

The **EQUALIZER** **SALT**

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Society of American Law Teachers

December 1995

BARBARA ALDAVE TO RECEIVE 1996 SALT TEACHING AWARD IN SAN ANTONIO

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| – Patricia A. Cain | – Elisa Garcia |
| University of Iowa | St. Mary's University |
| College of Law | School of Law |



"No one can accuse Barbara Bader Aldave of dragging her feet," read the opening line of a feature article titled "First Female Law Dean in Texas is a Change Agent," which appeared in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* in 1991.

As Dean of St. Mary's University School of Law during the past five years, Aldave has virtually transformed the sleepy, conservative and overwhelmingly Anglo San Antonio law school into a

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President's Column . . .

LETTERS TO WASHINGTON

- Patricia A. Cain
University of Iowa
College of Law

In the past month, SALT has bombarded Washington, D.C. with letters about numerous national issues that impact our work. Because I thought SALT members should stay abreast of these issues, I am using the President's column to report on these letter writing activities.

Funding for Legal Services

The first battleground was over funding for the Legal Services Corporation. Before the Domenici amendment passed in the Senate, the word was that the funding cuts would be deeper than any of us imagined and that we'd be lucky if we could save Legal Services for three years. SALT tried to contact every representative and every senator to explain the need for continued funding and to argue against block grants. I talked to several public interest groups in Washington to coordinate our efforts. In the end, I determined that the quickest way to reach most representatives and senators was via e-mail. Over half the senators and slightly more than a quarter of the representatives have an e-mail address. Most of the replies I received were standard boilerplate, but some were more interesting. A common justification for defunding seems to be that Legal Services lawyers "represent drug dealers and that conflicts with the War on Drugs." The Domenici amendment cut funding to \$340 million and knocked out block grants. It passed in early October.

Funding for Race and Gender Task Forces

Next came the attack by Senators Grassley, Gramm and Hatch on funding for task forces that

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dynamic, progressive and ethnically diverse institution.

Today, 32 percent of the students in the first-year class are members of minority groups – a fourfold increase in as many years. St. Mary's University School of Law now enrolls more Mexican-Americans than any other private law school in the United States, and the credentials of its students are significantly stronger today than in the pre-Aldave years.

Five years ago the faculty was predominately white and male. Of the 12 faculty members

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appointed to tenured or tenure-track positions during her deanship, five are women, three are Mexican-American and two are African-American. They include graduates of Harvard, Yale, the University of Chicago, the University of Texas and New York University. Four of the five chief administrators are women, and two of them are Hispanic.

More than 50 new courses and seminars have been added to the curriculum, including offerings in Comparative Law, Environmental Law, Poverty Law, International Human Rights, Law and Philosophy, Bioethics, Racism and the Law, Capital Punishment, Family Violence, and Feminist Jurisprudence. In addition, five joint-degree programs have been initiated, enabling students to earn both a law degree and a master's degree in business administration, economics, engineering, international relations, public administration or theology.

Under her leadership, three law clinics have been established – Civil Justice, Criminal

Justice, and Immigration and Human Rights – which engage students in the practice of law while assisting indigents who otherwise might not receive legal representation. Funding is being sought to establish a fourth clinic next year, Community Economic Development, which would enable law students to work in one of the most impoverished areas in the country – the *colonias* along the Texas-Mexico border.

In her "spare" time, Aldave chaired the Gender Bias Task Force of the State of Texas. The Task Force recently issued its findings (yes, bias exists in the Texas judicial system) and made a host of recommendations. Aldave also served as a member of the Mayor's Committee on Water Policy and continues to serve as President of the Board of Directors of Partnership for Hope and as Texas State Coordinator of NETWORK, a national Catholic social justice lobby. She also serves on the National Board of Directors of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund and on the National Governing Board of Common Cause. Aldave's previous public service includes membership on the Board of Advisors of the San Antonio Community Law Center, the Council for Women in Higher Education, and the Board of Directors of the Women's Advocacy Project, the Texas Resource Center, the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law of Texas, the Hemisphere Institute for Public Service, and the Peace Education Center.

