



**2021 - 2022 Thurgood Marshall Civil Rights Center
End of the Year Report**

Executive Summary

In the 2021-2022 fiscal year, the Thurgood Marshall Civil Rights Center engaged with students, faculty and staff to serve hundreds of individuals and communities through our programs, projects and events. The Center successfully raised over **\$700,000**¹ including: a \$600,000 gift from Kirkland & Ellis from the proceeds of a legal settlement; a \$100,000 gift to support the creation of a voter protection center; a gift extension to support the collaboration between the Environmental Justice Center² and our Center to advance the fight against environmental racism; and regular gifts from donors and supporters. In light of the over **\$2.1 Million** dollars raised in EOY2020-2021, the center has raised enough money to fund its own endowment. We successfully recruited and hired HUSL alum **J. Orlando Johnson** to fill our alumni funded fellowship position, **Lanessa Chaplain** to fill our grant funded Environmental Justice Staff Attorney position, and **M. Alex Evans** to fill the position of Law Teaching Fellow.

Some of this year’s highlights included: successfully filing an amicus brief that resulted in the release of the 85 year old political prisoner Sundiata Acoli, after 49 years of incarceration; preparing a 94 page indictment and conducting witness testimony as part of an International Human Rights Tribunal addressing issues that impact Black people in the United States; partnering with Columbia University and the AARN to host a national reparations conference and supporting over 400 local community efforts to advance the redress of the harms of racial injustice; providing legal support to organizations and communities including Evanston, Illinois in defense of local reparations legislation; collaborating with Harvard Law School’s Systemic Justice Project to provide free classes on issues of race and justice as part of the Justice Initiative; co-hosting workshops and discussions on the formation of the United Nations Permanent Forum on People of African Descent (UNPFAD); and collaborating undergraduate programs on the main campus including the Center for Women, Gender, and Global Leadership and the Ralph J. Bunche International Affairs.

TMCRC Student Engagement

	Summer II 2021	Fall 2021	Spring 2022	Summer I 2022	Total
Clinical Law Students	N/A	10 Movement Lawyering Clinic Students	5 Movement Lawyering Clinic Students	N/A	15

¹ [Law firm that won settlement in Md. HBCU case donating \\$12.5 million in fees](#), Washington Post (2021)
² [Two Nonprofits Fund New Howard Law Environmental and Civil Rights Positions](#), Law.Howard.edu (2021)

Interns	2 Summer interns	2 Fall Interns	2 Spring Interns	3 Summer Interns	9
Law School student staff	5 Summer Associates	3 Fall Law students: 2 RAs, 1 Student Worker	3 Spring Law students: EJ, RA, Student Workers	3 Summer Student staff: 2 RAs, 1 student worker	14
Volunteers & external students	5 Summer volunteers	21 Fall Volunteers	24 Spring Volunteers	20 Summer Volunteers	70

Over 100 students engaged with the Center's human and civil rights work over the course of the year.

Section I:
HOW THE CENTER SUPPORTED THE HUSL STRATEGIC PLAN

*The Thurgood Marshall Civil Rights Center's Work within the
Howard University School of Law Strategic Plan*

Priority 1 – Academic Program

TMCRC engages students through its connection to activities with the Movement Lawyering Clinic, student workers, interns, and volunteers. A significant number of JD/BA students connected with the programs at the Center after learning about our activities when Professor Hansford taught summer sessions. Activities listed are relevant to the following priorities and goals:

- a. **Priority 1, Goal #2: Enhancing the overall curriculum in the area of experiential learning**

Center Activities. TMCRC engages with students directly through work opportunities, volunteer opportunities, pro bono legal services, events and in other capacities. This engagement enhances the overall curriculum in the area of experiential learning. The Center works in coalitions with social justice movements to create experiential learning opportunities. This year, organizations included the Advancement Project, National Education Association (NEA), The National Lawyers Guild (NLG), the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), Law4BlackLives, Namati, as well as law firms, pro bono attorneys and other attorneys. This year, we worked on projects with members of the United States Congress and the White House, the Department of Justice (DOJ), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the State Department.

The Center also has a number of multi-year in depth partnerships, which include:

African American Redress Network: The African American Redress Network (AARN) manages approximately a dozen students from Columbia University, Howard University and other colleges and universities around the country to support communities seeking

to redress racial harm. Our work with communities is discussed in further detail on page 12 in Section II.

Justice Initiative: The Justice Initiative (JI) continues to be an opportunity for Howard Law students to engage with students, professors and professionals from other law schools including Harvard, Georgetown, and American University. This year, Howard students participated in events and activities both on campus and off campus, including classes on justice, social justice career workshops and social activities. Our work with JI is discussed in further detail on page 9 in Section II.

United Nations Permanent Forum for People of African Descent: The UN strengthened its commitment to People of African Descent in 2015 with the creation of the UN Decade for People of African Descent (UN Decade). In November 2021, the UN announced the creation of the Permanent Forum for People of African Descent (UNPFPAD) and Professor Justin Hansford was elected as the member representing the United States. As such, students have had opportunities to interact with national and international NGO's, government officials and visiting groups. The Center hosted an event at the International Student House in June 2022 as a pre-launch and workshop to further develop the program for the UNPFPAD. See also, Section 1, Priority 4, Global Outreach.

Section I, How TMCRC Supported the HUSL Strategic Plan

Priority 1, cont'd

*The Thurgood Marshall Civil Rights Center's Work within the
Howard University School of Law Strategic Plan*

Clinic Activities. TMCRC is connected to the Movement Layering Clinic. This year, we taught several new students and many returning students over the academic year. The clinic focused on exposing students to various forms of legal advocacy through both civil rights and human rights lenses. This year, students worked on issues of critical race theory, voting rights, racial justice through the international human rights' lens (Tribunal), mass incarceration, prisoners' rights, and Reparations.

Student advocacy work included filing an Amicus Brief for political prisoner Sundiata Acoli, an 85 year old political prisoner, after 49 years of incarceration; interrogating witnesses and preparing a 94 page indictment during the International Human Rights Tribunal with Spirit of Mandela; presenting reports on voting rights and critical race theory bans to Law4BlackLives; and participating in events and activities at the Center throughout the academic year.

