

THURGOOD FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
Thurgood Marshall School of Law



March 15, 2019



Associate Dean L. Darnell Weeden on February 24, 2019 engaged in community service in Katy, Texas, by participating in the “Caring for Katy Laundry Outreach Activity” sponsored by the Kingsland Baptist Church in Katy. One goal of the caring for Katy Laundry Activity was to demonstrate the unconditional love of Christ to any person present at a local Washateria. Kingsland Baptist Church provided the members of the laundry outreach team with enough money to provide quarters or dollars to pay to use the services of the washers and dryers for anyone in the Washateria.

The Caring for Katy Laundry Activity also included an offer by the Kingsland team to help their neighbors by offering to help fold their clothes and to help them carry their clothes to the car. While serving at the Washateria, Weeden and the other members of the Caring for Katy Laundry team offered juice, water, snack packages, breakfast tacos, children activity books as well as crayons for children to everyone in the washateria. According to Weeden, “Participating in the Caring for Katy Laundry Activity was an uplifting experience because we are blessed to be a blessing.”

Professor Constance Fain, TMSL ’74, believes in the mission of the Thurgood Marshall School of Law (TMSL) and believes that working at TMSL has been one of the most rewarding experience in her entire life. Fain loves teaching and states that the students energize and motivate her to be a better professor and writer. Fain described her colleagues and the staff at TMSL as a family away from home due to having so much support. Fain also stated that she has learned a great deal over the years at TMSL, not only from teaching and conducting research but from the intellectual conversations, the professional development programs, and analytical discussions in the classroom.



Fain attributes TMSL to being one of the finest law schools in the nation. Fain said that her love for TMSL started long ago when she was a first year laws student at TMSL. Fain highlights during her 1L year included the challenging questions posed by her professors which really helped to develop her case analysis and legal writing skills. Fain also got married to her current husband, Herbert Fain, who is also a TMSL Graduate during the second semester of her 1L year. Fain said that she and eighteen women in her class were a minority because there were about 100 men in her class. Fain is really proud of helping TMSL to promote diversity over the years. In 1981, Fain earned an L.L.M. degree from the University of Pennsylvania. She currently teaches Constitutional Law and Torts. Fain is a highly respected scholar who has authored books and law review articles. Her work has been cited by highly respected legal publications. The TMSL family is happy that Fain has decided to stay here and share her teaching and scholarly excellence with us.



Professor Craig Jackson presented at the Thurgood Marshall School of Law (TMSL) spring 2019 Faculty Lecture Series entitled, “Brexit, the European Union and the USA: Was a United States of Europe, ever Feasible?” on February 27, 2019. Jackson stated that the goal of a creating a common European economic market continues to progress notwithstanding the impending exit of Britain. The goal of the European market was to reach a single economic market while respecting the right of independent nations to demonstrate their true sovereign identity is not without its challenges. Jackson explained that the goal of creating a single market may prove most challenging when Europeans attempt to create a common social policy and a single currency. Jackson said that the European Union does not operate under a single a unified constitution but instead the Union is governed by several treaties signed by member nations. It is Jackson’s belief that Britain is likely to suffer significant immediate economic harm if it leaves the Union at the end of March 2019, without a mutually agreed upon plan for its exit with the members of the European Union.

Professor Lydia Johnson gave a speech at the Thurgood Marshall School of Law (TMSL) spring 2019 Faculty Lecture Series entitled, “Sex & the Senior Citizen Can Dementia Patients & the Me-Too Movement Coexist?” on March 6, 2019. Johnson stated that her experience as a criminal attorney allows her to recognize that there is a potential criminal element underlying the issue of consent to sexual intimacy involving people with dementia. Johnson stated that sometimes married people with dementia are unable to give consent to sexual activity with their spouses. Johnson said that dementia patients have sexual urges and desires that come and go, so it is hard to determine the fine line between consent and a possible #Me-Too objection for sex between spouses where at least one of them has dementia. Johnson indicated that a spouse may be able to avoid criminal implications for having sex with his or her spouse by executing an intimacy directive. Before a person acquires dementia he or she should sign an intimacy directive to permit his or her spouse to engage in sexual intimacy in the event the spouse acquires dementia.



Johnson, was recently invited by Fort Bend County Texas District Attorney Brian Middleton to chair Middleton’s Domestic Violence Initiative. The TMSL Criminal Law Clinic under Johnson’s supervision on Saturday, March 2, 2019 partnered with the Harris County Public Defenders’ office and other local member of the legal profession to provide expertise about whether information about criminal backgrounds could be sealed. Johnson was acknowledged for her contributions to the partnership goal of providing helpful legal information about law and crime to members of the local community. The TMSL Criminal Law Clinic has supported the partnership since October 2011.

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, March 22 , 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**