

THURGOOD FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
Thurgood Marshall School of Law



February 1, 2020



L. Darnell Weeden, Associate Dean Associate Dean for Research and Faculty Development and Roberson King Professor of Law article entitled “The Equal Protection Clause Prohibits A Public School From Stigmatizing A Student With A Diluted Fake Education That Fails To Teach Literacy,” was recently published in the Thurgood Marshall Law Review, 43 T. Marshall L. Rev. 647, 648 (2019). The issue addressed in Weeden’s article was whether a predictable governmental denial of an equal opportunity for literacy to some groups of children in America because of the school district they live in or the school they attend violates the Equal Protection Clause objective of eliminating harmful governmental stigmas that serve as unreasonable obstacles to promoting personal merit.

A federal civil-rights lawsuit to secure the right of access to literacy was litigated in Michigan. The district judge held that, regardless of its magnitude in American society, children do not have a constitutionally protected right to acquire enough skills in a public school to be able to read and write. Weeden argues that minorities and other less privileged students in society should have equal access to educational opportunities and resources granted to more affluent students. Because universal literacy is so beneficial to society and necessary to protect democracy Weeden believes that it should be regarded as a fundamental constitutional right. Unfortunately, the Supreme Court has held that education is not a fundamental right

Professor of Law Shaundra Kellam Lewis recently spoke at the 2020 Association of American Law Schools Conference, in Washington, D.C., on the hot topic panel “The Second Amendment at the Supreme Court and the Future of Heller.” After Professor Lewis’s panel’s presentation, Boston University Assistant Professor of Health Law, Ethics, and Human Rights Michael R. Ulrich tweeted the following: “Amazing & star-studded panel #2A rights, gun violence, & the future of this debate. Addressing everything from standard of review & history to rhetoric & race #AALS2020.”



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, February 7, 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**