



Presidential Address

“Why Law Matters,”

at the Second Meeting of the AALS House of Representatives, 2016 Annual Meeting

By Kellye Y. Testy,
AALS President,
January 9, 2016

Good afternoon, and thank you for that incredibly warm welcome. Thank you, Blake [Morant]—you have been an amazing president of AALS, and it is an honor to take the handoff from you, my brother of the heart and spirit. I just want to remind you, and Dan [Rodriguez], that you can check out, but you can never leave. Please join me in recognizing and thanking Blake Morant for an amazing term.



Thank you all for being here this afternoon. Before I share a few remarks about the upcoming year, I also want to quickly thank several others, because we are all a product of investment that others make for us: first, my family members who are here today. I also want to say a very deep thanks to three institutions that have been incredibly important to my development as an academic and as a professional. I want to begin with my alma mater Indiana University of Bloomington, a great thanks to all of my faculty there and especially to my friend and mentor Lauren Robel. And of course, I grew up at Seattle University and spent 17 years of my academic career there; it’s been important to my development and I have such high regard for the school and

continued on page 2

Highlights from the 2016 Annual Meeting

More than 3,000 law school faculty, deans, and staff attended the 110th Annual Meeting of the Association of American Law Schools (AALS) from January 6-10, 2016, in New York City. In accordance with the Meeting’s theme of “From Challenge to Innovation: American Legal Education in 2016,” programs focused on novel thinking and fresh perspectives on law and legal education during a time of profound change in the legal profession. The event is the largest worldwide gathering of law deans, faculty, and staff and featured over 800 speakers at more than 200 sessions covering a wide range of legal topics.

The conference’s opening plenary program on Thursday featured two of the authors of “Lawyers as Professionals and Citizens: Key Roles and Responsibilities in the 21st Century,” Benjamin W. Heineman, Jr., Former Senior Vice President for Law and Public Affairs, General Electric and David B. Wilkins, Harvard Law School.

“The purpose of the essay was to put an emphasis on the imperatives of the lawyers’ responsibilities in an age when too much discussion is on economics,” said Heineman. “It also calls for collaboration between law schools, law firms and legal departments.”

continued on page 14



Inside



5 Presidential Report on 2015



7 Spotlight on Sections: Constitutional Law & International Law



12 AALS Welcomes New Member School



18 2016 Workshop for New Law School Teachers

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continued from cover

my colleagues there. I also want to say a deep thank you to the University of Washington. I cannot tell you how much I have enjoyed being there, and how much respect I have for the school's traditions and innovations, so please join me in recognizing both Seattle University and University of Washington.

I also want to thank AALS, including the other members of the executive committee with who I've so enjoyed serving; our inspirational director, Judy Areen; and all of the hardworking AALS staff, especially Tracie Thomas and Mary Cullen, who have organized this meeting; what a great job they've done. Together, we are striving to enhance AALS leadership to better serve our member schools and to more forcefully and more effectively advocate for legal education. We respect and value our member schools' diverse missions and diverse goals. When you thrive, we thrive. Our present aim is to redouble our efforts to be of service to you. Not to tell you what to do, nor how to do it, but to support what you do so well and what we respect you so much for. We want to be a leading voice on your behalf, on behalf of legal education, both on our own but also in collaboration and working effectively to find synergies among the many other organizations that also are important to legal education. I think it's one of those instances where if we can bond together, we can accomplish so much more and we are striving to do that.

“[...] in my view, the role of law in society is insufficiently understood or appreciated, and that gap is a harmful one.”

As we look forward to the year ahead, I have selected a theme that I hope will be inspiring to our member schools and one that will help AALS continue our advocacy for law and for legal education. That theme is “why law matters.” It is a theme designed to bring out the best of the academy, to turn our vision outward to the world we serve, and to explore—at a fundamental level—why what we do matters in meeting all of the challenges of our current social environment.

continued on next page

In this issue

Cover	Presidential Address
Cover	Highlights from the 2016 Annual Meeting
4	AALS Requests for Proposals and Papers
5	President's Report on 2015
7	Spotlight on Sections: Constitutional Law
9	Spotlight on Sections: International Law
11	39th AALS Conference on Clinical Legal Education
12	AALS Welcomes UC Irvine to its Membership
13	AALS Executive Committee Leadership
16	Photos from the 2016 Annual Meeting
18	2016 Workshop for New Law School Teachers
19	Symposium Proposals and Scholarly Papers
20	AALS Calendar

Please permit me a few minutes to share a bit about my motivation for this theme and to make three quick points about my hopes for it over the course of the coming year.

As to the motivation for the theme of “why law matters,” in my view, the role of law in society is insufficiently understood or appreciated, and that gap is a harmful one. After over 12 years as a dean and more than 20 as a professor, I am still surprised by how hard it often is for even incredibly smart people to understand the importance of the rule of law to how the world works—or maybe more importantly, how the world may not work so well. From students to the general public, to university presidents and provosts, to leaders of major foundations, law is often seen too narrowly, in my view, as only a system of dispute resolution rather than in its broader role of creating what I call the ecosystem for human flourishing. I suppose that in this broader sense, law is like the air we breathe—perhaps noticed most by its absence rather than by its presence. But we can no more live healthy lives without the rule of law in this world than we can live without air. And waiting to appreciate its vital role until we are choking and gasping is not a good strategy.

“We have a good case to make that law matters and it is time, maybe past time, that we made it.”

Rather, we need to make our case now for why law matters and the academy’s vital role in advancing respect for and understanding of the rule of law. In a 1974 article that was called “Legal Education and the Rule of Law,” John Cribbet, who was at the time an AALS Executive Committee member and also Dean of the University of Illinois College of Law called this the “silent *raison d’être* of legal education and the lasting claim for public and private support of the law schools.” Making our case is both urgent and important. In this age of information overload and soundbite reliance, we cannot assume that a concept as complex as law will be understood and appreciated without our sustained efforts. That is especially true in the current environment, I believe, where many aspects of law are troubled and vividly troubled: race-based violence and racial inequity in our criminal justice system; growing access to justice gaps as economic inequality widens; honest businesses struggling to compete against countries that do not value law and justice; deepening ethnic and religious conflicts and resulting migration surges; devastating gun violence expanding in number and in scope; the list could go on and on.

