



# THURGOOD THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW TODAY

TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

## FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS



**Associate Dean Cassandra Hill** was re-elected to the Board of Directors of the Legal Writing Institute (LWI). She will take office at the Board meeting during the 2018 Biennial Conference at Marquette Law this summer and serve a four-year term. LWI is a non-profit organization dedicated to

improving legal communication by supporting the development of teaching and scholarly resources and establishing forums to discuss the study, teaching, and practice of professional legal writing. With nearly 3,000 members, LWI is the second largest organization of law professors in the United States. Members also include lawyers and judges, researchers, consultants, and undergraduate professors.



**Professor Lydia Johnson** accepted an invitation to serve as a member of the 2017-2018 ABA Criminal Justice Section Magazine Editorial Board. The Editorial Board Chair is Justin Murphy and Vice-Chair is Richard Ginkowski. The *Criminal Justice* magazine, published quarterly by the Criminal Justice Section of the American Bar Association, is intended for a national audience of defense lawyers, prosecutors, judges, academics, and other criminal justice professionals with a focus on the practice and policy issues of the criminal justice system. Each issue includes feature articles, as well as regular columns. In addition, there are occasional thematic issues which focus on one particular aspect of the criminal justice system. Past issues of the Criminal Justice magazine may be accessed here:

[https://www.americanbar.org/groups/criminal\\_justice/publications/criminal\\_justice\\_magazine\\_home.html](https://www.americanbar.org/groups/criminal_justice/publications/criminal_justice_magazine_home.html).



**Professor Katherine Vukadin** accepted an invitation to serve as a contributing author of the LexisNexis treatise entitled *Employee Benefits Guide*. The treatise is national in scope, highlighting important issues and changes in the law of employee benefits for practitioners and academics. Professor Vukadin's chapters will focus on developments in the law of ERISA plans, ERISA claims and remedies, as well as other forms of benefit plans.



### Professor

**L. Darnell Weeden's** article entitled *How to Establish Flying the Confederate Flag with the State as Sponsor Violates the Equal Protection Clause*, 34 AKRON L. REV. 521, 526 (2001) was recently cited in the University of Richmond Law Review by Associate Clinical Professor Maureen Johnson of Loyola Law School, Los Angeles in her article entitled "Separate But (Un)Equal: Why Institutionalized Anti-Racism Is The Answer To The Never-Ending Cycle Of Plessy V. Ferguson," 52 U. Rich. L. Rev. 327, 362 (2018). Johnson cites to Weeden because his article included a discussion of the 2000 presidential election campaign controversy involving the flying of the Confederate flags, or Confederate symbols, on state property.



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**Professor SpearIt** has accepted an invitation from Gonzaga University School of Law to become a Visiting Professor for the 2018-2019 academic year. Gonzaga conducted a nationwide search for this position, which led to his selection. Professor SpearIt has also accepted an invitation from Seattle University School of Law to teach Criminal Law this summer. Seattle offers a summer program that allows incoming first-year students (pre-1Ls) to take Criminal Law the summer before their first fall semester. This program is critical in the development of law students and makes this invitation a great accolade and testimony to Professor SpearIt's teaching skills. Professor SpearIt also published "Why we Punish: Lessons in Indeterminacy" at JOTWELL Criminal Law on 4/2/18, <https://crim.jotwell.com/why-we-punish-lessons-in-indeterminacy/>, and spoke at the conference, *Racism, Racialization, and African-American Islam in the Americas* at George Mason University on 4/12/18. In addition, three of Professor SpearIt's scholarly works were cited in the book, *Latino and Muslim in America: Race, Religion and the Making of a New Minority* (Oxford University Press 2018).



On April 4 and 5, Thurgood Marshall School of Law hosted **Professor Julian Cook** (University of Georgia School of Law) as our Scholar-in-Residence. During his visit, Professor Cook gave a presentation on "Policing and the Exclusionary Rule" and was a guest speaker in Professor SpearIt's Professional Responsibility class and Professor

Lydia Johnson's Criminal Trial Practice class. Professor Cook also met with members of the Thurgood Marshall Law Review and the Thurgood Marshall School of Law Journal on Gender, Race and Justice, where he shared his experiences as an author and scholar and bestowed invaluable career advice to the students.

