



Association of American Law Schools

December 30, 2011

President
Michael A. Olivas
University of Houston

MEMORANDUM 11-23

President-elect
Lauren K. Robel
Indiana University-
Bloomington

**TO: Deans of Member Law Schools and
Members of the House of Representatives**

Immediate Past President
H. Reese Hansen
Brigham Young University

FROM: Susan Westerberg Prager

Serving through 2011
Katharine T. Bartlett
Duke University

SUBJECT: Appointment of Linda D. Jellum as AALS Associate Director

Daniel B. Rodriguez
The University of Texas

I am extremely happy to be able to announce that Professor Linda D. Jellum of the Mercer University Walter F. George School of Law has agreed to serve as AALS Associate Director effective January 1, 2012. Linda has been a terrific volunteer for AALS in multiple capacities. She always conveys high energy and a positive approach to whatever it is that she takes on. One of the mainstays of the program for candidates at the Faculty Recruitment Conference, and a key member of the team that has put together the SEALS Conference for years, Linda is the perfect person to help us think about how we can improve and expand programs and how AALS can further serve faculty and academic leaders at our member law schools. I know that Linda will also contribute to expanding the group of faculty volunteers who are so crucial in enabling the AALS to accomplish so much with only a small permanent staff.

Serving through 2012
Dorothy Andrea Brown
Emory University

Ann C. Shalleck
American University

Serving through 2013
Pat K. Chew
University of Pittsburgh

Paul Marcus
College of William and Mary

Executive Director
Chief Executive Officer
Susan Westerberg Prager

Long ago, during her term as AALS Executive Director, Betsy Levin implemented the idea of having a faculty member join the AALS staff on a short-term basis. Betsy correctly saw the value of having a tenure track faculty member from a member school contribute to the staff effort at the Association. Notably, in her first AALS Newsletter announcement of the position, she described “a two-year visiting position for distinguished faculty.” Betsy believed that a rotation would give the AALS “the benefit of a variety of points of view and talents over time,” and would increase “the number of law faculty with a close understanding of the work of the Association.”

Managing Director
Jane M. La Barbera

Early in my term as Executive Director I determined that I needed a concrete understanding of this rotating role and therefore intentionally decided to hold off filling the position. While this act certainly calls into question my sanity, it helped me consider how to embed some of the roles that were in the rotating position into the permanent staff. I also considered how to focus a “visitor” with strong academic values on projects that would benefit from the experience and perspective of a faculty member and that lent themselves to less continuity. I see Linda as the perfect person with whom to collaborate in this ongoing experimental effort, and I’m grateful to her for her willingness to do so.

I've come to believe that AALS very much needs the additional capacity grounded in an experienced legal educator, particularly at this time of so much positive ferment within legal education combined with intense external criticism of law schools and legal education.

I'm grateful to Linda (and to her family) and for her (and their) willingness to move to Washington D.C. so that Linda can contribute her many talents to improving the work of AALS. For those of you who don't know Linda Jellum, delve into her faculty page <http://www.law.mercer.edu/facultystaff/bios/linda-d-jellum>, and you will see one of those "triple threats" who earn the respect and awe of colleagues: a teaching award winner who at the same time is an engaged, productive scholar, yet with the added bonus of a talent for service.

The Association is fortunate to have this remarkable faculty member serve as AALS Associate Director.

cc: AALS Executive Committee
Deans of Fee Paid Law Schools
AALS Staff