

3rd Annual  
Shropshire Group  
Educational Leadership  
Awards Banquet

Tuesday, June 9, 2009  
Luxe Hotel  
Los Angeles, CA

**SG**

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## Program

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### 2009 Shropshire Group Educational Leadership Awards Banquet

June 9, 2009

#### **Introduction**

Ibiere Seck, Esq.

#### **Welcome**

Sonel Y. Shropshire, J.D.

#### **Dinner**

#### **Guest Speaker**

Jamon R. Hicks, Esq.

#### **Guest Speaker**

Sharon Gerber, Esq.

#### **2009 Humanitarian Award Honoree**

Roy Willis

#### **Recognition of 2008-2009 Shropshire Group Scholars**

#### **Closing Remarks**

Sonel Y. Shropshire, J.D.

## Table Sponsors

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Sharon Gerber Attorney Search

The Academic Network, Inc.

## Welcome

Thank you for joining us at the 3rd Annual Shropshire Group Educational Leadership Awards Banquet. As President and CEO of The Shropshire Group, Inc., my mission is to eliminate the academic or financial barriers which could cause minority students to forfeit their ambition of attending law school. Having been Dean of Admissions at several law schools, including UCLA, I have seen the challenge firsthand in providing minority candidates the extensive guidance needed to gain acceptance into law school.

Since 2006, we have provided over \$84,000 in funding for books stipends, test preparation, campus visits, tuition, and application fees. Our scholars are currently succeeding in law school and acting as mentors to other minority candidates. We have conducted 41 “Keys to Law School Admission” seminars nationwide reaching over 1,600 minority students. This year, we are proud having selected a group of scholars who truly represent academic excellence and dedication.

Our annual banquet recognizes the Shropshire Group Scholars who will be attending law school this fall and those who have supported diversity within legal education. We are proud to have received prestigious support from Corporate Counsel Women of Color, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., Langston Bar Association, US Bank, The Magic Johnson Foundation, Inc., Disney/ABC Television Group, National Congress of American Indians, Mexican American Bar Association, Puerto Rican Legal Defense Fund, and many law schools and community organizations.

I look forward to a remarkable evening of highlighting the accomplishments of the future of educational perseverance.

Best regards,  
Sonel Y. Shropshire, J.D.



## Scholars

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### The Shropshire Group Scholars (2006-2009)

#### 2006-2007

Kami Broyles  
Courtney Cunningham  
Sheri Fadeyi  
Elvira Pereda  
Monique Robinson  
Devin Taylor

#### 2007-2008

Randal Curtis  
Karen Huang  
Regina Rivera  
Maheen Siddiqqi  
Tammara Whitaker

#### 2008-2009

Olivia Garibay  
Cecilia Hong  
Angelo Mathay  
Mayra Alejandra Pop  
Saundré Scott  
Colin Seale

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## Guest Speakers

### **Jamon R. Hicks, Esq.**

Jamon R. Hicks is an associate in private practice at the Douglas Law Group in Beverly Hills. Mr. Hicks has the unique experience of practicing in the areas of civil litigation and criminal defense, representing plaintiffs in state and federal courts. His civil litigation experience involves wrongful death, serious personal injury and police misconduct cases. He also has litigated numerous felony and misdemeanor criminal cases, such as attempted murder, assault and battery on peace officers, criminal threats, drug and gun possession, driving under the influence and juvenile adjudications.



In addition to practicing law, Mr. Hicks is a member of the adjunct faculty at Loyola Law School as a Head Coach for the nationally recognized Byrne Trial Advocacy Team. From time-to-time, he has served as a guest teacher teaching trial skills to law students and high school students. Mr. Hicks has also participated on and helped organize numerous panels on criminal law, career advice, and other legal issues at Los Angeles area law schools. For his active community involvement as well as early career accomplishments, Mr. Hicks was nominated for the California Young Lawyers Association's Jack Berman Young Lawyer of the Year Award in 2007.

Finally, Mr. Hicks serves on various professional, educational and community boards. He is the youngest President in the history of the John M. Langston Bar Association, and serves as a board member for the California Association of Black Lawyers (CABL) and the Multi-Cultural Bar Alliance (MCBA). He also a member of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America (ATLA), Consumer Attorneys Association of Los Angeles (CAALA), Los Angeles County Bar Association (LACBA), the National Bar Association (NBA), and Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. Mr. Hicks also serves on the boards of the Yes-U-Can Non-Profit Foundation and AIM (Assemblies in Motion), a non-profit organization confronting juvenile crime and victimization, drug abuse, gang violence and other pressing issues facing at-risk youth. Additionally, he has served on the boards of the California Young Lawyers Association (CYLA) as a District 7 Representative, and College Bound Alumni Advisory Board (CBAAB).

