



Association of American Law Schools

## **WELCOME**

On behalf of the Planning Committee, I'm delighted to welcome you to the 2009 AALS Workshop for New Law Teachers. We know from past participants that this Workshop can provide invaluable tips on becoming an effective classroom teacher, a successful legal scholar, and a conscientious institutional citizen. As important, it will force you to reflect about how best to approach your new career, and to share your thoughts and concerns with your peers.

Great professors are not born great; they each have to learn to think about what they are doing and how to do it well. And all professors have problems when they first start out. Our goal in planning this workshop was to provide you with a head start on the process of being self-conscious and self-critical about the three main components of a faculty member's job – teaching, writing, and service.

Because there are many different paths to success, we have gathered a wide array of professors who teach a host of subjects in a variety law schools. While they may not all agree on how an aspiring professor should pursue excellence, they all share a passion for their career, a commitment to the importance of what law professors do, a willingness to share their ideas with the new generation of professors, and an appreciation for their good fortune in landing one of the best jobs in the world.

This year's Workshop was restructured to allow more personal interactions with speakers than is possible in plenary sessions. Do take advantage of every opportunity, both formally and informally, to benefit from these accomplished faculty who have given of their summertime for your benefit. They all want to talk to you.

Again, welcome to the Workshop – and welcome to the profession!

Randy E. Barnett,  
Georgetown Law Center, and Chair,  
Planning Committee for AALS  
Workshop for New Law School  
Teachers