



THURGOOD THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW TODAY

TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

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FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

***JAMES M. DOUGLAS, Distinguished Professor of Law
accepts TMSL honor from United States Congressman***



TMSL Distinguished Professor **Dr. James M. Douglas** attended a reception in honor of Thurgood Marshall School of Law on September 12, 2017, in Washington, D.C. during the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute 2017 Leadership Conference. The reception was hosted by U.S. Congressman Vicente Gonzalez of the 15th Congressional District of Texas in commemoration of National Hispanic Heritage Month. U.S. Congressman Gonzalez presented an honorary plaque to commend the law school for its efforts in educating and preparing Hispanic students for the legal profession. Honorary hosts included TMSL Alum (class of 1973), U.S. Congressman Al Green; TMSL Alum (class of 1979), U.S. Congressman Hank Johnson of Georgia; U.S. Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee; U.S. Congressman Gene Green and U.S. Congressman Henry Cuellar.

“As we celebrated the achievements and contributions of the Hispanic community during Hispanic Heritage Month, I wanted to honor Texas Southern University by applauding Thurgood Marshall School of Law amongst a host of the law school’s alumni and friends, for its unwavering commitment to aspiring and practicing Hispanic lawyers in Texas and across the nation.” - U.S. Congressman Vicente Gonzalez



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Professor Thomas Kleven presented a paper entitled "Will Automation Liberate the Working Class or Further its Immiseration" at the ClassCrits Conference at Tulane Law School on November 10, 2017. The thesis of the paper is (i) that automation is gradually destroying more jobs than it creates and will likely eliminate within 100 years the need for human labor to produce many if not most of the goods of social life, (ii) that automation has the potential of freeing humanity from the necessity to work in order to support oneself and thereby enabling people to live more enjoyable lives, (iii) that this will not happen if the capitalist class continues to control the automation process because they will appropriate for themselves the lion's share of what automation produces and leave for the masses only enough on which to subsist or at best to prevent the masses from revolting, and (iv) that achieving the benefits of automation for all requires that we institute some form of democratic socialism so as to ensure that the goods produced through automation are fairly distributed throughout society.



Professor L. Darnell Weeden's article entitled, *Employing Race-Neutral Affirmative Action to Create Educational Diversity While Attacking Socio-Economic Status Discrimination*, 19 *ST. John's J. Legal Commentary* 297, 332-33 (2005) was quoted by Kylie Rahl in her comment entitled *Racing To Neutrality: How Race-Neutral Admissions Programs Threaten The Future Use Of Race-Based Affirmative Action In Higher Education* in the 49 *Tex. Tech L. Rev. Online Edition* 109, 130 (2017). While contending the percentage plans have the greatest impact at the undergraduate level, Rahl quoted Professor Weeden's article for his assertion that "there is no evidence that a modified

version of the percent concept will not be effective at the graduate or professional level."



Professor SpearIt, on October 1, 2017, published "#TakeAKnee: Sports, Politics & Civil Religion" in *The Islamic Monthly*, <https://www.theislamicmonthly.com/takeaknee-sports-politics-civil-religion/>. He was also cited for his leadership role in the ABA Criminal Justice Section 2016-2017 Annual Report, https://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/publications/criminaljustice/annual_report_2017.authcheckdam.pdf. On October 26, he spoke at the University of Southern California (USC) in a recorded interview on Islam, Prisons, and Hip hop, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=750sojMXSU&index=1&list=PLTZlXrrWM-vZlrecWSVig1_075gp8dgb9; on November 2 he spoke at FAMU School of Law and on November 13 at the Mexican American Bar Association of Houston on his new book, *American Prisons*. SpearIt's work was recently cited in a number of publications, including the book, *Experiential Education in the Law School Curriculum* (Carolina Academic Press 2017); *Latino Muslims and Radical Extremism: Why There is no Daesh (ISIS) Threat in Latin America*, 37 *J. Muslim Minority Affairs* 284 (2017); *George Jackson's December 1964 Letter to His Father: Agency from within the Prison Walls*, 11 *J. Study of Radicalism* 161 (2017); *Mechanisms of Moral Disengagement and Prisoner Abuse*, *Analysis of Soc. Issues and Pub. Pol'y* (2017); "Terrorism in Prison," in *The Encyclopedia of Corrections* (John Wiley & Sons 2017); *Conversational Narratives at Quixote House: How Released Offenders and Religious Members Build Community and Find a New Identity in Winnipeg*, 3 *Faith & Engaged Scholarship in the New Millennium I* (2017). Finally, SpearIt has accepted an offer from the *Tennessee Law Review* to publish his article, *Firepower to the People: Guns Rights and the Law of Self-Defense to Curb Police Misconduct*.



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FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS *Cont'd.*



Criminal Law Defense Clinic Professor **Lydia D. Johnson** is one of 60 community leaders who participated in Harris County District Attorney, Kim Ogg's transition team. Professor Johnson chaired the Equality in Justice Committee comprised of seven diverse members from the community. On October 22, 2017, HCDA Kim Ogg, held a press conference and unveiled her community action plans. Professor Johnson spoke on Ogg's plans to expand the pre-trial services diversion program. To hear more please follow the link: https://www.youtube.com/attribution_link?a=_uMFdRhDHpQ&u=%2Fwatch%3Fv%3Durvdm_JaXiM%26feature%3Dshare. Kim Ogg also announced an awards ceremony is forthcoming to acknowledge and thank everyone.



Professor **Walter T. Champion**, George Foreman Professor of Law, has recently contributed his expertise on various legal and social issues related to football and recreational injuries. Professor Champion served as a guest speaker at Columbia University on November 7, 2017, he lectured on "The Commissioner's New Clothes: Roger Goodell and Legislating Morality." Professor Champion was also featured in a Law360 article entitled, "3 Takeaways from NLRB Charge over Cowboys Protest Policy." Furthermore, Professor Champion is under contract to write a book entitled Blood in the Water: Feeding Frenzies and the Mass Tort Phenomenon with Lexington Books.



Professor **Marguerite Butler** spoke at the Cities Changing Diabetes summit held on October 26, 2017. The summit is a global coalition, with nine international cities – including Houston - with more than 75 million residents, and 100 expert partners all united in the fight against urban diabetes. Professor Butler provided a citizen's perspective on living with diabetes in a major city during the *Welcome to Houston: A Citizen's Perspective* opening session. Professor Butler is among the number of increasing individuals who are living with type-2 diabetes. She spoke to the group and shared her experience with doctors regarding her diagnosis and prognosis. Professor Butler is admired for her courage to share and her advocacy. For more on Professor Butler's story follow the link: http://www.novonordisk-us.com/blog/perspectives/2017/11/success_is_possible.html.

