



Association of American Law Schools

July 3, 2012

*President*

**Lauren K. Robel**  
Indiana University –  
Bloomington

**MEMORANDUM 12-10**

*President-Elect*

**Leo P. Martinez**  
University of California,  
Hastings

**TO: Deans of Member Schools**

**FROM: Susan Prager and Linda Jellum**

*Immediate Past President*

**Michael A. Olivas**  
University of Houston

**SUBJECT: Request for Nominations for Deans' Databank**

*Serving through 2012*

**Dorothy Andrea Brown**  
Emory University

**Ann C. Shalleck**  
American University

*Serving through 2013*

**Pat K. Chew**  
University of Pittsburgh

**Paul Marcus**  
College of William & Mary

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We write to ask for your help, specifically, your nominations for the AALS' Deans' Databank. We seek to identify all faculty members whom you believe possess the qualifications and experience to be viable candidates for deanships. We also ask that you consider sharing this inquiry with others in your institution – prior deans, current or former academic associate deans, or faculty members of good judgment regardless of their age – people who will devote the care required to ensuring that each nomination reflects the nominator's independent judgment. (However, we request that you do not send the request to all faculty; the utility and long-term viability of this effort depends on the knowledge, experience, and judgment of the nominators.)

*Serving through 2014*

**Blake D. Morant**  
Wake Forest University

**Kellye Y. Testy**  
University of Washington

*Executive Director and  
Chief Executive Officer*  
**Susan Westerberg Prager**

*Managing Director*  
**Jane M. La Barbera**

*Associate Director*  
**Linda D. Jellum**

*Assistant Director*  
**Rachel A. Wilson**

As we expand and integrate the databanks we ask that you give added attention to helping us ensure that the Deans' Databank includes women and minority candidates. As you know, diversity in faculty, staff, and students is one of the core values of the AALS. For more than ten years now, the AALS has maintained two deans' databanks, one for minority candidates and one for women candidates.<sup>1</sup> When the Minority Deans' Databank was established in 2003, there were 187 law school deans at accredited U.S. law schools. At that time 23 deans (12%) were female and 16 (9%) were persons of color. Today, there are 201 accredited U.S. law schools, with 48 female deans (24%) and 36 deans (18%) who contribute to the racial diversity of their faculties. The AALS' Women and Minority Deans' Databanks have helped further the important goal of diversity, and we remain strongly committed to ensuring that AALS continues to work effectively to expand the pool of candidates who deserve consideration.

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<sup>1</sup> The Women Deans' Databank was initiated in 1997 by Judy Areen during her deanship at Georgetown and was transferred to AALS in 2002. The following year, the AALS created the Minority Deans' Databank.

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By consolidating and broadening the databank project we hope to: (1) better respond to the inquiries we regularly receive from dean search committees seeking the names of interested and qualified faculty members; (2) help law schools identify dean candidates without necessarily resorting to expensive recruitment services; and (3) expand the use by making the databank more comprehensive, which will ensure that larger numbers of women and people of color come to the attention of search committees.

The databank is composed of law school educators who have been identified as qualified decanal candidates by deans, associate deans, other senior faculty, and senior administrators at universities. Once a faculty member has been nominated for the databank, we contact that nominee and request authorization to include him or her in our database. Upon request, we release the names of potential candidates to dean search committees, with the name(s) of the nominator(s). The list is otherwise kept confidential.

Please send nominations (including the nominees' contact information) to [deandatabank@aals.org](mailto:deandatabank@aals.org) or [ljellum@aals.org](mailto:ljellum@aals.org).

If you have suggestions about how our efforts can be improved, Associate Director Linda Jellum would very much appreciate talking with you. Linda will ensure that your comments are shared with Susan Prager and may recommend that you talk directly with Susan depending on the nature of your comments. Also, as you think about people with the qualities that you believe are important in the role, but think they would benefit in their development from some of the opportunities for service that AALS might be able to provide, please be sure to let us know.