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Phone: 512-476-0082

Email: vil3202@aol.com

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Gary L. Bledsoe named acting dean of TSU Thurgood Marshall School of Law



Gary L. Bledsoe, former Texas Southern University regent and renowned Austin trial lawyer has been named acting dean of Texas Southern University Thurgood Marshall School of Law, effective November 1. In his role, Bledsoe will serve as the chief academic, fiscal, and administrative officer of the law school, until further notice. His responsibilities will include academic and administrative leadership; leading and managing law school operations; advancing a vision for the school's future; fundraising; and building and sustaining partnerships and strong relationships with alumni of the law school and university. Bledsoe's appointment follows the recent resignation of Interim Dean Dr. James M. Douglas, who will continue his service to the law school as distinguished professor of law.

Bledsoe is no stranger to Texas Southern University (TSU), having served on the TSU Board of Regents from May 2007 through October 31, 2017. A trial lawyer, specializing in public interest, employment and civil rights law, including having handled voting rights and desegregation and employment discrimination litigation, Bledsoe has been lauded by an array of professional associations for his legal acumen and civil rights efforts.

Additionally, Bledsoe has a longstanding relationship with the NAACP, having served as the president of the Texas NAACP since 1991, on the NAACP National Board of Directors since 2003 and more recently, beginning his tenure of service as housing chair and legal committee vice-chair of the National NAACP.

GOP Uses Stephen Curry in an Attempt to Help Sell Proposed Tax Plan

by: Raul Dominguez | Associated Press



Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry (30) drives to the basket against the San Antonio Spurs during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Thursday, Nov. 2, 2017, in San Antonio. (AP Photo/Eric Gay)

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Golden State Warriors superstar Stephen Curry doesn't know how he became the only person named in the House Republicans' tax plan.

"It was weird, that's about it," Curry said following Golden State's 112-92 win over San Antonio Thursday night. "There's a lot of people wondering why I was called out, whatever the case may be, but mama, I made it."

Accompanying the 429-page bill unveiled Thursday were talking points for Republicans that included the following paragraph:

"The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act includes specific safeguards to prevent tax avoidance and help ensure taxpayers of all income levels play by the rules under this new fairer,

simpler tax system," the tax proposal stated. "Our legislation will ensure this much-needed tax relief goes to the local job creators it's designed to help by distinguishing between the individual wage income of NBA All-Star Stephen Curry and the pass-through business income of Steve's Bike Shop."

Curry learned about his place in the plan Thursday and had a question. "I wonder if Steve's Bike Shop is hiring," Curry tweeted.

Curry was the first NBA player to sign a supermax contract in July following a restructuring of the league's collective bargaining agreement. Perhaps that's why he was named an example for individual wage income.

In fact, the tax-writ-

ing Ways and Means Committee and its chairman, Rep. Kevin Brady, R-Texas, have mentioned famous people to explain the impact of tax policy on real people on several occasions.

A committee blog post in August referenced Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates, and in a speech in February, the chairman mentioned a football superstar, saying, "We decided that it was finally time to stop taxing Tom's Bike Shop and Tom Brady at the same rate."

A committee spokesman said Friday it uses well-known people to help explain wage income from small business income.

Curry has been singled out by Washington Republicans before — the top one, in fact. In September, President Donald

Trejo Receives Willie Wells Scholarship



Pictured are Estella Wells family and friends, as well as Huston-Tillotson University baseball coaches Alvin Moore, along with student, HT baseball player and scholarship recipient Alejandro Trejo (center). Estella Wells created the scholarship that is awarded annually in honor of her father Willie Wells who was known as one of the greatest baseball shortstops. Photo by Linda Y. Jackson.



RAPPIN' Tommy Wyatt A Conversation with Rep. Dawnna Dukes.

State Representative Dawnna Dukes went public this week when she appeared at a Texas Tribune News event. The Tribune invited the public and other media to attend the event. Dukes (D-Austin) has represented House District 46 since 1995. However, she has been under attack for the last two years for not taking care of the district's business at the capitol. First, because of health problems caused by an accident in 2013 and most recently fighting off indictments that she has been dealing with for more than a year.

During an interview by Evan Smith, CEO of the Tribune, Dukes says that her health problems have improved after she was able to get a new health team who correctly diagnosed her medical problem and got her back on the right tract. Her legal problems were cleared up on Monday, October 23, when Travis County District Attorney Margaret Moore announced that the felony charges against Dukes had been dismissed. The remaining issues of events at the state were also changed after it was determined that there was a misunderstanding of operating procedures at the capitol.

During the ongoing criminal investigation, Dukes remained silent on the advice of her legal team. In the meantime a number of prospective candidates have announced their intentions to run for her seat. They are having fundraisers all over the district.

But, Dukes has indicated that she will be running for reelection. She is the senior representative from the county in the capitol. In the coming days, we will be hearing a lot about this race. But, in the meantime, we should congratulate Rep. Dukes for her courageous fight that she put on to protect her health and reputation. It is clear that there are still a lot of questions.

There is a decision that the voters will have to make, "Should Dukes be judged on the last two sessions or should she be judged on how she has represented District 46 for the last 22 years?"

INSIDE



Afterschool program provides quality learning initiatives. See **RODDICK** Page 2



Hill, Sandberg and Davis headline women's conference. See **TEXAS** Page 3



South East Austin seeks to increase healthcare facilities. See **WOODY** Page 6

Trump criticized the Warriors for saying they may not visit the White House. Championship teams have traditionally visited the president, but the Warriors were wavering because of their disapproval of Trump.

Warriors coach Steve Kerr has roundly criticized Trump, as has Curry. But it was the two-time NBA MVP that drew Trump's ire.

"Going to the White House is considered a great honor for a championship team," Trump tweeted. "Stephen Curry is hesitating, therefore invitation is withdrawn!" Associated Press writer Donna Cassata in Washington contributed to this report.