



5-11-1984

## College of Law Data on Status of Blacks (1984)

Commission for Blacks

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UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE  
COLLEGE OF LAW

Date May 11, 1984

MEMORANDUM

TO: Janice Wright, Staff Assistant  
Commission for Blacks

FROM: Doug Wells, Assistant Dean  
College of Law

SUBJECT: Data on Status of Blacks

Some of the statistical data requested in your memo of September 29, 1983 is not available and can not be easily re-constructed: particularly information on the number of black applicants over a five year period. Information on the number of blacks to matriculate in the College of Law over that period is readily available and is attached. (See chart entitled Black Enrollment in the College of Law 1976-1984.) Likewise a breakdown of the students currently enrolled in the College by sex and year is also attached.

What follows, I hope is responsive to the request you made in your memo:

Financial Assistance

Presently, 100% of the black law students receive some form of financial aid. Over the past two years the law school has been aggressive in seeking funds to provide scholarship and fellowship assistance to students seeking to attend the University of Tennessee College of Law. Scholarship funds come from several sources. Major monies have been obtained from the Tennessee Higher Education Commission to carry out desegregation activities within the law school. In addition the law school has for the past four years been a recipient of major fellowships from the U.S. Department of Education under the Graduate and Professional Opportunities Program. These monies make it possible for us to provide full maintenance scholarships to many of our students and partial maintenance scholarships to others. Still others assume a portion of their law school finances in National Direct and Guaranteed Student Loans.

Other sources of financial assistance have been the Alcoa Minority Scholarship, which allows us to award one scholarship per year to a minority student in the amount of \$1,750 and the Bonham Scholarships which are typically in the amount of approximately \$4,000.

Presently, all of the 28 students enrolled in the Law College receive scholarship assistance. Some receive full maintenance scholarships and others receive partial maintenance awards. Still others are supported by some combination of scholarship and loans.

### Special Programs

Legal education is essentially general education. All law students take a core curriculum of courses along with several electives of their choice. Within the Law College there is very little in the way of specialization. Consequently, there are few academic programs as such which attract any more attention from law students than others. Having taken the required courses a student is then free to select electives in any areas they wish. Popular areas include Constitutional Law, Corporate Law, Business Law, Tax and Estate Planning. The Law College has one of the oldest and most respected clinical programs in the country. It allows third-year law students to represent indigent clients in a variety of Tennessee courts. In fact under Tennessee law a student clinician can represent indigent clients in any court in the state. Students in the College of Law may select clinic as a third-year elective course. The course includes a trial practice sequence which familiarizes the student with trial techniques as well as rudimentary rules of evidence. Each student is then assigned a case load of approximately a dozen or more cases and represents those clients with the guidance of an attorney-instructor. It is one of the most popular programs in the College of Law.

The College is also known for its Public Law Institute, which is a vehicle for educating the public and the Tennessee Judiciary about new developments in the law. In addition, the Institute publishes the Judicial Newsletter, which provides students with an opportunity for writing and publication. Of course, the College of Law has a Law Review of which it is very proud. Law Review is a student-edited and student-run journal which publishes scholarly legal writing by students and law professors as well as practitioners. It is widely circulated throughout the state and the nation, and it provides students with an excellent opportunity for indepth research and writing. To my knowledge there have been three black students selected for membership to this prestigious journal. One is currently enrolled. Candidacy is open to any student who is in good standing at the beginning of their second year. Standards for selection are very rigorous.

The College of Law is likewise known throughout the state and beyond the boundaries of Tennessee for its outstanding Moot Court Program. These programs provide students with an opportunity to engage in oral advocacy and brief writing, two key skills for practicing attorneys. The College participates in several national competitions as well as a well-respected and well-run intramural competition. Between the intra and extra-mural competitions every student has an opportunity to participate in some oral advocacy program. It should be noted that one of the national competitions in which the University participates when there is student interest is the Frederick Douglass Moot Court Competition, which is sponsored every year by the National Black Law Students Association.

### Recruitment

The College of Law aggressively recruits talented black students from colleges in the state of Tennessee and outside of the state. During the 1983-84 school year, we recruited primarily for black students at the major institutions in Tennessee and at traditionally black campuses in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Mississippi, the District of Columbia and Louisiana. The College recruits at more than 20 other campuses, where a concerted effort is made to seek out minority students. Recruitment efforts have been very successful in the last year. In 1983-84 for the first time the College admitted a class which was nearly 10% black (9%) and raised its minority enrollment for the first time to the 5% mark. While the numbers are not great, they are now beginning to be consistent with what other law schools in the nation have been able to accomplish.

