



FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS



Professor Lydia D. Johnson will be honored by the Harris County Criminal Lawyers Association (HCCLA) at their 47th Annual Banquet and Awards Ceremony on May 11, 2017. Professor Johnson will be receiving prestigious honor of Mentor of the Year.



On March 24, **Professor Craig Jackson** presented his research on the appointment process to the United States Supreme Court, titled “Advice and Consent: A Structuralist Perspective,” to the faculty at South Texas College of Law Houston. In his presentation, Professor Jackson argued that the



Professor Sally Green’s article, *Realistic Opportunity for Release Equals Rehabilitation: How the States Must Provide Meaningful Opportunity for Release*, in which she proposes a prison release model for non-homicide juvenile offenders that would focus on rehabilitation, was recently cited by Perry Moriearty (Associate Professor and Co-Director of the Child Advocacy and Juvenile Justice Clinic, University of Minnesota Law School) in *Implementing Proportionality*, 50 U.C. Davis L. Rev. 961,1028 (2017). Also, in late February 2017, Professor Green presented at the 30th Annual Juvenile Law Conference on ethical issues in high-profile cases and co-facilitated the defense caucus session. Lastly, on March 2, 2017, Professor Green was an invited speaker at the commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of *In Re Gault*, a juvenile justice conference co-sponsored by the Earl Carl Institute and the Juvenile Crime Prevention Center at Prairie View University. Professor Green participated on a panel discussing the historical perspective of juvenile justice and the progeny of *In Re Gault*.

Senate Majority Leader’s decision to decline to hold hearings for former President Barack Obama’s nominee to replace Justice Anthony Scalia was not based on any valid constitutional standards. Professor Jackson’s topic and presentation sparked a lively debate among attendees.



Professor Stephanie Ledesma accepted an offer to publish her latest article, *PTSD and Bad Paper Discharges: Why the Fairness to Soldiers Act Is Too Little, Too Late*, with *Elon Law Review*. Once Professor Ledesma’s article was posted on SSRN, it immediately received SSRN’s

“Top Ten download” recognition on the following research lists: (1) AARN: Psychological Disorders & Psychology in Practice (Topic), (2) Conflict Studies: Effects of Conflict eJournal, (3) PSN: Access to Care (Topic), (4) PSN: Health Care Delivery (Topic), and (5) PSN: Human Cost (Topic).



Professor Shaundra Lewis’s article, *Bullets and Books by By Legislative Fiat--Why Academic Freedom and Public Pol’y Permit Higher Education Students to Say No to Guns*, 48 IDAHO L. REV. 1 (2011), was recently cited by Joseph D Angelis, *et al.*, *Collective Security, Fear of Crime, and Support for Concealed Firearms on a University Campus in the Western United States*, 42(1) CRIMINAL JUSTICE REV. 77, 79 (Feb. 2017). Additionally, Professor Lewis recently accepted an invitation to reprint her article, *The Cost of Raising a Killer--Parental Liability*

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for *Parents of Adult Mass Murderers*, 61 VILLANOVA L. REV. 1 (2016), in *The Defense Law Journal*, a quarterly publication by LexisNexis whose primary subscribers are large law firms and in-house corporate counsel.



Professor Katherine Vukadin was invited to serve as a peer reviewer for the Yale Journal of Health Policy, Law and Ethics. The invitation was based on her publications in health law and policy. The journal is a forum for interdisciplinary discussion on topics in health policy, health

law, and biomedical ethics with a readership of academicians, professionals, and policy makers in health care.



On February 13, **Professor SpearIt** published *Radical, Jihadist, Terrorist--The Difference and Why it Matters* at The Islamic Monthly, <http://theislamicmonthly.com/radical-jihadist-terrorist/>. SpearIt was recently recognized in the ABA Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar's 2015-2016 Annual Report: *The Year*

in Review for his participation in a webinar entitled "Integrating Experiential Education in the Classroom," http://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/publications/misc_legal_education/15_16_legal_ed_annual_report.authcheckdam.pdf. His work on Muslim prisoners was cited in the book, *NEW PERSPECTIVES ON THE NATION OF ISLAM* (Routledge 2017) and peer-review journals in *America, Islam, and Constitutionalism: Muslim American Poverty and the Mounting Police State*, 31 J. L. & Relig. 279 (2016), *Freedom of Religion or Belief in Prison: A Critical Analysis of the European Court of Human Rights Jurisprudence*, 6 Ox. J. L. Rel. 48 (2017), and *The "Watchful Eye of God": The Role of Religion in the Rehabilitation and Reentry of*

Repentant Jewish Prisoners, Int'l J. Offender Therapy and Comparative Crim'y (2017). He was also cited in a Ph.D. dissertation entitled *The Indiana State Senate Internship: A Quality of Life Perspective and Its Place as An Innovative Education Model* (Indiana State University 2016). Finally, SpearIt recently broke into the top 10% of all authors on SSRN.com, ranked by number of downloads.



Professor L. Darnell Weeden has accepted an offer from Southern Illinois University Law Journal to publish his article entitled "Marriage Equality Laws Are a Threat to Religious Liberty." Professor Weeden's article surveys issues surrounding the clash of religious liberty rights with marriage equality.

The article argues that notwithstanding the holding in *Obergefell* the United States Constitution's safeguard for religious liberty is greater than the judicially-created right to marriage equality.

