often be found providing commentary on local and national issues, on various news and information broadcasts. He continues his public service with nonprofit organizations, including the United Way of Greater Houston, serves on the SBA Small Business Development Advisory Board, The Menninger Clinic, The Uptown Redevelopment Authority, The Greater Houston Partnership, The Emancipation Economic Development Board, and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated. Other accomplishments include named Who's Who in Black Houston, Leadership Houston, American Leadership Forum, Class 11, Prairie View A&M University Commencement Speaker Summer 2021, and recognized by Comcast NBC Universal as a Houston-based civil rights champion. Judson is a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church where he has served on the Parish Council, and an annual volunteer for the Annual Bazaar. He is also a long-time supporter the Galveston/Houston Diocese. In addition to his community service and civil rights advocacy, Mr. Robinson is also a licensed realtor. Above all else mentioned, he is luckily married to Cora Robinson, and they have three children – Jerika, Cortney, and Judson IV. He is the grandfather to Farrah, Kingston, Guru, and Dove.



## Workshop Session I – Student Electorate

### Student Electorate: “Your Issues are Real”

This important session and discussion on the student electorate and the vital role that voting plays in our society will enable you to understand the importance of, **Get out the Vote**. Political involvement is fundamental to our democracy and to your future as engaged citizens. The importance of exercising your right to vote, is an opportunity that should be embraced with both enthusiasm and responsibility.

Voting is not just a right—it’s a powerful tool for change and allows you to have a say in the decisions that affect your life and the world around you. Whether it’s local issues like school policies, community resources, or national debates on key issues, your vote contributes to shaping the direction of our society. History has shown us countless times that every vote matters. Elections are decided by a margin of just a few votes, and your participation helps ensure that your voice is heard.

Moreover, voting is a way to honor those who fought for our rights and to ensure that our democracy remains vibrant and representative. It’s about more than just choosing leaders; it’s about standing up for your values and interests. This session will empower and inform you as we explore not only the mechanics of voting but also the broader impact it has on our communities and our country.

## HBCU Trilogy Presenters – Student Electorate

**Judge Katherine Thomas** is a native Houstonian. She attended the High School for Performing and Visual Arts (“HSPVA”) majoring in theater arts. While at HSPVA, Thomas fell in love with oral advocacy and has committed her life to public service. In high school, she spent the summer of her sophomore year studying Law and Psychology at Harvard in Boston, Massachusetts. She then moved to Atlanta to study Political Science and Pre-Law at Spelman College. At Spelman, She interned at the White House under the Administration of President Barack Obama in the Office of Presidential Correspondence. After graduating Magna Cum Laude from Spelman College, Thomas attended Howard University School of Law in Washington D.C. At Howard, Thomas was a member of the Charles Hamilton Houston Moot Court team where she successfully competed for two years. She fell in love with Criminal Law in the Criminal Justice Clinic at Howard. She gained meaningful trial experience representing constituents in the District of Columbia Superior Court. Thomas’ experience attending Spelman College and Howard University School of Law helped her understand how to use her influence and leadership to effect social change. After graduating from Howard University School of Law, she transitioned back to Houston to continue pursuing her life’s work as a public servant. The Houstonian began her legal career at the Harris County District Attorney’s Office where she served as an Assistant District Attorney for six years. On October 28, 2021, Katherine filed to run for Judge of the 184<sup>th</sup> Criminal District Court. Katherine believed that there needed to be fundamental change within the felony judicial system. Katherine bore witness to the criminal justice system’s shortcomings, stemming from a lack of diversity and acknowledgment of the underserved. On January 1, 2023, Thomas was elected as the youngest Judge to ever serve as a District Court Judge in the State of Texas. Judge Katherine Thomas also serves as an adjunct professor at Thurgood Marshall School of Law teaching Trial Simulation to second year law students. Katherine is a proud member of the Fort Bend County (TX) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated. In her free time, Judge Thomas enjoys coaching Mock Trial students at Thurgood Marshall School of Law and volunteering with her sorority, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated.

