

THURGOOD FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

Thurgood Marshall School of Law



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Professor SpearIt's citations to his scholarship appear in a number of recent publications, including the book, *Inmate Radicalization and Recruitment in Prison*, by Clarke Jones and Raymund E. Narag (2019 Routledge), which cites extensively to SpearIt's work. His work with Professor Stephanie Ledesma was cited in *Method Lawyering: Immersion Teaching Illustrated*, https://digitalcommons.nyls.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=2349&context=fac_articles_chaptersj, and he was cited in a Ph.D. thesis by Lindsey Carol Pointer, *Justice Performed: The Normative, Transformative, and Proleptic Dimensions of the Restorative Justice Ritual* (University of Wellington 2019), which notes: "According to SpearIt, this stigmatization takes place through the ritual construction of "otherness" present in the justice system: 'It is worth noting that the underlying connection between ritual and legal punishment depends on constructions of "otherness" for the victim of punishment."

In the earliest Christian criminal codes, the ultimate face of the other was seen in heresy, blasphemy, and apostasy. Similar attitudes held sway in the United States in colonial legislation, in the "witch" trials of the Puritan era and in the Communist "red scares." Today's politicized discourse on crime likewise tends to portray crime as amoral behavior of dangerous people who typically belong to racial and cultural groups. The "criminal" is a baseline from which all sorts of provocative labels derive, including "monster," "animal," "predator," and even "super-predator," words which will likely sound tomorrow the way "witch" sounds today."

https://researcharchive.vuw.ac.nz/xmlui/bitstream/handle/10063/8581/thesis_access.pdf?sequence=1.

Professor Ana Otero has been working on a bar readiness project with CLEO – Council on Legal Education Opportunity. In conjunction with other professors, Otero has designed and presented a number of bar orientation and readiness webinars for 1Ls, 2Ls, and 3Ls. These workshops have included an overview of the UBE exam and its components, an MPT workshop, and a readiness bar workshop for 3ls. This summer Otero will again teach a two-day workshop entitled "Attitude is Essential" (AIE) at CLEO's Pre-law Summer Institute. AIE is an intensive pre-law weekend program designed to introduce and prepare college graduates who have been accepted into an ABA-accredited law school, for the rigors ahead. This year, the program will be held in June at The Pennsylvania State University, Dickinson Law, Carlisle, PA.





Associate Dean for Research & Faculty Development and Roberson King Professor L. Darnell Weeden gave a scholarly presentation of his paper, entitled “Freedom of Association, Extreme Partisan Gerrymandering, Justiciability and the Unmistakable Political Question Controversy,” at South Texas College of Law Houston, on March 6, 2020 to members of the South Texas Faculty. The issue addressed by Weeden was whether partisan gerrymandering is a political question not capable of judicial resolution by federal courts, or whether partisan gerrymandering is instead a politicized issue that justices on the Court intentionally do not want to address at this time because they want to remain politicized while not appearing to be a politicized Supreme Court.

The Court on June 27, 2019, in a 5-4 decision, held that partisan gerrymandering allegations are political issues that federal courts should not consider. By now, it should be common knowledge that all of the justices who voted to accept the view that partisan gerrymandering is a political question were appointed by a Republican president, while all of the justices who voted to hear the partisan gerrymandering issue on the merits were appointed by a president who identified as a Democrat. Weeden contends the Court's analysis and conclusion that partisan gerrymandering is a political question and argue that the Court is obligated to re-solve partisan First Amendment gerrymandering issues to redress the in-juries suffered by plaintiffs. The Supreme Court should have addressed the partisan gerrymandering issues on the merits.

Please email any announcements you would like to include in the next edition of the Thurgood Faculty Spotlight to Associate Dean Weeden, Larry.Weeden@tmslaw.tsu.edu, with an electronic copy to his administrative assistant, Ms. Toyann Timmons, Toyann.Timmons@tmslaw.tsu.edu . Please send your submissions by **3 p.m. Friday April 10, 2020.**



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**