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SALT - Society of American Law Teachers

Mitchell Hamline School of Law

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To: ABA Council on Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar (the "Council")
From: Society of American Law Teachers ("SALT")
Date: May 16, 2016
Re: Update on SALT Activities

We very much appreciate this opportunity to report to the Council on the work SALT pursues on behalf of its members. SALT continues to actively promote its mission of creating a more diverse and inclusive legal profession and system of legal education; enhancing legal education through innovative teaching methodologies; incorporating issues of social justice into law school curricula; and extending the power of law to underserved communities.

On January 1, 2016, Sara Rankin (Seattle University) and Denise Roy (Mitchell Hamline) replaced Olympia Duhart and Ruben Garcia as Co-Presidents for two-year terms.

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At SALT's Annual Awards Dinner in New York City on January 8, 2016, we honored Sherrilyn Ifill, President and Director-Counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, as our 2016 M. Shanara Gilbert Human Rights Award winner and the team of Professors Susan Bryant (CUNY) and Jean Peters Koh (Yale) as our Great Teacher Award winners. The event was an inspiring testimony to the power of, and need for, social justice leadership and innovative, collaborative teaching.

SALT's Cover Workshop held in conjunction with the AALS Annual Meeting featured an interactive panel and audience discussion on "Race Matters: Creative Entry Points for Impacting Race Relations on Campus" at Fordham Law School. Panelists were Faiza Patel, Co-Director of the Liberty and National Security Program at the Brennan Center for Justice; Professor Amna A. Akbar (Ohio State), Yale 3L and student leader Katherine Demby, and Professor Victor Goode (CUNY), and the discussion was moderated by former SALT Co-President Steve Bender (Seattle University Associate Dean). The event attracted law teachers, law students, and community organizers for a frank discussion about the state of race relations on campus, what law faculty and law schools can and must do to make law schools truly inclusive and parallel injustices experienced by Muslim people and non-Muslim people of color.

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In its pipeline work SALT encourages people of color and other marginalized people to enter law school, practice and eventual teaching and nurtures commitment to social justice in the teaching and practice of law. SALT promoted diversity in legal education and the legal profession and commitment to social justice through three events this Spring semester:

- On February 23, 2016, at the Southeast/Southwest People of Color Legal Scholarship Conference at FAMU Law in Orlando, Florida, SALT hosted a “Breaking In” event to encourage people of color to enter law teaching. The event included panels on opportunities in law school administration, navigating the world with a law degree and getting and keeping work in the legal academy.
- On March 5-6, 2016, at UNLV Law SALT hosted the 18th Annual Trina Grillo Public Interest and Social Justice Law Retreat for law students. The Retreat provided a unique opportunity for public interest and social justice-oriented law students, faculty, staff and practitioners to exchange viewpoints, explore career opportunities and formulate strategies for social justice.
- On April 9, 2016, at Elon Law SALT hosted a B.A. to J.D. Pipeline Event focusing on intercultural competence and education. Students from local high schools and community colleges were invited to attend. The event included panels on The Law School Journey, Professionalism and Intercultural Engagement, and Tips and Strategies for Applying to Law School.

SALT’s work promoting diversity in legal education will continue on August 12-13, 2016, as SALT co-sponsors the biennial conference Promoting Diversity in Law School Leadership with the University of Washington School of Law. The conference encourages and assists members of underrepresented groups to pursue law school deanships and other university and law school leadership positions.

SALT is in the midst of gathering data for its annual salary survey, which reports median base salaries for assistant professor, pre-tenure associate professors and post-tenure professors (both associate and full), as well as median summer stipends.

SALT will hold its biennial Teaching Conference on September 30 and October 1, 2016, at John Marshall Law School in Chicago. The conference theme is “From the Classroom to the Community: Teaching and Advancing Social Justice.” The conference invites proposals addressing the unprecedented challenges that face the legal academy—on the one hand, the pressure to ensure that students are adequately prepared to navigate a courtroom, draft legal documents, and exhibit other “practice-ready” skills upon graduation; on the other, the need to teach the wide spectrum of theory, rules, and doctrine to increase prospects for bar passage, all while reducing the cost of legal education. We are looking forward to gathering with teachers and scholars committed to excellent teaching throughout the law school curriculum and to putting that teaching to work for justice in the community.

Immediately before the Teaching Conference, on September 29, 2016, SALT will join forces with LatCrit to host the Annual Faculty Development Workshop. The Workshop familiarizes junior faculty with the work of SALT and LatCrit; supports them in their teaching, service and scholarship; and cultivates a community committed to social justice work and work on behalf of underserved people.

SALT does much of its work through its standing committees. Committee work in addition to that reflected above includes the following projects:

- Access to Justice Committee—
 - Developing a bank of online resources to encourage and help law teachers to incorporate and reinforce access to justice topics across the curriculum, with a particular focus on lawyers' professional responsibility to enhance the administration of justice and eliminate barriers to the legal system so as to better meet the needs of under-represented persons; and
 - Assessing reform programs to educate and license non-lawyers to deliver limited legal services.
- Human Rights Committee—
 - exploring international legal interventions around lead poisoning;
 - involving SALT in ongoing international and domestic Black Lives Matter advocacy; and
 - supporting campaigns on behalf of law professor prisoners of conscience.
- Issues in Legal Education Committee—submitting comments on issues and proposals affecting legal education, including proposals from the Standards and Review Committee and the Council.

Through all our efforts, sustained by the hard work and support of our members and friends, SALT is working to advance core values of teaching excellence, social justice and diversity. We appreciate the many contributions of all who join us in those efforts. We are also grateful to the Council for your invitation to report on SALT's various initiatives and the opportunity to work with you toward improvement of legal education and the system of justice it serves.

Submitted on behalf of the Society of American Law Teachers by,



Sara Rankin
Co-President



Denise Roy
Co-President