FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UH Law Center: Black History Month Lecture speaker Burr to analyze pre-Civil War ancestral history

HOUSTON, Feb. 23, 2021 - In commemoration of Black History Month, the University of Houston Law Center will host a virtual discussion led by University of New Mexico School of Law Professor Emeritus Sherri L. Burr at 5:30 p.m. on Feb. 25.

Burr's presentation is titled, "Genealogical Research into America's Antebellum Past: The Challenges of Finding the Enslaved, the Free, and Enslavers." Dean Leonard M. Baynes will serve as a commentator.

"We must analyze pre-Civil War ancestral history because too much of relations between races has been lost, misunderstood, or misinterpreted," Burr said. "This unexamined history continues to impact relations between races today."

“For many African-Americans, the search for historical ancestors is complicated by slavery," Baynes noted. "Professor Burr’s research provides hope that some will be able to fully trace their family roots. Moreover, Professor Burr’s genealogical discovery is very important because it evidences that there was a significant amount of race mixing during Antebellum times in both the South and the North."


After hearing Burr present part of her research in 2018, the Aaron Burr Association unanimously voted to acknowledge that Aaron Burr fathered two children of color with Mary Emmons and that all of their descendants were legitimate members of the Fairfield Branch of the Burr Family. In 2019, the Aaron Burr Association placed a memorial headstone, acknowledging his parentage, on the gravesite of John Pierre Burr at Eden Cemetery in Pennsylvania. Burr worked with the Aaron Burr Association for eight months to secure grant funding, design the headstone, arrange shipping, and installation.

The event is sponsored by the University of Houston Law Center’s Black Law Alumni group. Attendees will receive one hour of Texas continuing legal education credit.

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About the University of Houston

The University of Houston is a Carnegie-designated Tier One public research university recognized with a Phi Beta Kappa chapter for excellence in undergraduate education. UH serves the globally competitive Houston and Gulf Coast Region by providing world-class faculty, experiential learning and strategic industry partnerships. Located in the nation's fourth-largest city and one of the most ethnically and culturally diverse regions in the country, UH is a federally designated Hispanic- and Asian-American-Serving institution with enrollment of more than 47,000 students.