

**AALS Workshop for New Law Teachers  
Junior Faculty Feedback  
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**Reflections on the First Year**

Headline: Congratulations! You have landed one of the greatest jobs out there! Now you have to learn how to juggle its many demands.

**Classroom**

- Be yourself! If you aren't, the students will know it, and your teaching will suffer.
- Structuring the course
  - Choosing a case book
    - What book is the best fit for *your* student body?
    - What do other profs in your field use? Ask them how they chose their book.
  - Syllabus
    - Coverage does not equal comprehension. It's always easier to scale back reading assignments!
    - Manage expectations about if and when you may make changes.
- Read something you have not assigned to the class (especially if it's the first time you're teaching the class).
- Be explicit about what you want them to do with the material (e.g., skim, read closely, take notes, prepare an outline to a problem in the casebook).
- Try and accommodate their other demands...within reason.
- If there is a "problem" student, identify and address the problem sooner rather than later; these problems can spread.
- Identify someone who can be your "safe space."
- The Exam
  - Look at other profs' exams.
  - Ask other profs to read your exam; ask them how they grade their exam.
  - Leave ample time for both drafting and grading.

## **Service**

- Choose wisely the efforts you expend.
- Get advice about committee assignments (if you have any say).
- Keep a running tab of all the things you do take on (and I mean *all* the things!).

## **Scholarship**

- Decide in advance (or as early into the semester as possible) when you are going to read, research and write...otherwise it may never happen.
- Be realistic about what you can accomplish your first year and what you *need* to accomplish.
  - Consider taking on something small...it's still something.
- Get an RA and get them going ASAP.
- Read your colleagues' work.
- Keep an "idea file."

Conclusion: When you are feeling stressed or overwhelmed by the juggling that this job requires, remind yourself that you have a job that lets you teach and explore ideas that are interesting to you! What a gift!