**Edward Pollard Houston City Council, District J** – Edward Pollard is a proud product of Southwest Houston. He attended all HISD schools (Lovett, Johnston, Lamar), before accepting a basketball scholarship to Morehouse College in Atlanta, GA. While in college, Edward was recognized as an NCAA Academic All American and graduated with honors earning his BA in Political Science. After playing professional basketball overseas in the Republic of Singapore and Chile, South America, Edward returned to Houston to pursue his law degree. He attended Thurgood Marshall School of Law where he graduated with honors earning his Juris Doctorate with a concentration in Government and Policy. Edward also received his Certificate in Negotiation Mastery from Harvard Business School. Professionally, Edward is the principal owner of Pollard Legal Group, LLC, a boutique civil litigation law firm located in District J. Edward is also the founder of Suits for Success, a 501c3 organization that mentors teen boys on life skills at District J high schools. The semester long program focuses on public speaking, etiquette training, personal finance, resume building, interview techniques, and how to tie a tie. At the completion of the program, each student receives a free suit, shirt, and tie for high school graduation and life beyond. As Council Member, Edward serves as Vice Chair of Budget Fiscal Affairs, and serves on the committees of Economic Development, Ethics, Elections and Council Governance, Public Safety and Homeland Security, and Childhood and Youth. Edward is a lifetime member of the historic Antioch Missionary Baptist Church downtown and is married with two children.

**Ray B. Shackelford, Vice President, Equitable Justice and Strategic Initiatives, National Urban League** is a Native Houstonian passionate about creating equity for the Black community and ensuring that future generations are better positioned to be successful. Professionally, he has worked in education, non-profit, and the private sector working for corporations like Coca-Cola, Grainger, and Southwest Airlines. Most recently he accepted a role in July as the Vice President of Equitable Justice & Strategic Initiatives for the National Urban League (NUL). In this role he has 3 top priorities while maintaining multiple issue-based portfolio areas; the NUL nonpartisan, “Reclaim Your Vote” campaign, the anti-hate political violence portfolio, and civic education. He still maintains his social impact consulting firm, Ozark Street, that he launched 5 years ago. His firm provides a variety of services related to community education, civic engagement, advocacy, public policy and leadership training. Through the work at his firm, he has been able to train hundreds of community members and reach millions through “Get out the Vote” (GOTV) and issue-based advocacy campaigns. His most significant work to date involves representing his client the Houston Area Urban League (HAUL) as the lead witness in the Senate Bill One (SB1) lawsuit on voting rights. Ray’s education consists of a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration-Finance from Morehouse College, a Master of Business Administration from the University of Houston and a Master of Policy Management from Georgetown University.

He has also been nominated twice by the mayor to serve on boards for the city of Houston. The first in 2016, the Independent Police Oversight Board (IPOB), where he reviewed use of force complaints and made recommendations on training, updates to the general orders, and in some cases discipline. In 2020, Ray was appointed to the Houston Housing Finance Corporation (HHFC). On this board he works to provide gap financing on affordable housing projects ensuring that they are both profitable and in the best interest of the community. Outside of his board service Ray has also worked to educate the community consistently through various platforms at one point serving as a host on podcast, radio and television. All of these local efforts have been focused on educating the community on the civic process and providing actionable steps to make a difference. His faith and spiritual beliefs were shaped growing up at Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church where he has been his entire life and currently serves on the Social Justice Ministry. Ray is also a proud member of the Rho Beta Beta Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated. Ray wears a lot of hats, but none is more important to him than the hat of “father.” Ray is the proud father of a fourteen-year-old daughter, Jordan.

## Workshop Session II – Human Trafficking

### Human Trafficking: “Understand, This is Not a Date”

This engaging session will focus on a critical and pressing issue, **Human Trafficking**. This topic is complex and deeply impactful, and our goal is to increase awareness, understanding, and engagement in addressing this global crisis.

### Why This Matters

Human trafficking is a severe violation of human rights that affects millions of individuals worldwide. It is a form of modern-day slavery where people are exploited for various purposes, including forced labor, sexual exploitation, and involuntary servitude. Trafficking is not only a crime but a profound injustice that impacts individuals, families, and entire communities.

### By the end of this session, we aim to:

1. **Define Human Trafficking:** Understand what human trafficking is, including the various forms it takes and how it operates.
2. **Recognize the Signs:** Identify the indicators of human trafficking and learn how to spot potential victims.
3. **Understand the Impact:** Discuss the physical, emotional, and social effects of trafficking on victims.
4. **Explore Prevention and Response:** Learn about strategies and resources available for preventing trafficking and supporting survivors.
5. **Empower and Mobilize:** Discover ways you can contribute to the fight against human trafficking in your community and beyond.

