



THURGOOD THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW TODAY

TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS



Professor Fernando Colon-Navarro accepted an invitation to join the Globalization Committee for the Southeastern Association of Law Schools (SEALS). This committee facilitates exchanges of faculty members and students between SEALS-member schools and foreign law schools and introduces U.S. academic programs to foreign law schools. In addition, this month, Professor Colon spoke to students in the pre-law program at the University of Texas at San Antonio on immigration law and the history of TMSL and led a mock class on property law.



Associate Dean Cassandra L. Hill was appointed to serve as the Chair of the Conferences and Programming Committee for the American Bar Association Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar. The appointment is for an initial two-year term. A full list of the committee members may be accessed here: https://www.americanbar.org/groups/legal_education/committees/conferences_committee.html. The Conferences and Programming Committee leads the Section's conceptualization, planning, organization and implementation of workshops and conferences.



Professor Lydia Johnson accepted an appointment as Co-Chair for the Mindfulness in Law Society and as a Board Member of the AALS Mindfulness Affinity Group. Recognizing the trend in legal education, Professor Johnson incorporates mindfulness practices and philosophies into her trial simulation course. Through this instruction, students acquire the tools needed to handle stress and focus on the matter that is before them. Students who were at first skeptical about the practice, now readily use the mindful-

ness strategies learned in trial simulation. Professor Johnson also shared her expertise in mindfulness (including breathing techniques) with the new students in the Criminal Law Clinic as part of the Fall 2017 Law Clinic Boot Camp.



Associate Dean Stephanie Ledesma served as the Program Director of the National Institute for Trial Advocacy (NITA) Deposition Program for Public Service Attorneys hosted by Southern University Law Center in May 2017. Public service attorneys are those who work at

Legal Aid and for other programs that provide direct representation to low-income and middle-income families who need but cannot afford legal services. More information is available at the following link: http://blog.nita.org/2017/06/southern-university-law-center-nita-public-service-program/?utm_source=Bulk&utm_medium=Email&utm_content=Article3&utm_campaign=2017SpringGivingVoice.

Also Dean Ledesma was appointed as the Vice-Chair of the State Bar of Texas standing committee on Child Abuse and Neglect. Her appointment began on June 30, 2017, and conclude in July 2018.



Professor Ana Otero served as Co-Director of the Council on Legal Education Opportunity's (CLEO) Regional "Attitude is Essential Program." This program is an intensive pre-law workshop designed to introduce and prepare college graduates who have been accepted into an ABA-accredited law school for the rigors ahead. Professor Otero and Samer Korkor, an attorney at the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, D.C., created the program curriculum and worked with the program facilitators for the six national regions. Notably, the facilitator for the Southeast Region was Christopher Ogolla, a TMSL alumnus who is now a



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professor at Savannah Law School. Additionally, Professor Otero taught the two-day workshop at CLEO's Summer Institute at Mitchell Hamline in Minneapolis and the University of Texas in Austin.



Professor SpearIt published *Not For Free: Exploring the Collateral Costs of Diversity in Legal Education*, 48 U. Pacific L.R. 887 (2017), and “Color Coded Criminal Procedure—Exploring How Law Enables Racism, Disparate Treatment, Violence” on June 19 at Jotwell Criminal Law, <https://crim.jotwell.com/color>

[-coded-criminal-procedure-exploring-how-law-enables-racism-disparate-treatment-violence/](https://crim.jotwell.com/color-coded-criminal-procedure-exploring-how-law-enables-racism-disparate-treatment-violence/).

His writings were recently cited in a number of works, including the book, *Social Work Practice with Latinos: Social, Economic, Political and Cultural Perspectives* (Oxford 2017), and in *Experiencing Experiential Education: A Faculty-Student Perspective on University of Tennessee's College of Law's Adventure in Access to Justice*, 50 J. Marshall L. Rev. 11 (2017), <http://repository.jmls.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=2712&context=lawreview>, *The Growing and Broad Nature of Legal Financial Obligations: Evidence from Alabama Court Records*, 48 Conn. L.Rev. (2016), <https://scholar.harvard.edu/files/morse/files/48connlrev.pdf>, *Black Health Matters: Disparities, Community Health, and Interest Convergence*, 22 Mich. J. Race & L. 53 (2016), <http://repository.law.umich.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1066&context=mjrl>, and *Latino Muslims in the United States: Reversion, Politics and Islamidad*, 8 J. Race Ethnicity & Relig. (2017).

