

# THURGOOD FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

Thurgood Marshall School of Law



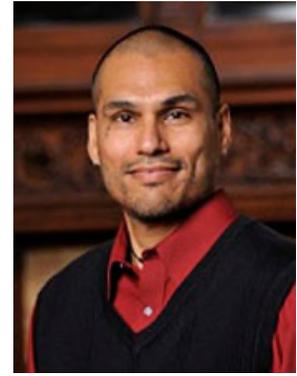
May 1, 2020



**Associate Dean for Research & Faculty Development and Roberson King Professor L. Darnell Weeden's** published scholarship has lately been mentioned in several academic or professional journals. Erin Cranor in an article entitled *Out In Public: Legal And Policy Benefits Of Open, Cooperative K-12 Transgender Policy Development*, 2019 B.Y.U. EDUC. & L.J. 191, 196, while discussing some recent legal literature speaking about the transgender issue cited Weeden's article entitled, *Transgender Bathroom Rights and President Obama's Unauthorized Scheme to Transform Title IX*, 44 W. ST. U. L. REV. 1, 1. Fall, 2016 by taking the following quote from Weeden's article, "AB 1266 allows a self-identified transgendered student to utilize sex-segregated toilets based on the student's gender identity, regardless of the gender reality recorded on the student's birth certificate." Professor Bruce S. Ledewitz, a Professor of Law at Duquesne University School of Law, in an article entitled *What Is The Best Model For Investigating Presidential Wrongdoing, Today?*, 57 DUQ. L. REV. 225, 231 (2019) while analyzing constitutionally acceptable independent investigation within the Executive Branch cited to Weeden's article.

According to Professor Ledewitz, Weeden's believes the decision to permit the Independent Counsel Act to expire may be thought to be after-the-fact affirmation of Justice Scalia's constitutional concerns, see Weeden, *A Post-Impeachment Indictment of the Independent Counsel Statute*, 28 N. KY. L. REV. 536, 552 (2001). Nicholas C. Ulen in an article entitled *Corporations, Natural Rights, And The Assembly Clause: An Originalist Critique Of Corporate Speech Jurisprudence*, 10 WAKE FOREST J.L. & POL'Y 25, 81 (2019), Ulen contends restrictions on identity require the highest scrutiny to pass constitutional muster. In support of his strict scrutiny argument Ulen quotes Weeden's article entitled *Good Public Policy Occurs Under Plyler When In-State College Tuition Rates Are Awarded to Undocumented Bona Fide Resident Immigrants*, 25 GEO. MASON U. C.R.L.J. 191, 195 (2015) ("Strict scrutiny concerns suspect classifications established on race, alienage, or national origin. Under the strict scrutiny standard of analysis, a state must demonstrate the challenged classification is narrowly tailored to promote a compelling government interest."). Professor, Demetria Frank, Professor and Director of Diversity & Inclusion, the University of Memphis, Cecil c. Humphreys School of Law, article entitled *Social Inequity, Cultural Reform & Diversity In The Legal Profession*, 13 S. J. POL'Y & JUST. 25, 27 (2019) cited to Weeden's article entitled *In Response to the Call for Social Justice, Historically Black Law Schools Represent the New Mission of Educational Diversity in the Legal Profession*, 14 J. GENDER RACE & JUST. 747 (2011), to support her suggestion "that an important way law schools can encourage collaborative, engaging, and inclusive institutional culture is through coordinated programming centered on promoting socioeconomic equity and justice."

**Professor SpearIt** presented to the faculty at South Texas College of Law on April 3, 2020, on his work, *Reimagining the Death Penalty: Targeting Christians, Conservatives* (forthcoming, Buff. L. Rev. 2020). SpearIt has recently accepted an invitation to serve on TSU's IRB Committee as a prison/prisoner representative, a position that entails reviewing research protocols and delivering opinions about them. His scholarship was recently cited in New York University Law Review in the article, *The Prisoner and the Polity*, <https://www.nyulawreview.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/NYULAWREVIEW-95-1-Eisenberg.pdf>.



The article cites two of his writings: *Twenty Years After the Education Apocalypse: The Ongoing Fall Out from the 1994 Omnibus Crime Bill*, 33 St. Louis U. Pub. L. Rev. 283 (2014) and *Keeping it REAL: Why Congress Must Act to Restore Pell Grant Funding for Prisoners*, 11 U. Mass. L. Rev. 26 (2016). SpearIt's scholarship was also cited in a February 2020 court filing in the U.S. District Court, North District of California Oakland Division, which involves a state prison's mistreatment of prisoners with disabilities, <https://rbgg.com/wp-content/uploads/Redacted-Declaration-of-E.-Vail-Support-Motion-Stop-Def-RJD-Abuse-2-28-20.pdf>.

**Associate Dean of Academic Affairs Professor Cassandra Hill** recently accepted the position as Dean of Northern Illinois University College of Law. Hill is really excited about this new venture and the opportunity to lead a law school that has a mission and values that are parallel to those of Texas Southern University. Like TSU, NIU prioritizes diversity, access and opportunity, and teaching excellence.



TSU has had a profound impact on Hill's life. Hill's family has a history with TSU that spans over 40 years—her father, Joshua Hill, Sr., served at TSU as the Vice President of Facilities Management and then as the Dean of the School of Technology for many years; Hill's mother, Etta Hill, graduated from TSU's Jesse H. Jones Business School; and Hill's youngest brother, Jason Hill, earned his B.A. and Master's degree from TSU. Hill's earliest memories are of programs, athletic games, and celebrations she attended on TSU grounds. Hill joined the faculty at TMSL because she strongly believes in TSU's mission and commitment to "Excellence in Achievement." And, over the past 12 years, she has had the honor to work alongside some of the most talented and hard-working faculty and staff, whom she calls her family. According to Hill, she has had the privilege at TMSL to teach some of the brightest minds and witness TMSL graduates soar and positively impact the communities in which they live.

Hill loved her experience at TSU and she is thankful for the many opportunities afforded to her as a member of the TMSL faculty and administration. She will treasure and carry all of these experiences with her and she thanks each of her colleagues at TMSL for each and every experience.

Hill starts her new position at NIU effective July 1, 2020, and she is preparing for a less-than-normal transition because of the current COVID-19 crisis and the remote work and stay-at-home orders in place in many states across the nation. That said, Hill knows "This Too Shall Pass" and, one day, she will be able to greet her colleagues in person. Until then, Hill is sending her TMSL colleagues a virtual hug.

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](mailto:Larry.Weeden@tmslaw.tsu.edu), with an electronic copy to his administrative assistant, Ms. Toyann Timmons, [Toyann.Timmons@tmslaw.tsu.edu](mailto:Toyann.Timmons@tmslaw.tsu.edu) . Please send your submissions by **3 p.m. Friday September 11, 2020.**



**Thurgood Faculty Spotlight** is a twice Monthly journal (the 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> 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**