## HBCU Trilogy Presenters - Human Trafficking



Carvana Yvonne Cloud is an attorney with 19 years of litigation experience having served as a prosecutor, criminal defense attorney, and immigration lawyer. After operating her full-service boutique law firm for nearly ten (10) years, Carvana returned to the Harris County District Attorney’s Office in 2017 and was appointed the first Black female Bureau Chief where she developed policies and procedures to manage the prosecution of domestic violence, sexual assault, and trafficking crimes committed in Harris County. In 2019, Carvana co-founded D.A.R.T. (Domestic Abuse Response Team) America LLC. D.A.R.T. crisis response teams are composed of a police officer, victim advocate, and forensic nurse who respond to high-risk domestic violence crime scenes to prevent homicides, to enhance offender accountability, and to reduce recidivism citywide. Carvana proudly served as the Deputy Director of the Office of Community Affairs for the Houston Police Department and currently serves as Founder and Executive Director of The Empowered Survivor, a culturally specific nonprofit designed to support survivors of color, with a focus on restoring Black women and girls after they’ve experienced domestic or sexual abuse. Carvana’s experience as a child survivor raised in an underserved community, coupled with her professional experience allows her to uniquely blend the need for increased public safety and public health by managing offender accountability and victim restoration, which leads to overall crime and reduction. At the height of COVID, Carvana launched The Empowered Survivor Project to stand in the gap and support served over 1,250 survivors who were being abused by their intimate partners during the pandemic. Carvana is married and has two children who are her inspiration. Carvana earned a Bachelors of Arts in Spanish from DePauw University and a Doctor of Jurisprudence from South Texas College of Law. Most notably, Carvana won the March 5<sup>th</sup> primary and is the Democratic nominee for the position of Judge of Harris County’s 488<sup>th</sup> Criminal District Court, which will be on the November 2024 ballot.



**Dr. Nissi Hamilton, CEO Nissi's Network Inc. + Safe Space Training**, is an award-winning child trafficking survivor and a prominent advocate for justice and human trafficking prevention. She has received numerous accolades, including the *Foundation of Improvement of Justice Award* for her contributions to improving justice for child trafficking victims, the *Profiles in Courage Award* from the National Prosecutors Association, and the *ProtectHer Award*. In Texas, Dr. Hamilton played a key role in creating and advocating for the *Texas S.M.A.R.T Act*, which raised the legal age to work in sexually oriented businesses from 18 to 21. She also successfully fought to limit the operating hours of such businesses, particularly in Dallas, by ensuring they close between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. Her impact extends beyond legislation; she is the CEO and Founder of *Nissi's Network Inc.*, a nonprofit organization focused on protecting youth and driving change to reduce crime and end human trafficking and adultification. Dr. Hamilton has been featured on various platforms, including Paramount's *Never Seen Again*, *Sports Illustrated*, *Fox News*, and more. One of her most significant initiatives is *Pumped Up Kicks*, an urban prevention plan aimed at preventing human trafficking in schools. In partnership with organizations like *Grow with Google*, *BWOSS*, *Global Tech Bridge Initiative*, *The Houston 20*, *Houston Police Department*, and *Crime Stoppers Houston*, her work has made a nationwide impact. Dr. Hamilton has also spearheaded the *Tech Against Trafficking* movement, creating human trafficking prevention curriculums for companies like Schlumberger, AT&T, and Houston Community College. As a global advisor and consultant, Dr. Hamilton offers unique expertise and social capital, helping clients solve complex challenges, navigate change, and shape their future.



