



FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS



Professor Fernando Colon Navarro accepted an invitation to be a featured keynote speaker at this year's 3rd Annual National Hispanic Pre-Law Conference on November 10, 2017, at New York Law School.



Professor Deana Pollard-Sacks received SSRN's "Top 10%" distinction this month. Professor Pollard-Sacks is in the top 10% of all authors on SSRN by downloads. SSRN's eLibrary provides 727,610 research papers from 335,938 researchers across 30 disciplines including, but not limited to,



Associate Dean Cassandra Hill's article, *The Elephant in the Law School Assessment Room: The Role of Student Responsibility and Motivating Our Students to Learn*, was recently cited by two authors in scholarship on educating today's lawyers.

Nicola A. Boothe-Perry, a professor at Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University College of Law, cited Associate Dean Hill's article in *The "New Normal" for Educating Lawyers*, 31 *BYU J. Pub. L.* 53, 61 n.45 (2016), as support for the proposition that law schools and law professors should continually work to improve their teaching and student learning. Additionally, Heather D. Baum, a professor at Villanova University School of Law, cited Associate Dean Hill's article in *Inward Bound: An Exploration of Character Development in Law School*, 39 *U. Ark. Little Rock L. Rev.* 25, 56 n.220 (2016), when discussing the need for professors to set high expectations through course learning outcomes that focus on student responsibility for learning and professional development.

business, law, political science, and humanities. Per the statistical information on SSRN, Professor Pollard-Sacks has received over 4,000 total number of downloads of her articles posted on SSRN. SSRN ranks the top 30,000 authors on its website, which you can access at the following link: <https://www.ssrn.com/en/index.cfm/top-authors/>.



Professor SpearIt was recently recognized by the ABA Section on Criminal Justice for his leadership on Pell Grant funding for prisoners, http://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/administrative/criminal_justice/leadership_2017.authcheckdam.pdf. He



Professor Stephanie Ledesma's article, *PTSD and Bad Paper Discharges: Why the Fairness to Soldiers Act Is Too Little, Too Late*, received the Social Science Research Network's (SSRN's) "Top Ten download" recognition on the (1) Disability Law eJournal, (2) Health Care Law & Policy eJournal, (3) Psychological Anthropology eJournal, and (4) Political Economy - Development: Health eJournal research lists.

presented at Lone Star College on 4/13/17 on a panel entitled "Knowledge is Power" and at Florida A&M University School of Law on 4/7/17, where he presented "Firepower to the People: Gun Rights and Law of Self-Defense to Curb Police Misconduct." SpearIt has accepted an invitation to republish his article, *Muslim Radicalization in Prison: Sound Penal Policy or the Sound of Alarm?* in the book *Islamophobia in America* (forthcoming 2018, Cambridge University Press). His work was cited in the peer-review article *A Rapid Evidence Assessment of the Effectiveness of Prison Education in Reducing Recidivism and Increasing Employment*, *Probation Journal* (2017), <http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/0264550517699290> and "I Do Feel the Fire!': The Transformations of Prison-Based Black Male Converts to Islam in South Central, Malcolm X, and Oz, 21 *J. of Rel. & Film* 1 (2017), <http://digitalcommons.unomaha.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1730&context=jrf>.



FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS *Cont'd.*



Professor L. Darnell Weeden's article entitled *Transgender Bathroom Rights And President Obama's Unauthorized Scheme to Transform Title IX* was recently published as the lead article in *Western State Law Review*, 44 W. St. L. Rev. 1 (2016). In the article, Professor Weeden contends the national battle over transgender rights has been created by a directive from the United States Department of Justice that public schools must grant transgender students access to bathrooms that agree with their self-proclaimed gender identity. The battle has heated up since the Obama Administration filed a civil rights suit challenging a North Carolina law regulating transgender status.



Professor Edieth Wu was elected Faculty Vice Chairperson for the 2017- 2019 Texas Southern University Faculty Senate.

TMSL Honored by Houston Lawyers Association



**Thurgood Marshall School of Law
Innocence Project**

Professor April Walker

Francis Williams Advocacy Award

**Roberson L. King Excellence in
Education Awardee**

Thurgood Marshall School of Law's own, Professor April Walker and the TMSL Innocence Project was among the honorees at the Houston Lawyers Association's Annual Scholarship and Awards Gala on May 27, 2017. Professor April Walker received the Roberson L. King Excellence in Education Award for commitment to empowering the community through education and service. The award also recognizes Professor Walker's dedication to educating "...today's legal scholars and tomorrow's legal icons."

The TMSL Innocence Project received the Francis Williams Advocacy Award which recognizes its unrelenting and vigorous defense of significant issues of concern for the African American community that vastly impact social change. Please join us in congratulating Professor Walker and the TMSL Innocence Project!



FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS *Cont'd.*

Professor Lydia Johnson Named Mentor of the Year



TMSL Associate Professor **Lydia Johnson** received the astounding achievement of being voted, “**Mentor of the Year**” by the Harris County Criminal Lawyers Association (HCCLA), the largest criminal defense lawyers association in Texas!

On May 11, 2017, at HCCLA’s 47th Annual Banquet at Hotel ZaZa in Houston, TX. Professor Johnson was recognized for her outstanding mentorship in training 3L law students to represent indigent citizens charged with misdemeanor offenses.

Texas Southern University Thurgood Marshall School of Law is the only law school in Harris County with a Criminal Defense Clinic.

Congratulations, Professor Lydia Johnson on a job well done!