A native of Puyallup, Washington, Aldave began her teaching career at the University of Oregon School of Law in 1970. Four years later, she and her husband, Rafael, and their children, Anna Marie and Anthony John, moved to Austin, where Aldave joined the faculty at the University of Texas School of Law as one of the school's two female professors. During the course of her 25-year teaching career, Aldave also has served as a visiting professor at her alma mater, the University of California School of Law at Berkeley, and at Northeastern University School of Law in Boston and has won numerous teaching awards and honors.

Dean Aldave's contributions to legal education and public interest law will be celebrated at the SALT Awards Dinner on January 6 during the annual AALS meeting in San Antonio. [See page 3 herein for details.] ■

SALT EVENTS AT THE AALS MEETING

Thursday, January 4, 4-6 PM:

TEACHING SEXUALITY AND THE LAW: WAYS AND MEANS

Hilton Palacia Del Rio Hotel

El Mirador West, 22nd floor

This program is designed as a two-hour conversation for those who teach, or are interested in teaching, sexuality courses in a law school setting. We will focus on teaching materials and methods. The first hour will be devoted to panelist presentations, and the second hour will be reserved for audience discussion. The panelists include: Mary Becker (Chicago), Pat Cain (Iowa), Mary Dunlap (Golden Gate), Nan Hunter (Brooklyn/on leave), Bill Rubenstein (Stanford/visiting), Francisco Valdes (Miami/visiting).



Friday, January 5, 7:00 AM:

BOARD MEETING

Hilton Palacia Del Rio Hotel

La Condesa, 22nd floor



Friday, January 5, 8:30 PM:

COVER STUDY GROUP

Marriott River Center Hotel

Conference Room 1, 3rd floor

SALT's Annual Robert M. Cover Study Group will consider the gendered structure of legal education. Mary Becker and Taunya Banks will facilitate the discussion. A wealth of literature informs this issue, several law school faculties have themselves addressed it, and consideration of a national study on the issue is underway. Mary and Taunya request that, if possible, participants read the following:

- Jennifer M. Russell, "On Being a Gorilla in Your Midst or the Life of One Blackwoman in the Legal Academy," 28 Harv. CR-CL L Rev. 259-62 (1993);
- Lani Guinier, Michelle Fine & Jane Balin, *Becoming Gentlemen: Women's Experiences at One Ivy League Law School*, 143 Penn. L. Rev. 1-12, 21-27, 59-71 and 92-100 (1994);
- Mary Becker, *Becoming Visible*, 1 Nat. J. Sex. Orientation L. 147-150 (1995).

A bibliography of other readings will be provided at the discussion group, and participants are welcome to bring additional materials with them.



Saturday, January 6, 7:00 PM:

ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER

Honoring Dean Barbara Aldave

Marriott River Center Hotel

Grand Ballroom, Salon G, 3rd floor

Make your reservations now (before it's too late!) by sending a check for \$45.00 to Professor Scott Taylor, University of New Mexico School of Law, 1117 Stanford Drive N.E., Albuquerque, New Mexico 87131-1431, or by calling Scott at (505) 217-2113.

PLAN NOW FOR COVER CONFERENCE IN MARCH

Now is the time to circle your calendar for the Annual Cover Conference scheduled for the usual place, the Sargent Camp in Peterborough, New Hampshire, on the first weekend in March (March 1-3) 1996. Under the working title, "Looking to the Future: Our Contract with America and a Plan for Action," issues to be discussed will include legal services, welfare reform, affirmative action, police brutality, immigration and the death penalty.

The conference is being run this year primarily by law students at Boston University and Boston College. Complete details will be sent to all SALT members in the near future. ■



REMEMBER TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE STUART FILLER FUND

In August we announced the establishment of The Stuart Filler Fellowship Fund, to honor SALT's retiring treasurer after 20 years of service. Pat Cain is collecting donations "to provide financial support for students who wish to practice public interest law." Please send checks to her at University of Iowa College of Law, Iowa City, Iowa 52242. ■