**Brian Middleton, Fort Bend County, TX District Attorney** Brian Middleton was elected as the District Attorney for Fort Bend County on November 6, 2018. He received the Prosecutor of the Year Award in 2022 from the State of Texas Criminal Justice Section and the Texas District and County Attorney's Association. Brian Middleton was born in Houston, Texas. He is married to Coretta Middleton. Brian and Coretta have three daughters. Mr. Middleton's father and sister are also attorneys. His father has practiced labor law for over 47 years. Mr. Middleton is a 1990 graduate of Lamar High School in Houston, Texas. Mr. Middleton received a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics from the University of Houston in 1994. Mr. Middleton graduated from Thurgood Marshall School of Law with honors in 1997 and was licensed to practice law the same year. While in law school, Mr. Middleton was employed as a legal intern at the First Court of Appeals, the Harris County District Attorney's Office, and the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas under the supervision of Judge Calvin Botley. Upon graduation from law school, Mr. Middleton began his legal career at the Office of the Attorney General of Texas, Habeas Corpus Division where he represented the Director of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice in Federal Court regarding lawsuits filed by Texas inmates. Thereafter, Mr. Middleton was employed as a briefing attorney for Judge Morris Overstreet at the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, as an assistant district attorney at the Fort Bend County District Attorney's Office, and as an associate attorney for the Barrett, Burke, Wilson, Castle, Daffin, & Frappier Law Firm. Mr. Middleton established the Middleton Law Firm in 2003 and practiced in the areas of criminal law, civil litigation, bankruptcy, and appeals. Mr. Middleton was employed as a municipal prosecutor for the City of Meadows Place, City of Wallis, and the City of Jersey Village. Mr. Middleton was also employed as a judge for the City of Jacinto City and as an adjunct professor at Thurgood Marshall School of Law.



**Ilesa Daniels Ross, Restoration Life Project, Vice-President**, is a native of Crockett, Texas, and a graduate of Texas Southern University, where she majored in Sociology. She spent 32 years with Texas Health and Human Services (HHS), serving in various capacities, including a six-year term as a trustee for the Employee Retirement System of Texas. Ross retired from HHS in August 2022. She currently serves as Vice-President of the Restoration Life Project, a non-profit organization that provides education on human trafficking. The organization was founded by Ophelia Binkley-Webb, who invited Ross to join. Recognizing the growing threat of human trafficking, and after much deliberation, Ross accepted the challenge. She believes that eradicating human trafficking will require a collective effort. In addition to her role with Restoration Life Project, Ross is the President of the Texas Employees Union, CWA Local 6186. She also serves as an advisory committee member for Greater Houston Cares, a non-profit focused on addressing disparities in foster care.



**Sonya Lucas-Roberts (Sister Mama Sonya), Author, Poet, Playwright, Motivational Speaker** – Sonya Lucas-Roberts (Sister Mama Sonya) is a dynamic community leader and advocate based in Houston, Texas, with extensive experience in developing and facilitating innovative workshops for various community-based organizations. Her expertise spans a wide range of social issues, including social justice, health disparities, and community building. Sister Mama Sonya works as a liaison between individuals and community groups, striving to increase awareness of and connect people to essential services. She has a talent for cultivating partnerships and collaborations with non-profits, businesses, schools, and churches, both locally and statewide, to address disparities in health, education, criminal justice, and child welfare. Her work reflects a deep commitment to social justice and community empowerment. Sister Mama Sonya holds a Doctor of Law (JD) from The University of Texas School of Law (1980-1983) and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Houston (1974-1978). During her academic years, she was actively involved in organizations such as the Black Student Union and the NAACP, which further shaped her passion for advocacy and equity.

## Workshop Session III – Gun Violence

### **Gun Violence: “May I Ask You A Question? When Did Killing Ever Help?”**

Gun violence affects communities across the nation and the world, leaving a trail of grief, trauma, and disruption. It’s a complex issue that intertwines with aspects of public health, safety, law, and societal values. In addressing it, we must confront difficult truths and seek pathways to change. This session is not just about highlighting the problems; it’s about understanding them deeply and exploring solutions. Our goal is to gain insights into the causes and consequences of gun violence and to discuss actionable strategies for prevention and intervention.

From this discussion, we hope to achieve several key outcomes:

1. **Increased Awareness:** By sharing stories, data, and research, we aim to enhance our understanding of the multifaceted nature of gun violence and its impact on individuals and communities.
2. **Informed Dialogue:** We want to foster a dialogue that bridges gaps between different perspectives and experiences, helping us build a more nuanced and empathetic approach to addressing this issue.
3. **Actionable Solutions:** We seek to identify and advocate for practical, evidence-based solutions that can be implemented at various levels—whether through policy changes, community initiatives, or personal actions.
4. **Empowerment and Collaboration:** Our objective is to empower each participant with the knowledge and tools needed to contribute to meaningful change and to encourage collaboration among stakeholders to drive progress.

