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Initial Committee Structures - June 1974

Interim Board of Governors, Society of American Law Teachers

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Society of American Law Teachers

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June 1, 1974

MEMORANDUM

FOR: Members of the Society of Law Teachers

FROM: Interim Board of Governors

We are writing to all members of the Society to bring you up to date on organizational matters and to inform you about the meeting of the Board of Governors held on May 10th.

A. Organization. Our general mailing to law teachers, sent at the end of March, attracted more than 200 new members to the Society. We now have a total of 370 members and new responses arrive daily. We think this is a good beginning, but we plan to increase membership well beyond that.

We earnestly request each member of the Society to sign up at least one colleague as a new member. There are many likely law teachers who either are victims of inertia or did not receive the mailing (some are not in the present AALS book and some letters went astray). The more new members the better, but please try to interest at least one colleague. Dues are \$25 for law teachers earning more than \$15,000, and \$15 for the others; use the enclosed envelope or a similar one for checks. (In this connection, we suggest you send all your colleagues a copy of this memorandum, but membership solicitation is best done face to face.)

Financially, we have a modest bank balance and are trying to keep expenses at a minimum. Since we shall shortly be tax exempt, we intend to seek foundation support for some of the specific projects noted below as well as for our general purposes. If anyone has a likely donor in mind, please let us know.

We hope to involve as many law teachers as possible in our work. Accordingly, please complete the enclosed questionnaire and return it to Stephen Gillers, 250 Broadway, New York, 10007.

B. May 10th Meeting. The following were the principal items of interest at the meeting, which was attended by a majority of the interim Board:

1. It was reported that a friendly relationship has been established with the leadership of the AALS, which will list the Society in the Program of the AALS Meeting in December. We have scheduled a lunch for December 29th followed by a general meeting of the Society's membership. Details will be sent later.

2. Considerable attention was devoted to the Society's initial program. Committees were set up on the following subjects, to be coordinated by the named individuals;

a. State or bar association control of law school curricula (Clint Bamberger and Addison Bowman)

b. Legal services for the poor, including federal legislation (David Chambers, Sylvia Law and Alan Houseman)

c. Criteria for judicial appointments (Mel Nimmer)

d. Faculty autonomy at smaller law schools (Bob Sedler)

e. Admissions criteria in the wake of DeFunis (George Alexander and Nat Gozansky)

f. Problems of law school placement (Norman Dorsen)

✓ g. Certification and specialization of lawyers (Ian MacNeil)

h. Proposed Federal Rules of Evidence (Charles Halpern and Bob Pitofsky)

We are also considering projects on professional responsibility and on sex discrimination.

3. There were a number of appointments for the balance of 1974. The following were elected Vice Presidents of the Society: Barbara Babcock, Ralph Brown, David Cavers, and Harry Kalven. The Executive Committee is Frank Askin, David Chambers, Tom Emerson, Nat Gozansky, Howard Lesnick

and Herman Schwartz. Frank Askin was elected Treasurer to replace Sylvia Law, who served while the Society was being organized.

A nominating committee was approved, consisting of Howard Lesnick (Chairman), Linda Champlin, Leroy Clark, Tom Emerson, and Robert Pitofsky. The committee will present nominees for the Board of Governors and officers to be elected by the members of the Society this fall for service in 1975.