ABA Associate Deans Conference

Developing the Skill Sets of the Associate Dean

June 25–28, 2019

Renaissance Chicago Downtown Hotel

ABA
American Bar Association

Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar
### TUESDAY, JUNE 25, 2019

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<td>3:00 - 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Registration and Exhibits</td>
<td>Looking Glass Foyer (Third Floor)</td>
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<td>3:30 - 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Day in the Life Sessions</td>
<td>Adler, Improv or Lyric (Third Floor)</td>
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<td>Associate Deans encounter a wide variety of scenarios requiring the knowledge of academic procedures, compassion, and common sense. In this session, participants will discuss some of those scenarios and the strategies, skills, and knowledge that will help to navigate them. Attendees will receive their room assignments at registration.</td>
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<td>5:00 - 6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Welcome Networking Reception</td>
<td>Looking Glass Ballroom (Third Floor)</td>
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<td>Dinner on Your Own</td>
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### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26, 2019

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<td>7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Registration and Exhibits</td>
<td>Looking Glass Foyer (Third Floor)</td>
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<td>8:00 - 9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
<td>Urban Blue (Third Floor)</td>
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<td>9:00 - 10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Plenary 1: Building a Culture of Communication and Cooperation Among the Associate Deans at the Law School</td>
<td>Looking Glass Ballroom (Third Floor)</td>
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<td>This panel, consisting of representatives of different Associate Deans’ offices will tackle the challenges and benefits that may arise with the organization of the administrative structure in the modern law school. Due to expanded programming and shared responsibilities, there are more faculty and staff than ever before holding associate dean positions, and communication among them is critical. Topics covered will include overlapping responsibilities, opportunities to collaborate, faculty perception, student communication, and supervision of staff, among others.</td>
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<td>MODERATOR: Debra Moss Vollweiler, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Professor, Nova Southeastern University Shepard Broad College of Law</td>
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<td>SPEAKERS: Nancy Benavides, Associate Dean for Student Advancement, Florida State University College of Law, Larry Cunningham, Associate Dean for Assessment and Institutional Effectiveness, Professor of Legal Writing, St. John’s University School of Law, Michelle Mason, Senior Associate Dean, Clinical Education, Experiential Learning &amp; Engagement and Associate Dean for Enrollment, Florida International University College of Law</td>
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<td>10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Break</td>
<td>Looking Glass Foyer (Third Floor)</td>
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<td>10:45 a.m. - Noon</td>
<td>Breakout 1: Skills, Talents and Interests: The Rich Human Capital of the Law School</td>
<td>Lyric (Third Floor)</td>
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<td>Associate deans have to manage and support faculty in their teaching, research and student services. This panel aims to highlight the challenges faced by associate deans of all types in terms of managing, supporting and making the most of faculty talents, skills and interests.</td>
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<td>MODERATOR: Ruben Garcia, Associate Dean for Faculty Development and Research, University of Nevada-Las Vegas William S. Boyd School of Law</td>
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<td>SPEAKERS: Hannah Brenner, Associate Professor, California Western School of Law, Alex Geisinger, Associate Dean for Faculty Development and Research, Drexel University Thomas R. Kline School of Law, Juliet Moringiello, Associate Dean for Research and Faculty Development, Widener University Commonwealth Law School</td>
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Breakout 2: Deaning  
Adler (Third Floor)

Have you thought about what’s next after serving as an associate dean? Many at least consider pursuing a deanship. This breakout panel features a relatively new dean, two deans with experience in deanships at a total of six schools across four different states, and a long-serving dean about to retire. Join us to hear their perspectives on becoming and staying a dean and the unique rewards and challenges of that position.

SPEAKERS:
Darby Dickerson, Dean and Professor, The John Marshall Law School
Harold Krent, Dean and Professor, Illinois Institute of Technology Chicago-Kent College of Law
Jennifer Rosato Perea, Dean and Professor, DePaul University College of Law
Christopher (C.J.) Peters, Dean and Professor, The University of Akron School of Law

Breakout 3: Creating a Culture that Supports Teaching and Scholarship  
Improv (Third Floor)

This panel offers concrete steps—both short term and long-term—that Associate Deans can take to create a sustainable culture that supports faculty in both teaching and research. This interactive presentation will focus on write-ins, creative research stipends, faculty collaboration on assessment, an expansive view of scholarship, revenue-neutral recognition efforts, hands-on training for active teaching training and other institutional measures that can be implemented to support faculty in critical areas. It will also include a discussion of programs that can be used to overcome some of the challenges that contribute to a culture of overworked or disengaged faculty. In short, this panel will propose methods to create a culture shift to promote engagement in teaching and scholarship.