Mr. Hicks received his Bachelors with honors from the University of California, Berkeley in 2001 and his J.D. from Loyola Law School in 2004. At Loyola Law School, Mr. Hicks was a National Finalist and Member of Byrne Trial Advocacy Team, and he received the Karl Suethe Award for Excellence in Trial Advocacy. He has the distinct honor of participating as a Trial Advocacy Western Regional Champion and National Finalist as both a student (2003-2004) and coach (2008-2009).

### **Sharon Gerber, ESQ.**

Sharon Gerber is the President and founder of Sharon Gerber Attorney Search, Inc. Sharon Gerber Attorney Search, Inc. specializes in the permanent placement of attorneys in-house at all levels at corporate legal departments nationally and internationally. Sharon has been in the legal search industry since 1994. Sharon's in-house counsel placements are extensive due to her own in-house role as well as her experience as a law firm litigator and as a manager of the legal staffing department of an international company.



Sharon's success in the legal recruiting industry is due to her high standard of ethics, loyal client base, long term candidate relationships, attention to detail, and commitment to excellence. Sharon has served as a speaker or moderator for the Los Angeles County Bar Association, Black Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles, UCLA School of Law, University of Michigan Law School, and for the National Association of Legal Search Consultants (NALSC). Sharon Gerber received her JD from the University of Houston College of Law where she served on the Houston Journal of International Law. She earned her BS in Business Administration with Honors from the University of Texas at Austin.

## Humanitarian

### Roy Willis

Roy Willis joined Lennar Communities of the Bay Area in June, 1999, as its Operations Director for Lennar's 550 acre Hunters Point Shipyard Redevelopment Project (Shipyard). He has had responsibility for all aspects of the day-to-day planning, management, and community affairs of this soon-to-be, new, urban, waterfront, mixed-use development on the San Francisco Bay. His recent 2003-2004 successes include the approval of a development agreement with the City's Redevelopment Agency to build 1600 homes and 300,000 sf of commercial development at the Shipyard and approval by the U.S. Navy to transfer land to the City and developer for this purpose. Mr. Willis currently serves as Executive Vice President, Lennar Urban Development (Southern California Division).



Willis enrolled at the University of Virginia in 1959 and became the first African American student in 1960. He graduated with a B.S. in chemistry in 1962. After working as a chemist for a year, he served for 2 years as an officer in the U.S. Army and then worked for the Service Bureau Corporation.

Willis enrolled at Harvard Business School in 1967, and earned his MBA in 1969, with special interest in urban, economic and international development. While at Harvard, he co-founded the Harvard Business School/African American Student Union (HBS/AASU) to recruit and financially assist students who were admitted to the MBA program.

Willis then came to the San Francisco Bay Area in 1969, and worked on a variety of community planning and urban development initiatives. His career has been defined by his strong desire to improve the social and economic conditions of blighted African American and other urban communities. In 1976, Willis joined the Urban Reinvestment Task Force, which in 1977 became the National Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation with Willis as its Western Regional Director. Their efforts helped to create the Community Reinvestment Act of 1977, requiring major financial institutions to make capital available to blighted minority communities, across the nation, for housing and economic development purposes. He worked in this field until 1981 when he joined the international development firm Olympia & York, and worked closely with then San Francisco Mayor Dianne Feinstein, her staff and officials of the City's Redevelopment Agency, to gain approval for the development of Yerba Buena Gardens; a highly successful mixed-use development project which has spurred redevelopment of San Francisco's South of Market area. Willis left Olympia & York in 1986, to become a real estate development consultant.

In 1987, Willis went to Los Angeles where he served as Deputy Administrator for Community Development for the Los Angeles Community Development Agency.

(Agency) during the Bradley and Riordan administrations. For 12 years, he successfully managed a wide variety of downtown and neighborhood redevelopment projects. Under Willis' leadership, the Agency received broad-based, national acclaim for envisioning and executing the Watts and the South Los Angeles Renaissance Program; a major redevelopment initiative envisioned, planned and developed in response to the Los Angeles civil disturbances of 1992, following the Rodney King verdict.

Willis and his wife Dean now reside in San Francisco and are the proud parents of four children who have grown up to pursue careers in the entertainment industry. Daughter Gena is a production vice-president of singer/actress Vanessa Williams' film and musical production company. A second daughter Tiffany, until recently, was the producer of the Judge Judy and Judge Joe Brown television shows, for which she was nominated for an Emmy award. A third daughter, Nia, is a lawyer for a non-profit foundation in Chicago, Illinois. Son Maceo is a screen-writing graduate from USC's Graduate School of Cinema.


Willis was born in 1939 in Halifax County, North Carolina and raised in Norfolk, Virginia by his parents, Reverend Percy Willis and Mildred Willis.



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Dean & Law Professor Peter C. Alexander (pictured right) at Giant City State Park in Carbondale, IL







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Congratulations to the 2008-2009 Scholars.



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