Let’s be honest, the public views law either as a shield that protects the rich, especially if the rich are white and perhaps also male, or as a sword that cuts down the poor, especially if the poor are also black or undocumented. We must acknowledge this public view while also knowing—and critically knowing and helping others to know—that adherence to, not rejection of, the rule of law will help us with these conflicts and more. We have a good case to make that law matters and it is time, maybe past time, that we made it.



I’d also like to share three quick hopes about my theme of why law matters:

My first hope is that we can engage this theme together throughout this year, not just at the AALS Annual Meeting next January in San Francisco. Certainly for that meeting I will be seeking your ideas for plenaries and other programs that engage this theme. But I also hope that many schools will make this theme an explicit part of the day-to-day life of the law school; many of you do this already, and we want to help promote your work at AALS. And if there are ways that I and the other Executive Committee members can be a part of programs you plan, activities that you want to plan, or events you host, please let us know. We want to be engaged with you in that way. Again, we seek to be effective partners with and advocates for our members. We are going to be looking to tell our collective story in ever more effective ways.

My second hope is that this theme will bring us together, both across the academy and also more broadly across the profession. For better or worse, we are certainly “all in this together” in every way. I am a true believer in inclusion and diversity. What that means for me is that I do not support replacing one form of orthodoxy with another; rather, I believe we are at our best when we seek to value the dignity of every person and to create a climate where difference is valued and inclusion is practiced and prioritized. We should all care about law and justice and engage in robust dialogue about why law matters so much. And, as important as legal education is to that question of “why law matters,” so is the bench and bar, so are policy makers and so is the public. Let us seek to practice inclusion in that regard as well and to build more bridges across our profession. Let us model the kind of civic community and respectful debate that our world both needs and craves.

My third hope is that this theme can make a difference, that it will have actual impact and effect—to us, to our profession, to our communities, and to our world. Perhaps it can help us jettison some of the old tropes of law, for instance, those of

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law being an “obstruction” or law being just a “cost” that may be limiting to what we can accomplish. Perhaps it can help us understand law in new ways and help us appreciate again some of the historic strengths of law, perhaps applied to new contexts—as for example, law as an important stabilizing force in what is clearly a “disruptive” age. Perhaps a more intentional focus on why law matters will help us to re-energize our teaching, our research, and service and inspire a new generation of students to dedicate their lives to the law. Perhaps we can be stirred, not shaken, to press on across challenging terrain, to be what we are made for: the part of the profession with the privilege and the duty to take the long view, holding in trust for past, present, and future generations the promise of equal justice under law.

In closing, please do not misunderstand me in making “why law matters” my theme. I do not ignore, for instance, Grant Gilmore’s provocative point that if law is viewed too narrowly as

only focused on process, then in hell there is nothing but law and due process meticulously observed. Neither do I ignore his prior point that if everyone were peaceful and just, we would have little need for law. But we all know we do not live in such a world. The world we live in is both beautiful and broken, and in that world, law may not be the only pathway to justice, but I believe it remains the most promising one that’s within our grasp. You will all have different views about what justice means to you and different views about how to reach it and what pathway we should pursue; I celebrate those diverse viewpoints and I thank you for joining me in this vital task.

I hope you enjoy the rest of the conference, and have enjoyed the part that you’ve been through so far, and I look forward to working with all of you—everyone in the legal academy throughout this coming year and beyond—to make the promise of equal justice under law real. Thank you.



AALS Requests for Proposals at the 2017 Annual Meeting

The Association of American Law Schools is seeking requests for proposals for open submission programming at the 2017 AALS Annual Meeting in San Francisco. Visit www.aals.org/RFP to download complete descriptions and submission guidelines for the various programs. These include:

- **“The Arc of Your Career” Programs Revisited – Proposals due March 30, 2016**

Programs address a broad spectrum of issues related to professional development, moving beyond presentations on substantive legal topics to include all aspects of the professional careers of faculty.

- **Discussion Groups – Proposals due April 14, 2016**

Programs provide a setting for informal discussions among a larger group of invited participants and attendees.

- **Academy Programs – Proposals due April 14, 2016**

Programs that do not fit into the other three categories.

- **Hot Topic Programs – Proposals due October 6, 2016**

Programs on legal topics that emerge too late to be included in other programs.

Proposals should be submitted using the online submission form available at www.aals.org/RFP.



Arc of Career Program at the 2016 AALS Annual Meeting

AALS President's Report on 2015

By Blake D. Morant, 2015 AALS President and Dean of The George Washington University Law School

It is customary for outgoing presidents to deliver remarks about their year as president. This is bittersweet for me because the year has passed quickly. Time seemed to slow, however, when the *New York Times* published an op-ed on student loans. As I reflect on events that have occurred since my presidency commenced, I recognize the resilience of the academy and its continued evolution during difficult times.

The theme of this annual meeting, “innovation through challenge,” rings true. I have seen law schools all over the country continue to evolve and progress, even in the midst of extreme challenges. There are two words that typify what I believe have been the cornerstones of my year as president of this wonderful association: voice and innovation. With regard to voice, the association has become a tenable voice for American legal education. Never has there been a time when that voice has been more critical than today.

We have all read the headlines and blogs about the many challenges that beset legal education. My year as president began with a press conference during the AALS Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. last year, and ends this weekend in a similar fashion. Media appearances have indeed been a continuing thread throughout this presidency, with the theme of highlighting the academy's response to these notorious challenges.

Over the past 12 months, I have spoken on behalf of the AALS in countless media interviews, resulting in articles in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, *The Washington Post*, *Diverse Issues in Higher Education*, and many other publications. You have no doubt seen our engagement with the *New York Times*, which, in

November, published an editorial that criticized law schools for increasing student debt and failing to address poor job outcomes. The AALS response, quickly crafted by President-Elect Kellye Testy, Executive Director Judy Areen, and me, has provided balance in an otherwise one-sided discussion.