Section I, cont'd

Priority 3 - Faculty

*The Thurgood Marshall Civil Rights Center's Work within the
Howard University School of Law Strategic Plan*

TMCRC supports teaching excellence and innovation that prepares students to be effective and ethical lawyers; fosters the production of high quality scholarship that reaches a wide audience and promotes the public good; fosters a vibrant and engaged community of teachers, scholars, and social justice community servants; and fosters the production of social justice projects that promote the public good.

b. Priority 3, Goals #1-4: Engaged faculty with the Thurgood Marshall Civil Rights Center

Faculty.

TMCRC engaged with faculty including:

- Olinda Moyd, ReEntry Clinical Law Professor, Attica Film Screening
- Darin Johnson, International Law Professor, Human & Civil Rights Law Review
- e. christi cunningham, Education Rights Center, Critical Race Theory Hotline & School to Prison Pipeline
- Josephine Ross, Law Professor, author of *A Feminist Critique of Police Stops*
- Kacey Mordecai, International Human Rights Attorney, reviewed genocide indictment
- ShaShana Chrichton, Human & Civil Rights Advocate, supported Center activities
- Joseph Grant, Corporate Law Professor, visited and contributed to Reparations 2022 Conference at the panel discussing *Legal Frameworks for Reparations*
- Roger Martella, Environmental Law Professor, discussed Center's emergent work in the climate justice, environmental justice, environmental law practice area
- Daria Neal, Environmental Law Professor, invited Center directors to observe courses in the environmental law practice area
- Quentin Pair, Environmental Law Professor, discussed Center's emergent work in the climate justice, environmental justice, environmental law practice area
- Keeva Terry, Law Professor, serves on the faculty hiring committee, participated in the interview process and assisted in the selection of the Law Teaching Fellow
- Patricia Worthy, Law Professor, participated in the interview process of new hires
- Alice Thomas, Law Professor, participated in the interview process and assisted in the selection of the Law Teaching Fellow
- Lisa Crooms Robinson, Law Professor, participated in the interview process and assisted in the selection of the Law Teaching Fellow.

Section I, cont'd

Priority 4 - Advanced Studies and Global Outreach

*The Thurgood Marshall Civil Rights Center's Work within the
Howard University School of Law Strategic Plan*

TMCRC enhances JD students' exposure to international law through its work with the international human rights framework for racial justice and reparations.

c. Priority 4, Goals #3: Global outreach through international human rights advocacy

Global Outreach. TMCRC engages students, staff and faculty in the international human rights world. Student attorneys interrogated witnesses at a people's tribunal in New York City with over 50 coalition partners. Our team presented at international conferences about our human rights work. Students participated in ongoing civil society meetings for the UN mechanism to redress anti-Black racism. Students produced a 94 page indictment citing international human rights laws as the foundation for the charge of genocide. Over 800 participants attended the online Reparations 2022 conference where we utilized the international human rights framework and students presented on a panel discussing the legal framework for reparations. Our team received visitors from the UK, Brazil, S.Africa, and Costa Rica. We also traveled to speaking engagements in New York, Dallas, Texas, Alabama, Georgia, Minneapolis MN, and Amsterdam, Netherlands.

United Nations Permanent Forum for People of African Descent & PAD

The UN strengthened its commitment to the People of African Descent (PAD) in 2015 with the creation of the UN Decade for People of African Descent (UN Decade). In November 2021, the UN announced the creation of the Permanent Forum for People of African Descent (UNPFPAD) and Professor Justin Hansford was elected as the member representing the United States. As such, students have had opportunities to interact with national and international NGO's, government officials and visiting groups. The Center hosted an event at the International Student House in June 2022 as a pre-launch and workshop to further develop the program for the UNPFPAD.

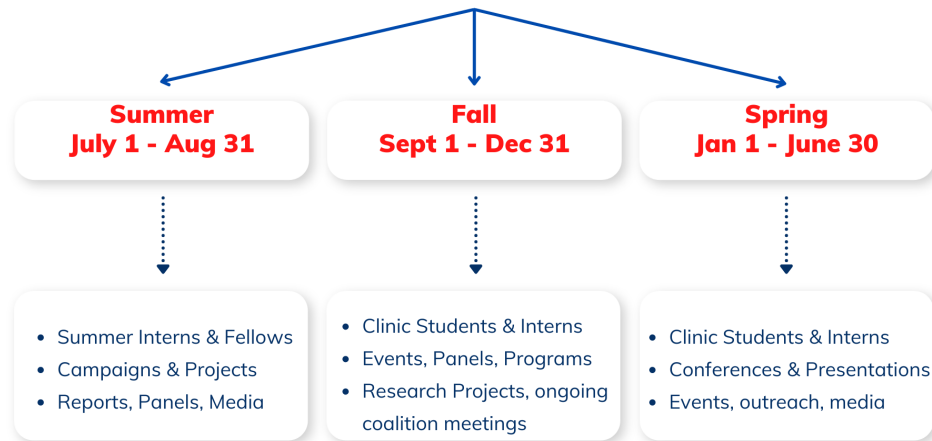
October 2021 - Collaboration with Leadership Conference for Civil Rights and Attorney Kerry McLean; International Human Rights Tribunal presented to 9 UN Jurists (See activities list); ongoing work with UN Decade for People of African Descent

December 2021 - Justin Hansford elected to the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent

Spring 2022- Students in the Movement Lawyering Clinic worked on projects in partnership with nonprofit organizations in Canada, Costa Rica, and Haiti, in support of the Permanent Forum for People of African Descent.



