

THURGOOD FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW

DECEMBER 15, 2018

TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY



Professor Shaundra Kellam Lewis's article, *Crossfire on Campus Carry Laws: When the First and Second Amendments Collide*, 102 IOWA L. REV. 2109 (2017), has recently been cited by a treatise and three law review articles. Specifically, Professor Lewis was cited by: (1) *Gov't Discrimination: Equal Protection Law and Litigation*, Equal Protection Standards in Specific Cases, § 4:16 (2018); (2) Katlyn E. DeBoer, *Clash of the First and Second Amendments: Proposed Regulation of Armed Protests*, 45 HASTINGS CONST. L. Q. 333, 355 n. 137 (2018); (3) *Universities and Other Institutions of Higher Learning*, 47 J.L. EDUC. 406, 406-407 (2018); and (4) Kevin P. Brady, "Campus-Carry Laws" on Public College Campuses: Can Social

Science Research Inform State Legislative Law Making, 350 ED. L. REP. 1, 16 n. 78 and 18 n. 88, (2018).

Additionally, Professor Shaundra Kellam Lewis's article that was co-authored with Daniel De Luna, Symposium on "Texas Gun Law and the Future": *The Fatal Flaws in Texas's Campus Carry Law*, was recently cited by Aurora Temple Barnes in *Guns and Academic Freedom*, 53 GONZAGA L. REV. 45, 86 n. 281 (2018).

Finally, because of Professor Lewis's scholarship on campus carry laws, mass shootings, and academic freedom, she has been asked to conduct an external review of another professor's scholarship in the area who is coming up for tenure at Brooklyn Law School, indicating that she is recognized nationally as an expert in this area.

Professor Marcia Johnson, Director of The Urban Research and Resource Center (URRC) announced the Urban Research and Resource Center (URRC) has launched *The Our Story – Thurgood Marshall School of Law* edition. The URRC is a university collaborative between the Thurgood Marshall School of Law (TMSL) and the School of Public Affairs (SOPA). The *Our Story* project conveys the history of Thurgood Marshall School of Law from its beginning in three articles, a coffee table book and a documentary. The three-part article is told in Part I: *The Long Journey Home* (from 1776-1947); Part II: *In the Beginning* (from 1947-1960) and Part III; *Protect It, Improve It and Pass It On* (from 1961-present).



A companion piece to Part III is a listing of all TMSL alumni to date. Professor Johnson is the principal researcher and writer for the Thurgood Marshall School of Law Our Story Edition has worked closely with URRC staff and more than six students hired by the Center. Students who served as part of the research team include alumnus Arionne Wells, and 3L Mercy Gagnon. The Center's Associate Director Alan Aswad Walker and the Barbara Jordan Center's Associate Director, L Anthony Johnson play significant roles in the telling of the story which spotlights the school's deans from Dean Ozie Johnson to Acting Dean Gary Bledsoe but focuses on the challenges and successes of the school itself.

It tells the story of the overwhelming barriers a community overcame to exercise the right to obtain a law education in the State of Texas. It celebrates the indomitable spirit of the historical TMSL family and challenges all of us to Protect It, Improve It and Pass It On. The editions are scheduled to be published online at urrc.tsu.edu and available on October 19 (Part I); November 19 (Part II); January 20 (Part III and alumni edition) and February 19 (coffee table book which will be sold through Dean Prudence Smith's alumni affairs office).

Associate Dean Stephanie Ledesma, also serves as a faculty member with the National Institute of Trial Advocacy (NITA), attended an Immigration Advocacy Institute for Attorneys November 25-28, 2018, in Baltimore, Maryland. Dean Ledesma is part of a nationally acclaimed team that is responsible for a unique advocacy skills program designed to train attorneys from across the country on ways to improve their advocacy skills both inside and outside of the courtroom.



The emphasis of the program is on “learning by doing,” which means that the attorney participants will spend most of their time at the program performing targeted exercises on a simulated case file, (exactly the same pedagogy used by Dean Ledesma in structuring the TMSL Trial Simulation program, required for all 2 L students at TMSL). These targeted exercises are designed based on best practice models designed to increase the effectiveness of each individual advocate, meeting them where they are, focused on helping them become their individual best.

The critiques provided by Dean Ledesma, and the other NITA faculty members are constructive and offer specific ways that each individual advocate can improve and become more successful in holistically representing their clients. Each day of the program is filled with demonstrations by the faculty and exercises intended to challenge each attorney participant. This program employs a number of different teaching techniques, with each designed to build upon the other techniques to enhance and reinforce the overall advocacy of each participant. The Advocacy in Immigration Matters Program was presented by the National Institute for Trial Advocacy in association with Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc.