We will approach this discussion with open minds and a shared commitment to making a difference. Together, we can turn our collective insights into actions that reduce the incidence of gun violence and foster safer, more resilient communities.



## HBCU Trilogy Presenters – Gun Violence



**Professor Syble Smith Davis** has served as the Chair of English, Puente Program Coordinator, Black History Gala Scholarship Chair, and lead faculty during her nearly 40-year tenure at Houston Community College. She is a published writer, community activist, public speaker, and philanthropist. Moreover, she is a loving wife, mother, and grandmother who puts God and her family above all else. She has become a staple in the

*Third Ward* community where she not only resides but is celebrated for her communal efforts in uplifting and bringing others together within her community. After earning undergraduate and graduate degrees from *Texas Southern University*, she vowed to remain in the very community that transformed her into who she is today. Nevertheless, the community that she loves so dearly also bears one of the worst memories of her life. In June 2019, her youngest son Chase Simon (24) was gunned down just two blocks from their home. Upon receiving notice of her son's tragic condition due to gun violence, she hurried home from her business trip to find her son in a hospital room fighting for his life. Unfortunately, Chase succumbed to his injuries two weeks later. "I held my son when he took his first and last breath," recalls Smith Davis. Although she has yet to receive the closure, she and her family yearn for in finding and convicting her son's murderer, she has turned her tragedy into hope. She established a foundation in remembrance of her son entitled *Chase "The Wizard" Simon Foundation*. For the past four years, she has donated countless toys to underserved children throughout Houston. Chase was known for his love of helping kids and ability to make things happen, so it was only befitting to bring joy to children in this very special and intentional way.



**Danyahel "Danny" Norris** is a Senior Contracts Attorney with the City of Houston and a Principal Partner of Norris & Norris, Attorneys and Counselors at Law, where for more than 16 years he provided businesses and individuals counsel in the areas of intellectual property law and business law. In 2018, he was elected to represent *Harris County's Precinct 1* on the *Harris County Department of Education Board of Trustee*, where he became the board's first African American president in the organization's 133-year history. He resigned his position as Trustee in November 2023 in order to file as a candidate for Texas House District 142. Mr. Norris also

served for as an administrator and Instructor of Law for more than 12 years at Thurgood Marshall School of Law where he received a faculty appreciation award in 2011 and taught students that have gone on to become successful lawyers, judges, politicians, business leaders, and variety of other noble professions. Mr. Norris has a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Houston, a Master of Science from the University of North Texas, and a Juris Doctor from Texas Southern University. He is licensed to practice before the State Bar of Texas and the United States Patent & Trademark Office. Mr. Norris is a senior fellow of the Houston Chapter of the American Leadership Forum, a senior fellow of Leadership Houston, an advisor for the *Houston Professionals Chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers*, a past President of the Houston Lawyers Association, and a Past Chair of the African American Lawyers Section for the State Bar of Texas. He has published several articles on a variety of topics covering both international and domestic issues. Notably, Mr. Norris, along with his 2010 law review article discussing gentrification in Houston's 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward, was featured in the Houston Press in July 2011.

**Sheriff Eric Fagan, a 32-year Fort Bend County** resident, was elected on November 3, 2020, as the Sheriff of Fort Bend County. On January 1, 2021, Fagan became the 45th Sheriff of Fort Bend County, Texas and the first African American to serve in the position since Reconstruction, 153 years ago. Sheriff Fagan earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice, where he graduated number one in his class. He also earned a Master of Science degree in Juvenile Forensic Psychology, both degrees from Prairie View A&M University. During Sheriff Fagan's stellar 31-year career with the Houston Police Department, he was a three-time winner of the prestigious Officer of the Year Award. Sheriff Fagan served as President of the African American Police Officer's League where he was named President Emeritus because of his leadership and ability to bridge the gap between law enforcement and the citizens they serve. Since taking office in January of 2021, Sheriff Fagan has implemented many initiatives to improve the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office. Some of which include the creation of a Crime Reduction Unit (CRU), which is a specialized team of patrol deputies that go to areas in the county that have experienced an increase in crime. This unit addresses the increased crime by making arrest, if necessary, and being more visible in the community. Sheriff Fagan realizes that people face mental health crisis 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, so he immediately implemented a third shift to the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT). In addition, he reestablished the Critical Incident Stress Management Team (CISM) in 2021, which assists fellow first responders with healing and dealing with traumatic incidents. The services are also extended to their family members. Sheriff Fagan partnered with the Fort Bend County District Attorney, State, and Federal Law Enforcement Agencies to address Human Trafficking. Since 2021 over 100 human traffickers have been arrested and 25 to 30 victims of this crime have been rescued. Sheriff Fagan had the foresight to bring all Fort Bend County law enforcement agencies together to discuss Fort Bend's response in the event of an active shooter incident at schools. He felt that having an increased police presence may deter an active shooter event. So, he requested all Fort Bend law enforcement agencies to have their patrol units stop by area schools during their shift. He was recognized as a Rising Star of Texas for this initiative. Sheriff Fagan is honored to serve all the citizens of Fort Bend County.