CENTER ACTIVITIES



Highlights from Clinic & Center Activities: [Academic calendar year 2021-22](#)

- Summer - July 1, 2021 - August 13, 2021
 - ◆ July: Research projects for summer associates included environmental justice, prisoners rights, critical race theory, mental health bill for victims of police violence
 - ◆ Prison censorship report finalized
 - ◆ August: [CRT Summer School](#) (see link)

- Fall - September 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021
 - ◆ August: Clinic starts for the semester - All clinic orientation on August 13, 2021
 - ◆ September - Environmental Justice campaign in response to Hurricane Ida
 - ◆ October: Tribunal 2021, Together Louisiana phone bank (Ida response)
 - ◆ November: CRT & Voting Rights Presentation to Movement for Black Lives, [Brown Grove Retreat](#)
 - ◆ December: JI Wellness Session during finals week

- Spring - January 1, 2022 - June 30, 2022
 - ◆ January - Capitol Riot Anniversary
 - ◆ February - Media Interview: (see, eg [The Rip](#))
 - ◆ March - Marcus Garvey Exoneration Campaign Event
 - ◆ April- [King Lecture Series](#) with Donna Brazille and Justin Hansford, aired on WHUT-TV
 - ◆ April - Reparations 2022 Conference, NMAAHC Event
 - ◆ June: [Juneteenth 2022](#) - ISH; NIOD [Conference in Amsterdam](#); Community events

List of Thurgood Marshall Civil Rights Center Activities

Dates	Describe Activity	Links
Ongoing 2015-2024	UN Decade 2015-2024: Collaboration informing diplomatic leaders to aspire to the legal changes for Africa's liberation. The Leadership Conference for Civil Rights- lead by Kerry McLean	UN-Decade-forum
July 2021	Summer Associates submitted reports marking the end of their internships: David Carter, Porsche DeWitt, Valencia Are, Courtney Taylor, and Brittany Finley	2021-summer-associate
July 2021	Environmental Justice report submitted by Valencia Are	Valencia Are
July 2021	Law4BlackLives Report submitted by Porscha DeWitt	Law4BlackLives
August 10-14, 2021	CRT Summer School - law students, including summer associate David Carter, participated	https://vimeo.com/584345812
August 2021	Mike Brown Bill on Mental Health submitted US Congress by David Carter and ProBono attorneys	Mike Brown
August 2021	Prison Censorship Report Revised, published report supported by Brittany Finley	thurgoodmarshallcenter.howard.edu/sites.pdf
September 11, 2021	Alpha Legal Scholars on Critical Race Theory at Wake Forest Law	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l3tErWs4fSk
October 9, 2021	Together Louisiana volunteer efforts coordinated by Billi Wilkerson	Hurricane Ida
October 18, 2021	Law4BlackLives Annual Conference - L4BL x 2022 AALS Conference	AALS
October 22-25, 2021	International Tribunal - Clinic students helped produce an indictment	https://www.tribunall2021.com/
November 6-7, 2021	Brown Grove Community Empowerment retreat provided a 2-day workshop for a community of descendants of the enslaved.	Brown Grove

November 8, 2021	Attica Film screening in collaboration with the Re-entry Clinic with Olinda Moyd.	Attica Film
November 11, 2021	Twitter Spaces Conversation with Justin Hansford and USA Today Report on Reforming Police Misconduct Reporting mechanisms based	Police Misconduct
November 17, 2021	Democracy Dialogues: Foreign Policy for America	https://www.fp4america.org/
December 16, 2021	Justin Hansford Elected to The United Nations Permanent Forum on People of Descent (UN PFPAD)	https://www.state.gov/the-election-of-justin-hansford-to-the-permanent-forum-on-people-of-african-descent/
<u>SPRING SEMESTER 2022</u>		
January 16, 2022	CRT hotline soft launch	CRT Hotline
January 17, 2022	Eastern Michigan University Martin Luther King Jr. Event	MLK Event
January 29, 2022	ABC Interview: Critical Race and Misinformation	Critical Race Theory
February 3, 2022	2022 Thrower Symposium: First Amendment, Gateway to Social Justice	Thrower Symposium
February 5, 2022	The State of N'COBRA and the Black Reparations Movement	N'COBRA
February 24, 2022	Live Bakersfield College Virtual Event	Bakersfield
February 25, 2022	Epoch: Institutional Transformation and the Law	Institutional Transformation
March 1, 2022	Exoneration of Marcus Garvey event	Marcus-Garvey
March 2, 2022	Event in collaboration with the Re-Entry Clinic "In the Executioner's Shadow: Film Screening" discussing the Death Penalty with Robin Konrad	Attica Event
March 6-10, 2022	Africatown, AL - Prospective Alternative Spring Break	Africatown, AL
March 9, 2022	Helped Mike Brown Foundation obtain \$1.4 Million Dollar Grant	1.4 Million dollar grant

March 10, 2022	International Visitor Leadership Program: Human and Civil Rights for Marginalized Communities	International Visitor Leadership Program
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March 19, 2022	Brazilian Congresswoman Renata Souza visits Thurgood Marshall Center (Deputada Estadual_Lider do PSOL)	Renata Souza
April 1 - 2, 2022	Reparations 2022 Conference	Reparations 2022
April 18, 2022	U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Linda Thomas-Greenfield and Director of the Thurgood Marshall Civil Rights Center Justin Hansford, Join Donna Brazile for Howard University King Lecture Series	howard.edu/us-ambassador-united-nations
April 28, 2022	CASC-IUPI Emerging Scholar Program Panel	CASC-IUPI
June 8 - 12, 2022	NIOD Genocide Conference in Amsterdam, Netherlands	NIOD
June 2022	Law School Student Staff - Research Assistants and Summer Student Workers; VIEW Project workers; interns and summer volunteers (Charkera Ervin)	School Student Staff
June 15, 2022	ISH Event for the UNPFPAD (Juneteenth)	See The Dig
June 17, 2022	American Constitution Society 2022 Convention	American Constitution Society
June 18, 2022	Shiloh Baptist Church: Building a Culture of Repair: Juneteenth National Forum on Reparations	Shiloh Baptist Church
June 25, 2022	Thurgood Marshall Hosts Community Reparations Event	https://www.facebook.com/theteagroup1/
June 25-26, 2022	Thurgood Marshall Center hosts New Leaders Council Meeting	https://www.newleaderscouncil.org/fellow/justin-hansford-washington-dc/
June 29, 2022	White House Counsel's Series on Building the Next Generation of Public Interest Lawyers: Teaching for Impact: Advancing Access to Justice Through Experiential Legal Education	Link not available at the time of report

End of the fiscal year is June 30, 2022

The Thurgood Marshall Center understands that in order to make a difference, we must use our heads, our hands, and our hearts. Thinking, Acting, and Connecting. So we use this praxis to accomplish our work-engaged research when fighting the battle of ideas, movement lawyering when fighting for our rights in the courts or in the halls of power, and community organizing when fighting to build power in our communities.

