

THURGOOD FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

Thurgood Marshall School of Law



January 15, 2020



Associate Dean Cassandra Hill's article published in 2013 in the *Howard Law Journal*, *The Elephant in the Law School Assessment Room: The Role of Student Responsibility and Motivating Our Students to Learn*, has been cited twice this year in law reviews. Professor Heather Field cited Hill's article for its discussion on the importance of students taking responsibility for their learning in her article, *A Tax Professor's Guide to Formative Assessment*, 22 Fla. Tax Rev. 363, 383 n.50 (2019). Then, Professor Yvonne Dutton, Professor Margaret Ryznar and Attorney Kayleigh Long reference Hill's article in *Assessing Online Learning in Law Schools: Students Say Online Classes Deliver*, 96 Denver L. Rev. 493, 497 n.19 (2019), where they explain that student preferences should contribute to online course design since students are responsible for their own learning in an autonomous setting.

L. Darnell Weeden, Associate Dean Associate Dean for Research and Faculty Development and Roberson King Professor of Law on December 6, 2019, delivered a welcome speech at the mitigation training session co-hosted by Advancing Real Change, Inc. (ARC) of Baltimore, Maryland and the Thurgood Marshall School of Law's Earl Carl Institute (ECI) on the campus of Texas Southern University. Weeden thanked the attendees for coming to Texas Southern University. He said the fact that the attendees were at the ARC training demonstrated their interest making an important commitment to mitigation and its call for criminal justice, Weeden informed the audience that after he did a little research by connecting to an ARC link he discovered the purpose of the mitigation training by ARC is to promote justice by ensuring that the life histories of people charged with crimes are at the forefront of their cases.

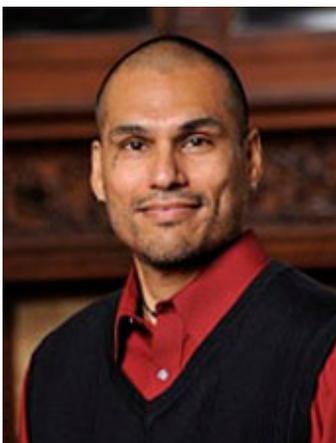


ARC work as mitigation specialists on cases where clients are represented by public defenders, court appointed, or pro bono counsel and are at risk of receiving extreme sentences. After finding out the type of work ARC does Weeden declared for emphasis let the record reflect during the weekend of December 6-8, 2019 in Houston Texas, on the campus of Texas Southern University that an ARC mitigation training was co-hosted by the Thurgood Marshall School of Law and ECI. Weeden said a co-sponsored mitigation training by ARC and ECI is a natural fit because ECI is dedicated to finding social justice answers to some of the social justice issues that disproportionately impact communities of color as well as other communities that are underrepresented in society. ECI free legal services programs include but are not limited to the ECI Juvenile Justice Project and the Thurgood Marshall School of Law Innocence Project.



Professor Marcia Johnson has collaborated with Judge Jeremy Brown (Justice of the Peace Court, Pct 7, Pos. 1) and Professor Michael Adams (School of Public Affairs) to evaluate an eviction prevention PILOT program in Judge Brown's court. The PILOT seeks to engage multiple stakeholders in modifying policy and law to afford opportunities for people to remain in their homes without the threat of eviction. Houston landlords are a crucial part of the collaboration that also includes various homeless prevention organizations. Johnson's team was awarded a grant in the amount of \$150,000 to conduct research and assessment of the PILOT. Eviction is a major problem in communities of color, especially for Black women. In a highly acclaimed book entitled "Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City", author Matthew Desmond writes, "If incarceration had come to define the lives of men from impoverished black neighborhoods, eviction was shaping the lives of women. Poor black men were locked up. Poor black women were locked out".

Professor Deana Pollard Sacks's book, *The Godfathers of Sex Abuse, Book I: Jeffrey Epstein*, was released on 12.19.19 and is available on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). The book has received extremely good reviews by law school professors, deans, and civilians. Her second book, *Book II: Harvey Weinstein & Bill Cosby*, will be released in March 2020, and a related third academic book, *Sex Torts*, should be released later in 2020.



