

*Earl Carl Institute for Legal  
& Social Policy, Inc.*



*Year-End Report*  
*2003-2004*

**Earl Carl Institute for Legal & Social Policy**  
**Year-End Report**  
**September 2003 – August 2004**

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This report of the Earl Carl Institute illustrates our achievements during academic year, 2003-2004. The ECI Office is currently located on the campus of Texas Southern University at the Thurgood Marshall School of Law, Office #130, TMSL Modules. Our phone number is (713) 313-1139; Fax number: (713) 313-1049.

**EDUCATION TASK FORCE**

Earlier this year the institute established the Education Task Force as an interdisciplinary research team to address public education. The Institute is working in collaboration with TSU's Education, Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs Departments and the Mickey Leland Center. Dr. Jay Cummings is chair of the Task Force. Current Task force members are:

- Dr. Jay Cummings, Dean – College of Education
- Dr. Don Woods, Dean – Public Affairs Department
- Professor Carroll Robinson – Public Affairs Department
- Professor Thomas Kleven
- Professor Kim Brooks
- Professor John Brittain
- Professor James Douglas
- Mr. George Scott
- Mr. Daniel Chism

Ad-Hoc Members:

- Professor James W. Beard, Jr. – President Earl Carl Institute
- Professor Marcia Johnson, Director – Earl Carl Institute

The task force has been active this year. In addition to publishing a position paper and an op ed piece on public school funding in Texas, the task force has launched a disparity study on Texas students academic performance.

**FINANCE**

*Status of Grant Applications*

*Grants Approved:*

- The institute received \$15,000 in funding from the Texas Bar Foundation to help fund the Institute's Trial Advocacy division. Through this division, the institute provides legal services to various clients by

collaborating with community-based organizations. The Institute also provides legal counsel to small community organizations and indigent clients.

The funding also provided stipends and training for nine (9) students over the funding period. This represented an average annual stipend of \$2,778.00 per student.

- The Thurgood Marshall School of Law provided the Institute with \$14,400 in stipends for students to conduct summer research. The law school continues to provide office space, equipment and staff to the institute at an estimated value of approximately \$500,000 .

### ***Grants Denied***

- The Institute submitted a proposal requesting \$500,000 over a two year period to fund the Justice Project, which is specifically designed to address, civil and human rights problems. This request made to the Houston Endowment, Inc. was denied in May, 2004.
- The institute submitted a funding proposal to the Environmental Protection Agency in collaboration with the Environmental Justice Center. The request was for \$256,000.00 to be used for Training on using Environmental Laws to Achieve Environmental Justice. The institute's role was community outreach and research. This request was denied in July 2004.

### ***Other Pending Applications:***

A number of other funding applications are being reviewed for future submission.

### **AUDIT**

The certified public accounting firm of Gomez and Associates performed the audit for the institute. Gomez also prepared all requisite Internal Revenue Service filings. The clean audit report is available at the ECI Office for review and is scheduled to be uploaded to the institute web page later this term.

### **Institute for Trial Advocacy – ITA**

During the 2003-04 period, the Institute for Trial Advocacy (a division of ECI), received and processed cases that involved various fields of law, including family, labor, probate and real estate litigation.

The following is a list of cases represented by the Institute and their status.

<b>Date Rec'd</b>	<b>Type Case</b>	<b>Status</b>
9/23/03	Divorce w/custody	Case Closed
10/25/03	Divorce	Case Closed
3/12/04	Appeal from Eminent Domain Judgment	Case was not accepted
10/17/03	Suit Affecting Parent/Child Relationship	Cased closed
9/23/03	Divorce/Custody	Case closed. Client retained another attorney.
3/22/04	Wrongful Termination	Case was not accepted.
3/1/04	Custody	Pending – Case filed April 2004
9/25/03	Divorce/Custody	Case Closed
9/25/03	Divorce	Case closed
02/2002	Probate	Case closed.
12/31/02	Deceptive Trade Practice & Warranty Claim	Case Closed

### **STUDENT RESEARCH PROJECTS**

Below are research projects the ECI students have worked on during the term. Those projects fall into five (5) different categories. They are shown below:

#### **I. International Policy**

- Oil: Weapon of Mass Destruction, by: Chris Payne;
- Comparison between U.S. and International Prison Systems, Brock Benjamin;

#### **II. Public Education**

- Funding Public Education in Texas, Daniel Chism;
- Private School vs. Public School, Ericka T. Linden;
- Same Sex Schools, Equator Turner;
- No Child Left Behind Act, Natasha Gransberry;

### III. Criminal Justice

- Racial Profiling, E. Marie Jamison;
- Who Actually Commits Crimes, Amanda Downey;
- Charitable Trusts, Sandra Dieudonne;
- Rehabilitation in Prisons, Deborah Ham;
- Prison Violence, Farrah Gathright;
- Comparison between U.S. and International Prison Systems, Brock Benjamin;
- American Prison Systems, Anthony Farmer;

### IV. Housing

- Barriers to Homeownership, Mary King;
- the Levittown Project, Ryan Leach
- Municipal Land conveyance in Texas Vivian Gulley
- HUD homeownership programs—An overview Angela Graves-Harrington

### V. Labor

- Employee Handbook, Angela Graves-Harrington

## **TRAINING**

On June 22, 2004, Sametria McKinney and Vendetta Lavine attended a Grant Basic Seminar presented by the United Way. This seminar showed the basic steps to writing grant proposals, such as what specific information the grantor is interested in and how to present this information in the proposal. How much to ask for and how to word your proposal such that it would hold the interest of the individual reading it.

The institute provided a Research Training session for its Legal Research Students in July 2004. Professor Spearman designed the session to assist them in researching articles and other legal information via Westlaw, Lexis and other legal search sites. It was also geared to helping students search in a timely fashion and get as much pertinent information available regarding a specific topic.

## **ECI ASSISTANTS**

The institute welcomed two new operations assistants. In September, 2003, Vendetta Lavine was assigned by Dean Carrington to serve as ECI Administrator. Ms. Lavine is responsible for overseeing the day to day administrative activities for the institute. In February 2004, Sametria McKinney, TSU undergraduate student began working with ECI as student assistant to Ms. Lavine.

Earl Carl Institute for Legal & Social Policy, Inc.  
Texas Southern University  
T.S.U. Box 1156  
Thurgood Marshall School of Law  
3100 Cleburne Street  
Houston, Texas 77004