Section II: Head, Hands, Heart

HOW THE CENTER SUPPORTED THE TMCRC STRATEGIC PLAN

Highlighting the scholarship, advocacy, and organizing victories from the Center’s strategic plan.

Part 1 Head: Inspire New Knowledge with Intellectual Engagement

“Knowledge emerges only through invention and re-invention, through the restless, impatient, continuing, hopeful inquiry human beings pursue in the world, with the world, and with each other.”

Paulo Friere

As a repository for scholarly research on civil rights and human rights issues at the law school, the Center seeks to inspire new knowledge and intellectual engagement. Over the course of the year, we fostered rigorous debate on the social justice issues of the day. This section expands upon the list of Center activities and provides context for the work in terms of scholarship, research and knowledge production. Our work with the Justice Initiative is described in further detail in this section.

Achievements:

1. **Thurgood Marshall Center Lectures & Guest Speakers:** The Center hosted several panel presentations and lectures. We hosted film showings of documentaries and other films that highlight issues of human rights and civil rights including two film screenings followed by panel discussions. Marcus Garvey’s son, Julius Garvey, was a guest speaker in March. We also collaborated with other professors at the law school for presentations. The participants were leaders in their respective human and civil rights fields of study and practice. Many of these events were described on the Center’s website.
2. **Presentations & Conferences:** The Center hosted an Annual Conference on Reparations. The Center’s Executive Director, Justin Hansford, presented at over twenty University seminars, webinars and conferences, including the nationally recognized SxSW conference in Austin, Texas. The Center’s Managing Director, Billi Wilkerson, presented at the CIES Annual Conference and NIOD Annual Conference in Amsterdam, Netherlands.

3. **Other Activities and Resources.** The Center offered an array of additional efforts and activities in terms of intellectual engagement. We provided in-house support on civil and human rights research to students, staff, and faculty. We supported faculty engagement on civil and human rights issues. Students, activists and leaders were able to engage in discourse that progressed our mission and vision not only through the outcomes, but also through the process. We are mindful, in our intellectual pursuit, to pay attention to the ways that we engage our work and to slow down when needed in order to reflect and incorporate the principles we seek to promote.

Section II, Head, Hands, Heart cont'd

Part 1 Head, cont'd: Inspire New Knowledge with Intellectual Engagement

Highlighting the scholarship, advocacy, and organizing victories from the Center's strategic plan.

Highlighted Collaboration: Justice Initiative

Justice Initiative. Based on the overwhelming success of its year-long pilot program that enhanced the overall student experience for 1Ls, 2Ls, and 3Ls as well as recent graduates and PreL's, JI continued programming for a second year.³ What began as the Center's partnership with Harvard Law's Systemic Justice Project during the pandemic, expanded into a life changing experience for law students around the country. This year, we enhanced the program with activities and events on campus for Howard students in addition to the programming that was provided online. Howard Law students who participated included Jarold Ramirez-Rodrigues, Jazmynn Cobb, Kiarra Booker, Faidat Ogunmefun, Stayce Evans, Fedel Estefanos, Charkera Ervin, Pamela Quanrud, Jy'Mir Starks, and other students.

Here is a summary of activities, events and lectures:

- August 29, 2021 - CRTisMe Summer Working Group invited to attend the CRT Summer School with Kimberle Crenshaw & African American Policy Forum (AAPF)
- October 2, 2021 - Existential Planning Retreat (TEAM meeting)
- **January 29, 2022** - Power-spotting in law school & the legal field
 - Martha Chamallas, Professor of Law at Moritz College of Law
 - Esme Caramello, Clinical Professor of Law at Harvard Law School
 - Affirmation: We are reimagining the legal system and wielding the tool of law for liberation.
- February 5, 2022 - JI Career Panel on Working in Nonprofits
 - Jenna Collins, Community Legal Services
 - Jim Ferg-Cadima, Lambda Legal
 - Dennis Parker, Center for Law & Economic Justice

³ Justice Initiative Information Session September 18, 2021 - YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wfhncbpMErc>

- February 12, 2022 - JI Career Panel on civil rights work
 - Reggie Shuford, ACLU-PA;
 - Ajmel Quereshi, Senior Counsel at LDF (NAACP Legal Defense Fund);
 - Genzie Torres, Equal Opportunities Project;
 - Kali Schellenberg, Civil Rights Litigator at Relman Colfax
- **February 19, 2022** - JI Session: Movement Lawyering
- February 26, 2022 - JI Policy Career Panel
- **March 26, 2022** - JI Session: Abolition & Abolitionist Lawyering
- April 2, 2022 - Final JI Career Panel with Andrew Free
- **April 9, 2022** - Final JI Session -
 - Bianca Tylek, Founder and Executive Director of Worth Rises
 - Jeremy McQueen, visiting artist, Black Iris Project
 - Alec Karakatsanis, Founder & Exec Dir of Civil Rights Corps
- JI hosted a book club that engaged ideas involving civil and human rights through the vehicle of both fiction and non-fiction literature. The group read and discussed Derecka Purnell's book, ***Becoming Abolitionists***.

Section II: Head, Hands, Heart cont'd

Highlighting the advocacy, organizing and scholarship goals of the Center's strategic plan.

Part 2 Hands: Serve Our Community through Advocacy

In conjunction with the Howard University School of Law's **Movement Lawyering Clinic**, the Center engages in strategic partnerships with national and local organizations dedicated to litigating, legislating, and championing civil and human rights issues.

