

THURGOOD FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW

NOVEMBER 15, 2018

TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY



Dean Gary Bledsoe attended the organizational meetings for the United Nation’s initiative to improve collaboration between Africa and Historically Black Colleges and Universities/Predominately Black Institutions (HBCU’s/PBI’s). He was designated as a co-facilitator of the working group on Human Rights and Social Justice. Bledsoe was among 32 other invitees at the meeting. The invitees met with Ambassadors and heads of several UN Agencies. Dean Bledsoe said the group also considered health and economic development issues.

Professor SpearIt presented his work-in-progress, *Repackaging Death: Targeting Christians, Conservatives*, at the 2018 ABA-AALS Criminal Justice Section Academic Roundtable on 11/2/18. SpearIt was recently cited in various publications, including *Prisons, Punishment and the Family: Towards a New Sociology of Punishment* (Oxford University Press 2018) and *Wise Up: Knowledge Ends Extremism* (Wise 2018), https://pointdebasculecanada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/8.1.2017_WISE-Up-Book.pdf, “Mental Health” in *1 Rights of Prisoners* § 4:20 (5thed.), and “United States Incarceration Rate,” <http://www.matajiwa.com/2018/09/united-states-incarceration-rate.html>. SpearIt recently moderated the panel, “Bias in the Criminal Justice System” at the 2018 Pursuit of Justice Conference at Gonzaga University School of Law on 9/28/18, and spoke at the 2018 SALT Law Teaching Conference, where he presented “All-Electronic Document Drafting” on 10/6/18.



Professor L. Darnell Weeden, Associate Dean for Faculty Development and



Research article entitled *In Response to the Call for Social Justice, Historically Black Law Schools Represent the New Mission of Educational Diversity in the Legal Profession*, 14 J. Gender Race & Just. 747 (2011) published by the University of Iowa College of Law was cited by Spencer Rand, Clinical Professor of Law, Temple University, Beasley School of Law. Professor Rand's article is called *Social Justice As A Professional Duty: Effectively Meeting Law Student Demand For Social Justice By Teaching Social Justice As A Professional Competency*, 87 U. Cin. L. Rev. 77, 88 (2018) said Weeden's article discusses "social justice as securing social and economic justice under the Constitution's promise to protect the

Blessings of Liberty and finding a due process interest in basic human needs." According to Professor Rand, Weeden describes social justice a key mission of historically black law schools.

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, 220 (2014) was cited by Jennifer L. Robinson, Associate Director, Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute, University of Utah and Stephen L. Nelson Assistant United States Attorney, United States Attorney's Office for the District of Utah, and Associate Instructor, Department of Political Science, University of Utah, in their article entitled *The Small But Powerful Voice In American Elections: A Discussion Of Voting Rights Litigation On Behalf Of American Indians*, 70 Baylor L. Rev. 91, 93 (2018) for supporting the proposition of Sudeep Paul that The Voting Rights Act of the 1960's was enacted as a "comprehensive statute to battle voter discrimination collectively at a national level and at an individual jurisdiction level."

***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 by 5p.m. Wednesday, November 21, 2018.**

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