SPEAKERS:
Olympia Duhart, Associate Dean for Faculty and Student Development, Nova Southeastern University Shepard Broad College of Law
Stuart Ford, Associate Dean of Research and Faculty Development, The John Marshall Law School
Wendy-Adele Humphrey, Associate Dean for Assessment & Strategic Initiatives, Texas Tech University School of Law
Alicia Jackson, Associate Dean for Student Learning and Assessment, Florida A&M University College of Law
Debra Moss Vollweiler, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Professor, Nova Southeastern University Shepard Broad College of Law

Lunch & Keynote Address  
Urban Blue (Third Floor)

Sponsored by LSAC

OPENING REMARKS:
Camille deJorna, Deputy for Legal and Global Higher Education, LSAC

KEYNOTE ADDRESS:
Darby Dickerson, Dean and Professor, The John Marshall Law School

Plenary 2: Owning Our Stories: Leveraging Personal and Institutional Narratives to Reduce Microaggressions and Minimize the Effect of Implicit Bias  
Looking Glass Ballroom (Third Floor)

This interactive discussion will invite attendees to examine how their institution can go beyond the basics of tolerance and “diversity-for-diversity’s sake.” We invite those present to think about ways their school can transition to a modern and universally-inclusive approach to diversity. By using the Law School’s own story as a model for change, participants will learn the importance of ignoring assumptions and listening to the stories of students and colleagues in crafting campus diversity initiatives. In addition, the conversation will touch on ways administrators can expand their institution’s disability services framework and bring in targeted components to better service our diverse populations of individuals in transition, PTSD, veterans, and more through topically-inclusive programming.

SPEAKERS:
Jennifer Cerny, Interim Executive Director of Student Affairs and Assistant Dean of Students, University of Connecticut School of Law
Karen DeMeola, Assistant Dean for Finance, Administration, and Enrollment, University of Connecticut School of Law
Breakout 1: Crisis Management
Looking Glass Foyer (Third Floor)

Associate deans are often called upon to manage challenging and, at times, unexpected issues involving faculty, students, alumni and others. In this panel, we will discuss common crisis situations and methods for anticipating, addressing, and preparing for similar issues going forward. We will also discuss the role that different approaches may facilitate or undermine your efforts to manage a crisis.

SPEAKERS:
Steven Todd Brown, Vice Dean for Academic Affairs and Professor, University at Buffalo Law School—SUNY
Jennifer Rosato Perea, Dean and Professor, DePaul University College of Law

Breakout 2: Tightrope:
The Associate Deans’ Guide to Finding Balance
Looking Glass Ballroom (Third Floor)

The daily stressors and constant deadlines facing the associate dean make it critical for effective associate deans to find serious strategies to achieve balance. Focus, listening and concentration—all essential skills for any associate dean—are all compromised when people are working in a state of stress. Given the intellectual demands of the job and need to navigate difficult emotions encountered with colleagues and students, associate deans must be intentional about creating ways to balance professional and personal obligations. This interactive panel/discussion will explore the practical tips for the management of the stressors inherent in the multi-dimensional leadership responsibilities of associate deans. This discussion will also address the incorporation of community-building strategies as one way to foster a more balanced approach for faculty.

SPEAKERS:
Cindy Thomas Archer, Associate Dean for Clinical Programs and Experiential Learning, Loyola Law School – Los Angeles
Enrique Armijo, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Professor, Elon University School of Law
Olympia Duhart, Associate Dean for Faculty and Student Development, Nova Southeastern University Shepard Broad College of Law
Alicia Jackson, Associate Dean of Student Learning and Assessment, Florida A&M University College of Law

Breakout 3: New Associate Deans
Adler (Third Floor)

This breakout session is designed to bring together new, relatively new, and seasoned associate deans. In this session, we will discuss tips for managing the transition, common issues that may arise, and balancing the demands of the role against other commitments (including teaching, scholarship, and other service).