This year, our organizational partners of the clinic included The United States House of Representatives, The United States Department of State, the United Nations, AAPF (African American Policy Forum), NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund, the ACLU, Namati, Law for Black Lives, the Movement for Black Lives, The Mike Brown We Love Our Sons & Daughters Foundation, and more. Collaboration with these organizations allows students to engage in litigation before state and federal courts, and international human rights tribunals. Our collaborations also foster policy intervention and public advocacy in the form of drafting legislation and white papers, providing research for advocacy campaigns, and promoting other initiatives led by the community. The Executive Director of the Center also teaches the clinic, ensuring that the goals of the clinic and the Center will be seamlessly integrated. Our work with the African American Redress Network (AARN) is described in further detail in this section. **Issue areas include:** Racial Justice (*CRT Movement, UN Movement to end anti-Black racism, Reparations Movement; Race & COVID*); Criminal Justice (*Movement to end Police Violence & Mass Incarceration*); Environmental Justice; International Human Rights & Constitutional Rights; UNPFAD & UN Decade.

Achievements:

1. **Litigation Support:** The Center drafted an amicus brief and submitted it to the New Jersey Supreme Court on behalf of Sundiata Acoli, the famous political prisoner, with a coalition of other lawyers and activists. Acoli was released after 49 years of incarceration and wrongful parole practices, and his release was headline news in the New York Times⁴ and in other media outlets. provided research and writing support for advocates engaged in national and international impact litigation. This created opportunities for students to engage in all aspects of civil and human rights litigation, from client intake to submission of formal motions and human rights petitions. The Clinic also worked with the Advancement Project on Concerned Black Clergy v. Raffensperger, a case responding to a lawsuit filed against the Georgia Secretary of State to block the implementation of Senate Bill 202, Georgia's voter suppression law.⁵
2. **Policy Intervention:** The Center continued to engage in policy advocacy which included both local and national policy reform. Locally, the center worked closely with the Lab DC, a branch of the Executive Office of the Mayor of Washington, DC, to implement the recommendations from a conference that Howard University School of Law Co-Sponsored with Georgetown University School of Law entitled "Re-Imagining Police Stops," with the ultimate goal to transform how law enforcement traffic stops are performed in Washington DC. The Center worked with the office of Congresswoman Cori Bush and the Mike Brown Foundation to pass an initiative supporting mental health resources of people impacted by police violence, including co-drafting the legislative language.
3. **Community Advocacy:** Shaping discourse by contributing to print interviews, podcasts, webinars, virtual programming, and generally seeking to shape public opinion on civil and human rights issues in local and national venues. The Center elevated Howard's profile as a premier civil and human rights institution 40 public appearances and participating in dozens of community conversations.

⁴ <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/05/10/nyregion/sundiata-acoli-black-liberation-army-parole.html>

⁵ <https://advancementproject.org/resources/concerned-black-clergy-v-brad-raffensperger-complaint/>

Section II, Head, Hands, Heart cont'd

Part 2 Hands, cont'd: Serve Our Community through Advocacy

Highlighting the scholarship, advocacy, and organizing victories from the Center's strategic plan.

Highlighted Collaboration: African American Redress Network (AARN)

African American Redress Network (AARN). AARN was created when the Center and the Institute for the Study of Human Rights at Columbia University teamed up to spotlight the numerous local reparations initiatives across the nation and be a resource in support of such efforts. Between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022, the Center collaborated with AARN in the production of several reports⁶, presentations and campaigns. This work includes community advocacy, policy intervention and litigation support.

Legal Analysis Provided in Defense of Reparations Plan in Evanston, Illinois

The Center along with the AARN developed an impact study of Evanston, IL in order to investigate the historical impediments of racially discriminatory practices and the effects of Evanston's Restorative Housing Program. The study found that there is a causal relationship between exclusionary zoning policies and the current racial economic and housing disparities in Evanston. The report, which was produced in summer 2021, supports the provision of a reparations program in Evanston.⁷

Community Organizing E in Brown Grove, Virginia

Brown Grove is a historically Black community in Hanover County, Virginia. Originally settled by free slaves in 1870, they founded the Brown Grove Baptist Church, which continues to be a central part of the neighborhood 150 years later. Now a tight-knit community of hundreds of people who have thrived through adversity because of their deep solidarity. This community has endured decades of industrial encroachment and neglect from government officials. This year, the community fought back against industrial gentrification when Wegmans grocery is planning the construction of a distribution center that would displace multiple burial sites, as well as wetlands that are essential to the area.⁸ Despite community efforts, Wegmans began construction of the distribution center in 2021. Amid the fight, there have been a few breakthroughs in favor of Brown Grove. The community succeeded in becoming a Virginia Landmark on the National Register of Historic Places, which would allow for them to gain protections. The community continues to fight for their right to clean air, clean water and dignity. In November, we supported the community by co-hosting an empowerment and strategic planning retreat, sponsored by ICTJ.⁹

⁶ [View the AARN Publications](#)

⁷ [Impact of Segregation Report](#); [Letter to Evanston City Council](#)

⁸ [The Community of Brown Grove vs. Wegmans](#)

⁹ [Empowerment and Strategic Planning Retreat](#)

Our Work at the Reparations 2022 Conference

The 3rd Annual Reparations 2022 Conference was held on April 1st and 2nd in collaboration with FirstRepair, AARN, the International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ), the Institute for the Study of Human Rights at Columbia University, and the Thurgood Marshall Civil Rights Center at Howard University School of Law. The goal of the conference had been to connect, support, and amplify African descendant communities in the battle for holistic reparations, which include the areas of restitution, rehabilitation, compensation, satisfaction, and guarantees of non-repetition.

A rubric for reparations efforts that's been used are racial harm, historical context, and efforts toward repair. Descendant communities are the focal point for these reparations efforts because they know how to articulate their experiences and create their own narratives for holistic repair, which is why an element of the Conference is an anthology style document that will be the collective creation of those who attended. The notes, thoughts, musings, conversations, and presentations that were developed over the course of the Conference shall serve as vital resources in the production of this reparative anthology.

