



NEWS RELEASE

Savannah-Chatham County Public School System
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Savannah High Students Selected to Minority Law and Research Institute

Just 50 students across fifteen states were selected for this prestigious program.



Ten students from the Law and Criminal Justice program at Savannah High have been selected to participate in a summer program designed to expose youth to careers in law, research, and the legal profession. The Minority Law and Research Institute is described as an effective method for identifying and recruiting future lawyers and legal professionals. Savannah High's Olliek Bonaparte is excited for the opportunity. "It's a full hands on experience that a lot of other summer programs don't offer."

The program is made possible by Aunt Berta's Kids Education Foundation. Students who were selected attended a pre-qualifying day and participated in a series of written, oral, and group presentations to supplement the application process. Students participated in a public speaking exercise and learned how to brief three key Supreme Court cases: Plessy v. Ferguson, Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, and Miranda v. Arizona. Each year during the pre-qualifying phase, Aunt Berta's Kids Education Foundation Founder and Executive Director Dr. Joseph Haden, Sr. interacts with candidates and their parents to discuss preparations for Law and Research experience. He notes the 2013 program marks the 13th year for the Minority Law and Research Institute (MLARI). The program will be held this summer at Southern University and A&M College's Law Center in Baton Rouge, Louisiana from June 16-June 27. The intense two-week program will motivate and expose minority students to consider careers in the field of Law and encourage them to set high expectations for academic achievement.

A total of 50 high school students selected from 15 states will experience two weeks of simulated law school as they participate in legal research, visits to courtrooms, mock trials, in-depth classroom discussions and networking opportunities with career professionals. "The MLARI program is a phenomenal opportunity for students to be exposed to the judicial system in such a unique and challenging format," said Savannah High mock trial attorney coach Denise Cooper. "It's a life changing experience."

Savannah High's Law and Criminal Justice student participants include Audrenique Albury, Dominique Andrews, Olliek Bonaparte, Le'Quan Collins, Milenah Doswell, Kayla Oates, Daquan Smith, Daija Thomas, Hailey Thorpe and Courntei Williams. Former participant and four-year Savannah High Mock Trial Team member Raven Daniels was happy for this year's student participants. "MLARI was a great experience for me. I learned a lot in a short amount of time. No doubt this new group of selected students will find the MLARI program equally as exciting!"