Spotlight on Professor SpearIt's New Book:

Professor SpearIt's new book, *American Prisons: A Critical Primer on Culture and Conversion to Islam*, published with First Edition Design Publishing was just released. *American Prisons: A Critical Primer on*

Culture and Conversion to Islam represents over a decade of investigating, researching and writing on prison culture. The overarching message of this anthology is that problems in prison are not isolated from society, and unlike the Las Vegas slogan, what happens in prison doesn't stay in prison. Prisons are not neatly cornered off from society, but rather, are partners in toxic relationships with the communities to which ex-prisoners return. Against these sinister cultural developments, the book juxtaposes the quest for God and religious conversion. More specifically, conversion to Islam in prison over many generations has made prisons an important factor for the growth of Islam in America. The book includes policy prescriptions based on the notion that prison reform is not just about justice for those on lockdown, but also communities outside as well. You can find additional information about Professor SpearIt's book at the following link: https://www.amazon.com/American-Prisons-Critical-Culture-Conversion-ebook/dp/B074MJB65/ref=sr_1_12?ie=UTF8&qid=1502391302&sr=8-12&keywords=spearit.

American
Prisons:
A Critical
Primer
on Culture
and
Conversion
to Islam

SpearIt





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Professor L. Darnell Weeden's extensive research has been cited recently by several legal scholars. Professor Weeden's article entitled, *The Black Eye of Hurricane Katrina's Post Jim Crow Syndrome is a Basic Human Dignity Challenge for America*, 37 CAP. U. L. REV. 93, 106 (2008), was cited by Robert

Rubinson, the Dean Gilbert A. Holmes Professor of Clinical Theory and Practice and Director of Clinical Education at the University of Baltimore School of Law, in his article, *Grids and Gatekeepers: The Socioeconomics of Mediation*, 17 Cardozo J. of Conflict Resolution 873, 892 (2016). While discussing the realities of participating in mediation for low-income participants, Professor Rubinson stated many low-income people must rely exclusively on very public transportation to get to mediation or to escape a hurricane. Professor Rubinson then cited to Professor Weeden's article to illustrate the life-and-death implications of transportation issues for low-income people during Hurricane Katrina, when New Orleans residents with resources had flown or driven away from the City while the lower-income population left in the city rode on unreliable buses, which only went to the chaotic and dangerous Super Dome.

Lastly, **Professor Weeden's** article entitled, *The Supremacy Clause Preemption Rationale Reasonably Restrains an Individual State Pursuing its Own Separate but Unequal Immigration Policy*, 14 Scholar 679 (2012) was recently cited to by Professor Chad. G. Marzen and Professor William Woodyard II, both of Florida State University College of Business, in their article, *Catholic Social Teaching, the Right to Migrate, and the Right to Regulate Borders: A Proposed Solution for Comprehensive Immigration Reform Based Upon Catholic Social Principles*, 53 San Diego Law Review 781, 791 (2016). Professors Marzen and Woodyard identify Professor Weeden as one of nu-

merous academic commentators who have written law review articles concerning the legality and effects of state and local enforcement of immigration.

Several of our professors participated in the **2017 Southeastern Association of Law Schools (SEALS) Conference**, which offers legal educators panels and discussion groups on cutting-edge legal topics, classroom pedagogy and research by junior scholars. **Professor Craig Jackson** shared his research and expertise as part of a discussion group on the law of national security and foreign affairs in the Trump Administration. **Professor Fernando Colon-Navarro** served as a panel discussant for a discussion group on comparative method of legal analysis and moderated a new scholars workshop during which junior faculty presented their works-in-progress on business and commercial law issues. **Associate Dean Stephanie Ledesma** presented her research on teaching cultural competence in law school and moderated a workshop on teaching and designing an effective law school course or seminar. **Professor Deanna Pollard-Sacks** moderated a panel on the Dakota Access Pipeline and the lessons learned and how to address tribal and sovereign interests in such disputes. **Professor Sally Green** served as a moderator for a new scholars workshop that addressed the external reviewer's role in the tenure process and strategies to succeed in the critical part of the process. **Professor Ericka Kelsaw** moderated a panel on regulating immoral and offensive trademarks and the tensions between morality and speech inherent in intellectual property. **Professor Lydia Johnson** moderated the plenary session on mindfulness in law schools, which is a newly added track to the SEALS conference.





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*Thurgood Marshall School of Law
Texas Southern University*

Announces Faculty Promotions and Tenure



Congratulations

