Welcome to Teaching Law!

The Section on Balance in Legal Education sponsors programs and other activities of interest to a broad range of law faculty and administrative staff. As you prepare to enter the legal academy, we’d like to alert you to the existence of the Section, and encourage you to take advantage of some of our resources and get involved in our work. The purpose of this special issue of our newsletter, Equipoise, is to introduce new law teachers to our Section, and to give you some basic information on the types of issues we explore.

In recent years, many involved in legal education have become concerned with evidence of problems such as depression, substance abuse, erosion of values, dissatisfaction and disengagement among law students and practicing lawyers. The Section on Balance in Legal Education and its members seek to investigate these problems, both intellectually and empirically, and to explore potential causes, contributing factors and solutions.

The Section on Balance in Legal Education is a relatively new addition to AALS. Law faculty and administrators interested in law student and lawyer well-being petitioned AALS for the formation of a new Section dedicated to exploration of these issues. AALS granted the Section provisional status in June 2007, and the Section has since become a permanent feature of the AALS structure. During the life of the Section, we have sponsored innovative, scintillating and well-attended programs at the AALS Annual Meetings. We have sponsored a series of essays published in the Journal of Legal Education, and have developed a newsletter and a website. This year, we have initiated a series of topic conference calls, each hosted by a member of the Section and open to all interested participants. We have an active executive board and membership, and would welcome your participation.

If you have any questions about the Section or its work, or if you are seeking a way to get involved, please do not hesitate to contact any member of the Section’s executive board:

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Please Become a Member of the Section

Section membership is open to faculty and professional staff of AALS membership schools; others may join as associate members. If you have access to the AALS website, http://www.aals.org/, the easiest way to become a member of the Section is to register there. Otherwise, please contact the AALS National Office at (202) 296-8851 or aals@aals.org, and indicate your interest in joining the Section.
Past Programs at AALS Annual Meetings

In 2006, prior to the formal organization of the Section, AALS conducted a full-day Workshop on Balance in Legal Education as part of its Annual Meeting. The Section has sponsored sessions at each of the successive AALS Annual Meetings:

- 2007 AALS Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C.: Balance in Legal Education One Year Later
- 2008 AALS Annual Meeting in New York: What Does “Balance in Legal Education” Mean?
- 2010 AALS Annual Meeting in New Orleans: Who Am I? The Role of Legal Education in Shaping Professional Identities
- 2011 AALS Annual Meeting in San Francisco, Joint Program with the Section on Academic Support, Co-Sponsored by the Section on Student Services: Beyond Humanizing: Can – and Should – Law Schools Strive to Graduate Happy Students?

In many cases, podcasts and other materials from these programs are available on the AALS website, http://www.aals.org/.

Mark Your Calendars
Friday, January 6, 2012

8:30-10:15 a.m., Effective Faculty/Student Collaborations and Student Initiatives: Working Together to Enhance Students’ Professional Identity and Personal Integrity, Washington Marriott Wardman Park Hotel

PROGRAM OF THE SECTION ON BALANCE IN LEGAL EDUCATION, 2012 AALS ANNUAL MEETING IN WASHINGTON, D.C.