



NEWSLETTER

Volume 1982, Number 1, July, 1982

SOCIETY OF AMERICAN LAW TEACHERS

Georgetown University Law Center, Rm. 442
600 N. Jersey Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001

SALT PLANS LAW TEACHING CONFERENCE FOR DECEMBER

SALT is planning its third conference on teaching—this one entitled “Life in the Law School”—for mid-December of 1982 at New York University School of Law. The conference, co-sponsored by N.Y.U.’s Orison S. Marden Program in Legal Education, will address some of the major issues of faculty life in the areas of teaching, scholarship and collegiality.

Conference planners Carrie Menkel-Meadow of U.C.L.A. and Paul Brest of Stanford reported tentative plans at the May meeting of the Board of Governors. The first day of the conference will be devoted to teaching, and will include a roundtable discussion of the pros and cons of clinical legal education and a session on teaching methods and philosophies in the traditional classroom setting. The clinical education session will focus on the central debate about the merits of clinics. The classroom teaching session will demonstrate how a skilled teacher, using the traditional socratic method, would teach a particular subject and then compare that approach to multidisciplinary (e.g., law and economics), critical legal studies, humanistic, clinical and other approaches to the same subject.

The second day of the conference will first take up the issue of scholarship, using tenure standards to focus the problems of definition and value judgment inherent in the process of producing and evaluating scholarship. The conference will conclude with the issue of collegiality, identifying and discussing certain political and social aspects of the law teaching job from the perspectives of the subgroups within it, including not only the mainstream teacher-scholar, but also gender, racial and political minorities.

After each formal presentation, conference participants will gather in small groups to discuss and debate the issues raised by the presentations. According to Carrie Menkel-Meadow, “Our goal is to create an experimental and highly participatory format. We expect the conference will attract both tenured and nontenured faculty. We hope for a diverse group in terms of age, race, sex and type of law school.”

The conference coordinator is John Farago, who has just moved from Valparaiso to CUNY’s new law school in Queens. Carrie Menkel-Meadow, Paul Brest and John Farago will complete planning for the conference over the summer. A detailed description of the conference will be made available to SALT members early this fall.

SALT BOARD ACTIONS:

Child Care Resolution. At the January Board meeting, the Board passed a resolution, delivered to the American Association of Law Schools, stating the Board’s view that group child care should be available to those attending the AALS annual meetings during all official AALS functions. Rumor has it that the AALS is looking into the possibility.

Waging Peace Conference. Waging Peace, a committee of the project of the Boston-Cambridge Ministry in Higher Education at Harvard University, is planning a conference on nuclear war, to be sponsored by legal groups and directed at the legal community. The SALT Board voted to co-sponsor the event, to be held in Boston in November.

— ANNOUNCEMENT —

We’re glad to print announcements of interest to SALT members in the Newsletter. If you have such an item, please type it up and send it to Wendy Williams at the Newsletter address.

CAMPAIGN FOR POLITICAL RIGHTS

The Campaign for Political Rights, a national clearinghouse working on issues of intelligence abuse and government accountability, has set up a network of law professors around the country who are concerned with constitutional issues as they relate to national security. The Campaign alerts law professor members as intelligence-related issues arise and serves as an information resource for them.

To join the Network or for more information contact: Susan Benda, Legislative Coordinator; Campaign for Political Rights; 201 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002 or call (202) 547-4705.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

SALT, now in its eighth year, remains a young and vital organization. Its founders (among them its first president, Norman Dorsen, and its first vice presidents, Anthony Amsterdam, Derrick A. Bell, Jr., Frank Newman and Judith T. Younger) saw the need for an organization to represent the interests of law teachers, a function only partially met by the AALS, an association of law schools rather than individual teachers. As SALT evolved, its purposes became at once more defined and more grand. As expressed by Howard Lesnick in a 1979 article on the *Bakke* case, "The Society of American Law Teachers . . . is interested in questions concerning the capacity of the legal profession, as a public profession, to serve societal needs, and in the relation between legal education and the quality and availability of legal representation, including matters of professional representation."