Innovation constitutes the second cornerstone of my presidency. While not receiving the same news coverage as the challenges to legal education, law schools nationwide continue to establish programs and minimize costs. As AALS president, I have indeed enjoyed a unique vantage point from which to view the continual evolution of legal education from multiple lenses. I can say with conviction that most law schools continue to seek more effective ways to prepare students for the complex, global marketplace and, thus, provide greater educative value. Innovations include an increasing number of externships and internships, the implementation of flexible and accelerated degree programs, a growing focus on experiential and international opportunities, extensive *pro bono* offerings, and revamped curriculum offerings, including professional development courses that provide students with the tools to become successful and professionally fulfilled.

“[...] the professionalism that is instilled in our students will result in the enrichment of the communities in which they will serve.”

Notwithstanding the fact that the catalyst for innovation has been the market, the changes to the academy remain evident and undoubtedly necessary. These changes have not overshadowed the seminal benefit of our industry—sharpening skills in critical thinking, and this is indeed fortunate. Never has there been a time when the world has more needed individuals who have the critical



thinking skills, imagination, and problem solving skills that a global, diverse environment maintains and requires.

I have visited many of you during my term as president. I have also met with sister organizations, including the ABA and the LSAC, served as keynote speaker at the installation of Wendy Scott as the new Dean of the Mississippi College of Law, and had the opportunity to speak during commencement exercises at the Alexander Blewett III School of Law at the University of Montana. All of these duties reinforced the vigor of the academy and its quest to evolve with a spirit of optimism.

As I reflect on my year as president and study our history, I recognize that legal education has been in a constant state of evolution for more than 140 years. Commencing with an apprenticeship-based model and then dominated by Langdell's “law as science,” American legal education now has morphed into a quasi-hybrid, with classroom instruction that exercises critical thinking being augmented by increasing opportunities for experiential learning. Undoubtedly the academy will increasingly produce better professionals who can compete in a global market. The innovations I have witnessed at member schools adds credence to the evolution of the academy, and the professionalism that is instilled in our students will result in the enrichment of the communities in which they will serve.

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In my year as president, AALS forged an alliance with Access Group, which will provide greater support for our mission of “voice” with enhancements to communication. We truly value this relationship, and will continue to cultivate synergies with other stakeholders in legal education. Doing so recognizes that the academy’s challenges have implications for all of higher education and the profession of law.

“I remain the pragmatic optimist, noting that our duty to evolve through innovation remains.”

This past year, I have also had the privilege, pleasure, and honor of working with a dedicated Executive Committee, the members of which have tirelessly contributed their wisdom and judgment to the business of the AALS. I also acknowledge the wonderful staff at AALS, headed most ably and adroitly by Judy Areen. Everyone on the staff has worked indefatigably to ensure the organization’s success, and I am most grateful.

To serve AALS and to have visited and worked with you has been immensely gratifying. I sincerely hope to continue that engagement for years to come. But



as I depart the presidency, I leave you with lingering thoughts. Our challenges continue. Critiques about legal education, including expense, value, and paucity of jobs will likely continue. The fact remains, however, that the world needs dedicated, professional, and community-committed lawyers and professionals, and this truism should strengthen our resolve to evolve and respond to critiques.

I remain the pragmatic optimist, noting that our duty to evolve through innovation remains. I also, however, continue to believe that American legal education, which is still envied worldwide, will not only survive but also

must thrive. I am grateful to you, my colleagues, for maintaining the faith and proving that quality legal education is not only relevant, but also essential.

There are millions of narratives regarding lawyers, educated by our schools, who have done so much for society. Lawyers are an indispensable force in this global environment. Join with me to amplify these narratives and, in turn, prove the holistic value of American legal education. Thanks you for granting me the privilege of serving as your president, your efforts to evolve and improve legal education, and your resolute spirit. Enjoy the remainder of our meeting.



2016 AALS ANNUAL MEETING PODCASTS NOW ONLINE

More than 140 audio podcasts from the 2016 AALS Annual Meeting in New York City are available at no charge to faculty and professional staff from AALS member and fee-paid schools.

Please visit aals.org/am2016/podcasts to listen to the podcasts.

A user name and password are required to access them. Your user name is your primary e-mail address. If you do not have or do not remember your password, click the “forgot password” link on the bottom of the login screen.

Spotlight on Sections

Section on Constitutional Law and Section on International Law

By Melinda Price

AALS Sections provide a forum for law school faculty and staff to connect on issues of shared interest. There are currently 100 AALS sections, each focused on a different academic discipline, affinity group, or administrative area. For a full list of AALS sections and how to join, please visit www.aals.org/services/sections.

For this edition of “Spotlight on Sections,” AALS spoke with the leadership of the Section on Constitutional Law and the Section on International Law about their programming at the 2016 AALS Annual Meeting and other section activities.

AALS Section on Constitutional Law

Rebecca E. Zietlow, University of Toledo College of Law (Chair-elect)

Lauren Sudeall Lucas, Georgia State University College of Law (Chair)

Laura A. Cisneros, Golden Gate University School of Law (Executive Committee, Chair 2015-16)

At the 2016 AALS Annual Meeting, the Section on Constitutional Law held a panel titled “On Resistance and Recognition.” What can you tell us about this session and how it came together?

Laura A. Cisneros: In conceiving the idea for the On Resistance and Recognition panel, the goal was to respond to the increasing interdisciplinary work currently being done in constitutional law. The field lends itself to interdisciplinary

interventions from philosophy, literature, sociology, history, and political theory, to name just a few, so the idea of a broader theme seemed to appeal to this interest.

We aimed to build the panel around concepts that were narrow enough to speak directly to issues arising under the U.S. Constitution but at the same time broad enough to accommodate presentations across a range. Conversations with colleagues helped to crystallize the conceptual pillars of “resistance and recognition” as fitting to create a space where we could, as a field, intervene in the overall issue of resisting oppressive (however defined) government policy and regulation, and asserting rights for recognition under the U.S. Constitution. Thanks to an amazing panel we were able to facilitate an opportunity to engage in and think about issues of constitutional law from a historical, doctrinal, political theory, sociological, and practical perspective.

