

WELCOME

On behalf of the Planning Committee, which includes R. Lawrence Dessem, University of Missouri-Kansas City; Jo Anne Durako, Stetson University; Steven Hobbs, The University of Alabama; and Daniel P. Tokaji, The Ohio State University, I am pleased to welcome you to the 2005 AALS Workshop for New Law Teachers. We look forward to presenters who are successful law teachers sharing the opportunities and challenges that come with joining the law faculty.

As a teacher you will be faced with deciding course content and how to teach it effectively. At the same time, you will have to build a relationship of mutual trust and respect with your students as well as with colleagues. You will be expected to find your voice as a scholar and share your ideas while taking advantage of opportunities for public service. In addition, you will be expected to adhere to ethical and professional standards of both the legal profession and legal education. You must pay attention to ethics and professional responsibility not only because of the intrinsic importance of those standards, but also because law professors serve as important role models for law students.

This year's workshop is designed to introduce you to the many facets of your new career, which is anchored in teaching, scholarship and service. You will be introduced to learning theory, interactive teaching methods, and teaching techniques. To help you think about scholarship, two successful scholars will approach the subject, first from a practical perspective of finding topics and setting your agenda, and then from a more practical side taking you through the steps of writing for publication. A luncheon talk will focus on law school culture, including institutional citizenship and professionalism. A final panel of Workshop "alumni", relatively new law teachers, will share their experiences and challenges. The Workshop will conclude with a summary of what we have learned.

Presenters and Planning Committee members will lead small group discussions throughout the 2½ days on Workshop topics providing opportunities for you to begin to establish collegial relationships with faculty from other law schools.

Our goal is to give you a "head start" in your new career, and we plan for you to leave the Workshop informed, inspired, and excited. We hope you will return to your law school understanding that you can learn a great deal from your colleagues, and it is a good idea to ask questions, share views, seek advice, and listen to your students. Finally, we expect you to leave with a sense that you should continually reflect on how and why you are doing what you are doing as you begin your law teaching career.

Alice Gresham
Howard University School of Law
Chair, Planning Committee for the
AALS Workshop for New Law Teachers