Professor Fernando Colon-Navarro, Director of L.L.M. & Immigration Development at **Thurgood Marshall School of Law**, received an invitation from Camille Scott of the Scott Media Group was interviewed on a web-based show called Fish, Grits and Politikts on December 4, 201, and reviewed hot topic immigration issues. Scott is a producer for the web-based show that is recorded live at The Breakfast Klub in Houston, Texas. The show's host is Marcus Davis, the Breakfast Klub's owner. During the interview Professor Colon examined immigration policy under the Trump Administration.

Associate Dean L. Darnell Weeden recently accepted an offer from the Connecticut Public Interest Law Journal to publish his article entitled *Using Rational Basis Review in an Establishment Clause Challenge to an Alleged Muslim Travel Ban Undermines Religious Liberty*. According to the Connecticut Public Interest Law Journal it is one of the nation's top public interest law journals and it was recently identified as one of the nation's top civil rights law journals by ExpressO, an important law journal submission company.



The Connecticut Public Interest Law Journal is carried by both Lexis Nexis and Westlaw, which allows Weeden's article to be available to a substantial audience of legal academics, practitioners, jurists, as well as law students. Since the Connecticut Public Interest Law Journal is also available on the internet Weeden's article could be examined by researchers involved in a variety of academic subjects.



Professor Maurice Hew, Jr., accepted an invitation from the National Board of Trial Advocacy (NBTA) and presented on immigration removal with criminal and asylum components in November of 2018 at the NBTA's national conference in New Orleans, LA. The NBTA was the first American Bar Association accredited attorney board certification agency in the world. Founded in 1977, NBTA currently offers board certification in civil trial practice, family law, criminal law, Social Security / disability law and Truck Accident Law. Professor Hew, a Board Certified Immigration and Nationality Law Attorney was first certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization in 2003 and re-certified in 2008, 2013, and 2018 for another five years to 2023. Hew, plans to work with

the NBTA to develop their rigorous objective standards for Board Certification in Immigration and Nationality Law. Texas, California, Florida and North Carolina are the four states that currently offer Board Certification in Immigration and Nationality Law.

Professor DeCarlous Y. Spearman article entitled: [Brick by Brick: Using Disparate Impact to Remedy Discrimination at the Hand of the Texas Rangers](#), recently published in [42 T. Marshall L. Rev.169](#) (2017). In the article Spearman discusses her conversation with Sergeant Investigator Michael Scott, of the Texas Department of Public Safety (TDPS), in Houston, Texas. Sergeant Scott described the discrimination in the “legendary Texas Rangers” law enforcement group that is entrusted with protecting against crime. Juanita Alvarado, a female trooper with the TDPS, attempted to laterally transfer into a Sergeant’s position with the Texas Rangers and was rejected five times.



According to Spearman a search of the case law revealed additional matters of discrimination within the Texas Rangers. It is Spearman’s contention that Scott and Alvarado should be honored for the long overdue denial from the Texas Rangers. The record should reflect the wrongs done to Scott and Alvarado for exposing discriminatory hiring and promotions practices within the Texas Rangers.



Professor Lydia Johnson, a member of the American Bar Association (ABA) *Criminal Justice* Magazine Editorial Board, would like to make law students aware of the American Bar Association Criminal Justice Section 2019 William W. Greenhalgh Student Writing Competition. This Competition is sponsored by Criminal Justice (“Section”) of the American Bar Association (“ABA”), 321 N. Clark Street, Chicago, IL 60654 (the “Sponsor”). The goal of the Competition is to encourage law students to become involved in the Section. It is also intended to attract students to the Criminal Justice practice field, and to encourage scholarship in this field.

The contest is open to students who, on the date the entry is submitted, attend and are in good standing at an ABA-accredited law school within the United States and its possessions.

Membership in the Criminal Justice Section is not a requirement.

TOPIC: The Use of Drones by Law Enforcement—How should drones enhance public safety, how should drones be regulated, and what role does the Fourth Amendment play? Please contact Professor Johnson at Lydia.Johnson@tmslaw.tsu.edu if you are interested in this writing completion.

Please send any announcements you would like to include in the next Thurgood Faculty Spotlight to Ms. Toyann Timmons (Toyann.Timmons@tmslw.tsu.edu) and Dean Weeden (Larry.Weeden@tmslw.tsu.edu) by 5p.m. Monday, January 7, 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