



TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL *of* LAW

Stephanie Smith Ledesma, MA, JD, CWLS
ASSOCIATE DEAN OF EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING/ ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

BIOGRAPHY

Stephanie M. Ledesma is an American attorney, law professor, educator, Associate Dean of the Thurgood Marshall School of Law, (TMSL), Experiential Education program, and National Faculty member of the National Institute of Trial Advocacy (NITA).

As a practitioner of more than twenty years, Dean Ledesma's breadth of experience serves as the foundation of the Experiential Education Department of TMSL. Growing this department from two programs, (clinics and externships), to fourteen programs in her short time as a faculty member and administrator, Dean Ledesma has created, and continues to create programs that are built on a sustainable foundation, such as the redesigned trial simulation course, (mandatory for all students, and providing students with 2/3 of the required experiential education graduation requirements as adopted by the American Bar Association, (ABA), for all US law schools), based on the NITA pedagogy; the revised competitive moot court and mock trial programs that work to bridge doctrinal knowledge and practical skills; and the newly established hybrid programs that offer students the experience of working with live clients, on newly filed or pending cases, executed as an externship program, thereby providing greater access of experiential educational experiences to more students while being mindful of the limited resourced budget.

Dean Ledesma believes in the student/participant-centric model of adult education. Whether it is licensed attorneys at a NITA trial skills or deposition skills program, or law students from a multitude of backgrounds, experiences and generations, when sharing her knowledge of how to master the art and science of persuasive and effective communication as a legal professional, success is only possible if you are willing to work from the participant's/student's perspective.

Building a collaborative and diverse legal community that holds itself to the highest ethical standards and reflects an unwavering commitment to service -leadership, with public interest as our focus, is the mission that Dean Ledesma is honored to pursue.

Dean Ledesma is also very active in curriculum development for legal professionals, legal agencies and law schools; service to the State Bar; service to the profession on local, state, and national platforms; and service to her community.