

2009 WORKSHOP FOR PRETENURED MINORITY LAW SCHOOL TEACHERS
Scholarship: Strategies to Success
June 18, 2009, 2:45-3:45
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- I. Write, write, write
 - A. Who has time to write when every law school/university committee, bar group, student group, civic organization in the country
neeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeds you
 - B. Creating and maintaining a scholarly agenda (*i.e.*, making research part of your daily diet)
 1. Why?
 - a. Tenure is the goal
 - b. Some schools explicitly over-weight scholarship: uncover both the formal and informal tenure requirements
 2. How?
 - a. The things you read (papers, Internet, prepping for class)
 - b. The things you hear (students' questions, tv/radio, talks)
 - c. Things (you read or hear) even outside of your substantive area
 - d. Find something interesting (to you and student editors) B you've got to live with it for 18 months/50+ pages
 - e. Looping, *i.e.*, the last 3 pages of each article: your first articles will be waaaaaaaaaaaaaay too long (chop/split and save)
 - f. Double, triple dipping

3. When?
 - a. Keep notes, create an idea file
 - b. Getting distracted by A great@ writing opportunities: if you can=t cite it, don=t agree to write it

C. Writers= block

1. Talk it out
2. Write a bad draft
3. Pretend you're a blogger

II. What you write: Know Thy Faculty

- A. Race-based topics (often harder to place)
- B. Articles, book reviews, blogs, CLE, op-ed, other non-traditional scholarship
- C. Empirical or interdisciplinary topics
 1. Publication time for peer-reviewed journals
 2. Risky if you have a non-finding
 3. Can cost \$ to conduct the study/do the research
 4. Will your faculty "get" it?

III. Creating the supportive research environment

- A. Money matters
 1. Summer
 2. Extra faculty development funds

- B. Time matters
 - 1. Research leaves
 - 2. New course preps
 - C. Research assistants
 - 1. They discipline you and force you to do *something* with their work once they do it
 - 2. Selecting RAs
 - 3. Supervising RAs
 - 4. Seizing the independent/directed study/research opportunity
- IV. Formal and informal pre-submission reviews
- A. Sharing drafts
 - 1. Know thy faculty
 - a. The early draft
 - b. A later draft (or, no draft at all)
 - 2. How bad is too bad? You'll likely get only one read from people who have long memories come tenure time
 - B. People of Color Conferences (the safe haven)
 - C. Scholars externally in your field
 - 1. Why?
 - a. They probably can help you the most
 - b. They may be external reviewers for promotion and tenure
 - c. They may be future colleagues

2. How to find them

a. Ask

(1) Your faculty colleagues (esp. those who joined laterally)

(2) Tenured friends (or your mentor) at other institutions

b. Trolling in footnotes (then ask)

c. Google (something like “law review symposia 2009” “law review conference 2009”)

d. Lurking on blogs (then ask)

<http://www.concurringopinions.com/archives/category/conferences>

http://works.bepress.com/lawreview_symposia/subject_areas.html

<http://madisonian.net/conferences/>

a. Folks you met at People of Color conferences

V. Presenting your work

A. Colloquia or workshops (carefully confirm how Arough@ the draft can be)

1. At your own institution (internal speakers series)

2. Away from home

a. As part of a class

b. To another faculty

(1) True talk (may be external reviewers there)

(2) Veiled recruitment (may be future job opportunity)

- B. Getting invited to conferences
 - 1. Rely on friends
 - 2. The chatty moderator
 - 3. The careful responder
 - 4. Beware: If you're not an ERISA expert, decline the invitation

VI. Placement

- A. Know Thy Faculty
 - 1. Primary v. secondary journals
 - 2. Where/When to submit, various views of placement:
<http://www.concurringopinions.com/archives/category/law-school-law-reviews>
- B. Getting the offer, then movinnnnn = on up
 - 1. <http://grad-schools.usnews.rankingsandreviews.com/best-graduate-schools/top-law-schools/rankings>
 - 2. <http://lawlib.wlu.edu/LJ/>
 - 3. <http://law.bepress.com/expresso/>

VII. Scholarship v. Teaching (and often service) – the false tension

- A. Courses you teach and articles you write
- B. Talks you give (incorporating service/teaching/scholarship)
- C. Tenure is the goal