



FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS *Cont'd.*



Professor SpearIt Professor SpearIt's scholarship was recently cited in a number of publications, including the peer-reviewed article, *'Madness' and Penal Confinement: Some Observations on Mental Illness and Prison Pain*, *Pun. & Soc.* (2017), <http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/1462474517705389>.

His work was also cited extensively in the article *Should Domestic Violence be Criminalized?*, *40 Harvard J. L. Gender.* 53 (2017), <http://harvardjlg.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/jlg-winter-5.pdf>, and cited in *Practice Makes Perfect: New Practitioners' Perspectives on Trends in Legal Education*, *53 Wash. U. J. L. P.* 135 (2017), http://openscholarship.wustl.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1965&context=law_journal Law_policy.

Lastly, Professor SpearIt's work was cited by the Columbian National Police in the Spanish publication, *59 Revista Criminalidad* (2017), https://www.policia.gov.co/sites/default/files/revista_criminalidad_59-1.pdf.



Professor L. Darnell Weeden received an invitation to speak at the University of Mississippi Meek School of Journalism and New Media from the school's Professor and Dean Will Norton, Jr. As a result of accepting Dean's Norton's invitation, Professor Weeden, a graduate of the Journalism Department

and the University Of Mississippi School Of Law, spoke on May 19, 2017, to Professor Mark Dolan's Digital Media Diversity Class. One of the goals of the Digital Media Diversity class is to explore how historically voiceless people emerge and are portrayed in the media. Professor Weeden's presentation focused on some of the constitutional and social issues confronting historically voiceless people. During his lecture which was based on selections from his published scholarship, Professor Weeden challenged students in the class to never forget that digital media has a special obligation to provide fair and balanced coverage on issues involving the civil rights of un-

derrepresented racial minorities, undocumented immigrants, and the treatment of the poor during a massive natural disaster.

Professor Weeden also published an article this year entitled *Marriage Equality Laws Are a Threat to Religious Liberty* was recently published in the *Southern Illinois University Law Journal*, *41 S. Ill. U. L.J.* 211 (2017). Weeden's article surveys issues surrounding the clash of religious liberty rights with marriage equality. Professor Weeden contends that, notwithstanding the holding in *Obergefell*, the United States Constitution's safeguard for religious liberty under the First Amendment is greater than the judicially- created right to marriage equality. This article was aided by a 2016 summer research grant from Thurgood Marshall School of Law.



Professor Katherine Vukadin gave a presentation on persuasive legal writing to the attorneys and legal assistants of Lone Star Legal Aid. Her presentation, entitled "Making Your Point: Tips for Persuasive Advocacy," focused on techniques for clear, persuasive writing, even when dense statutory material is at issue.



Professor Stephanie Ledesma received an offer to publish her latest article, *"I'm Blending": "Cultural Compassion" Taught as a Critical Pedagogy*, with *Akron Law Review*, which is a top 70 law journal on Washington and Lee's Law Journal Rankings. In her article, Professor Ledesma explains that effective legal advocacy not only involves a mastery of the law and skill, but also requires a deep understanding of the client. She then examines why "practice readiness" requires law school curriculums to introduce and to incorporate "cultural compassion" as a critical pedagogy.