

AALS SECTION:

PRELEGAL EDUCATION AND ADMISSION TO LAW SCHOOL



March 2020 · Newsletter

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MESSAGE FROM THE LEADERSHIP

Kris Jackson - Please mark your calendars! The 2021 Association of American Law Schools (AALS) Annual Meeting will be held in San Francisco, January 5-9, 2021. Our section will organize a session at the 2021 Annual Meeting and conduct our annual business meeting. We'd like to incorporate the conference theme "The Power of Words," build on previous sessions, and address a topic that will garner interest from our colleagues inside and outside of our section. Our two most recent sessions were "Prelegal Education and Admission to Law School - Looking Ahead: The Changing Legal Landscape of Race-Conscious Admissions" (2020) and "Within their Grasp: Admitting, Financing and Supporting DREAMERS and DACA Students" (2019). I encourage everyone to get involved in our section!

David Kirschner - For those of you thinking of attending AALS— either for the first time, or as a repeat attendee—I strongly encourage it. AALS offers an opportunity to meet and learn from individuals across a wide spectrum of legal education. At the conference, don't be afraid to attend a session with nobody you know and introduce yourself to a stranger. We often get so caught up in our own bubble, be it admissions, academic support, student affairs, etc., and we miss the opportunity to make new connections. I encourage you to use AALS to do just that.

Tracy Simmons - Greetings! I am so excited to be a part of this section. When I began attending AALS in 2006 there were only 2-3 admissions professionals attending. Over time, more admissions colleagues began attending and now, we are finally getting a newsletter thanks to Mathew Le, Elisabeth Steele Hutchison and Chair, Kristine Jackson! I have had the great pleasure of serving as Chair and Secretary of our section and Chair of the Part Time section. All of these experiences were great opportunities to work directly with Deans, Faculty, Development and Advancement, and Student Affairs colleagues while engaging with experts across different roles at a wide-array of law schools around the country—all with support from colleagues at your own institutions over the last few years. We hope you will join us and more importantly, we look forward to your topic suggestions for the 2021 conference.



*Kristine M. Jackson, Chair,
Colorado Law*



*David Kirschner, Immediate Past Chair,
USC Gould School of Law*



*Tracy Simmons, Immediate Past Secretary,
McGeorge School of Law*

Section Officers

Chair: Kristine M. Jackson,
University of Colorado Law School

Co-Chair-Elect: Elisabeth Steele
Hutchison, University of Hawai'i at
Manoa, William S. Richardson
School of Law

Co-Chair-Elect: Shawn D. McShay,
Boston College of Law School

Secretary: Mathiew Le,
University of Texas School of Law

Please send news and
announcements for future section
newsletters to Secretary Mathiew Le
at MLe@law.utexas.edu.

And please engage your colleagues
using our section listserv at
SECTPL.aals@lists.aals.org.

2020 AALS ANNUAL MEETING

With race conscious admission programs back in the news as the Harvard and UNC cases make their way through the courts, this year's section presentation included a thoughtful discussion led by Art Coleman, managing partner and co-founder of EducationCounsel. Mr. Coleman provided an overview of the current legal landscape and potential challenges in the future, while Shannon Gundy, executive director for undergraduate admissions at University of Maryland, shared her perspective and experience in achieving more diversity on her campus and offered suggested best practices. In addition, Aaron Taylor, senior vice president and executive director at AccessLex Institute, shared his research in examining an alternative approach to assessing candidates for admission.



Left to right: Art Coleman, Shannon Gundy, David Kirschner, Aaron Taylor, Kristine Jackson



Left to right (back to front): Tracy Simmons, Jonathan Stubbs, Shawn McShay, Elisabeth Steele Hutchison, Mathiew Le, Anthony Orlando, Michael States, Rebecca Scheller, Jay Austin, Kristine Jackson, Gayla Jacobson, Shani Butts

EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

April 5 – 8	AACRAO Annual Meeting	New Orleans, LA
April 28 – May 1	NALP Annual Education Conference	Montreal, QC
May 27 – 30	LSAC Annual Meeting and Educational Conference/Admission Leadership Academy	Scottsdale, AZ
June 8 – 11	PLANC 2020: Recovery and Growth: Best Practices and Creative Approaches in Pre-Law	New Orleans, LA
June 29 – July 2	NASFAA 2020	Las Vegas, NV
November 16 – 17	2020 Legal Education Research Symposium	Nashville, TN
November 17 – 19	LexCon '20 by AccessLex	Nashville, TN
January 5 – 9	AALS Annual Meeting: The Power of Words	San Francisco, CA

Contact Us

AALS Section: PreLegal Education and Admission to Law School

<https://www.aals.org/sections/list/prelegal-education-and-admission-to-law-school/>
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