



THURGOOD THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW TODAY

TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

Marcia Johnson co-founds the TSU Urban Research Resource Center

(re-print from TSU E-News)



Texas Southern University is pleased to announce the formation of its new Urban Research and Resource Center (URRC). Created through collaborative efforts between faculty and staff from Thurgood Marshall School of Law (TMSL) and Barbara Jordan Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs (BJML SOPA), URRC ensures that TSU maintains its leadership role as the academic and policy resource for urban issues and solutions.

TMSL Professor **Marcia Johnson** heads the center that will combine scholarly endeavors with community outreach to develop and expand research programs that address the University's five pathways to excellence — Student Success and Completion, Academic Program Quality and Research, Culture, Strategic partnerships, and Finances. Johnson founded the Earl Carl Institute for Legal and Social Policy, Inc. (ECI) at the law school in 1992. ECI has become a nationally recognized think tank at the university.

URRC is collaborating with ECI as well as numerous community based organizations and advocacy groups to address many aspects of the Harris County Juvenile Justice System including disparities (racial and gender) in arrests, school ticketing, detention, sentencing, retention hearings, and legal representation; with the Texas State Historical Association and the Houston Historical Alliance to gather resources and assistance in working on the History of African Americans in Houston project; and with **L. Anthony Johnson**, who volunteered with the Barbara Jordan Policy Institute, to address criminal justice reform and the barriers that released prisoners face when reentering the community.

"The Center looks forward to serving as a strong community resource and providing a platform for Texas Southern University to coordinate its many urban programs," Johnson said.

URRC's evidence-based research will be published in its on-line Urban Research and Resource Journal, through the Commons Digital BePress publishers at University of California Berkeley. The peer-reviewed journal will showcase multi-disciplinary research by TSU faculty and students as well as outside academics and experts.

URRC founders are Dr. **Michael Adams**, interim dean, Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs; **James Douglas**, esq., interim dean, Thurgood Marshall School of Law; **L. Anthony Johnson**, project manager, Barbara Jordan Institute for Policy Research; **Marcia Johnson**, URRC director, Thurgood Marshall School of Law; and **Carroll Robinson**, esq., interim associate dean, Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs.



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Associate Dean Cassandra Hill accepted an offer to reprint her article, *Peer Editing: A Comprehensive Pedagogical Approach to Maximize Assessment Opportunities, Integrate Collaborative Learning, and Achieve Desired Outcomes* (originally published in the Nevada Law Journal), in Volume 7 of the Legal Writing Institute's Monograph Series. The Monograph Series is an electronic journal published by the Legal Writing Institute on its web site, www.lwionline.org. The Monograph Series reprints foundational articles on subjects that are important to the teaching and study of professional legal communication. Each volume focuses on a specific topic relevant to legal communication, and Volume 7 of the series is an update to the New Teacher's Deskbook. The updated New Teacher's Deskbook will focus on topics important to new legal writing professors, including legal writing pedagogy, legal research, and legal writing careers.



On February 17, 2018, **Professor Ana Otero** made a presentation entitled "Equal Justice under the Law: the Supreme Court and the Death Penalty" at the annual conference of the Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty (TCADP). Also, Professor Otero has been elected to serve as the Vice President of TCADP. Then, on March 3, 2018, she was interviewed by a reporter for a Spanish Channel—"En Portada" de TVE Radiotelevisión Española. This channel will be airing a documentary on the death penalty and the United States. In addition to sharing her expertise on the death penalty, Professor Otero will be teaching a two-day workshop on the American legal system and introduction to law at the Council on Legal Education Opportunity, Inc.'s (CLEO's) 4-week Pre-Law Summer Institute in Baton

Rouge on June 11-12. Also as part of the CLEO program, she will be teaching the 1L Prep—Attitude is Essential program at South Texas College of Law on July 14-15.



Professor Shaundra Lewis was recently interviewed by John Kiernan, Senior Editor at Wallethub.com, an online media site, about her expertise and research on guns and school shootings. When asked whether state or local gun laws can be effective, Professor Lewis explained that "while no state can completely ban firearms, states most certainly can make the possession or sale of certain firearms illegal. If the United States Congress cannot pass any meaningful legislation that can reduce gun violence, individual states should definitely be more proactive in this area." The final article about the gun industry, *2018's States Most Dependent on the Gun Industry*, and Professor Lewis's detailed interview may be accessed here: <https://wallethub.com/edu/states-most-dependent-on-the-gun-industry/18719/#shaundra-lewis>.



Professor L. Darnell Weeden's article entitled *Johnnie Cochran Challenged America's New Age Officially Unintentional Black Code; A Constitutionally Permissible Racial Profiling Policy*, 33 T. Marshall L. Rev. 135, 137 (2007), was recently quoted in the West Virginia Law Review by Guy Padula in an article entitled *Utah V. Strieff: Lemonade Stands And Dragnet Policing*, 120 W. Va. L. Rev. 469, 480 (2017). According to Padula, Professor Weeden asserts that "racial profiling is not a new experience. Racial profiling continues the historical goals of the black codes by having a chilling effect on a black person's freedom of movement."



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Professor Peter V. Marchetti's article entitled, *A Note to Congress—Amend Section 546(e) of the Bankruptcy Code to Harmonize the Underlying Policies of Fraudulent Conveyance Law and Protection of the Financial Markets*, was published as the lead article in February 2018 in Volume 26 of the American

Bankruptcy Institute Law Review. The article analyzes various unresolved issues regarding Section 546(e) of the Bankruptcy Code, one of which is the subject of a current pending petition for certiorari before the U.S. Supreme Court.



Professor SpearIt has published *Firepower to the People! Gun Rights and the Law of Self-defense to Curb Police Misconduct*, 85 Tenn. L. Rev. (2017), https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3140836.

He also spoke on this paper on a recent trip to Los Angeles, speaking at UCLA School of Law in Prof. Devon Carbado's Critical Race Theory Seminar (3/14/18), UCLA ACS Chapter (3/14/18), and at the ACS Los Angeles Lawyer Chapter/ACS Student Chapter at Loyola Law School (3/13/18). He was recently cited in a Ph.D. dissertation in political science entitled, *Law's Haze, Police Ways, and Tech's Maze: Relationships between American Law, Crime, and Technology* (2017 University of Connecticut); *Racial and Other Sociodemographic Disparities in Terrorism Sting Operations*, *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity* (2018); *The Culturally Proficient Law Professor: Beginning the Journey*, 48 N.M. L. Rev. 145 (2018).



Professor Deana Pollard-Sacks received SSRN's "Top 10%" distinction this month. Professor Pollard-Sacks is in the top 10% of all authors on SSRN by downloads. SSRN's eLibrary provides 727,610 research papers from 335,938 researchers

across 30 disciplines including, but not limited to, business, law, political science, and humanities. Per the statistical information on SSRN, Professor Pollard-Sacks has received over 4,000 total number of downloads of her articles posted on SSRN. SSRN ranks the top 30,000 authors on its website, which you can access at the following link: <https://www.ssrn.com/en/index.cfm/top-authors/>.