SCOTT TAYLOR ELECTED AS SALT'S NEW TREASURER

At its September meeting SALT's Board of Governors elected **Scott Taylor** (University of New Mexico) as our new Treasurer. Scott teaches tax law, runs a tax clinic, and most recently has begun teaching a course on Indian Taxation over the internet. Scott has been working with outgoing treasurer Stuart Filler on the mechanics of taking over the financial records and money management for the organization. Scott's official term as Treasurer begins in January. ■

SOCIETY OF AMERICAN LAW TEACHERS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (OR RENEWAL)

- ☐ Enroll/renew me as a regular member. I enclose \$50.00 (\$35.00 for those earning less than \$30,000 per year).
- ☐ Enroll/renew me as a contributing member. I enclose \$100.00.
- ☐ Enroll/renew me as a sustaining member. I enclose \$300.00.

Name _____ School _____

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Mail to:
Professor Scott A. Taylor
University of New Mexico School of Law
1117 Stanford Drive N.E.
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consider the effects of race, gender and ethnicity in the courts. SALT Board member **Judith Resnik** alerted SALT to this problem in early October. Several board members have written to senators or representatives from their states about this matter. SALT has a Bias in the Courts Committee which Judith Resnik chairs.

Consent Decree Preventing ABA from Gathering Salary Data Does Not Apply to SALT

The next Washington D.C. alert to the SALT Board came from SALT member **Marina Angel** (Temple) who reported that the consent decree between Justice and the ABA, preventing the ABA from gathering salary data, was being interpreted to prevent accreditation inspection teams from reviewing salary data that might raise questions of discrimination on the basis of race or gender. Since SALT also gathers salary data which it reports to its members to help them determine whether discrimination might exist at their own schools, a question arose as to how far the Justice Department intended to push its "no-collection-of-salary-data" rule. Marina and Board member **Leslie Espinoza** promptly wrote to the Justice Department asking for clarification. SALT co-president **Jean Love** also wrote to the Justice Department. On November 3, the United States District Court for the District of Columbia issued a response clarifying its final order. Of particular importance to SALT is the following statement: "The proposed Final Judgment prevents the ABA, but no other organizations, from collecting and disseminating salary data." Thanks are due to Marina Angel for her efforts in getting this point clarified.

Special Issue of *The Equalizer* on Affirmative Action

Finally, the Board of Governors of SALT authorized a second printing of *The Equalizer's* Special Issue on Affirmative Action. I am in the process of drafting cover letters and will send a copy to each member of Congress. During this backlash against affirmative action generally, we thought it important to identify for politicians the values of diversity in higher education. ■

SALT BOARD MEETS IN NEW YORK

— Joyce Saltalamachia
New York Law School

Twenty-two members of the SALT Board of Governors gathered together on September 23, 1995 at New York Law School for its regular Fall meeting. Finances and membership were reported to be stronger than ever, and, judging from the wide variety of matters before the Board at this meeting, SALT is in the midst of another active and productive year.

On behalf of the Nominations Committee, **Liz Schneider** reported that **Stephanie Wildman** and **Phoebe Haddon** have accepted nomination as Co-Presidents-elect following the presidency of **Linda Greene**, which commences next month. The Committee also expressed its concern for continuing geographical, school, racial and gender diversity on the Board. Discussion followed about the by-

"... Stephanie Wildman and Phoebe Haddon have accepted nomination as Co-Presidents-elect following the presidency of Linda Greene ..."

law requirement that members could be dropped for not attending three consecutive Board Meetings, and it was decided that nominees should be reminded of this requirement before they commit themselves to SALT. The Board agreed to produce a second run of the special affirmative action issue of *The Equalizer* since it proved to be so informative and popular. **Howard Glickstein** suggested that we send a copy of this issue to every member of Congress, and this suggestion was adopted by the Board.

The feasibility of hiring a SALT Executive Director was again discussed. A Committee was formed of **Sylvia, Howard, Pat, Jean and Liz** to write a job description and determine if such a position is needed.

A wide range of other issues was discussed during the six-hour meeting, including member recruitment, AALS events, the First Monday programs, the fate of the Legal Service Corporation, and plans for a possible teaching conference in New Mexico in the Fall of 1996. The next Board meetings are scheduled for San Antonio during the AALS meeting in January (see page 3 for details) and in the San Francisco Bay Area in May. ■

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