Rebecca Zietlow: The section has been trying to bring in different perspectives on constitutional law, not just what the U.S. Supreme Court says or appears to say, but highlighting the increasingly interdisciplinary work being done in the field.

At the time Professor Cisneros was organizing this, the Black Lives Matter demonstrations were another inspiration for the panel. The idea was to talk about the U.S. Constitution, but be broad enough to accommodate other participation. For example, Rachel Moran (University of California, Los Angeles School of Law) discussed a project that she’s working on how the law affects Latinos, and does or does not serve their needs.

Lauren Sudeall Lucas: [Professor Moran] co-presented with Professor Robert Nelson, with whom she has been working through the American Bar Foundation, and they engaged the audience in a very interesting discussion about changing demographics. Through their work, they are thinking about how groups might resist, in Laura’s words,



Photo courtesy of Toledo College of Law

Rebecca E. Zietlow, University of Toledo College of Law (Chair-elect)



Photo courtesy of Georgia State University College of Law

Lauren Sudeall Lucas, Georgia State University College of Law (Chair)



Photo courtesy of Golden Gate University School of Law

Laura A. Cisneros, Golden Gate University School of Law (Executive Committee, Chair 2015-16)

continued from previous page

repressive government policy and seeking recognition for groups that have not been recognized in the way they should or have been recognized in a different way than they might choose.

How does this section interact with section members throughout the year, in addition to programming at the Annual Meeting?

LSL: Many of the conversations among constitutional law scholars happen through the “Con Law Profs” listserv, which isn’t technically affiliated with AALS, but given the size and breadth of the section compared to other sections, it can be a hard group to wrangle. The listserv, which existed far before I joined the academy, seems to have been the primary mode of communication for the group as a whole.

The AALS Annual Meeting plays an important role because it’s one of the few times many of the section’s members are in the same place. You have a rare opportunity to capture members in a discussion about the theme that the section has chosen for that year.

How does the section contribute to scholarship in the area of constitutional law?

RZ: We try hard to make our programming about a cutting-edge issue in constitutional law, whether it’s a more innovative look like the panel we did this year, or a hot issue that the court is concentrating at the time, such as affirmative action. We’re especially conscious as a section to bring in newer professors or people that are working on different and innovative ideas, and include them in our programming. I like to think we are contributing to the development of scholarship in that way as well.

LSL: I agree with what Rebecca said about drawing connections between substantive areas of constitutional law and facilitating a space where scholars

in constitutional law who don’t normally interact or might not interact given the size and breadth of the field can do so. The panels provide for a thematic opportunity that can inform members’ scholarship and related projects.

What was your first experience with AALS sections and how did you become involved in leadership?

LSL: This is my fourth year teaching, and I’ve been involved with the section since I started. I owe that to M. Isabel Medina (Loyola University New Orleans College of Law). I met her at a smaller constitutional law colloquium when she was Chair-elect of the section and she suggested I get involved. As a new professor, particularly in the area of constitutional law, the legends in the field are fairly prominent and it can be an intimidating field when you’re starting out. I think it speaks well for the section that it is very welcoming; when I joined the section, I found it to be a friendly group.

“We live in an era of increasing inequality and the courts haven’t shown a lot of interest in using the U.S. Constitution to address that.”

RZ: I’ve been teaching a lot longer than Lauren—this is my 21st year—so I think there’s a good balance between us in that way. Whenever I was going to the AALS Annual Meeting, I would go to the constitutional law program and get involved in the network over time. One of the things the section tries to do is to pick people to be on the executive board who have volunteered to help put programs together.

Do you have advice for faculty who would like to get more involved with the section and connect with constitutional law professors at other law schools?

LSL: I would encourage people not to be afraid about reaching out and emailing other faculty for whatever reason, whether it’s to get general advice or read a draft. Generally, people are happy to help or provide commentary. For example, at this last AALS Annual Meeting, I ended up in a side discussion after the section event about the paper on which I was working, and realized that one of people there had a good deal of expertise in the area. I followed up with him afterward by sending a draft and he was excited to read it, so I think the section is providing the space to make these connections.

RZ: It’s always daunting to get up and talk to people you don’t know but, especially to people starting out, I recommend you go to the AALS Annual Meeting. Go to some of the sections that you’re interested in. Stick around after the programs and talk to the section leaders. Volunteer to help, volunteer to be an officer. Just keep coming back and it’s amazing how quickly people will become familiar to you.

LSL: I would also remind senior scholars to be open to conversations with newer scholars if and when they do reach out looking for advice or feedback. While many are already open to that, it’s always good to remind everyone that it can be hard for younger faculty in this field to break in.

What additional plans are underway for the section this year?

LSL: The primary focus is on the Annual Meeting. We plan to jointly sponsor a panel that will focus on the relationship between poverty and the U.S. Constitution, in conjunction with the Section on Poverty Law. The idea is to speak to something timely that needs to be addressed. We live in an era of increasing inequality and the courts

haven't shown a lot of interest in using the U.S. Constitution to address that. This panel will bring together scholars and at least one litigator, using constitutional law on the ground, to think about what the U.S. Constitution says about the distinctions we're seeing based on wealth and how it can be brought to bear on those issues. We also hope to highlight those areas—like the criminalization of poverty—where constitutional claims have had some success in recent years.

The panel will highlight aspects of constitutional law that may be underemphasized in these kinds of forums, and connect sections that don't often interact. Both poverty law chair Marc-Tizoc González (St. Thomas University School of Law) and I are really excited to bring attention to an issue that is underappreciated and that we think is very important.

Anything else you would like to add?

RZ: I'm especially proud of being active in this section because we have really succeeded in creating a section leadership that's very diverse in every way—in race, gender, level of seniority, and prestige of schools. We're very cognizant of the fact that it's all too easy to let diversity fall by the wayside for these types of sections, especially constitutional law which tends to be pretty hierarchical. I think we made it pretty clear that we try to be creative in our programming and reach out to other sections. That makes me really proud to be active in this section.

