



Association of American Law Schools

WELCOME

Welcome to the 2008 AALS Workshop for New Law School Clinical Teachers and to the world of clinical law teaching!

You are entering our profession at a truly exciting time. Clinical legal education has never been stronger, more diverse, or more vibrant. Virtually every law school in America now has some form of experiential learning. Clinical methods have spread to new and different practice areas. Faculty are also implementing new pedagogical models. Innovative teaching techniques – some of which will be displayed and explained here this weekend – are constantly being constructed and revised.

Just as there are different models of clinical programs and methods, there are different paths to and through the clinical teaching profession. Some of you have come to the academy relatively early in your professional career; others have had years of practice experience. Some of you are joining established clinical programs; others are tasked with designing new ones. Some of you are in mainstream academic positions; others may hold adjunct or contract appointments. Your way through the academy may or may not be clear to you. We hope that however you have come to clinical teaching and whatever your plans, this weekend's program will help set you more firmly on your path.

Our first plenary sessions focus on the goals, core skills and values, and methods of clinical teaching; issues that all of us face. Though our speakers are some of the nation's most experienced faculty, you will discover that they continue to grapple with these issues and seek ways to improve their work. At the luncheon, a distinguished clinician will share some of the past struggles of the profession and discuss future challenges.

We hope that you will use the afternoon concurrent sessions to workshop ideas and issues that are of special concern to you. There should be plenty of time for discussion at these sessions, so please bring your writing projects, program design ideas, or questions about the legal academy. And, of course, the small group sessions are essential parts of the Workshop. We have grouped attendees by subject areas, which should facilitate especially useful conversations (as well as opportunities to network with your new colleagues).

On behalf of the Planning Committee and the Workshop speakers, it is our pleasure to welcome you to a career that you will surely find exciting, challenging, maddening, enriching, exhausting, inspiring, overwhelming, and much, much more. You are in for a great treat – this weekend and beyond!

Charles Weisselberg, University of
California, Berkeley, School of Law, Planning
Committee Member for
AALS Workshop for New Law School
Teachers