

Teaching Fundamentals
AALS Workshop for New Law Teachers 2005
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Goal of the Session:

- **Discuss approaches and techniques that will help new teachers “issue spot”**
- **Reveal painful experiences to help you avoid making the same ones**

Getting Started

- **Setting Goals**
 - **substantive goals**
 - **pedagogical goals**
- **Casebooks and Course Materials**
 - **selecting a casebook**
 - **extra material?**
- **Your Syllabus**
 - **include everything that matters**
 - **how much structure?**

Teaching

- **Before Class**
 - **preparing class notes**
 - **getting your head into the game**
- **During Class**
 - **the first class**
 - **calling on students**
 - **hypothetical cases**
 - **your experiences**
- **After Class**
 - **it’s like an oral argument**
 - **mark your notes**

Outside the Classroom

- **Communicating with Students**
- **Socializing with Students**

Problems and Solutions

- **Five Common Mistakes**
 - **changing horses**
 - **temper and humor**
 - **if you can't copy 'em, don't imitate 'em**
 - **exam errors**
 - **grading errors**
- **Difficult Course Topics**
- **Difficult Students**
 - **unprepared students**
 - **disruptive students**
- **Evolutions – A Former Associate Dean's Perspective**
 - **take them seriously, but only collectively**
 - **mid-semester evaluations**
 - **three biggest criticisms**
 - **biggest areas of praise**

For Further Information

Institute for Law School Teaching: <http://law.gonzaga.edu/ilst/ilst.htm>

The Law Teacher (newsletter), available through the Institute for Law School Teaching website

General Resources: <http://www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/profiles/glesnerfines/bgf-edu.htm>
(Barbara Glesner Fines at the University of Missouri-KC)

Gerald Hess & Steve Friedland, *TECHNIQUES FOR TEACHING LAW* (Carolina Press 1999).

Symposium: Teaching Values in Law School, 36 U. SAN FRAN. L. REV. 591 (2002)