AALS Section on International Law

Matthew H. Charity, Western New England University School of Law
(Executive Committee, Chair 2015-16)

Shalanda Baker, University of Hawaii William S. Richardson School of Law
(Chair)

Professor Charity, the section hosted a field trip to the United Nations at the 2016 Annual Meeting. What can you tell me about the event?

Matthew H. Charity: The event was organized by Claudio Grossman, Dean of American University, Washington College of Law, and Mark Wojcik, John Marshall Law School, as event co-chairs, with some input from me as section chair. It was a great example of the initiative of executive committee members working through the section toward an event that might appeal to the larger legal academy.

Dean Grossman served as a panelist and reached out to most of his co-panelists. Professor Wojcik moved the discussion along as moderator. The panelists were U.N. insiders: Richard Bennet, Representative and Head of UN Office, Amnesty International; Ben Majekodumni, Senior Officer at the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, United Nations; Katarina Mansson, Capacity Building & Harmonization Section Human Rights Treaties Division, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR); Craig Mokhiber, Chief of the Development and Economic and Social Issues Branch, United Nations; and Joanna Weschler, Deputy Executive Director & Director of Research, Security Council Report. The panel dealt with Security Council and General Assembly legal questions, and there was plenty of time to pose questions and engage with the panelists and each other.

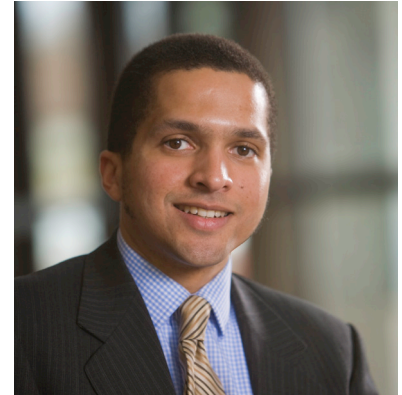


Photo courtesy of Western New England University School of Law

Matthew Charity, Western New England University School of Law
(Executive Committee, Chair 2015-16)



Photo courtesy of University of Hawaii William S. Richardson School of Law

Shalanda Baker, University of Hawaii William S. Richardson School of Law
(Chair)

We also heard from the Chilean ambassador to the United Nations, Cristián Barros, over lunch. He discussed his impressions after Chile completed its two years of service on the Security Council. He was also kind enough to engage the participants in discussion following lunch.

The section also co-sponsored sessions with the Section on European Law, the Section on Islamic Law, the Section on International Human Rights and the Section on International Security Law. How did the partnerships with the other sections come about?

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MC: We sometimes forget that law has been described as a seamless web—while our own section’s session was going to focus on states of emergency and international law, the Section on European Law was looking at the refugee crisis in Europe, and the Section on Islamic Law was looking at the place of ISIS and Boko Haram in a “post-Westphalian” world. As we put together proposals for the 2016 AALS Annual Meeting, we contacted a few other sections to see if there was any interest in cross-promotion.

There’s great value in recognizing programs that would be of interest to a number of the section members, and cross-listing to draw attention to other offerings.

“It’s critical for our students to hear challenges to what might otherwise be baseline perspectives for those living in the U.S.”

Is the section engaged with professors, lawyers, and scholars from outside the United States? How do these perspectives help the understanding of international law for U.S. law teachers?

MC: I think it’s varied over the years, but I’ve most appreciated conversations that are not focused around a singular national perspective, such as our field trip to the United Nations this year. One of the things that helps the section is the variety of perspectives. Many of the section’s leadership are either from or have lived in other countries. Perhaps because of this, there’s some room to approach the law differently, though I do think there has been a push to broaden perspectives in recent years. Our co-sponsoring programs with other sections with varied international and



AALS Section on International Law Chair Shalanda Baker at an International Environmental Law “crosscutting program” at the 2016 AALS Annual Meeting

transnational perspectives also allows us to approach subjects of international interest from a different angle.

When I chaired the Section on Africa, our blind call for papers in a joint program with the Section on Law and South Asian Studies allowed us to get to know and invite a scholar from Ethiopia that we would otherwise not have known, expanding the pool of panelists we might consider.

When planning a panel on states of emergency this past year, having a comparative approach from Kim Lane Scheppele, University of Pennsylvania Law School, and a cosmopolitan approach from Dean Grossman was really helpful in having a discussion that didn’t rely on a conflict of rights versus security. It opened up the discussion to delegation of power during national disasters and recognized the governmental responsibility to take its authority to provide aid.

As for integrating other perspectives, it’s critical for our students to hear challenges to what might otherwise be baseline perspectives for those living in the United States, whether it’s prioritizing

economic and social rights or citing legal definitions more commonly used in civil law countries.

Professor Charity and Professor Baker, what was your first experience with AALS sections and how did you become involved in leadership?

MC: When I went to the AALS Annual Meeting in the past I went to the programs in which I had an interest. I joined a number of those sections, and saw colleagues from those sections at conferences over the course of the year or two following where we had a chance to grab a cup of coffee. I stayed after section sessions for the meetings and offered to help where I could. I gained some confidence with the extraordinarily supportive community of some sections that immediately asked me to serve on executive committees, such as the Section on Africa, and then I asked about serving on the executive committee of the International Law section, which had a bit more of a queue.

Shalanda Baker: As a William H. Hastie fellow in Wisconsin from 2010-2012, I was able to attend the AALS Annual Meeting and many other conferences. A senior person at another institution encouraged me to participate in the Section on International Law and invited me to replace her on a panel. The experience left me exhilarated and wanting to participate. As they say, the rest is history.

Professor Baker, do you have advice for faculty who would like to get more involved with the section and connect with international law professors at other law schools?

SB: My best advice for faculty would be to participate in a call for papers. This is a great way to highlight your own scholarship and receive feedback. Going on the field trips is another way to interact with colleagues in the section. We also have a very active listserv and

our membership cross-pollinates with the American Society of International Law and other international law organizations.

What additional plans are underway for the section this year?

SB: This year we're putting together an exciting panel on the Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement (TPP). We may have more than enough people to fill our panel, and we are hoping to get a diverse mix of speakers from practice and the academy since so many people across various practice areas are interested to see how the TPP unfolds. To that end our section is very interested in looking at the intersection between private international law and climate change impacts, environmental issues, labor issues, and human rights issues. We hope that this will be a very robust conversation.