The 3rd Annual Reparations Conference sought to build off the foundations that had been laid the previous two years, with a focus this year on: advancing reparations at the municipal and state level, developing regional cohorts, decolonizing the academy, building community coalitions, articulating the legal frameworks for repair, and providing avenues and resources as the journey for reparations continues. The focus of reparations-centered research and resources had been a focus on descendant communities, with the materials that had been developed engaging innovative perspectives that sought a multi-faceted approach to reparative work.

Section II, Head, Hands, Heart cont'd

Part 3 Heart: Serve Our Community through Public Engagement

Highlighting the scholarship, advocacy, and organizing victories from the Center's strategic plan.

The Center engages with community stakeholders to ensure that advocacy is driven by grassroots organizing in a bottom-up fashion. Although Howard University continues to provide leadership to the global community in the fields of civil and human rights, as well as in other interdisciplinary endeavors, the institution often fails to receive the accolades that it deserves. To bridge this gap, the Center has become a platform that connects Howard to the broader community.

This year, we provided a space for human and civil rights strategizing, an activity that not only builds social capital, but also provides the opportunity for Howard to showcase its ongoing civil and human rights work to practitioners and the public. This space created an opportunity for Howard's faculty, staff, and students to build connections with civil and human rights practitioners as we promoted joint advocacy projects. Further, a summary of media coverage and connections is listed below.

Achievements:

1. Website & Annual Newsletter: The Center maintains a website that publicizes our ongoing work on issues of civil and human rights. Further, the website provides information on employment opportunities, research opportunities, and other current happenings in the field. In the *News & Events* section of the website, ongoing media coverage of our work and interview with the director, Justin Hansford. The Center issues an annual newsletter and forwards additional publications to provide information on employment opportunities, research opportunities, and other current happenings in the field.

2. Strategy meetings: The Center hosted and/or participated in meetings and workshops designed to foster and support a community of advocates who explore strategic methods of promoting civil and human rights and racial justice. Many of these meetings were hosted on zoom platforms. Staff, students, volunteers and collaborators participated in approximately 20 - 40 meetings per month. We participated in ongoing meetings and events with the following:

Advancement Project GA SB202 Litigation & Organizing Work Groups
African American Policy Forum Working Groups (including CRT Hotline organizing)
African American Redress Network Community Meetings & Work Sessions
Black Veteran's Project
DC Police Accountability Task Force
National African American Reparations Commission (NAARC)
Law4BlackLives DC
Protect Dissent
Howard x Athletes for Impact
Howard Clinics x Zealous
International AIDS Society
Justice Initiative Planning Sessions and Working Groups
NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund Meetings
New Leaders Council
Howard University Council of Center Directors
Howard University Executive Council: Women, Gender & Global Leadership Center
Kwame Toure Study Group
Public Counsel Small Group
Center for Constitutional Rights Governance Committee
United States Senate and House of Representatives

The White House
 Oprah Winfrey Charitable Foundation
 #TruthBeTold Campaign Meetings

The Center attracts participants and representatives from prominent legal and non-legal advocacy organizations, therefore students were exposed to private meetings with national and international leaders, prominent authors and scholars, grassroots organizers and community members in a range of settings that will better prepare them for the practice of movement lawyering. In addition, the Center hosted workshops on an ad hoc basis to address urgent matters and specific themes. The Center held a workshop off campus at the International Student House to progress human rights. In addition, we met with multiple law firms including The Arent Fox Center for Racial Equality; Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe; and many more.

3. Legal and organizing collaborations with social justice movements:

- [Law4Black Lives](#)
- [AARN](#)
- [Movement for Black Lives](#)
- [The Micheal O.D. Brown We Love Our Sons & Daughters Foundation](#)
- [Spirit of Mandela](#)
- [Justice for Garvey](#)
- [Free Sundiata Acoli.](#)

4. Public Education & Media: The Center engaged the general public through events, activities and trainings for community members on civil and human rights issues, in particular on issues affecting racial justice. The Center also uses media interviews, social media and other innovative tools for educating the public about civil and human rights issues.

Media Mentions Fiscal Year 2021-22 ¹⁰

Professor Hansford, and as a result the TMCRC and the law school, appeared in dozens of national news publications, including twice in the [New York Times](#), [Time Magazine](#), [USA Today](#), and [ABC News](#). These media mentions raise the profile of the center, aiding in fundraising and increasing the prestige of the law center and the university, while also advocating for the causes supported by our organizing partners.

Search term	Article Title	Media Outlet	Link to Article	Date
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¹⁰ See original spreadsheet:
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1z4n0AsS3kqIgt5XxkPajqw_eaU3qMNtatJIII7cGkfM/edit#gid=0

Justin Hansford	Why free speech is under attack from the right and left	Christian Science Monitor	https://www.csmonitor.com/USA/Politics/2021/0701/Why-free-speech-is-under-attack-from-right-and-left	July 1, 2021
TMCRC	Breonna Taylor protestors question arrests after charges dismissed – PAYWALL - cannot view article	Courier Journal	https://www.courier-journal.com/search/?q=Justin+hansford	July 6, 2021
Justin Hansford	The First Amendment Faces Tests Amid Black Lives Matter Protests, Insurrection	WDET 101.9 FM	https://wdet.org/2021/08/24/the-first-amendment-faces-tests-amid-black-lives-matter-protests-	Aug 24, 2021
TMCRC	Orrick extends program of embedding associates at nonprofits	ABA Journal	https://www.abajournal.com/news/article/orrick-extends-program-of-embedding-associates-at-nonprofits	Oct 22, 2021
Justin Hansford	In a setback for Black Lives Matter, mayoral campaigns shift to 'law and order'	Washington Post	https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2021/10/30/crime-mayors-races/	Oct 30, 2021
Justin Hansford	Whistleblower featured in USA Today 'Behind the Blue Wall' series ousted from the police union	USA Today	https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/investigations/2021/11/12/union-ousts-police-officer-	Nov 12, 2021
TMCRC	Law firm that won settlement in Md. HBCU case donating \$12.5 million in fees	Washington Post	https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/education/law-firm-donates-settlement-hbcu/2021/11/19/4aacc588-4956-11ec-b8d9-232f4afe4d9b_story.html	Nov 19, 2021
Justin Hansford	Lawyers left racism out of the trial over Ahmaud Arbery's death. Here's why.	Vox	https://www.vox.com/22801394/racism-ahmaud-arbery-murder-trial	Nov 24, 2021
Justin Hansford	The uncomfortable truths hidden inside the Ahmaud Arbery verdict	Politico	https://www.politico.com/news/2021/11/24/uncomfortable-truths-ahmaud-arbery-verdict-523374	Nov 24, 2021
Justin Hansford	The significance of the verdicts in Ahmaud Arbery's murder	Vox	https://www.vox.com/2021/11/24/22798878/ahmaud-arbery-quietly-verdict-trial-mcmichaels-bryan	Nov 24, 2021
Justin Hansford	Maine keeps ruling police shootings as justified. Experts point to one needed reform.	Providence Journal	https://www.providencejournal.com/story/news/2021/11/30/experts-call-reform-maine-attorney-general-police-shootings-justified/8679388002/general-police-shootings-justified/8679388002/	Nov 30, 2021

