

THURGOOD FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
Thurgood Marshall School of Law



November 15, 2019



Professor Marcia Johnson, in collaboration with Professors Dr. Gautam Nayer and Ashraf Mozayani serve as co-Project Investigators (PI) on a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Justice in the amount of \$509,233 for the period January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2021. The competitive award was made to the university to review postconviction criminal cases involving violent felony offenses in which actual innocence might be demonstrated using DNA testing. Conservatively, it is estimated that 5,640 individuals in Texas have been wrongfully convicted. That constitutes 4% of the more than 141,000 Texas state prison inmates who have likely been convicted of crimes they did not commit. Johnson's co-PIs are professors in criminal justice and forensic sciences, respectively. The project is an interdisciplinary research project that combines legal and social implications.

Associate Dean for Research & Faculty Development and Roberson King Professor of Law L. Darnell Weeden accepted an offer from the Law Journal for Social Justice at Arizona State University Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law to publish his article entitled "Censuses, Congressional Seats, Citizenship Questions, And Known Falsehoods or Reckless Disregard for the Truth Justifications". The Law Journal for Social Justice says its "mission is to foster important conversations involving timely social justice issues. We seek to share diverse voices and perspectives to promote a deeper understanding of the complex social justice issues in our society." The editors feel that Weeden's article is consistent with their mission.





Adjunct Professor D'Andra Shu presented at the Thurgood Marshall School of Law Fall 2019 Faculty Lecture Series on her law review article entitled "When Food is a Weapon: Parental Liability for Food Allergy Bullying," on October 30, 2019. Food allergies in children are rising at an alarming pace. Increasingly, these children face an added threat: bullies targeting them because of their allergies. This bullying can take a life-threatening turn when the bully exposes the victim to the allergen. Professor Shu's article is the first major legal analysis of food allergy bullying. It explores the legal system's failure to adequately address the problem of food allergy bullying and makes the case for focusing on the potential tort liability of the bully's parents. Parents who become aware of their child's bullying behavior and fail to take adequate steps to stop it are tacitly encouraging it and should be liable for their child's conduct.

So too should parents who enable the bullying by flouting school policies and sending their child to school with a prohibited food that is then used to bully or by modeling intolerant behavior that their child mimics at school. This will ensure that parents who contribute to their child's bullying are held accountable and that the bully's victim receives justice. Professor Shu's piece will be published in the Marquette Law Review in the early summer. A draft is available on SSRN: <http://ssrn.com/abstract=3445605>. It has already been downloaded more than 160 times since being posted pm SSRN in August.

Associate Director Danny Norris presented at the Thurgood Marshall School of Law Fall 2019 Faculty Lecture Series on the subject entitled "A TMSL Law Library Resource Update," on Wednesday, November 06, 2019. The central theme of the presentation was a proactive program of the Law Library, which reaches out to the other departments at Thurgood Marshall School of Law, in an effort to collaborate for the benefit of the students.



Norris discussed how the Library Outreach Program centers on the idea of collaborative teamwork efforts of the Law Library with each department in the law school will leads to positive results for each department, as well as the students that they serve. The Program will pair a librarian with each department, which will reach out to that department regularly to ensure that they are getting the full benefit of the services offered by the Law Library and staff. Norris discussed how this collaborative teamwork aligns with the A3 vision set by Dean Joan Bullock, by ensuring that the departments are able to go "All In," as they seek to work on behalf of the students and alumni of the law school.

Norris discussed how there is a current project with the Office of Career and Professional Development, which surveys firms that employed students this past summer on their level professionalism and research, and will be used to better prepare students in both of these areas in the future. Norris also said that this proactive model is one that other libraries should look to move to, in order to remain relevant to their institutions in the academic and public spaces. The Library Outreach Program is looking to be formally implemented at the law school in the Spring 2020 semester, and looks to roll out a variety of joint efforts that benefit each department, as well as the students that they serve.

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, November 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**