We are also talking about experimenting with more non-conventional types of presentation formats. We have a one

hour and forty-five minute slot, and we really want to maximize opportunities for audience participation.

Anything else you would like to add?

SB: I want to emphasize the opportunities for engagement by newer faculty. As a junior faculty member on the tenure-track, it can seem daunting to engage in leadership in AALS, but, if people show up to meetings and sessions there are so many opportunities to be involved.

Our section in particular is quite welcoming to new members. I joined the executive committee when I had just entered the academy, so I speak from experience. I would encourage new faculty to attend our business meetings and get involved, as fresh voices are always welcomed in the mix. Hopefully we can also incorporate some of those new voices in our upcoming panel concerning the TPP.



39th Annual Conference on Clinical Legal Education

Clinics and Communities: Exploring Community Engagement through Clinical Education

April 30 – May 3, 2016 | Baltimore, MD

This conference focuses on the role of clinics in communities and the role of communities on clinics. The conference will feature a variety of formats: plenaries, concurrent sessions, working groups, and workshops.

Highlights include:

- Half-day workshop for new law school clinical teachers prior to the start of the conference.
- Conference plenary sessions: Rebellious Lawyering and Clinical Legal Education; #BlackLivesMatter and Clinical Legal Education; and Innovative and Sustainable Clinical Engagement with Community Needs.
- The conference will also feature a *Clinical Law Review* Symposium, “Reflecting on Rebellious Lawyering at 25”, which commemorates the upcoming 25th anniversary of Gerald López’s book, *Rebellious Lawyering: One Chicano’s View of Progressive Law Practice*. Gerald López will also give the opening keynote address.
- Four multi-session workshops, including:
 - Scholarship Support
 - (Re-)Designing a Clinic Using Backward Design
 - Making Educational Videos
 - Training Students in Private Practice Skills as Another Path to Justice

Visit www.aals.org/clinical2016 for program and registration information.



Image Credit: Ken Stanek

AALS Welcomes UC Irvine to its Membership

On January 7, 2016, the AALS House of Representatives voted to elect University of California, Irvine School of Law (UCI Law) to membership in the AALS.

The AALS House of Representatives voted on the recommendation of the Membership Review Committee and the AALS Executive Committee. The committees cited UCI Law's thorough demonstration of the numerous requirements for AALS membership, including strong academic record and commitment to scholarship in its recommendation to accept the school's application to become a member.

UCI Law opened its doors in August 2009 to become the first new public law school in California in nearly 50 years. The school's curriculum stresses hands-on learning, interdisciplinary study and public service. UCI Law's faculty members have been recognized nationally for their scholarly impact.

"The AALS gladly welcomes University of California, Irvine School of Law into its membership," said Blake D. Morant, 2015 AALS President and Dean, The George Washington University Law School. "In a very short period of time, the school has contributed so much to legal education and continues to produce outstanding legal professionals. We look forward to UC Irvine's status as a valued member of the AALS."

"This is another wonderful milestone for UC Irvine School of Law," said Erwin Chemerinsky, Dean of University of California, Irvine School of Law. "The AALS review process is rigorous and I am delighted for the positive reviews and the positive vote making us a member school."

UC Irvine Law School shares a commitment to quality and to the core values of the association. AALS is pleased to welcome the school as a member.



Erwin Chemerinsky, Dean, University of California, Irvine School of Law, addresses the AALS House of Representatives after the school is voted into AALS membership.



Faculty from the University of California, Irvine School of Law cheer the election of the school into AALS membership.

AALS Executive Committee Leadership

At the Second Meeting of the AALS House of Representatives on Saturday, January 9, 2016, Kellye Y. Testy, University of Washington School of Law, assumed the Presidency of AALS. The following individuals were elected to the AALS Executive Committee:

AALS President-Elect:

Paul Marcus, William & Mary Law School

Members of the Executive Committee (Three-Year Term):

Alicia Alvarez, The University of Michigan Law School

Vincent D. Rougeau, Dean, Boston College Law School

“I am honored by the vote selecting me as the President-Elect of the Association of American Law Schools,” said Professor Marcus. “I believe strongly in the mission of the AALS, to promote excellence in legal education. I will work hard to support that mission, to promote diversity in our profession, to increase international ties for U.S. legal educators, and to encourage the partnership of legal educators and members of the bar in ensuring that we provide access to quality legal representation for all individuals in need.”

“I have been impressed with the new energy and change in direction of AALS,” said Dean Rougeau. “The organization has been increasingly innovative and responsive to the changing environment for legal education, and I am very excited to be involved in these efforts. I look forward to working with a group of terrific colleagues to make the association even more engaged and creative in the years ahead.”

“I am honored to have been elected to serve on the AALS Executive Committee,” said Professor Alvarez. “I look forward to supporting the work of law schools in training lawyers who are ready to serve our complex and diverse society and committed to justice.”

Members of the Executive Committee continuing in 2016 are Devon W. Carbado, University of California, Los Angeles; Darby Dickerson, Texas Tech University; Vicki Jackson, Harvard University; and Avi Soifer, University of Hawai'i. Guy-Uriel E. Charles, Duke University, and Wendy Collins Perdue, University of Richmond, concluded their service on the Executive Committee at the end of the second AALS House of Representative meeting. Daniel B. Rodriguez, Northwestern University, concluded his term as Immediate Past President.

We extend our thanks and appreciation to these deans and faculty members for their service.



The AALS House of Representatives elected Paul Marcus, William & Mary Law School, as 2016 President-Elect and Alicia Alvarez, University of Michigan Law School, and Vincent D. Rougeau, Dean, Boston College Law School, as new members of the AALS Executive Committee.



AALS President-Elect Paul Marcus, William & Mary Law School



Highlights from the Annual Meeting

continued from cover

The opening plenary also featured the presentation of the AALS Triennial Award for Lifetime Service to Legal Education and the Law to Herma Hill Kay, University of California, Berkeley School of Law. With a career spanning more than 50 years, Professor Kay was acknowledged for her enormous contributions to teaching, scholarship, and leadership. She is perhaps best known for her leadership as Dean of Berkeley Law from 1992-2000 and as co-author of the Uniform Marriage and Divorce Act (UMDA) which has now become the standard for no-fault divorce nationwide.