Professor SpearIt has accepted an invitation to join the Editorial Board for the Race and the Law Prof Blog, which is a member of the Law Professor Blogs Network. He has also accepted an invitation to speak at the conference, "Poverty Law? Where We Go from Here," at the University of California, Berkeley, School of Law (April 2020). As a Berkeley Law graduate, he is especially looking forward to returning to his alma mater. SpearIt was recently interviewed as the cover story in the Islamic Society of North America's *Islamic Horizons Magazine* (Jan./Feb. 2020) for his commentary on Latino Muslims in prison, https://issuu.com/isnacreative/docs/ih_january-february_20. His scholarship was recently cited in a number of publications including, *Religious Education for Prisoners in Romania*, 12 Soc'y. Soc. Work (2019); *Beyond Recidivism: Identifying the Liberatory Possibilities of Prison Higher Education*, 7 Crit. Ed. 1 (2019); Honors Theses by Mary Duggan Hill, *Discourse about the Phenomenon of Mass Islamic Conversion as a Quasi-Religion of the American Incarceration Complex* (Whitman College 2019), <https://arminda.whitman.edu/theses/2019059> and Isabella Lupo, *What are the Best Practices in New York Education Programs Use With Prison Facilities?* (Pace University 2019), https://digitalcommons.pace.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1274&context=honorscollege_theses; his scholarship was also cited in the bibliography of a Sabbatical Leave Request by Prof. Lisa Nelson at Norco College, https://legistarweb-production.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/attachment/pdf/368906/Sabbatical_Leave_Request_Lisa_Nelson.pdf.

Adjunct Professor D’Andra Shu just returned from the AALS annual meeting in D.C., where she presented her work in progress entitled *Food Allergy Bullying as Disability Harassment: Holding Schools Accountable*. Her work was chosen through a competitive selection process for the Young Scholars Workshop of the AALS Section on Law, Medicine, and Health Care. In the piece, Professor Shu makes the legal case for why food allergy should usually be considered a disability under federal disability rights statutes, which would allow allergic children who are bullied to bring a claim for disability-based harassment under these statutes.



Professor Ericka Kelsaw organized a collaboration between TMSL and the School of Public Affairs (“SOPA”). In the fall 2019 semester, she wrote a 1L problem involving criminal law and forensic science. To engage and excite the students on their final writing problem, she partnered with Dr. Jasmine Drake, a forensic scientist at SOPA, who presented the “real world” implications of the subject matter to every 1L student. Specifically, Dr. Drake’s cross-over lecture provided tools for analyzing forensic drug evidence. This was the first interdisciplinary collaboration of this kind and the response from students was very positive.



TMSL SPRING 2020 FACULTY LECTURE SERIES

CALENDAR

All Faculty Series are presented in the Dean's
Conference Room 227 at

Thurgood Marshall School of Law from 12:00pm—12:50pm

ADMIRIED PRESENTERS



“The Impact of Technology and Legal Education”

Professor Fernando Colon-Navarro

Thurgood Marshall School of Law



“The Gas Revolution Beyond The United States”

Professor Emeke Duruigbo

Thurgood Marshall School of Law



“The Farcical Samaritan’s Dilemma”

Professor Andre Cummings

**University of Arkansas at Little Rock
William H. Bowen School of Law**

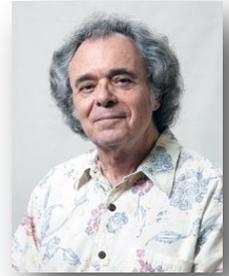




“Separate and Unequal: The Institutional Racism of the Supreme Court”

Professor Thomas Kleven

Thurgood Marshall School of Law



“Abraham Lincoln and Colonization”

Professor Mark Steiner

South Texas College of Law Houston



“The Impact, if any, of Premature Miranda Warnings”

Professor Geoffrey Corn

South Texas College of Law Houston



“The Role of Education in Advancing Tolerance as a Substantive Value, Not a Procedural Value”

Professor Randall Kelso

South Texas College of Law Houston





“Choice of Law Clauses and Time”
Professor Jeff Rensberger
South Texas College of Law Houston



**“Business Fraud Is Now Legal
In Houston”**
Professor Val Ricks
South Texas College of Law Houston



**“New Developments In Gun
Manufacturer Liability”**
Professor Dru Stevenson
South Texas College of Law Houston



**“The Relationship Between Sports
and Racism in Today’s Society”**
Professor David Grenardo
St. Mary’s University School of Law





“The Impeachment Debate”

Professor Craig Jackson

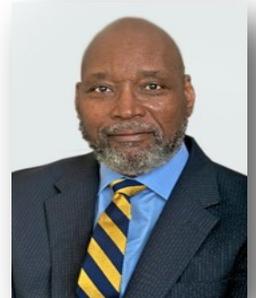
Thurgood Marshall School of Law



**“Freedom of Association, Extreme Partisan
Gerrymandering Justiciability and the
Unmistakable Political Question Controversy”**

Associate Dean L. Darnell Weeden

Thurgood Marshall School of Law



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Please send any announcements you would like to include in the next Thurgood Faculty Spotlight to Ms. Toyann Timmons (Toyann.Timmons@tmslaw.tsu.edu) and Dean Weeden (Larry.Weeden@tmslaw.tsu.edu) by 3p.m. Friday, January 24, 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**