

# THURGOOD FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY  
Thurgood Marshall School of Law



November 1, 2019



**Distinguished Professor James M. Douglas** of the Thurgood Marshall School of Law, joined the Texas Southern University's Urban Research and Resource Center, the Thurgood Marshall School of Law Student Bar Association, and the Thurgood Marshall School of Law Civil Rights Society to host a community event entitled, "Strengthening Police and Community Partnerships" on the Texas Southern University Campus on Saturday, October 19, 2019. Professor Douglas' played a leading role in securing 10 facilitators for the program. Houston's Mayor Sylvester Turner, representatives from the United States Department of Justice as well member of the Houston Police Department shared in the community outreach experience. A major focus of this community outreach experience is to take steps to improve the relationship between the community and law enforcement. One issue presented for discussion involved addressing why the relationship between law enforcement and the community is often fragmented. In future meetings many of those attending the meeting plan to convene again after synthesizing data to offer some concrete suggestions on how to improve community police relations.

**Director Reem Haikal** presented at the Thurgood Marshall School of Law Fall Faculty Lecture Series on Wednesday October 23, 19. Haikal's Presentation was entitled "The Role of Academic Support at HBCUs" where Director Haikal explained the role of academic support and how it benefits students. She also examined academic support programs at Medical Schools and how they differ from academic support programs at TMSL. Director Haikal also reviewed various programs that the Office of Academic Success at TMSL offers to help students and faculty. She also discussed future initiatives to better serve students and improve Bar passage rates.



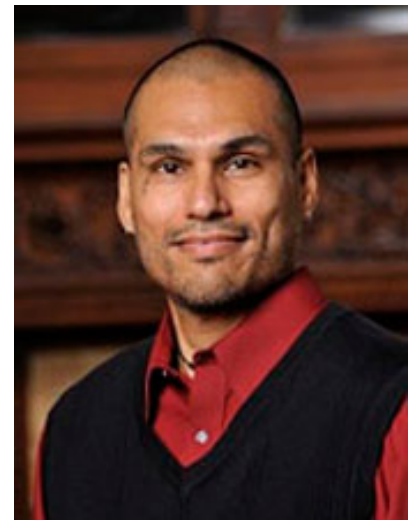
**Professor Walter T. Champion** accepted an offer from the University Of Las Vegas Williams S. Boyd School Of Law Gaming Law Journal to publish his article entitled "Daily Fantasy Sports and the 'Fuzzy Animal' Debate in Texas." Champion acknowledges that his manuscript submission was made possible by an \$8,500 summer 2019 research stipend provided by Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University.



**Associate Dean for Research & Faculty Development and Roberson King** Professor of Law **L. Darnell Weeden’s** article entitled “Using Rational Basis Review In An Establishment Clause Challenge To An Alleged Muslim Travel Ban Undermines Religious Liberty”, was recently published in the Connecticut Public Interest Law Journal, 18 Conn. Pub. Int. L.J. 165 (2019). Weeden article include these observations. Since there is a great deal of evidence supporting the position that President Trump's travel bans were intended to send the message that the United States had adopted a new policy of discouraging Muslims from coming to America due to their religion, these bans violate the Establishment Clause because the President's anti-Muslim by executive order policy is merely incidentally related to national security. Since there is no legitimate security rationale for the Trump travel bans, they can only be reasonably explained as a demonstration of open hostility toward Muslims.

This article in part II will include a discussion of the widespread public perception that President Trump's first travel ban which he issued on January 27, 2017, was targeted at Muslims because of their religion and not about promoting national security. President Trump defended his travel bans as not targeting Muslims because of their religion because the travel bans were about keeping America safe. Part III provides an analysis of the Trump Travel Ban Establishment Clause issue presented in *Hawaii v. Trump*. The conclusion in part IV agrees with the position that the Court in *Trump v. Hawaii* failed to hold the executive branch of government accountable for rejecting the First Amendment promise of religious neutrality and tolerance. It should be settled precedent by now that an apparent hostile executive order that allegedly targets Muslims because of their religion under the Establishment Clause must at a minimum meet a standard higher than the rational basis test.

**Professor SpearIt’s** scholarship continues to be widely cited including recently in the books, *Anthropological Perspectives on the Religious Uses of Mobile Apps* (2019 Palgrave Macmillan) and *Islam in America: Exploring the Issues* (ABC-CLIO 2019), and the articles *To Knock or Not to Knock? No-Knock Warrants and Confrontational Policing*, 93 St. John’s L. Rev. 201 (2019) and “Why there is no Daesh (ISIS) Threat in Latin America?,” *Islamic Bridge* (9/24/19), <https://islamicbridge.com/2019/09/24/why-there-is-no-daesh-isis-threat-in-latin-america/>.



**Adjunct Professor D’Andra Shu** and our former colleague Professor Katherine Vukadin wrote a guest post for the Appellate Advocacy Blog (part of the Law Professor Blogs Network) entitled “Could a Checklist Improve Your Legal Writing?” Shu and Vukadin discuss how law students and practicing attorneys can compile and use checklists to avoid repeating predictable legal writing mistakes. You can read the entry here: [https://lawprofessors.typepad.com/appellate\\_advocacy/2019/10/could-a-checklist-improve-your-legal-writing.html](https://lawprofessors.typepad.com/appellate_advocacy/2019/10/could-a-checklist-improve-your-legal-writing.html).

**TMSL Assistant Dean for Student Development and Advanced Legal Analysis Instructor Virgie Mouton**, appears in a video released by the State Bar of Texas on October 10, 2019. The video highlights the importance of lawyers seeking help for anxiety, depression, suicidal thoughts, and other mental health issues.



The four-minute video, “It’s Good to Get Help,” was produced by TexasBarCLE and the Texas Lawyers’ Assistance Program, which provides confidential help for Texas lawyers, judges, and law students struggling with mental health or substance use issues.

The video features a variety of leaders in the Texas legal profession, including representatives of the Supreme Court, the State Bar, the Board of Law Examiners, and Texas law schools. Their comments are interspersed with personal stories from attorneys who say they benefited from getting help for issues ranging from grief and burnout to drug and alcohol use disorders. Dean Mouton appears in a medium close-up view, reciting lines in two different medium close-up segments, the last showing a banner with the phrase, Virgie Mouton Thurgood Marshall School of Law.

Dean Mouton stated, “I enjoyed traveling to Austin to shoot the video and reading the lines in front of the camera. I especially enjoyed my husband driving me to and from Austin for the shoot. It was the last short trip he and I traveled together before his death in August. How meaningful in that now my friends at TLAP are helping me cope with my grief after his passing”. Dean Mouton practices what she preaches. It is her desire that members of the TMSL community seek help in their time of need.

The video is available here. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ghYKXsFyt7Y>)



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 5p.m. Friday, November 8, 2019



**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**