Justin Hansford	Descendants of Marcus Garvey press Biden for posthumous pardon	Washington Post	https://www.washingtonpost.com/history/2021/12/04/marcus-garvey-biden-pardon/	Dec 4, 2021
Justin Hansford	Africa: The Election of Justin Hansford to the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent –	All Africa	https://allafrica.com/stories/202112200103.html	Dec 20, 2021
Justin Hansford	The Murky Finances of Black Lives Matter (The BLM Mystery)	New York Magazine	https://nymag.com/intelligencer/2022/01/black-lives-matter-finances.html	Jan 31, 2022
Justin Hansford	At Start of Black History Month, Over 350 Groups Urge House to Back H.R. 40	Human Rights Watch	https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/02/04/start-black-history-month-over-350-groups-urge-us-house-leadership-back-hr-40	Feb 4, 2022
Justin Hansford	Federal trial will focus on whether race was a motive in Ahmaud Arbery's death	NPR	https://www.npr.org/2022/02/09/1079654992/federal-trial-will-focus-on-whether-race-was-a-motive-in-ahmaud-arberys-death	Feb 9, 2022
Justin Hansford	Supporters rally for hairstyle protection bill The Charleston Gazette-Mail	The Charleston Gazette-Mail	https://www.wvgazettemail.com/news/politics/supporters-rally-for-hairstyle-protection-bill/article_94c4b481-8384-5bfa-ab57-dadeab4f8c9e.html	Feb 11, 2022
Justin Hansford	"Equity, Equality and Repair": the African-American Redress Network's Mission	Columbia Spectator	https://www.columbiaspectator.com/the-eye/2022/02/13/equity-equality-and-repair-the-african-american-redress-networks-mission/	Feb 14, 2022
Justin Hansford	Some on the right have first Black woman justice's qualifications under a microscope. It's not a new strategy.	Boston Globe	https://www.bostonglobe.com/2022/02/19/nation/some-right-have-first-black-woman-justices-qualifications-under-microscope-its-not-new-strategy/	Feb 19, 2022
Justin Hansford	What the hate crime verdicts in Ahmaud Arbery's death say about justice and race in America –	USA Today	https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2022/02/22/ahmaud-arbery-killers-hate-crime-conviction-what-means-race-justice/6892124001/?gnt-cfr=1	Feb 22, 2022
Justin Hansford	Ahmaud Arbery's killers convicted on federal hate crimes charges	Vox	https://www.vox.com/22922329/ahmaud-arbery-hate-crimes-federal-trial-guilty	Feb 22, 2022
Justin Hansford	Hate crimes, Ahmaud Arbery's murder and why motive matters	Christian Science Monitor	https://www.csmonitor.com/USA/Justice/2022/0223/Hate-crimes-Ahmaud-Arbery-s-murder-and-why-motive-matters	Feb 23, 2022

Justin Hansford	Trayvon Martin's death set off a movement that shaped a decade's defining moments	Washington Post	https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2022/02/25/trayvon-martins-death-set-off-movement-that-shaped-decades-defining-moments/	Feb 25, 2022
TMCRC	Fighting back against CRT Panic: Educators organize around the threat to academic freedom –	Salon	https://www.salon.com/2022/03/07/fighting-back-against-crt-panic-educators-organize-around-the-to-academic-freedom/	March 7, 2022
Justin Hansford	Judging a Judge on Race and Crime, G.O.P Plays to Base and Fringe	New York Times	https://www.nytimes.com/2022/03/22/us/politics/ketanji-brown-jackson-race.html?searchResultPosition=1	March 22, 2022
Justin Hansford	Map: Where anti-critical race theory efforts have reached	ABC News	https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/map-anti-critical-race-theory-efforts-reached/story?id=83619715	March 24, 2022
Justin Hansford	What an Anti-lynching law means in 2022	Vox	https://www.vox.com/22995013/anti-lynching-act-emmett-till	March 29, 2022
Justin Hansford	How Black American activism inspired the United Nations' recent fight for racial justice –	The Griot	https://thegriot.com/2022/03/30/black-american-activism-united-nations-racial-justice/	March 30, 2022
TMCRC	Around Amherst - Reparations Conference – "Amherst will be represented by District 1 Councilor Michele Miller"	Daily Hampshire Gazette	https://www.gazettenet.com/Around-Amherst-45754177	March 31, 2022
TMCRC	Congressman Cohen Presides at Hearing on Qualified Immunity Press Release– (Tiffany Wright, witness)	House.gov	https://cohen.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/congressman-cohen-presides-hearing-qualified-immunity	March 31, 2022
TMCRC	NYCLU, Groups Threaten to Sue If Mayor Bill de Blasio Extends New York City Curfew (Protesters Rights)	Harlem World Magazine	https://www.harlemworldmagazine.com/nyclu-groups-threaten-to-sue-if-mayor-bill-de-blasio-extends-new-york-city-curfew/	April 18, 2022
Justin Hansford	Remarks by Ambassador Thomas-Greenfield at Howard University's King Lecture Series with Donna Brazile, Justin Hansford, J.D., and Dr. Anthony Wutoh	US UN Mission	https://usun.usmission.gov/remarks-by-ambassador-thomas-greenfield-at-howard-universitys-king-lecture-series-with-donna-brazile-justin-hansford-j-d-and-dr-anthony-wutoh/	April 20, 2022

