



THURGOOD THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW TODAY

TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS



Professor SpearIt has accepted an invitation to participate in the 2018 AALS Annual Meeting in San Diego. He will present his work, "Repackaging Culture: Abolition for Christians and Conservatives," on a panel entitled "Critical Inquiry for Critical Times: Anthropological Approaches to Legal Scholarship, Teaching, and Advocacy." SpearIt's work was recently cited in *Should Domestic Violence be Decriminalized?*, 40 Harvard J. L. Gender 53 (2017); *Foreword: Now, More than Ever: Reflections on LatCrit at Twenty*, 10 Charleston L. Rev. 173 (2017); *Afterword: LatCrit Theory @ XX: Kindling The Programmatic Production of Critical and Outsider Legal Scholarship, 1996-2016*, 10 Charleston L. Rev. 297 (2017); *The Legal Story of Guantanamo North*, 19 U Pa. J. Const. L. 1169 (2017); *A State in Shackles: The Effect of a Dysfunctional Childhood on Crime and Imprisonment*, 62 S.D. L. Rev. 211 (2017); *Black Health Matters: Disparities, Community Health, and Interest Convergence*, 22 Mich. J. Race L. 53 (2016)



Professor L. Darnell Weeden's article entitled, *The Supreme Court's Rejection of the Rational Basis Standard in Shelby County v. Holder Invites Voter Suppression*, 33 MISS. C. L. REV. 219, 222 (2014) was recently cited by Jesús N. Joslin in a student comment entitled *Navigating The Post-Shelby Landscape: Using Universalism To Augment The Remaining Power Of The Voting Rights Act*, 19 Scholar: St. Mary's L. Rev. & Soc. Just. 217, 239 (2017). According to Joslin, Weeden is among those commentators who have characterized the Supreme Court's ruling in Shelby a historic disaster because of Shelby the VRA is no longer a very effective tool in prevented the implementation of many restrictive voting laws.



Dean Stephanie Ledesma was invited to serve as the Keynote Speaker at the 15th annual "Together We Can!" Conference: Making a Difference for Children Who Have Been Abused or Neglected, in Lafayette, Louisiana. The conference was hosted by the Louisiana Supreme Court, the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services, the National Association of Social Workers, and other statewide organizations. This year the conference had close to 1000 attendees, and showcased a theme of "Collaboration Works! improving Outcomes for Children & Families." Dean Ledesma's keynote address was titled, "Cultural Compassion: Addressing Implicit Bias". Dean Ledesma also lead to workshops on Professionalism for Attorneys.





THURGOOD THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW TODAY

TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

TMSL Faculty Members Join together for Experiential Learning Exercise

On November 3, 2017, **Professors Colon-Navarro's and Tekle's** first-year property classes of almost 140 students joined forces to conduct a joint experiential learning exercise. The exercise consisted of a negotiation between siblings of land willed to them by their father and who owned it as tenants in common. At eight o'clock in the morning, 33 simultaneous rounds of negotiations took place, judged by 33 different judges, many of whom were alumni, staff, and upper-class students. Each negotiating team was composed of one student from Professor Colon-Navarro's class and one from Professor Tekle's class. Prior to the negotiation, **Professor Peter Marchetti** conducted a special joint session on the lawyering skill of negotiation, drawing from his background negotiating business deals on Wall Street. In addition, upper-class students **Jefreshia Bell, Nneka Akubeze, and Valerie Salcido** conducted a special class for each class discussing the value that employers place on the acquisition of lawyering skills via co-curricular activities and experiential learning as early as possible in law school. **Courtney Bowie** also assisted students with career guidance and orientation.

Overall, judges were impressed by the rigor, knowledge, and professionalism of the first-year students. Thank you to all of the judges for your feedback and support of the 1Ls. A very special thank you to **Alvin Adejei**, attorney at Abraham Watkins, **Sarah Guidry**, Executive Director of the Earl Carl Institute, **Sherea A. McKenzie**, General Counsel for Harris County Precinct One, and **Rodney Ellis**, Harris County Commissioner.