SPEAKERS:
Derrick Howard, Associate Dean for Experiential Education and Administration, Valparaiso University Law
Sondra Tennessee, Associate Dean for Alumni & Community Relations, University of Houston Law Center

Breakout 4: Skilling Up and Seeking Resources:
Grant Development and Management in the Law School
Improv (Third Floor)

This session will focus on seeking and obtaining grants to developing relationships with university grant administrators to support and develop law faculty research. The panel will brainstorm how to support particular research projects, such as those involving international and interdisciplinary topics.

MODERATOR:
Ruben Garcia, Associate Dean for Faculty Development and Research, University of Nevada–Las Vegas William S. Boyd School of Law

SPEAKERS:
Sara Berman, Esq., Director, Programs for Academic and Bar Success, AccessLex Institute Center for Legal Education Excellence
Christian Sundquist, Director of Faculty Research and Scholarship and Professor, Albany Law School
THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 2019

7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  Registration and Exhibits  Looking Glass Foyer (Third Floor)

8:00 - 9:00 a.m.  Breakfast  Urban Blue (Third Floor)

9:00 - 10:30 a.m.  Plenary 1: Legal Issues Facing Associate Deans and Guidance from Counsel on Handling Them  Looking Glass Ballroom (Third Floor)

Associate Deans may be faced with a variety of legal issues while managing their varied day-to-day responsibilities. Some of these situations include Title IX, FERPA, labor relations, financial aid regulations, disability accommodations, employment law, and student discipline. In this session, a university general counsel, a title IX coordinator, and a higher education attorney will work through several scenarios that an associate dean may encounter. Each speaker will approach the scenario from his/her area of expertise.

**MODERATOR:**
Sondra Tennessee, Associate Dean for Alumni & Community Relations, University of Houston Law Center

**SPEAKERS:**
Richard Baker, M.P.A., Ph.D., J.D., Assistant Vice Chancellor and Vice President Office of Equal Opportunity Services, University of Houston System / University of Houston
Dona Cornell, Vice Chancellor and Vice President for Legal Affairs, General Counsel, University of Houston System / University of Houston
LaKeisha Marsh, Chair, Higher Education and Collegiate Athletics Practice, Akerman

10:30 a.m.  Break  Looking Glass Foyer (Third Floor)

10:45 a.m. - Noon  Plenary 2: Assessments, Data, and Bar Exam Pass Strategies  Looking Glass Ballroom (Third Floor)

In 2014, the ABA Standards were amended to focus on outcomes assessment. Five years later, law schools are required to have learning outcomes and assessment plans. They are now beginning to collect data to assess their programs of legal education. In and out of the classroom, faculty are using formative and summative assessments to help improve student learning and bar passage rates. At many schools, associate deans are front and center with assessment and issues related to the bar exam. What should law schools do with all of the data they are collecting? How can associate deans lead faculty and others in implementing assessment in a meaningful way? For law schools that are affiliated with universities, what resources may be available to assist in the process? This session will explore these and other issues before breaking into small groups to discuss other topics related to data and assessment.

**SPEAKERS:**
Sara Berman, Esq., Director, Programs for Academic and Bar Success, AccessLex Institute Center for Legal Education Excellence
Larry Cunningham, Associate Dean for Assessment and Institutional Effectiveness, Professor of Legal Writing, St. John’s University School of Law
Alicia Jackson, Associate Dean for Student Learning and Assessment, Florida A&M University College of Law
Lily Knezevich, Law Senior Vice President for Learning and Assessments, Law School Admission Council

Plenary will be followed by breakouts in the Lyric, Adler and Improv rooms to further discuss topics.
**Lunch**

*Sponsored by AccessLex Institute*

**OPENING REMARKS:**

**Sara Berman,** Director, Programs for Academic and Bar Success, AccessLex Institute

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**Day in the Life Sessions II**

**Adler, Improv or Lyric (Third Floor)**

Attendees will continue the discussions from the Tuesday Day in the Life Sessions, meeting in the same breakout rooms.