Justin Hansford	Black Lives Matter's Patrisse Cullors Denies Wrongdoing	Florida Politics	https://floridapolitics.com/archives/523120-black-lives-matters-patrisse-cullors-denies-wrongdoing/	May 9, 2022
Justin Hansford	After raising \$90 Million in 2020, Black Lives Matter has \$42 Million in Assets	New York Times	https://www.nytimes.com/2022/05/17/business/blm-black-lives-matter-finances.html	May 17, 2022
Justin Hansford	Slave Reparations Advocates Hail Historic California Report - AP News in Brief at 11:04 EDT	Columbus Telegram (AP News in Brief)	https://columbustelegram.com/news/national/ap-news-in-brief-at-11-04-p-m-edt/article_164c06a8-0c6c-552f-9bb0-c6b8d48cd2ab.html	June 1, 2022
Justin Hansford	After groundbreaking slave reparation report, what next?	Spectrum News	https://spectrumnews1.com/oh/columbus/ap-top-news/2022/06/02/after-groundbreaking-slave-reparations-report-what-next	June 2, 2022
Justin Hansford	CHANGEMAKER: Howard Professor Elected to First U.N. Forum on Black Justice	WDVM (Local news station)	https://www.localdvm.com/news/capitol-review/changemaker-howard-professor-elected-to-first-u-n-forum-on-black-justice/	June 18, 2022
Justin Hansford	State Dept 'racial equity' czar said white colleagues too 'protective' of US, lack 'humility, empathy'	American Military News	https://americanmilitarynews.com/2022/06/state-dept-racial-equity-czar-said-white-colleagues-too-protective-of-us-lack-humility-empathy/	June 21, 2022

Section III:

CHALLENGES FACED BY THE THURGOOD MARSHALL CENTER

Outlining the Challenges Faced by the Thurgood Marshall Civil Rights Center

Issue 1 – Fundraising & Budget

Over the past few years, the Center has successfully fundraised millions of dollars. In the 2020-21 fiscal year over 2 million was raised. In the 2021-22 fiscal year over \$700,000 was raised. However, accessing funds proved challenging. There is a complex system for recording and reporting funds that the Managing Director of the Center does not have access to in

Workday or any other platforms that provide reports on the budget. As a result, a series of budget meetings was scheduled and implemented to ameliorate the challenges. Requests for funds for events, meals, travel, court fees and other expenses were not able to be accommodated in a timely fashion. This has led to utilizing external partners to distribute funds. For example, the Center was provided funds to support Kerry McLean's work as an international human rights attorney. After several months, the funding had to be returned to the donor organization. While the issues are complex, the result has been demoralizing and has created an aversion to the use of funds. In lieu of accepting funds directly to the Center, our partner orgs have stepped up to assist with processing the expenses for events including the conferences, programs and the award ceremony at the National Museum of African American History. The Center's Executive Director and Managing Director collectively have paid nearly \$10,000 out of pocket in order to facilitate functions including filing fees for court, travel fees for conferences, costs for food for events and other expenses incurred by the Center.

Outlining the Challenges Faced by the Thurgood Marshall Civil Rights Center

Issue 2 – Human Resources & Admin

Human resources challenges consumed an unreasonable amount of time and energy. In spite of a rigorous interviewing process that included vetting hundreds of resumes and conducting interviews with the assistance of faculty partners, the Center was not able to successfully hire a grant-funded Environmental Justice Attorney by the end of the year, as allocated in the grant application. While the candidates were selected in the fall, the process for onboarding the grant-funded Environmental Justice Attorney and the two law teaching fellows extended several additional months. The two grant-funded positions were filled in June, after nearly 18 months of delays and extension requests to the grantmaker. During the process, several candidates that accepted the job offers were no longer willing or able to start because the onboarding process was so slow, in terms of months, that the candidates had to take other employment offers. The Center produced a report which was submitted to Dean Holley Walker outlining the challenges faced with HR on main campus. The process of recruiting and selecting candidates was costly and time consuming.

Section IV:

GOALS and EXPECTATIONS FOR THE THURGOOD MARSHALL CENTER

Outlining the Challenges Faced by the Thurgood Marshall Civil Rights Center

GOALS & EXPECTATIONS: 2022-2023

Goals for the coming year. The Center hopes to continue to provide a platform for students to interact with lawyers and law students from around the world as part of a community of advocates for social justice. During the upcoming year, the Center also hopes to bring on an advisory board, conduct a new round of strategic planning, launch a special program with prominent guest speakers in civil and human rights, and host a symposium on the 7th Edition of Race, Racism, and American Law. The Center plans to expand its capacity with the law teaching fellow, the grant-funded fellow, and the environmental justice attorney that were hired this year. Given Justin Hansford's election to the United Nations Forum, a two-year term, the Center plans to support programming and travel with law students, faculty and collaborators

- Summer 2022 Activities
 - Professor Hansford will co-host [CRT Summer School 2022](#)
 - Initiate creation of TMCRC Advisory Board
 - Justice Initiative Back to School - Ice Cream Social (August 18, 2022)
- Fall 2022 Activities
 - UNPFPAD Press Conference (August 31, 2022)
 - Congressional Black Caucus - Annual Legislative Conference (Sept 2022)
 - United Nations Meeting in New York City (September 18, 2022)
 - United Nations Meeting in Geneva, Switzerland (December 2022)
 - Lantern Walk in Africatown, Alabama (TBD)
 - Screenings and Book signings - The Big Payback, Bryon Baine (TBD)
- Spring 2023
 - Host symposium on Race, Racism and American Law
 - Co-host symposium on Environmental Justice with EJ faculty
 - Spring Break Activity
 - End of the Semester event