

THURGOOD FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

Thurgood Marshall School of Law



February 15, 2020



Professor Emeka Duruigbo made a presentation titled “The Shale Gas Revolution Beyond the United States” as part of the Faculty Lecture Series on January 29, 2020. The presentation proceeded on the basis that developing shale gas resources in different parts of the world will promote energy security, offer environmental gains, enhance the economic fortunes of the producing countries, and tackle energy poverty by improving global energy access. There are, however, a number of legal, geological, political and economic obstacles to shale gas development. His presentation addressed the legal aspect of the impediments, primarily, the absence of the United States’ system of private ownership of mineral rights *in situ* in most parts of the world. This absence has occasioned resistance from surface owners, engendered a lack of motivation to innovate and forestalled the cooperation between mineral owners and energy companies that contributed significantly to the American Shale Revolution. He argued that policy makers should consider private ownership of minerals or introduce effective substitutes to overcome the impediment, facilitate development Duruigbo proposes one such substitute, namely Civic Shares. These shares will provide ownership interests in energy development projects, thereby providing an incentive for, and reducing resistance to, shale development in countries outside the United States. The presentation benefited from questions and contributions from an energetic audience at the law school.

Associate Dean for Research & Faculty Development and Roberson King

Professor of Law L. Darnell Weeden accepted an offer from the Suffolk University Law Review to publish his article entitled “Mississippi Allows Peremptory Challenges for Fake Race Neutral Reasons in Violation of Batson’s Equal Rights Rationale”. In the article Weeden recommends eliminating peremptory challenges in the jury selection process under the Fourteenth Amendment’s due process clause because the practice leaves the prosecution with unbridled discretion to exercise that power in a pretextual race neutral or arbitrary manner. It is Weeden’s contention that because exercising peremptory strikes in a criminal trial when confronted with an allegation of discrimination on the basis of race is not subjected to a strict scrutiny analysis it is reasonable to believe that the United States Supreme Court is not serious about providing an effective judicial remedy to end discrimination against jurors on the basis of race. According to the Suffolk University Law Review editors, “The Suffolk University Law Review has published some of the great legal minds of our time, including Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist, Associate Justices Sonia Sotomayor, Antonin Scalia, and Stephen G. Breyer, Judge Richard Posner, Erwin Chemerinksi, Ralph Nader, and many more.” Weeden said he was looking forward to the opportunity to publish his article in the Suffolk University Law Review.





Professor SpearIt appeared on the New Books Network Podcast on Islamic Studies. This discussion focused on his book, *American Prisons: A Critical Primer on Culture and Conversion to Islam*. The discussion was hosted by Dr. Kristian Petersen, Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Religious Studies at Old Dominion University, <https://newbooksnetwork.com/spearit-american-prisons-a-critical-primer-on-culture-and-conversion-to-islam-first-edition-design-2017/>. SpearIt also published, *Senate Trial Strikes a Blow to Racial Justice*, at the *Race and the Law Prof Blog* (1/29/20), <https://lawprofessors.typepad.com/racelawprof/2020/01/senate-trial-strikes-a-blow-to-racial-justice.html#>.

Please email any announcements you would like to include in the next edition of the Thurgood Faculty Spotlight to Associate Dean Weeden, Larry.Weeden@tmslaw.tsu.edu, with an electronic copy to his administrative assistant, Ms. Toyann Timmons, Toyann.Timmons@tmslaw.tsu.edu . Please send your submissions by **3 p.m. Friday February 21, 2020.**



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**