

2024 AALS Annual Meeting

Call for Nominations for the Michael A. Olivas Award for Outstanding Leadership in Diversity and Mentoring in the Legal Academy

The Michael A. Olivas Award for Outstanding Leadership in Diversity and Mentoring in the Legal Academy was established in 2023 to recognize individuals who exemplify Olivas's devotion to mentoring junior and aspiring faculty from underrepresented communities and promoting diversity, inclusion, and equity in the legal academy. The AALS Executive Committee hopes to present the Michael A. Olivas Award at the AALS Annual Meeting in January 2024. Please consider submitting a nomination for a law school faculty member deserving of the award. Self-nominations will be accepted and considered as well.

Award Description:

This new award will serve as a living memorial to Professor Michael A. Olivas, who died in April 2022 after an illustrious career in law, most recently as William B. Bates Distinguished Chair in Law Emeritus at the University of Houston, and the Director of the University of Houston's Institute for Higher Education Law & Governance.

Professor Olivas was awarded the 2019 AALS Triennial Award for Lifetime Service to Legal Education and the Law. He was an elected member of the American Law Institute and the National Academy of Education. He served as General Counsel to the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) and chaired the AALS Sections on Education Law and Immigration Law, and countless committees. Professor Olivas served as President of the Association of American Law Schools, as a member of the AALS Executive Committee, and as Interim President of University of Houston-Downtown. He was a renowned scholar and teacher as well as an administrative leader and community servant.

What Professor Olivas is most remembered for, however, is for his legendary dedication to cultivating and mentoring minority and women faculty aspirants and junior faculty, for his outspoken and effective leadership in diversifying the legal academy and profession, and by giving voice to the voiceless and speaking truth to power all while achieving excellence in teaching and scholarship.

The Michael A. Olivas Award for Outstanding Leadership in Diversity and Mentoring in the Legal Academy will be awarded to the AALS faculty member who most vividly exemplifies Professor Olivas's devotion to mentoring and diversity. The recipient will be a faculty member with an outstanding record of mentoring junior and aspirant faculty from underrepresented communities and other work promoting diversity, inclusion, and equity in the legal academy.

Requirements and Eligibility:

- Nomination deadline is **Friday, October 6, 2023, 3:00 AM EST.**
- Nominees must be members of the faculty (including in administration) of an AALS-member law school.
- Nomination letters must address how the nominee carries on Professor Olivas's legacy of extraordinary mentoring of minoritized and underrepresented junior and aspirant faculty colleagues, and impactful work towards diversifying the legal academy.
- Nomination letters (of no more than five pages) may be accompanied by no more than three letters of support
- **Submit Nominations Here:** <https://aalsweb.wufoo.com/forms/smgvnrf0774phz/>
- If you have issues submitting, please contact AALS Section Services Manager Shannon Leonard at sleonard@aals.org

Selection Committee:

The Michael A. Olivas Award Selection Committee will be comprised of an officer from the Section on Civil Rights, Chair of the Section on Education Law; **Miranda Johnson** (Loyola University Chicago School of Law), Chair of the Section on Immigration Law; **Fatma Marouf** (Texas A&M University School of Law), Chair of the Section on Minority Groups; **Patricia Jones Winograd** (Loyola Law School, Los Angeles), and Chair of the Section on Student Services; **Jeffrey Dodge** (Penn State Dickinson Law)