Over the years, the Board has taken positions favoring affirmative action in law school admissions, opposing the "Human Life Bill" and supporting the continuation and funding of the Legal Services Corporation. It has sponsored conferences on the future of legal education, access to federal courts, equality, and law teaching, and presented panels at the AALS meetings on tenure standards and clinical education. It has worked with committees addressing issues of legal ethics, participated in briefs amicus curiae and honored members of our profession who have made unique contributions to legal development or reform. It has published a book on law schools and will soon have in print a collection of essays on the Burger court.

The 32 member Board of Governors today reflects the diversity of the organization and profession itself—the Board is composed of members from all regions of the country and all types of law schools. It includes among its numbers traditional classroom teachers, not-so-traditional classroom teachers, and in between; tenured and untenured professors, and even several deans. It is racially and sexually mixed and includes at least one gay. Its president, SALT's fifth, is a woman.

In these times of economic hardship and political conservatism, SALT's watchful eye and active voice is especially needed. The Board will continue energetically to speak out on issues of importance to law teachers. A number of our current projects are described in this newsletter. Most importantly, the Board is here to serve the membership of SALT. As the governing body of a membership organization, the Board continues to need the support, suggestions and participation of SALT members. If you are interested in working on a SALT project or want to propose a project for SALT sponsorship, we'd love to hear from you. If you have thoughts, suggestions or criticisms about present SALT projects or directions, let us know. And, yes, it's dues time again—your financial support is what keeps us going.

Wendy W. Williams

SALT PUBLICATIONS

SALT's *Looking at Law School* is probably going into a second edition, according to its editor, Stephen Gillers of N.Y.U. Law School. This perennial best seller among aspiring law students covers such basics as getting into law school, why one might want to do such a thing, curricular choices, the purpose of legal education, examinations, legal ethics, and special advice for minority and women students. The new edition would reflect the changing times, revising existing chapters and adding material on clinical education and financial aid. Negotiations are in their final stages, says Gillers, and the publisher, New American Library, will make the decision in the next few weeks.

The Yale University press has accepted for publication SALT's collection of essays on the Burger Court, according to Vincent Blasi, a SALT Board member and editor of the collection. The book will feature two general essays about the Court in addition to eight pieces on specific substantive areas. Contributors include Theodore St. Antoine, Vincent Blasi, Paul Brest, Robert Burt, Norman Dorsen, Thomas Emerson, Joel Gora, Ruth Ginsburg, Yale Kamisar, Richard Markovits and Martin Shapiro. The tentative title of the book is *The Burger Court: Consolidation, Counterrevolution or Drift?* Blasi predicts a September 1983 publication date.

DUES ARE DUE FOR '82

Have you paid yours?

THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

We are pleased to announce the reelection to the Board of Robert Bennett of Northwestern, Howard Glickstein of the University of Bridgeport, Carrie Menkel-Meadow of U.C.L.A. and Nadine Taub of Rutgers-Newark. New members include Richard Chused of Georgetown, Neil Gotanda of Duquesne, Charles R. Lawrence III of the University of San Francisco, Michael J. Perry of Ohio State University, Aviam Soifer of Boston University, Mark Spiegel of Boston College, Winnie F. Taylor of the University of Florida and Mark V. Tushnet of Georgetown. Betsy Levin, Dean of the University of Colorado School of Law, was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Ronald Kennedy, who resigned from the Board.

The new and reelected members join incumbents Reginald H. Alleyne, Jr., Norman Amaker, Isaiah Baker, John Baker, Elizabeth Bartholet, Vincent A. Blasi, Grace Blumberg, Paul A. Brest, Thomas I. Emerson, Jean C. Love, Michael Meltsner, Roy M. Mersky, Beatrice Moulton, Harriet S. Rabb, Rhonda R. Rivera, Laura Sager, Robert A. Sedler, Herbert Semmel, and Stuart J. Filler.

Wendy W. Williams of Georgetown was elected President.

SALT PROJECTS

Financial Aid Project: In this age of the financial aid squeeze, the SALT Board has become concerned about the effect of law schools' financial aid policies on the composition of law student bodies and the effect repayment schedules may have on post-graduate job selection. SALT member Sylvia Law of New York University School of Law, in collaboration with Gary Bellow of Harvard, SALT Vice President, are preparing a SALT position paper on financial aid, with an eye toward publication in late fall. Professor Law will present a talking paper at the September Board meeting for reaction and input by Board members. Any SALT members who have thoughts on the subject or would like to offer assistance should contact her at NYU.