### Employment in the Law School

There are no reliable statistics available on the number of blacks that have worked in the law school within the last five years. Since I have been associated with the University of Tennessee Law School for the past seven years, I feel certain that my recollections on this aspect are correct. While there may have been black employees prior to September 1977, there have been only two blacks in the College of Law in a professional rank since that time. One is myself. The other is Professor Otis Cochran.

My position is Assistant Dean for Admissions and Financial Aid. My primary responsibilities include the recruitment of students, minority and non-minority; operation of the admissions process; and the awarding of financial aid.

Janice Wright  
May 11, 1984  
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Otis Cochran is an Associate Professor. He is a Yale University Law graduate. He teaches Criminal Law and Constitutional Law as well as an upper division seminar in the spring.

#### Campus Relationships

A number of measures have probably already been suggested to improve relationships among black students on campus. I have little to add. However, I might add that greater participation of black graduate students in the Black Alumni Reunions might be productive. I also think that it would be an excellent idea to resurrect the idea of a black graduate council, an organization of black students who could come together for social purposes and professional enhancement. I am aware that this idea has been tried before but perhaps now is the time to pull it out of the closet and brush it off again. At other schools I have also seen a newsletter about black graduate students used very effectively.

#### Conclusion

I hope the information I have provided has been helpful. If I may provide you with other information or you would like me to direct my comments to other areas please just give me a call at 974-4131.

## BLACK LAW STUDENTS

Student	Sex	Year
Andrews, Joel	M	1st
Brown, Keith	M	1st
Davis, Aubrey	M	3rd
Fentress, Lorri	F	1st
Fuller, Gwen	F	1st
Funchess, Glenda	F	3rd
Gaines, Carla	F	2nd
Goss, Tylvester	M	1st
Grant, Kathi	F	3rd
Harris, Karen	F	2nd
Hill, Ruth	F	3rd
Horton, O'dell	M	1st
Hudson, Linda	F	3rd
Hudson, Mark	M	1st
Humphrey, Darryl	M	1st
Jones, Owaiian	M	1st
Landers, Ronald	M	1st
Lemeh, Eva	F	1st
Martin, Mary	F	1st
Rivers, Alan	M	1st
Russell, Sheila	F	2nd
Sneed, Michael	M	3rd
Talley, Lynn	F	1st
Thomas, Natalie	F	1st
Thompson, Bret	M	2nd
Webster, Karen	F	2nd
White, Zondra	F	2nd
Wilson, Karen	F	3rd

TABLE 9

BLACK ENROLLMENT IN THE COLLEGE OF LAW  
(1976-1984)

Academic Year	Black Entering Students	Total Black Enrollment	Number of Black Graduates
1976-77	15	20	1
1977-78	11	22	3
1978-79	4	14	6
1979-80	10	16	4
1980-81	4	11	2
1981-82	8	12	2
1982-83	8	17	2
1983-84	15	28	7*

\*Projected for June 1984.

# REPORT OF SUB-COMMITTEE FOR COLLEGE OF LAW

- I Department or project: College of Law
- II Director of project: ~~Fair~~ Charles Fair
- III Information Requested of Department

- a. Indicate the number of Blacks presently enrolled in law school by sex and year.
- b. Any available data on the number of Black applicants in the last five years.
- c. What percentage of the Black students receive scholarships, fellowships, and loans?
- d. Indicate which law program attracts the majority of the Blacks students excepted into UTK's program.

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- e. Any data on recruitment policies of the law school. (What is being done to increase the number of Blacks in law school?)
- f. Give any available data on Blacks who have worked in the College of Law in the past 5 years (full-time, part-time, student employees)
- g. Give a brief statement on your position in the College of Law.
- h. Give suggestions to improve the quality and relationship among Blacks and minorities on campus (i.e. graduate women, Black freshmen, faculty etc.)
- j. Any information not requested above that would benefit this study.

IV Compilation of Data Received:  
See the attached



# COLLEGE OF LAW

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The Commission recommends that more blacks be recruited into the law school.
2. The Commission urges the College of law to hire more blacks, the two blacks currently on the College (Doug Wells and Otis Cochran) is a far cry from the ideal representation of blacks.

## COMMENDATIONS:

1. The Commission Commends Doug Wells for his concerted effort in providing all the necessary information requested.
2. The Commission Commends the College of law for providing 100% financial assistance to its black students.