

# SALT NEWSLETTER

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SOCIETY OF AMERICAN LAW TEACHERS

Campus Post Office, University of Santa Clara,  
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## President's Column

The other day a news reporter called me from Washington. She said she wanted some background information about SALT because she was writing a story about AALS and thought it appropriate to cover "both organizations". It had a rather establishment ring.

We will shortly be joining AALS at its convention in San Antonio. For the first time, we have panels scheduled for the regular meeting. I hope that all of you will be able to attend both panels. Moreover, I hope you will bring a faculty colleague who is not a member of SALT and who might be interested in finding out a bit more about what SALT does.

Some of the papers from last year's SALT convention are in print. Ken Karst's article is in 89 Yale L.J. 624, Nancy Ericson's in 2B Cleveland St. L. Rev., and Rhonda Rivera's in Richardson & Taylor, Sex and Gender (D.C. Health 1981).

One of our panels this year is the first major effort of the newly formed Committee on Law Clinics. Through this Committee we hope to become involved in the many issues that presently surround clinical legal education and the status of clinical teachers. As is true with other committees of the Society, I would welcome expressions of your interest and participation.

The examination pool in Constitutional Law exams (see SALT Newsletter, Volume 1980, Number 1, April 1980) has been largely dormant. As the new semester begins, you may wish to consider someone else's exam in Constitutional Law. If you no longer have your Newsletter, I will be happy to send you one on request.

I am not sure why greater use has not been made of the pool. Perhaps most people enjoy creating their own exams — I confess I do. If you have simply forgotten that the pool exists, you are now reminded.

Letters have gone out to deans requesting permission to publish their median salary data again. Last year roughly half of the deans gave permission. Perhaps the number will increase this year. The results will be published in the next Newsletter.

As you probably know, we strongly supported the ABA Standard 212 requiring affirmative action in the admission of law students. The Standard has now been adopted by the ABA. While it is not clear that the Standard will require schools to behave differently, it

certainly at least puts the ABA and the law schools on record as to the propriety and necessity of affirmative action programs. Along the same lines, we filed an amicus brief in the DeRonde litigation in which a California Court of Appeal declared affirmative action programs to violate the California Constitution.

The Board of Governors met in California this spring. For those of us from the west coast, it was not only a welcomed relief not to travel three thousand miles to New York City, but also a pleasant recognition of the fact that SALT is, after all, a national organization. It was even worth putting up with the occasional remark such as, "San Francisco is too far away — three thousand miles from the ocean!"

If, in all these respects, we seem a little like the Association of American Law Schools, we remain fundamentally different. For one thing, we seem to be moving into print rather aggressively.

Our *Looking At Law School* is selling very well and may be due for a second edition soon. Our new book on the Burger Court is to be published by Yale University Press.

We have taken positions on a number of issues affecting our two professions. Most recently we have continued our opposition to the omnibus criminal code — it appears to be shelved again. We have filed a statement with the Kutak Commission concerning its report. As already mentioned, we filed an amicus brief in DeRonde and supported ABA Standard 212. The Board also directed that a statement be sent to the government of Guatemala protesting the political torture and murder of law students and faculty.

Another way we differ from AALS is our size. From our inception, we have been an organization of relatively few — always under 700 — members. While we continue to welcome law teachers to membership, becoming substantially larger is not a major goal. Given our size, membership dues are crucial. A number of members have not paid their dues for this year (the billing was mailed out in April). If you have neglected to pay your dues so far, a form for their payment is part of this Newsletter. (You will not have received a ballot if your dues are not paid.)

I hope to see you in San Antonio.

George J. Alexander



### **Judge Harry Edwards is 1980 Salt Awardee**

The 1980 SALT Awardee is Judge Harry Edwards of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. Prior to his appointment, Judge Edwards was Professor of Law at the University of Michigan. He has also been Professor of Law at Harvard. He is a leading authority in the area of Labor Law, and has had a long career of public service, including membership on the AMTRAK board of directors and the Administrative Conference of the United States. The award will be presented at the SALT Annual Meeting in San Antonio on January 4, 1981. Judge Edwards' colleague on the Court of Appeals, Judge Ruth Bader-Ginsburg, formerly of Columbia, was the 1979 SALT Awardee.

### **Thelton Henderson Appointed United States District Judge**

Thelton Henderson, formerly Associate Professor of Law at Golden Gate University, has joined the ranks of SALT members who have been appointed to the bench. He was appointed as a United States District Judge for the Northern District of California and confirmed by the Senate this July.

### **Salt Board Meets on the West Coast**

The spring, 1980 meeting of the SALT Board of Governors in San Francisco was an historic one. Not only did the Board meet outside of New York City for the first time in SALT's existence, but it met on the West Coast. The spring, 1981 meeting will be held on the West Coast as well. Holding SALT board meetings on the West Coast is designed to reflect the national base of SALT's membership. The Board's present plan is to hold one meeting on the West Coast, one meeting on the East Coast and one meeting in conjunction with the AALS convention, which usually will get us "away from the coasts."

### **Ralph Brown and Babara Babcock Named Vice-Presidents**

At its spring, 1980 meeting the SALT Board elected Ralph Brown of Yale, who has been a member of the Board of Governors since SALT's inception, to the newly-created fifth Vice-Presidency. At its fall, 1980 meeting the Board elected Barbara Babcock of Stanford, who was a member of the Board prior to her appointment as Assistant Attorney-General of the United States, as Vice-President. She replaces Ruth

Bader-Ginsburg of Columbia, who resigned from the Board upon her appointment to the District of Columbia Circuit. The other Vice-Presidents are Tony Amsterdam of Stanford, Derrick Bell of Harvard, and Gary Bellow of Harvard.

### **Salt Files Amicus Brief in *DeRonde V. Regents***

The California Supreme Court has granted review in *DeRonde v. Regents*, in which the California Court of Appeal for the Third Judicial Department invalidated Davis Law School's special admissions program. The Court of Appeal invalidated the program, which it conceded was constitutional under *Bakke*, on the ground that the equal protection clause of the California Constitution prohibits any consideration of race whatsoever in determining admission to state-supported law schools. SALT has filed an amicus brief before the California Supreme Court, urging reversal of the Court of Appeal's decision. The brief, prepared by Edward Steinman of Santa Clara argues that the use of race-conscious criteria in the Davis special admissions program is fully consistent with the equal protection clause of the California Constitution and serves to advance important societal and educational interests.

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