“I am honored and humbled, but delighted to accept this award,” said Professor Kay in a pre-recorded video address. “I am proud to join the [previous winners] and look forward to congratulating the 2019 recipient.”

One of the most popular sessions of the 2016 Annual Meeting was “A Conversation with the Honorable Stephen Breyer,” followed immediately by the signing for his recently published book *The Court and the World: American Law and the New Global Realities*. Justice Breyer discussed his extensive legal career, his time on the U.S. Supreme Court, and the importance of learning how the law

is applied across the globe during the talk moderated by Alan Morrison, The George Washington University Law School.

“I do believe that there’s an incredible need in this country, as well as abroad, to explain to high school or college students why we do what we do and why it is important to them... It’s certainly something we’re all in the business of trying to explain to people,” Justice Breyer said, regarding the importance of the rule of law.

Sponsored by Bloomberg Law, Thursday night’s first-ever AALS Opening Reception, held in the Exhibit Hall, was well attended. Michael Bloomberg, Former Mayor of New York and Founder, CEO, and President of Bloomberg LP, joined AALS President Blake Morant to welcome attendees to the meeting. Bloomberg gave a short talk, stating that legal research arm Bloomberg Law is “determined to help lawyers and law schools stay ahead of the curve” in this challenging time for the profession.

During the course of the Annual Meeting, the AALS House of Representatives voted the University of California, Irvine School of Law into AALS membership and elected Paul Marcus, William &

Mary Law School, as President-Elect and Alicia Alvarez, University of Michigan Law School, and Vincent D. Rougeau, Dean, Boston College Law School, as new members of the AALS Executive Committee.

2015 AALS President Blake D. Morant, Dean of the George Washington University Law School, gave his presidential report on 2015 stating “...I remain the pragmatic optimist, noting that our duty to evolve through innovation remains. I also, however, continue in the manifest belief that American legal education, which is still envied worldwide, must not only survive but also thrive.”

2016 AALS President Kellye Y. Testy, Dean of the University of Washington School of Law, gave her inaugural address at the Second House of Representatives meeting, asserting that “we are striving to enhance AALS leadership to better serve our member schools and to more forcefully and effectively advocate for legal education...when you thrive, we thrive.”

Dean Testy also announced the theme of her presidency and next year’s Annual Meeting: “Why Law Matters.”



Federal judges Jeremy Fogel, Gladys Kessler, Harry Edwards, and Jed Rakoff discuss the use of scientific testimony and information in the courtroom during the AALS/National Academy of Sciences joint program.



U.S. Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer discusses the global nature of law with Alan Morrison, The George Washington University Law School.

“It is a theme designed to bring out the best of the academy and to encourage us to explore—at a fundamental level—why what we do matters in meeting the challenges of our current social environment,” said Dean Testy.

In addition to the conversation with Justice Breyer, Dean Morant selected stimulating topics for the President’s Programs including how law schools are responding to the demands of a global marketplace, facing and addressing challenges in the legal profession and an update on the ABA Commission on the Future of Legal Services.

The Annual Meeting also hosted a variety of Hot Topic Programs, aimed at discussing current and pressing issues in the legal world and in American society. These included the U.S. Supreme Court’s latest affirmative action case, *Fisher v. Texas*, the Paris agreement on climate change, and the 2016 U.S. Presidential Election’s expected impact on immigration law.

This year, AALS introduced Arc of Career Programs designed to address the professional development needs of law school faculty members at every stage of their career. These included sessions on book publishing, post-tenure scholarly

engagement, and how to use the AALS Annual Meeting for networking and professional development.

The 100 AALS Sections also hosted programs throughout the entirety of the meeting, covering such timely topics as the use of lethal injection in the death penalty, religion and same-sex marriage, the rise of ISIS and Boko Haram, the Affordable Care Act, and data privacy.

Several prominent federal judges joined the AALS and National Academy of Sciences Committee on Science, Technology, and Law joint program “Science and the Law” to discuss the use of scientific evidence used in court cases. Judges Jeremy Fogel, Harry Edwards, Gladys Kessler, and Jed Rakoff have all worked extensively to develop a report on this subject for judiciaries across the country. “The goal was not to make scientists out of judges,” said Judge Kessler, United States District Court for the District of Columbia, “our goal was to provide the tools to judges that could help them handle very complex scientific issues in their cases.”

Other guest speakers at the AALS Annual Meeting included Paulette Brown, President of the American Bar Association and Partner at Locke Lord

LLP; Jorge Elorza, Mayor of Providence, R.I.; and Charles Schumer, U.S. Senator (N.Y.)

Social media was abuzz with talk of the Annual Meeting. #AALS2016 was trending nationally, with 1,359 mentions on Twitter throughout the entirety of the conference. The popular AALS mobile app, which helped attendees plan and navigate the conference, had an impressive 1,248 total downloads.

In addition to viewing programs at the AALS Annual Meeting, attendees had the option of attending meetings and programming held by several other organizations in conjunction with the event, including the Federalist Society, the Association of Legal Writing Directors, Legal Writing Institute, the American Society of Political and Legal Philosophy, and the Society of Socio-Economists.

Planning for the 2017 AALS Annual Meeting, January 3-7, 2017 in San Francisco is already in progress, with details and registration information becoming available in the coming months.



Photos from the Annual Meeting



Michael Bloomberg welcomes AALS attendees to New York.



D. Benjamin Barros, Dean, University of Toledo College of Law, and Michael Blair, the Presiding Partner at Debevoise & Plimpton.



Law professors gather in a discussion group on author diversity in legal scholarship.



(L-R) Michael E. Waterstone, Loyola Law School, Los Angeles; AALS Executive Director Judith Areen; Bradley A. Areheart, University of Tennessee College of Law; 2015 AALS President Blake D. Morant, The George Washington University Law School; and 2016 AALS President Kellye Y. Testy, University of Washington School of Law, field a question from an audience member during a session for first-time meeting attendees.



