

THURGOOD FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
Thurgood Marshall School of Law



FEBRUARY 1, 2019



Associate Dean for Faculty Development & Research and Roberson King Professor of Law L. Darnell Weeden is the Chair of the Thurgood Marshall Law Review Spring 2019 The Renewed Civil Rights Symposium Committee. Weeden extends an invitation to members of the Texas Southern University Community to attend the all-day civil rights symposium on Friday, February 8, 2019 at the Thurgood Marshall School of Law. Members of the faculty at Texas Southern are especially encouraged to attend the symposium with their students. A student may attend without a faculty member.

Weeden believes, if we are to overcome injustice we must renew our commitment to fight for civil rights. The Keynote Address entitled “Before the New Civil Rights: A Brief History of the Old Civil Rights” will be delivered by the distinguished historian Dr. Paul Finkelmann, President and Professor, Gratz College. The following presenters will speak about the topics discussed in their manuscripts that will be published in the Thurgood Marshall Law Review Civil Rights Symposium Edition; “And Still He Rose: William A. Price, Texas’ First Black Judge and the Path to a Civil Rights Milestone”, by John C. Browning, Shareholder, Passman & Jones, and Chief Justice Carolyn Wright, Fifth District Court of Appeals – Dallas, TX; “The Constitutional Crisis of Government Officials Ignoring Facts in Policy Creation”, by Dr. Cortlan J. Wickliff, Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs & Strategic Initiatives, Rice University; “Redefining Best Interest of the Child”, by Rachel Aminu, Managing Attorney Aminu Law Firm; “The Equal Protection Clause Prohibits a Public School from Stigmatizing a Student with a Diluted Fake Education That Fails to Teach Literacy”, by Weeden, Associate Dean TMSL; “Regulatory Impediments Disproportionately Affect Voting Rights in Communities of Color In Texas, Mississippi, and Louisiana,” by Reginald D. Harris, JD, PharmD, RPh, CPh, cMTM. Gary M. Bledsoe, Acting Dean – TMSL, Luis Vera, of LULAC, and George J. Korbel, election discrimination expert, will discuss the topic of “Black & Brown Cooperation in Civil Rights.” A special panel will discuss Judicial Fairness in Civil and Criminal Courts. Invited participants to the Judicial panel include the following honorees: Rabeea Sulton Collier, Deidra Davis, Ursula Hall, William McLeod, Angela Harrington, Alex Salgado, DeSean Jones, Erica Hughes, Shannon Baldwin, Brian Middleton, and Sherman Hatton.

Professor Fernando Colon-Navarro was awarded a faculty sabbatical for the 2019 spring semester. During the sabbatical Colon plans to fly between Argentina and Brazil, training law professors and teaching law students. Colon will conduct an empirical research study, to prove how effective pedagogical tools used at Thurgood Marshall School of Law, will improve the classroom atmosphere and the bar results. Colon plans to conduct research for one semester at each law school. During the first part of the semester, professors at each law school will teach the standard lecture curriculum. During the second part of the semester, Colon will implement tools such as clickers, flipping, and law firm visits in to the curriculum. During the third part, professors at each law school will go back to their regular teaching styles. During the fourth part, pedagogical tools will be implemented once more. At the end of the semester, the students will be given a test from each of the four parts, to see how much information each student has learned.



Students often only retain about forty to fifty percent of what he or she learns throughout their law school careers. Colon believes that tools such as flipping will help students retain more information than simply listening to a lecture. Flipping is a tool that assists with mental skills. Students are given a chapter to read and then asked to take a test about the chapter, instead of the students taking the problem home to solve. Colon states that he has seen how remarkable the flipping technique works in the classroom. Colon is also traveling to Barcelona, Spain this summer to teach immigration law.



Professor Martina Cartwright recently gave a presentation for the TMSL Spring Lecture Series entitled “Generally Dealing with the Rights of Wards Under State Guardianship Program; Emerging Trends.” Cartwright defines guardianship as a court supervised administration for a minor or an incapacitated person. Cartwright explains that minors and incapacitated people are often substantially unable to provide for themselves, see to their own care, or manage their own financial affairs.

According to Cartwright, the process by which guardianship appointments are made starts at the Texas Probate Court. Next, an application is filed with the county where the proposed ward

wants to reside. Then, the court will then establish, by clear and convincing evidence that the ward is incapacitated. Finally, the court must demonstrate by a preponderance of evidence that the guardianship is in the best interest of the child. Cartwright pointed out that minors and incapacitated people often lose all rights and autonomy, such as the right to vote, the right to drive, the right to determine residency, the right to own firearms, and even the right get married. Cartwright states that the people selected as guardians are fiduciarily held at a high standard. They must take an oath and post bond. They are in the care, control and protection of the ward. Guardians must also provide the ward with clothing, food, and medical care.

Cartwright explains that as an Attorney Ad Litem, she encounters many minors and incapacitated people who do not want to have all of their rights taken away. Cartwright gives an example of a seventeen-year-old female client, who has an IQ of less than 50 and deemed incapacitated. The female client requested that her right to vote be preserved. In the 2012 presidential election and at eighteen years of age, the female client had her chance to vote for the very first time. Cartwright describes this occasion as the female client's proudest moment. Cartwright emphasizes that it is important for courts to seek less restrictive means when they are considering taking people's rights away.

Distinguished Professor James M. Douglas was recently reelected as President of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Houston, Texas chapter. Douglas served his first term as president in 2015, his second term in 2017, and his third term started on January 13, 2019. Douglas' main goal while serving as the president is to continue the fight against unfair discrimination.



According to Douglas, the NAACP is one of the oldest civil rights organizations in the nation. He said that the original founders of the NAACP were people from all racial backgrounds. The NAACP has always fought to help all citizens, regardless of race, get all of the right they were due. More than 100 years after it was founded, Douglas believes that the NAACP is still relevant in today's society. Douglas expects his students at Thurgood Marshall School of Law to leave law school and become leaders in the community.

Please send any announcements you would like to include in the next Thurgood Faculty Spotlight to Ms. Toyann Timmons (Toyann.Timmons@tmslaw.tsu.edu) and Dean Weeden (Larry.Weeden@tmslaw.tsu.edu) by 5p.m. Friday, February 8, 2019.



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**