The Working Law Student: Faculty members seem increasingly to bemoan what they believe to be a growing phenomenon: the law student who spends a substantial part of his or her law school career not studying the law but working at a paid job outside the law school. Is there a work-study crisis? If there is, is it universal? Limited to the "lesser" law school? Is it an urban law school phenomenon? A good thing? A disaster for legal education? Mark Tushnet, Board member from Georgetown, has taken up the question on SALT's behalf. He has constructed a questionnaire for students, which he intends to disseminate at some sample law schools, to begin to measure the scope and nature of the phenomenon. He also intends to put together a panel at the AALS meetings in January on the subject (if the AALS will allot program time to SALT).

Study of Minority and Female Composition of Law Faculties:

David Chambers of the University of Michigan, former SALT President, is heading up a SALT study of the representation of women and minority persons on law faculties. The study includes data not only on the numbers of women and minorities by rank but also the

number of tenure track offers of employment, resignations, tenure grants and denials, and other statistics.

As of May 7, 1982, 92 schools had responded to his questionnaire and he was able to issue some tentative findings, among which are the following: (1) The "typical" law school has 29 tenured or tenure-track faculty members. Of these 29 persons, 24 are white males, three are white females, one is a black male, and one is either a black female or a male or female member of some other racial minority; (2) Six percent of all faculty members are blacks or members of other racial minorities. Nearly 30 percent of the responding schools had no blacks or other minority members. (3) There was no statistically significant difference between the proportion of tenure decisions adverse to white men and those adverse to white women or black males.

After completing the information gathering process, Professor Chambers plans a detailed analysis of the data and publication of his findings and conclusions. Watch the SALT Newsletter for details.

Committee on Minority Recruiting and Hiring: Charles Lawrence of the University of San Francisco, chairperson of the committee, is charged with the task of exploring ways SALT can facilitate minority faculty hiring and retention. The committee's first project will be a SALT position paper on minority faculty hiring, using the Chambers data and developing specific recommendations for law schools.

Committee on Parental Leave, Part-time and Child-care Policies: As more women join the student bodies and faculties of law schools, and more men seek an active role in child rearing, law school policies and practices affecting parents are ripe for review and analysis. A committee, consisting of Board members John Baker of Indiana University, Richard Chused of Georgetown, Winnie Taylor of the University of Florida and Wendy Williams of Georgetown, as well as SALT member Ellen Y. Suni of the University of Missouri-Kansas City, will develop and carry out a project directed to these issues.

SALT MEMBER INPUT NEEDED!

SALT Board Nominations. The committee to develop nominations for the Board of Governors, headed by Nadine Taub of Rutgers and consisting of Robert Bennett of Northwestern, Charles Lawrence of the University of San Francisco, Mort Cohen of Golden Gate University and Stephen Gillers of New York University, will be submitting a slate to the Board at the September 11 Board meeting. SALT members who would like to propose nominees can do one of two things: (1) Contact Professor Taub or one of her committee members and make a suggestion or (2) nominate by petition. Under SALT's by-laws, nominations can be made by petition signed by 15 members of SALT and receive no later than October 20.

SALT Award. The SALT Awards committee will be

selecting, for confirmation by the Board, the recipient of the 1983 SALT Award. The Award is bestowed annually upon a law teacher who has made "a significant contribution to the development or reform of legal, governmental or social institutions, whether through teaching, writing, or public service related to (his or her) academic career." Recipients have included such teachers and scholars as Arthur Leff of Yale, Ruth Ginsburg, formerly of Columbia and now on the D.C. Circuit, Thomas Emerson of Yale and David Cavers of Harvard.

Suggestions should be passed on to Vince Blasi of the University of Michigan Law School, chairperson of the committee, or to committee members Betsy Levin of the University of Colorado, Roy Mersky of the University of Texas, Michael Perry of Ohio State University or Aviam Soifer of Boston University.

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