

THURGOOD FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW

DECEMBER 1, 2018

TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY



Dean Gary Bledsoe served as a facilitator for a discussion with author Carol Anderson at a recent Texas Book Festival. Bledsoe said Dr. Anderson has recently written another well received work regarding discrimination in voting, entitled, *One Person, No Vote*. In 2017, Anderson she was featured at festival for her book, *White Rage*. According to Bledsoe, Anderson’s book on voting rights has made such an important contribution to the topic of voting rights that the book was reviewed on C-Span2. Bledsoe describes Anderson’s book as providing a detailed account of the history of voting discrimination in America. In her book, Anderson “provides important insight about the contemporary status of voting rights throughout the nation”, said Bledsoe. According to Bledsoe, Texas and its voting history is discussed by Anderson including important Supreme Court cases.

Associate Dean Cassandra Hill’s article, *The Elephant in the Law School Assessment Room: The Role of Student Responsibility and Motivating Our Students to Learn*, 56 Howard L.J. 447 (2013), was cited by Professor Elizabeth M. Bloom in her article, *Creating Desirable Difficulties: Strategies for Reshaping Teaching and Learning in the Law School Classroom*, 95 U. Det. Mercy L. Rev. 115 (2018). In this article, Professor Bloom seeks to make law professors aware of students’ learning mistakes and to equip them with strategies to teach students how to be self-regulated learners. Professor Bloom cited Associate Dean Hill’s article and its discussion of various research studies on student performance in their undergraduate studies.





Professor Lydia Johnson's outstanding contributions to the Southeastern People of Color Legal Scholarship Conference has presented her with an offer to join the National Advisory Committee planning the 4th National People of Color Legal Scholarship Conference during the spring semester at American University Washington College of Law March 21 -24, 2019, in Washington, D.C. Johnson accepted the offer to join this engaging national committee. During the 2017 Southeast Southwest People of Color Conference Johnson chaired the Conference's work in progress presentations and did an amazing job and was honored for her work. The committee is comprised of colleagues and academic leaders from across the nation who are committed to including social justice issues in their legal scholarship. The regional People of Color Conference (POCC) scholarship organizations (including Northeastern (NEPOCC) Mid Atlantic (MAPOCC) Midwest (MWPOCC), Southeast Southwest People (SESWPOC), and Western People (WPOCC) along with several other POCC/allied national scholarship organizations (including but not limited to SALT, LatCrit, ClassCrits, CAPALF and eCRT).

Professor Thomas Kleven's active involvement with (LatCrit) has earned him an invitation to serve on the National Advisory Committee for the 4th National People of Color Legal Scholarship Conference, taking place at American University Washington College of Law March 21 -24, 2019, in Washington, D.C. Kleven has graciously accepted the invitation to serve on this important national committee. The committee is comprised of colleagues and academic leaders from across the nation who are committed to including social justice issues in their legal scholarship. The regional People of Color Conference (POCC) scholarship organizations (including Northeastern (NEPOCC) Mid Atlantic (MAPOCC) Midwest (MWPOCC), Southeast Southwest People (SESWPOC), and Western (Western People (WPOCC) along with several other POCC/allied national scholarship organizations (including but not limited to SALT, LatCrit, ClassCrits, CAPALF and eCRT).





Professor SpearIt recently published, *The DOJ is Finally Investigating Catholic Church Sex Crimes, and It Could Catalyze Other Lawsuits*, in *Jurist* (11/13/18), <https://www.jurist.org/commentary/2018/11/doj-investigating-catholic-church-sex-crimes/>, and he published *Islam in America: Salve for Strained Race Relations* in *Maydan* (11/6/18), <https://www.themaydan.com/2018/11/islam-america-salve-strained-race-relations/>. SpearIt also presented his work-in-progress, *Abolishing Death: Targeting Christians, Conservatives*, at Suffolk University School of Law on 11/8/18. Finally, his scholarship was recently cited in the book, *Finding Freedom in Confinement: The Role of Religion in Prison Life* (ABC CLIO 2018) and was cited in the M.A. Thesis, *A Communication Guide for Ex-Offenders* (California State University 2018), <https://scholarworks.lib.csusb.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=https://www.google.com/&httpsredir=1&article=1765&context=etd>.

Professor Rebecca K. Stewart gave a presentation on November 14, 2018, at the Thurgood Marshall School of Law Faculty Research Series entitled, *Using Rubrics to Grade Essays and Writing Assessments and Engage Students*. The presentation illustrated a variety of ways in which rubrics of varying levels of complexity can assist in both grading and feedback. Stewart also addressed some of the recent criticism in the academic literature regarding the use of rubrics in favor of "authentic" analysis. According to Stewart, rubrics are commonly accepted tools to assist in evaluating a student academic work product performance while simultaneously providing the student with useful feedback. During her presentation, Stewart said one encouraging advantage of using a rubric in the law school setting is it promotes student buy-in and engagement.





Associate Dean L. Darnell Weeden's article entitled, *How to Establish Flying the Confederate Flag with the State as Sponsor Violates the Equal Protection Clause*, 34 Akron L. Rev. 521, 526 (2001), addressing a presidential election campaign controversy involving flying of Confederate flags, or Confederate symbols, on public property was cited by **Maureen Johnson**, an Associate Clinical Professor, Loyola Law School, Los Angeles in her article entitle, *Separate But (Un)Equal: Why Institutionalized Anti-Racism Is The Answer To The Never-Ending Cycle Of Plessy V. Ferguson*, 52 U. Rich. L. Rev. 327, 362 (2018). In his Confederate Flag article, Weeden suggests that, "Courts should hold that state sponsorship of the Confederate flag violates equal protection because, in actual practice, the flag is a race-based symbol." (34 Akron L. Rev. 526). Weeden also contends, "A state violates the equal protection of the law when it endorses a Confederate battle flag symbol that conveys an ideological message that appeals to a prurient interest in race relations." (34 Akron L. Rev. 553).

***Please send any announcements you would like to include in the next *Thurgood Faculty Spotlight* to Ms. Toyann Timmons (Toyann.Timmons@tmslw.tsu.edu) and Dean Weeden (Larry.Weeden@tmslw.tsu.edu) by 5p.m. Friday, December 7, 2018.**

THURGOOD FACULTY SPOTLIGHT IS A TWICE MONTHLY JOURNAL (THE 1ST AND 15TH DURING THE FALL AND SPRING SEMESTER) RECORDING THE ACHIEVEMENTS, EXPERIENCE, AND AWARDS OF THE TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW FACULTY OF DISTINCTION.

L. DARNELL WEEDEN, ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR FACULTY DEVELOPMENT & RESEARCH, IS THE EDITOR OF THURGOOD FACULTY SPOTLIGHT