

# 2013 Oliver Hill/Samuel Tucker Pre-Law Institute

by Latoya C. Asia and Providence E. Napoleon

The 2013 Oliver Hill/Samuel Tucker Pre-Law Institute (HTI) continued to affect the lives of young people by nurturing their interest in the legal profession. About thirty students participated in the institute this year — twenty new and ten returning — aged 13 to 21. The 2013 HTI class included students from all over Virginia, one from Maryland, and one from Ohio. These students were also from diverse racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds.

Held on July 7–12, 2013, at the University of Richmond, the institute drew distinguished individuals from the legal profession, dedicated and committed to increasing diversity in the legal profession. Judges Roger L. Gregory of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, James R. Spencer of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, and Justice Cleo E. Powell of the Supreme Court of Virginia spoke with the students who toured their courthouses. Delegate Jennifer L. McClellan of the Virginia General Assembly visited the students and led a mock session on how bills become laws, after which the students toured the Virginia Capital. Richmond City Sheriff C. T. Woody and Tony Pham, general counsel of the Richmond City Sheriff's Office, gave the students an unforgettable tour of the city jail and spent time answering the students' questions.

On the first evening of the institute, the students participated in an invaluable networking event. Several legal and non-legal professionals volunteered to interact with the students and exchange contact information. The students learned firsthand the art of networking. For personal and professional development, the students also participated in an etiquette dinner facilitated by a professional. This program allowed the students to understand fully the importance of dining etiquette and protocol, and



The Oliver Hill/Samuel Tucker Pre-law Institute at the University of Richmond drew students from Virginia, Maryland, and Ohio in the summer of 2013.

how they will continue to play an important role in their lives as they pursue further education and their careers.

Throughout the week, the students prepared for a mock trial held on the last day of the institute. Session topics included opening statements, closing arguments, direct and cross examination, and evidence. We thank Raymond M. White, executive director of Virginia Continuing Legal Education, for the extensive and comprehensive training he provided. The students also had the opportunity to hear from and ask questions of a panel of admissions officers from Virginia Commonwealth

University and the University of Richmond, and from professionals representing traditional and alternative legal careers.

The 2013 HTI class graduated in style at the end of the week. Families and friends attended the graduation. The banquet's keynote speaker, Douglas B. Smith, director/assistant general counsel at Capital One, addressed the realities of the legal profession, inspiring the students on how they can each play their role in standing out and succeeding.

We have no doubt that in less than ten years the 2013 HTI class will represent our profession well.



Asia



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