AALS COMMITTEE ON CURRICULUM

SURVEY OF INNOVATIONS IN LAW SCHOOL CURRICULA

The AALS has decided to focus on the issue of curriculum reform in American Law Schools, and would like to set up a process that enables law schools to share information about what is being done, help each other develop new initiatives, and generally catalyze the effort to bring law teaching into the 21st century. The first step in this process is a survey of current curriculum reform efforts. We understand that surveys come thick and fast these days, but we promise that this is not an effort to collect information that will then sit on someone's shelf, or in someone's hard drive. First, you'll receive information in return, information about new ideas and implementation strategies that other law schools have developed. Second, we'll use the results of the survey to design various settings where law school faculty and administrators can come together to share ideas and develop plans about reforming the law school curriculum.

The following questions are designed to be answered by brief statements, sometimes one or two words, sometimes one or two sentences. We would be delighted if you want to attach a longer description of any program or plan that you regard as particularly worth sharing. In addition, feel free to attach documents you've already prepared for other purposes.

I. First Year

1. Do you have an elective in the first year? **No**

   If so, what does it consist of?

   A limited number of courses specially designed for the first year
   A limited number of upper division courses
   Any upper division course the student chooses to take
   Something else (please describe)

2. Do you offer or require any skills courses or training in the first year other than legal writing and/or Legal Research? If so, please describe.

No - but skills are integrated into some 1L courses by most professors

If you offer or require legal writing, is it something other than a separate class taught by specially-hired, non-tenure track instructors? If so, please describe.

Our Legal Research & Writing professors are on long term contracts track with rights that are comparable to teneure track

3. Aside from the electives and skills courses described above, do you require any course other than Torts, Contracts, Civil Procedure, Criminal Law, Property and Constitutional Law?
no

If so, what is it?

Legal Methods
Regulatory Law
International Law
Evidence
Criminal Procedure
Theories of Law
Other, please describe

4. Do you offer a separate curriculum in the first year that students can choose, or to which they are assigned? If so, please describe.

5. Have you made significant changes or innovations in your first year curriculum recently other than those described in response to the foregoing questions? If so please describe.

II. Second and Third Years

1. Do you offer a specialized track or concentration program in any of the following areas?

Business Law
Public Law
International Law
Transnational Law
Social Justice
Criminal Law and Procedure
Other, please describe
Environmental Law and Public Interest Law

Business Law

Requires courses that other students can take as well (please specify) **All the courses are open to any students**

Offers special courses (please describe) **none that others cannot take**

Requires special courses (please describe) **Agency & Partnership; Bankruptcy, Corporations, Taxation of Individual Income + other courses in tax, general business, commercial law and labor law for total of 20 credits and directed research projects**

Provides placements, internships or clinical program (please describe) **no, unless through judicial externship program**

Grants a certificate (please tell us for what) **Yes - completion of all aspects of the concentration**

Other features (please describe) **B average in the concentration courses**

Environmental Law

Requires courses that other students can take as well (please specify) **Environmantal Law concentration: Courses are open to all students**

Offers special courses (please describe) **none**

Requires special courses (please describe) **18 credits from 10 courses**

Provides placements, internships or clinical program (please describe) **not unless part of extership program**

Grants a certificate (please tell us for what) **Yes - for completion of requirements**

Other features (please describe) **Directed Research Project required and a B average in the concentration courses**

Public Interest Law

Requires courses that other students can take as well (please specify) **Public Interest Law Concentration: Courses are open to all students**

Offers special courses (please describe) **no special courses**

Requires special courses (please describe) **Required courses include Civil Rights; Public Benefits Law; Jurisprudence or Justice & Society + one other course from list of 13 courses; and two semesters in Clinic or Externship placement**

Provides placements, internships or clinical program (please describe) **not unless part of extership placement**

Grants a certificate (please tell us for what) **Completion of requirements**

Other features (please describe) **Total of 18 credits, Directed Research Project, and B average in concentration courses**

2. Apart from the standard live client clinics, and the clinical programs described in your answer to the previous question, do you offer any other kinds of clinical programs? If so, please describe.

no

3. What joint degree or accelerated degree programs do you offer?

MBA/JD; JD/Masters of Accountancy; and JD/Master of Social Work

4. Other than the programs described above, do you have any other interdisciplinary programs of note?

No

5. Have you made significant changes or innovations in your second and third year curriculum recently other than those described in response to the foregoing questions? If so please describe.

no

III. Curricular Reform Process

1. Did you gather data in connection with any of the curriculum reforms described earlier? If yes, and if you can share them, please attach a copy or describe their general findings.

no

2. How did the most significant curricular change in your school in the last 10 years come about - - who initiated the change and by what process?

Any changes are made by study and recommendation by the faculty Academic Affairs Committee and the faculty then votes on the recommendations.

IV. Next Steps

1. What information would you like to receive about curricular reform?

Any, because we will be starting a strategic planning process next month which will include curricular issues.

2. Would you be interested in presenting any curricular reform(s) that you are undertaking in a special session at an AALS annual meeting? Which one(s)?

no

If so, would you be interested in doing so at the next (2007) meeting? It will be held in San Francisco, and spec

no