

SALT News

Society of American Law Teachers

800 FIFTH AVENUE • NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10036 (212) 391-1716

No. 1

May 1975

This is the first issue of SALT NEWS. We will print it three times every academic year. Its main purpose is to increase communication among law teachers. It will contain, for example, announcements of conferences and lectures, announcements of new case books and law books, requests for help, information about SALT projects, information about developments in law teaching throughout the country, and information about legislation and court rulings that may affect the legal teaching profession and related matters.

You are encouraged to contribute. We rely on you for our information. If you have a problem and you think a SALT member elsewhere in the country can help, or if there is something you would like to tell other members, write to Stephen Gillers, Society of American Law Teachers, 500 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10036. Tentative dates for publication of the newsletter are October 15, January 15 and May 1. Contributions should be received at least two weeks before then.

FIRST-YEAR LAW BOOK

SALT has signed a contract with a New York publisher for a book for first-year law students and college seniors considering law school. The book, to be written by SALT members, will be a critical description of the first law school year. It will contain chapters on whether the reader should go to law school, psychological problems of being a law student, problems of women and minority students, the nature of the law school intellectual experience, legal ethics, themes of the major first-year courses, legal writing and research, taking exams, planning a curriculum, and the employment market.

A subcommittee consisting of Barbara Babcock (Stanford), David Chambers (Michigan), Stanley Futterman (NYU), and Melville Nimmer (UCLA) is representing SALT on the book. Members who might be interested in contributing should write to Stephen Gillers.

CONFERENCE ON LEGAL EDUCATION

Howard Lesnick (Pennsylvania) is heading a committee that is looking into SALT's sponsorship of a major national conference on the future of legal education. This is a large undertaking but well worth it. Among the

subjects that may appear on the conference's agenda are academic issues (curricula, grading, faculty tenure and hiring, accreditation, admissions, academic freedom), economic issues (tuition, university diversion of law school funds, collective bargaining and unionization of faculty, salaries, supportive services), affirmative action programs (minorities, women, the handicapped), administration (selection of deans, law school relationship to the university), continuing education, job placement, law reviews, etc.

The committee responsible for the conference will hold its first meeting later this month. Additional information will appear in the next issue of SALT NEWS. As with any other SALT project, if any member is interested in participating, he or she should contact the SALT member responsible for the project or Mr. Gillers.

SALT STRUCTURE

The SALT Board of Governors has created the following five committees to oversee SALT projects in their respective areas:

1. Legal Education/Curriculum, headed by Nathaniel Gozansky (Emory);

2. Legal Services:
 - a. Legal Services Corporation and related matters, headed by Sylvia Law (NYU)
 - b. Group Legal Services, judicare and related matters;
3. Law Reform, headed by David Chambers (Michigan);
4. Current Public Issues, headed by Tom Emerson (Yale);
5. Regulation of the Private Bar, headed by George Alexander (Santa Clara).

Much of the first year has been spent setting up the committees and subcommittees necessary to run a national organization. Fund-raising, too, has been an important priority. In addition to these committees, there are an informal finance committee, a committee to oversee judicial and other law-related appointments, and an awards committee. The awards committee, created at the last Board meeting, is instructed to formulate categories and criteria for presentation of awards to law teachers who have provided outstanding service to the profession. Members interested in any of the committees listed above, should make their interests known to the chairperson of that committee.

1975 ANNUAL MEETING

SALT will hold its 1975 annual meeting during the meeting of the AALS in Washington. The tentative date for the SALT meeting is December 29, 1975. It will probably be a dinner meeting and, like last year, feature an important guest speaker. Further details will be included in the next issue of SALT NEWS.

OTHER SALT ACTIVITIES

SALT is preparing to participate in the next DeFunis-type litigation, already in progress in California. Two constitutional law professors have volunteered to submit an amicus brief in SALT's name. The Board has authorized the preparation of the brief for its review.

SALT testified before a Committee of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, which was considering the establishment of admission criteria for district courts in that circuit. The testimony was largely based on a paper written by Addison Bowman (Hawaii) and Clinton Bamberger (Catholic) and others. SALT's position was generally critical of attempts by the courts to impose curriculum requirements on law schools.

Howard Lesnick (Pennsylvania) is planning to testify for SALT before the United States Senate Subcommittee considering President Ford's nominees to the new Legal Services Corporation. One of the two nominees SALT opposes, Edith Green, has since withdrawn her name.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Membership dues are billed yearly. Each quarter, bills will be sent to members who joined during that quarter in a previous year. The bills for the first quarter of 1975 have been sent and, happily, the response has been gratifying. If you have received a renewal request and have not yet renewed your membership, this is a final request that you do so now by using the form at the end of this newsletter.

SALT SUBCOMMITTEES

Any members of SALT who are interested in joining the Subcommittee on Professional Responsibility should write to the Committee Chairman, Monroe H. Freedman, Dean Freedman's address is Hofstra Law School, Hempstead, New York 11550.

Dean Freedman is particularly interested in considering reform of the Code of Professional Responsibility with respect to solicitation and advertising. However, the Subcommittee's agenda is completely open, and members are urged to express their preferences.

Four SALT members have organized a Subcommittee on Probate Reform. They are: Diane Lund (Harvard); Lizabeth A. Moody (Cleveland State); Robert Whitman (Connecticut); and Judith Younger (Cornell). Members interested in working in this area should contact Professor Whitman at the University of Connecticut School of Law, Greater Hartford Campus, West Hartford, Connecticut 06117

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION QUESTIONNAIRE

Enclosed is a "Special Admissions Program Questionnaire," prepared by Professor Michael De Vito of Golden Gate Law School. Please complete it and return it to George J. Alexander, University of Santa Clara School of Law, Santa Clara, California 95053. As part of the project in which Dean Alexander and Professor De Vito are engaged it is important that at least one form be received from each law school.

PASS IT ON

Please pass this issue of the newsletter on to a non-member of SALT after you have finished so he or she can use the form below to join.

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The Society of American Law Teachers is a tax-exempt organization whose membership is open to all current and former law teachers. A copy of its bylaws is available on request. Officers are: President, Norman Dorsen; Vice-Presidents, Anthony G. Amsterdam, Derrick A. Bell, Jr., Frank C. Newman and Judith T. Younger; Board of Governors, George J. Alexander, Charles E. Ares, Frank Askin, Barbara Babcock, E. Clinton Bamberger, Addison M. Bowman, Ralph S. Brown, Jr., David F. Cavers, David L. Chambers, Leroy D. Clark, Alan M. Dershowitz, Thomas I. Emerson, Monroe H. Freedman, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Nathaniel E. Gozansky, Charles R. Halpern, Sylvia Law, Howard Lesnick, Arval A. Morris, Melville B. Nimmer, Robert Pitofsky, Louis H. Pollak, Cruz Reynoso, Herman Schwartz and Robert A. Sedler; Treasurer, Robert J. Rabin; Executive Director, Stephen Gillers.

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ for (renewal) (new) membership in the Society of American Law Teachers.*

NAME

SCHOOL

ADDRESS

CITY, STATE, ZIP

*Dues are \$25 per year if annual salary is \$15,000 or more; otherwise, dues are \$15 per year.