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**Break**

**Looking Glass Foyer (Third Floor)**

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**Plenary 3: Ask the Psychiatrist:**

**Addressing Law Student Mental Health Issues**

**Looking Glass Ballroom (Third Floor)**

Law school administrators often receive information about students for whom there is a mental health concern that interferes with the student’s well-being and education, impacts other students and faculty, and disrupts the academic community. Faculty must make decisions about how to address the situation while balancing numerous interests; including the welfare of the student in question, confidentiality, the concerns of staff and the student body, and, at times, the safety of others.

Our experts will discuss:

- Common behaviors that might come to the attention of faculty and students and what these might represent from a diagnostic standpoint;
- General options for referring students for evaluation and treatment, including involving University Student Mental Health Clinics, and the use of telepsychiatry (particularly in those areas where mental health services may be limited);
- The information the school should expect to provide and receive about the student during this process, common barriers and challenges to the process, and possible solutions; and
- An overview of more detailed forensic evaluations for “students of concern” who have been identified as a possible threat to themselves or others will be presented, including the nature and logistics of a risk assessment (in contrast to a referral for treatment) for potentially dangerous students.

A Q&A session will follow the presentations.

**MODERATOR:**

**David Jaffe,** Associate Dean of Student Affairs, American University Washington College of Law

**SPEAKERS:**

**Natasha Cervantes, MD,** Director of Forensic Psychiatry, University at Buffalo School of Medicine

**Eitan Kimchi, MD,** Assistant Professor and Associate Residency Training Director, Rush University Medical Center

**Hossam Mahmoud, MD,** Medical Director, Regroup

**Carla Rodgers, MD,** Clinical Associate Professor, Cooper Medical School

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**West Academic CasebookPlus and Assessment Session**

**Looking Glass Ballroom (Third Floor)**

Join West Academic’s Stephanie Galligan for a session about CasebookPlus and West Academic Assessment. Anchored by faculty-authored formative self-assessments key to popular casebooks, these tools allow students to test their understanding of core concepts as they are learning them in class. Adopt the CasebookPlus option of your text to provide your students with the tools they need to gauge their understanding of the subject or subscribe to West Academic Assessment to provide all of your students with access to over 5,000 multiple choice formative self-assessment questions across seventeen subjects. Each tool also includes sample short answer and essay questions in select subjects, customizable quizzes, and reporting to help you gauge student comprehension.

* Be sure to attend this session as attendees will be entered into a drawing to win a $50 Visa gift card from West Academic.

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**Networking Reception**

**Urban Blue (Third Floor)**

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**Dinner on Your Own**
Even with all its unique trappings, academia is in the end a workplace. Associate Deans must be versed in the institutional and organizational aspects of human capital, as well as the boundaries and limitations of federal, state, local and university regulation. This session aims to give the context of the academic workplace from these perspectives, including the context of collective bargaining in higher education.

MODERATOR:
Ruben Garcia, Associate Dean for Faculty Development and Research, University of Nevada-Las Vegas William S. Boyd School of Law

SPEAKERS:
Susan Cancelosi, Associate Dean and Associate Professor of Law, Wayne State University Law School
Joseph Mastrosimone, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Washburn University School of Law
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2019 ASSOCIATE DEANS CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Larry Cunningham (Co-Chair)
Associate Dean for Assessment & Institutional Effectiveness; and Professor of Legal Writing
St. John’s University School of Law

Sondra Tennessee (Co-Chair)
Associate Dean for Alumni & Community Relations
University of Houston Law Center

Adell Amos
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Professor
University of Oregon School of Law

Nancy Benavides
Associate Dean for Student Affairs
Florida State University College of Law

Steven Todd Brown
Vice Dean for Academic Affairs and Professor
University at Buffalo Law School - SUNY

Susan Cancelosi
Associate Dean and Associate Professor of Law
Wayne State University Law School

Ruben Garcia
Professor and Associate Dean for Faculty Development & Research
Co-Director, UNLV Workplace Law Program
University of Nevada-Las Vegas
William S. Boyd School of Law

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