To: ABA Council on Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar (the “Council”)
From: Society of American Law Teachers (“SALT”)
Date: November 4, 2019
Re: Update on SALT Activities

SALT’s mission is to foster a more diverse and inclusive legal profession; enhance legal education through innovative teaching as well as incorporation of social justice learning throughout the curriculum; and extend the power of law to underserved communities. We are grateful to the Council for this opportunity to report on SALT’s activities and the ongoing opportunity to work with you toward improvement of legal education and the system of justice it serves. Below is a sampling of SALT activities and developments since its last report.

Bar Examination Reform
SALT continues its work to make admission to the bar more effective at identifying candidates with the knowledge and skills to practice law and therefore fairer. SALT communicated its concerns about the Council’s proposal to revise Standard 316 in a series of comments, oral testimony and letters, both individually and in collaboration with other concerned organizations. Despite the ABA House of Delegates’ rejection of the proposal in the face of such concerns, the Council went ahead with the revision. Nonetheless, the critiques that SALT has led on attorney licensing and bar exams are gaining serious traction, as seen in the many new task forces in states examining their licensing systems and in the comments to the NCBE Testing Task Force during Phase 1 of its study to determine whether the bar examination tests the knowledge, skills, and abilities required for competent entry-level legal practice in a changing legal profession.

Council Transparency
SALT continues to work with CLEA in pressing Council leadership for greater transparency in Council decision making. The reorganization of the Council, particularly rolling the work of the Standards Review Committee into the Council, has dramatically reduced the open meeting time through which affiliates are able to learn about and provide input on Council proposals and developments. SALT appreciates promises to hold roundtable discussions with affiliates and other interested groups on key issues. That is an excellent step forward but not a replacement for access to the decision-making process as it unfolds.

Junior Faculty Development Workshop
SALT and LatCrit hosted the 17th annual Faculty Development Workshop (FDW) in Atlanta, Georgia on October 17, 2019. The FDW is designed for those who are planning to enter or who have recently joined the legal academy. This day-long workshop includes sessions on topics facing prospective, junior, and pre-tenured faculty, while providing generous opportunities to network and form mentoring
relationships with established faculty. In particular, the FDW supports aspiring and junior faculty members in their teaching, service, and scholarship; fosters progressive and critical outsider scholarship; and cultivates a community committed to social justice work on behalf of underserved people.

National People of Color Legal Scholarship Conference
Past Co-President Olympia Duhart and current Co-President Matthew Charity represented SALT on the Advisory Committee to the National People of Color Legal Scholarship Conference, held at American University March 21-24, 2019. SALT was a sponsor of the conference, which had as its theme “People of Color and the Future of Democracy.” The NPOC Conference is believed to have had the largest ever collection of law professors of color in one space.

Promoting Diversity in Law School Leadership Workshop
SALT continued to support the Promoting Diversity in Law School Leadership Workshop, hosted by Villanova University in partnership with Seattle University Law School, held August 12-13, 2019.

Law Student Social Justice and Public Interest Retreats:

Robert M. Cover Retreat
The 32nd Annual Robert M. Cover Public Interest Retreat, sponsored by SALT and Yale Law School, took place at the Sargent Center in Peterborough, New Hampshire from February 22-24, 2019. The focus of the 2019 conference was, “Resistance: Our Human Rights Are Under Attack, How do we use our JDs as a weapon against injustice?” The Retreat had its largest turnout ever, with representatives of 45 law schools in attendance. Organizers are preparing for the next Cover Retreat for February 21-23, 2020.

Trina Grillo Retreat
The 21st Annual Trina Grillo Public Interest and Social Justice Retreat took place at UCLA Law School, and had nineteen attendees from ten schools, from March 15-16, 2019. The theme of the retreat was, “Resist and Recharge: Sustaining Social Justice Lawyering — Explore ways for future and current lawyers to successfully engage in sustainable, social-justice oriented careers.” Organizers noted they “had a small but fabulous ‘resist and recharge’ retreat, focused on issues like trauma and lawyering, tackling burnout, using art and creativity, thinking creatively about funding public interest work, and using pro bono strategies to further public interest goals.” Organizers are preparing the next Trina Grillo Retreat for February 28-29, 2020.

Norman Amaker Retreat
The 16th Annual Norman Amaker Midwest Public Interest and Social Justice retreat was held at Loyola University Chicago School of Law on April 12, 2019. The 2019 Conference focused on “Law, Resistance, and Social Justice”.

SALT Liaisons
SALT’s work on academic excellence and inclusion of diverse perspective in the legal academy and bar is strengthened by its work with liaisons from the Association of Academic Support Educators (AASE), the American Constitution Society (ACS), Legal Writing Institute (LWI), and the Clinical Legal Education Association (CLEA). Liaisons attend SALT Board Meetings, work on SALT committees and foster collaboration on projects of mutual interest.

New Historian
SALT is very fortunate that Jeanne Frazier Price, Director of the Wiener-Rogers Law Library at UNLV, has agreed to serve as SALT’s historian and archivist.
Coming up—

**New Co-Presidents**
José (“Beto”) Juárez, Jr., former Dean of Denver Sturm College of Law, and Catherine Grosso, Professor of Law at Michigan State University, have been elected to a two-year term as Co-Presidents of SALT, for the 2020-21 calendar years. Beto and Catherine represent continuity of SALT’s 45 year commitment to advancing teaching excellence, social justice and diversity (Beto Juárez served as Co-President from 2004-06, while Catherine will be in her third year on the Board, having served as Treasurer for the past two years).

**New Board Members**
In October, SALT elected four new Board Members: Professor Heather Elliot (Alabama), Professor Jasmine Harris (U.C. Davis), Professor Renee Hatcher (UIC John Marshall), and Dean Tamara Lawson (St. Thomas Florida).

**Events in conjunction with AALS Annual Meeting**

**SALT’s Annual Awards Celebration** is scheduled for Friday, January 3, 2020. SALT will again celebrate teaching excellence and dedication to human rights by awarding its Great Teacher Award and Shanara Gilbert Human Rights Award.

**SALT’s annual Robert M. Cover Workshop** will take place mid-morning on Saturday, January 4, 2020. The theme is *What’s at Stake in This Year’s National Election?* It will feature a panel of distinguished scholars and activists focusing on the implications of the 2020 Presidential and Congressional elections for justice and rule of law in the United States.

Sincerely,

Davida Finger
Co-President

Matthew Charity
Co-President