



FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS



Professor SpearIt presented at the 2017 Association of American Law Schools (AALS) Annual Meeting in San Francisco on January 4, where he spoke on a panel entitled “The Socioeconomics of Law School Pedagogy.” His work was recently cited in *Beyond PREA: An Interdisciplinary*

Framework for Evaluating Sexual Violence in Prisons, 64 UCLA L. Rev. 230 (2017), and was recognized at the ABA Criminal Justice Section 2016 Annual Council Meeting, http://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/administrative/criminal_justice/annual16_council_authcheckdam.pdf. Finally, Professor SpearIt has completed a four-year fellowship at the Institute for Social Policy & Understanding, a Washington D.C. think-tank that focuses on American Muslims.

will assist the committee’s efforts to deliver long-term and short-term policy goals.



Professor Fernando Colon spoke on the immigration issues currently facing our country in light of President Donald Trump’s recent immigration ban. This presentation was part of a workshop, titled “Password to the Golden Door: The Daunting

Web of U.S. Immigration Law,” held during the National Bar Association Judicial Council 2017 Mid-Year Winter Conference and Meeting. At this conference, judges from across the country gather to improve the administration of justice and receive educational development. Professor Colon’s presentation on the immigration ban and its impact was part of the legal education seminars offered to attendees.



Professor Lydia D. Johnson’s most recent publication, *The Politics of the Bail System: What’s the Price for Freedom?*, was most recently cited in *Do Prosecutors Really Matter?: A Proposal To Ban One-Sided Bail Hearings*, 44 Hofstra L. Rev. 1161 (2016) by Sandra Guerra Thompson,

Alumnae College Professor of Law and Criminal Justice institute Director, University of Houston Law Center. In Professor Guerra’s article, she references Professor Johnson’s work in examining the perpetual inequalities in the bail system and its disproportionate effect on members of poorer communities.

In addition, Thurgood Marshall School of Law Associate **Professor Lydia D. Johnson** has accepted an appointment to serve as co-chair of the Equality in Justice transition committee for new District Attorney Kim Ogg. The committee will consist of six to eight individuals with experience in law, academia, law enforcement, and community leadership. Johnson will address diversion and related issues in criminal justice as a member of the team. Johnsons’ experience as an associate municipal court judge for the City of Houston and Director of TMSL’s Criminal Law Clinic

Dean James M. Douglas goes Hollywood!

Dean Douglas, along with TMSL First Lady, Tanaya Douglas; TSU Chairman Derrick Mitchell and his wife, TMSL Alumna Roslyn Bazzelle; and TSU President Austin Lane with TSU First Lady Loran Lane represented TSU at the 2017 NAACP Image Awards in Los Angeles, California, on Saturday February 11, 2017.





FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS *Cont'd.*

TMSL Faculty Lead 2017 SE/SW POCC

SESWPOCC

Southeast Southwest People of Color
Legal Scholarship Conference

Change We Can Believe in?

Examining the Post Obama Era

March 30 - April 2

Hosted by Southern University Law
Center, Baton Rouge, LA

REGISTRATION OPEN!

The

Legal Scholarship *Conference*

Connecting engaging dialogue to innovative ideas that
can effect change in diverse communities

March 30th - April
2nd 2017

President Obama built his platform on a message of inclusion. He advocated for "people-focused and concrete change" that helped every American. His campaign promises, and subsequent terms as President, were highlighted by this deep belief in an inclusive agenda. He often cited the inherent goodness of Americans and was a proponent of the "rightness" of the political system. By contrast, the political turmoil due to the perceived divisiveness in the past presidential election has left some feeling excluded in America's agenda. This year's conference is an opportunity to bring concrete issues that speak to our current political atmosphere to the forefront.



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As academics, we are champions of ideas. Although there are sensitive issues facing disenfranchised communities of color and women, we support attendees in challenging thoughts and ideas from a variety of viewpoints. It is our hope that attendees leave with a sense of academic and social purpose that assists them in giving action to change in their own communities; change that they, and the communities they serve, can believe in.

This year **Professor L. Darnell Weeden** will serve as the Chair of the 2017 Southeast/Southwest People of Color Legal Scholarship Conference. **Professor Stephanie Ledesma** will assist with conference programming (development and execution) as Conference Program Chair and **Professor Lydia D. Johnson** will serve as Chair of the Works-in-Progress Committee. **Professor SpearIt** will serve as Co-Chair of the Student Competition.



(Prof. L. Darnell Weeden)

(Prof. Stephanie Ledesma)

(Prof. Lydia D. Johnson)

(Prof. SpearIt)

Go to www.seswpocc.org for more information on participating as a panelist, submitting a work-in-progress, participating in the student writing competition, and registering as a participant!

Questions??? Send them to cmjames@tmslaw.tsu.edu