Martha L. Minow, Harvard Law School, and Laurel S. Terry, The Pennsylvania State University – Dickinson Law, address audience members during the AALS President’s Program: “Challenges Facing the Legal Profession and Strategies to Address Them.”



Panelists at an Arc of Career panel discuss scholarly engagement post tenure. (R-L) Bennett Capers, Brooklyn Law School; L. Song Richardson, University of California, Irvine School of Law; Usha R. Rodrigues, University of Georgia School of Law; and Stephen I. Vladeck, American University, Washington College of Law.



Jill Fraley, winner of the 2016 AALS Scholarly Papers Competition, Washington and Lee University School of Law, presents her paper.



AALS Exhibit Hall



Panelists discuss the U.S. Supreme Court and Affirmative Action. L-R: Brian Fitzpatrick, Vanderbilt University Law School and AALS Executive Committee Member Devon Wayne Carbado, UCLA School of Law.



Benjamin W. Heineman, Jr., Former Senior Vice President for Law and Public Affairs, General Electric at the opening plenary.

2016 AALS Workshop for New Law School Teachers

The 34th Workshop for New Law School Teachers will be held June 9-11, 2016 in Washington, D.C. The workshop is designed for new law teachers regardless of subject area. Law teachers enter the academy on different paths, but also have much in common as they begin their careers. Sessions will be led and facilitated by a group of inspirational senior and junior faculty chosen for their commitment to legal education, track record of success in their own careers, and diversity of scholarly and teaching approaches. New law teachers will have the opportunity to share their excitement, experience, and concerns in a supportive environment.

“Law schools are facing unprecedented challenges brought about by a nationwide downturn in student applications and a host of other changes and transformations,” Planning Committee Chair Kimberly Yuracko, Northwestern Pritzker University School of Law, said. “New law teachers, including those joining law school faculties as tenure-track, lecturer, clinical, or visiting appointees, must understand and appreciate these challenges in order to succeed in their new careers as scholars, classroom teachers, mentors, and institutional citizens.”

Please visit www.aals.org/nlt2016 for detailed program and registration information.



Image Credit: Destination DC



2015 AALS Workshop for New Law School Teachers

TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

Excellence in teaching is an important value to AALS and its member law schools. Each year, AALS recognizes professors who have been honored by their schools as Teachers of the Year. A complete list of honored faculty for 2015 with links to their biographies can be found online at www.aals.org/TeachersOfTheYear.



Photo courtesy of Duke University School of Law

CALL FOR SYMPOSIUM PROPOSALS FOR THE 2017 AALS ANNUAL MEETING

The Association of American Law Schools is pleased to request proposals for the Symposium to be held at the 2017 AALS Annual Meeting in San Francisco. These programs are full- or half-day sessions focusing on in-depth scholarly exploration of a topic of academic interest.

Symposium proposals should include:

- An abstract of up to 750 words describing the overall symposium program and its anticipated contribution to legal scholarship.
- Abstracts of up to 250 words describing each proposed symposium paper.
- A description of the publication arrangements for the program.

The committee encourages symposium program organizers to arrange for the publications of papers to be published in a journal or edited volume.

In reviewing Symposium Program proposals, the Committee will consider the overall quality of the program, including whether:

- The proposal is well written and thoughtfully constructed;
- The program is likely to be of interest to Annual Meeting attendees;
- There is a diversity of presenters, including diversity of schools, viewpoints, and identity characteristics;
- There are junior participants included in the proposal; and
- The abstracts reflect papers that are likely to contribute substantially to the scholarship in the field.

Proposals for Symposium programs may reserve one or more spots for participants selected from a call for participation. Participants selected from a call for participation must be identified no later than September 29, 2016.

Proposals are due May 12, 2016 and should be submitted through the online submission form. Please visit www.aals.org/aals-events/rfps to see the full call for open submission programs, and find the link to the online submission form. Questions may be directed to symposium@aals.org.



CALL FOR SCHOLARLY PAPERS FOR PRESENTATION AT 2017 AALS ANNUAL MEETING

In order to foster the next generation of legal scholars and to recognize outstanding legal scholarship, AALS is sponsoring a call for papers for the 32nd annual AALS Scholarly Papers Competition. Full-time law teachers at an AALS member or fee-paid school for five years or less on July 1, 2016, are invited to submit a paper on a topic related to or concerning law. A committee of established scholars will review the submitted papers with the authors' identities concealed. Papers that make a substantial contribution to legal literature will be selected for presentation at the AALS Annual Meeting in San Francisco in January 2017. To be considered for the competition, an electronic version of the manuscript should be emailed to scholarlypapers@aals.org no later than August 5, 2016, 11:59 p.m., Eastern. For more information, please visit aals.org.



Symposium at the 2016 AALS Annual Meeting: "Violence Against Women"

39th AALS Conference on Clinical Legal Education

Clinics and Communities:
Exploring Community Engagement
Through Clinical Education



Image credit: Phil! Gold

April 30 – May 3, 2016 | Baltimore, MD
www.aals.org/clinical2016

2016 AALS Workshop for New Law School Teachers



Image credit: Destination DC

June 9 – 11, 2016 | Washington, DC
www.aals.org/nlt2016

AALS CALENDAR

Conference on Clinical Legal Education

Saturday, April 30 – Tuesday, May 3, 2016, Baltimore, MD
Friday, May 5 – Tuesday, May 9, 2017, Denver, CO

Workshop for New Law School Teachers

Thursday, June 9 – Saturday, June 11, 2016, Washington, DC

Faculty Recruitment Conference

Thursday, October 13 – Saturday, October 15, 2016, Washington, DC
Thursday, November 2 – Saturday, November 4, 2017, Washington, DC

Future Annual Meeting Dates and Locations

Tuesday, January 3 – Saturday, January 7, 2017, San Francisco, CA
Wednesday, January 3 – Sunday, January 7, 2018, San Diego, CA
Wednesday, January 2 – Sunday, January 6, 2019, New Orleans, LA



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