

WELCOME

On behalf of the Planning Committee, welcome to the Workshop. We are here together to consider change in the legal profession in both substantive and procedural ways. How does the profession process change? And how is it changing? Our hope is that together we can all leave the conference with a better sense than we have today of what is happening in the legal profession.

Without question, the legal profession is an organic entity, always growing and living and changing with the world of which it is part. Important world events and conditions occasion change. Shifts in demographics, both in the United States and worldwide, change the profession; transformations in world economic realities change the profession; developments in communication and transportation change the profession; changes in values change the legal profession. You, no doubt, could list many more.

How are these changes affecting today's legal profession? Are the core values of the profession changing? Levels of confidentiality owed clients are changing. Expectations of clients about lawyer loyalty and conflicts of interest are changing. Fee relationships are changing. Relationships between lawyers and other professionals are changing. The relationship between the organized bar and the governance of lawyers' conduct is changing. Again, you could list many more areas in flux.

We have designed the conference to be interactive. There will be traditional plenary sessions, but after each will be differently organized break-out groups. One will allow participants to focus in depth on the general topic of the plenary; one will allow participants to consider and experiment with the pedagogy of legal ethics teaching; one will allow participants to explore some narrower aspect of the plenary's topic; and one will ask the participants to respond to a series of hypotheticals (suitable for later classroom use, we think), and report the small group's responses to the larger group over lunch.

For anyone who writes or teaches about the profession, this time together should provide important advances and insights that will benefit students and scholarship alike.

We are grateful to the distinguished group of speakers who have agreed to participate in the plenary sessions. We are grateful to AALS for allowing us this forum for discussion. And we are most grateful for you joining us here. Our time together presents a marvelous opportunity for all of us to learn from one another, to work with good people on a project of consequence, and leave better than we arrive.

Once again, welcome!

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