



FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS



Professor L. Darnell Weeden's article, *May Traditional Deference To State Sovereignty Serve As A Rational Basis To Deny Marriage Equality To Same-Sex Wedding Vows?*, was recently published in the Loyola Journal of Public Interest Law, 16 Loy. J. Pub. Int. L 201 (2014). In the article Weeden examines

whether traditional deference to state sovereignty and our historical national tradition of preference for heterosexual marriage may serve as a rational basis to permit a state to deny marriage equality to same-sex wedding vows, without violating either the equal protection principle or the substantive due process fundamental liberty to marry. Before this modern period, as a general rule, most Americans would not even contemplate an option of two people of the same sex getting married and receiving the same legal benefits awarded to a man and woman in a legal, traditional, heterosexual marriage. Similarly, **Professor Weeden's** article *Good Public Policy Occurs Under Plyler When In-State College Tuition Rates Are Awarded to Undocumented Bona Fide Resident Immigrants* is now out in print and published by the George Mason University Civil Rights Law Journal.

Professors Ahunanya Anga, Thelma Harmon, Lydia D. Johnson, Shaundra Kellam Lewis, and L. Darnell Weeden served as panelists on TMSL's Research Week program entitled *Scholarship Beyond These Four Walls: How to Emerge, Engage & Excite*. **Professor SpearIt** moderated the program, and it was organized by the TMSL Faculty Development Committee, chaired by **Professor Katherine T. Vukadin**. In addition, TMSL students Noor Ali and Gavin Ellis served as panelists.



Visiting Andrew Jefferson Endowed Chair in Trial Advocacy Anthony Farley presented *A Vision for the Jefferson Chair in Trial Advocacy* on April 8, 2015, as part of the TMSL Faculty Series. On April 9, 2015, **Professor Farley** served as a panelist, together with **SpearIt** and **Instructor**



Anthony Haughton, in response to U.S. Representative Sheila Jackson Lee's and Director Charles Samuels' of the Federal Bureau of Prisons talk entitled *Thoughts on Prison*. On April 17, 2015, **Professor Farley** gave the keynote speech, entitled *Childhood and the African-American Experience*, at a conference at Lewis and Clark School of Law and entitled *Freedom from Fear: Black Childhood and Other Dangers II*. On April 20, 2015, **Professor Farley** also gave a public lecture entitled *Child Rights*.



Professor Lydia D. Johnson presented her work-in-progress, *Juvenile Sex Offenders: Should They Be Allowed to go to School with Your Children or Create a Pedophile Academy*, on April 22, 2015, as part of the TMSL Faculty Series and Quodlibet.

Professor and Director of Experiential Learning Stephanie Smith Ledesma presented her work-in-progress, entitled *The D.O.D. and V.A. vs. PTSD and MTBI, the Collateral Damage of "Bad Paper" Discharges": An Experiential Learning Solution to a Post-War Epidemic*, on April 1, 2015, as part of the TMSL Faculty Series and Quodlibet.





FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS (Cont'd.)



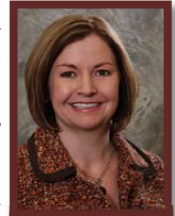
Professor Martin Levy, together with Houston Law Professor David Dow and South Texas Law Professor Charles “Rocky” Rhodes, appeared on Houston PBS television show, *Red, White, and Blue*, on

April 17, 2015, to discuss the U.S. Supreme Court’s docket this year.

Professor Ana Otero was selected as Professor of the Year by the Student Bar Association.



Professor Katherine T. Vukadin gave a talk entitled, *An Examination of Affordable Care Act Minority Enrollment Statistics in Texas and Texas’ Policy Efforts to Circumvent the ACA*, as part of the April 16, 2015, symposium organized by the Earl Carl Institute for Legal and Social Change, Inc. and entitled “Obamacare” *The Affordable Care Act Five Years Later: Its Impact on Communities of Color*. **Professor Weeden’s** talk at the symposium was entitled *An Overview of Pending Affordable Care Act Cases – Supreme Court Update*.



Eugene Harrington Professor Lupe S. Salinas’s book, *Latinos and Criminal Injustice*, is now out in print (Michigan State University Press), and in which **Professor SpearIt** has published a chapter entitled *How Mass Incarceration Underdevelops Latino Communities*.

Professor SpearIt presented *Recalibrating the Scale: Using Research to Reform Prison Sentencing* on April 1, 2015, as part of TSU’s Research Week’s Faculty, Staff, and Student Oral Presentations. In addition, **Professor SpearIt** has accepted an offer to serve on a November 2015 panel organized by Rice University’s Religion and Public Life Program. Penn Law professor Sarah Barringer Gordon also has agreed to serve as a panelist.



Professor Walter Champion’s casebook on Baseball and the Law was recently published by Cognella (this is his 8th book). His casebook on Recreational Injuries (Aspen Select) and Entertainment Law (Aspen Select - - with Prof. Ricky Anderson) are completed and will be in print by August. Professor Champion lectured on “A Seasick Blackjack Dealer on a Moored Riverboat Casino is NOT a seaman under the Jones Act” at Northern Kentucky’s Law Review Symposium on Gaming Law on March 20, 2015 (this essay will be published by their law review). He also lectured at TAMU Law School on April 10, 2015, on “the Branding of Johnny Football” in their “IP8 the Modern University Athlete” symposium.



Professor and Associate Dean Asmara M. Tekle has accepted an offer to publish *Rectifying These Mean Streets: Percent-for-Art Ordinances, Street Furniture, and the New Streetscape*, in volume 104 of the *Kentucky Law Journal*. The paper may be accessed at <http://ssrn.com/abstract=2594778>