**James M. White, Police Officer for Pearland Police Department Community Outreach Division.** I began my law enforcement career in Pearland on December 1, 2008. I served the Pearland citizens on patrol for almost 12 years before moving to the Community Outreach Division. I started in the division on December 12, 2020. While in this division I want to learn and gain knowledge from my peers and help with implementing possible fresh ideas. I would love to focus my efforts on at risk youth in our city. I believe that if we can change their thinking, give them more options and opportunity we can alter their path in life to possibly become a productive citizen in society. My journey to Pearland began on August 15, 1977 in Will County, Joliet, Illinois. I was relocated to Houston, TX at the age of 10 years old. I graduated from Dwight D Eisenhower High School Houston, TX in 1996. The journey then led me to the United States Navy immediately after Highschool in July of 1996. I had a great 4-year career in the Navy that taught me new things, took me places I had never been and grew me into a productive young man for society. After my 4-year enlistment in the Navy, I decided to go to college where I attended San Jacinto Jr College in Pasadena, TX in the fall of 2000. I also re-enlisted in the Naval Reserve to be able to continue my career in the military part time. I was fortunate enough to eventually retire from the Naval Reserve with 20 years of consecutive service and honorable discharge. While in school I also began working. My first job was working with the afterschool program at the YMCA. There I monitored, participated in physical activity, and helped kids with homework. I also instructed basketball mini camps for the kids and refereed basketball games. My second job was monitoring video surveillance at different sites across the country for Inter Star Systems Security Company. I then subsequently transitioned to a detention officer at Harris County Juvenile Detention Center, Houston, TX. From there I continued in corrections working for Corrections Corporation of America at the Houston Processing Center. Which led me to Pearland Police Department where I am enjoying my career choice.

## **HBCU Trilogy Debate Team**

### **Javion Cox**

Debate Team Member  
Texas Southern University  
Senior Theatre major from Houston, Texas

### **Morgan Williams**

Debate Team Member  
Texas Southern University  
Junior Theatre major from Houston, Texas

## **STUDENT PARTICIPATION**

**Houston Christian University**

**Houston-Tillotson University**

**Jarvis Christian University**

**Prairie View A&M University**

**Stafford Independent School District**

**St. Philip's College**

**Texas College**

**Texas Southern University**

**Wiley College**

## **WESTERN AREA HBCU CHAPTER PARTICIPATION**

**Dallas (TX) Chapter  
Charlotte McKenzie, President**

**East Texas (TX) Chapter  
Crystal D. Lewis, President**

**Fort Bend County (TX) Chapter  
Sonya Stevenson, President**

**San Antonio (TX) Chapter  
Angela Jolivette, President  
Sharon Janice, HBCU Coordinator**

**Golden Triangle (TX) Chapter  
Ingrid Holmes, President**

**Greater Pearland Area (TX) Chapter  
Antrece Baggett, President**

**Gulf Coast Apollo (TX) Chapter  
Felicia Ingram Garner, President**

**Houston (TX) Chapter  
Camellia Kennedy, President**

**Katy Richmond Area (TX) Chapter  
Chantay DeBlanc, President**

**Missouri City (TX) Chapter  
Jarmese Morris, President**

**Port City (TX) Chapter  
Cheryl Fleming, President**

**Texas Spring Cypress (TX) Chapter  
Toni Jackson, President**



## WESTERN AREA HBCU SPONSORS



Dr. Brittany Stafford

Address: 105 Professional Park Drive, Victoria, TX 77904

Phone: (361) 578-5205

Use the QR Code below for Registration to the HBCU Trilogy Community Event.

