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2023 Wrap Up

From the Chair

Dyane O'Leary

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Dear Members of AALS Section on Technology, Law & Legal Education,

2023 marked yet another explosive year at the intersection of technology, law practice, and legal education. And our members led the charge, from our summer webinar series to scholarship to innovative pedagogical approaches integrating Generative AI and other emerging tools with students.

Our community's value was on full display in 2023. From post-pandemic technology of teaching tips to collaboration about ideas to bring AI into the classroom, we enjoy a wealth of experience, knowledge, and generosity. The Section on Technology, Law & Legal Education was named AALS Section of the Year under past Chair April Dawson's leadership, and it's been an honor to carry on this group's tradition of excellence.

Thank you to the Section committee volunteers and chairs for your service and interest in this Section's work in 2023. With appreciation for their years of service, we say goodbye to Executive Committee member Michael Robak and Section Secretary Sonia Gipson Rankin and welcome new officers joining for 2024 (scroll ahead for more detail!). Please enjoy these pictures from recent sessions at the AALS Annual Meeting in Washington, DC., including our awards ceremony recognizing (among others) 2024 Section Award winner Dan Linna.

With new leadership from incoming 2024 Section Chair Jon Garon, I look forward to enjoying continued robust programming, conversations, and collaboration. We all know the phrase "people first, technology second." That's the case with the terrific members of this group.

Dyane O'Leary

2024 AALS Annual Meeting
Washington D.C.
Defending Democracy

The Section on Technology, Law & Legal Education enjoyed a series of well-attended, thought-provoking sessions at January's AALS Conference. From pedagogy to regulatory to philosophy—and more! —we continue to lead the legal education community at the intersection of law and technology.

Marc Rotenberg, Center for AI & Digital Policy speaking about the AI Bill of Rights (and much more!)

Panel: AI & Jurisprudence: Challenges, Risks & Opportunities (with speaker Dr. Gerald J. Postema).

(Not pictured) Pedagogy Session: Innovations in Technology Across the Curriculum: Ideas, Implementations, Opportunities for Change

Congratulations to our 2024
Section Award Winners!

Dyane O'Leary presenting to Jessica de Perio Wittman and Kathleen Brown

Award Winners (not pictured Kirsten Davis)

Section Award Winner Dan Linna

Tech Mentorship Award Winner Dennis Kennedy

2024 Section Award Winner:
Dan Linna

Dan Linna from Northwestern Pritzker School of Law & McCormick School of Engineering is the distinguished recipient of this year's AALS Section on Technology, Law, & Legal Education Award. Dan is renowned for his groundbreaking work at the intersection of law, technology, and innovation. As the Director of Law and Technology Initiatives and a Senior Lecturer at Northwestern, he has been instrumental in launching programs that equip law students with the skills needed for modern legal practice.

Among his recent activities, Dan has been active in developing legal tech competencies and metrics. His work, often published in esteemed journals, is not only academically rigorous but also immensely practical, acting as a blueprint for law schools and legal institutions interested in fostering innovation and technology adoption. He is an avid convener of webinars and conferences, and through his events, he has advanced the collective knowledge of legal innovation.

Through his influential courses, speaking engagements, and scholarly publications, Dan is shaping how the next generation of lawyers will interact with technology. He continues to be a leading voice in forums discussing AI in law, access to justice, and innovation in legal education.

We extend our sincere congratulations to Dan Linna for this well-deserved honor and for his continuous contributions to legal education and practice.

Inaugural Technology & Ethics Award Co-Winners: Jessica de Perio Wittman and Kathleen Brown

Jessica de Perio Wittman of the University of Connecticut School of Law and Kathleen "Katie" Brown of Charleston School of Law were the joint winners of the inaugural AALS Section on Technology, Law, & Legal Education "Tech & Ethics Award." Their collaborative trilogy of articles addresses the crucial role of technology competency in legal education, advocating for a "Whole Lawyer Model" that equips graduates with essential tech skills. These scholarly contributions provide law schools with a roadmap for integrating technology into their curricula and have set new benchmarks in the intersecting fields of technology, ethics, and legal education. Congratulations to both for this well-deserved recognition.

Inaugural Technology Mentorship Award Winners

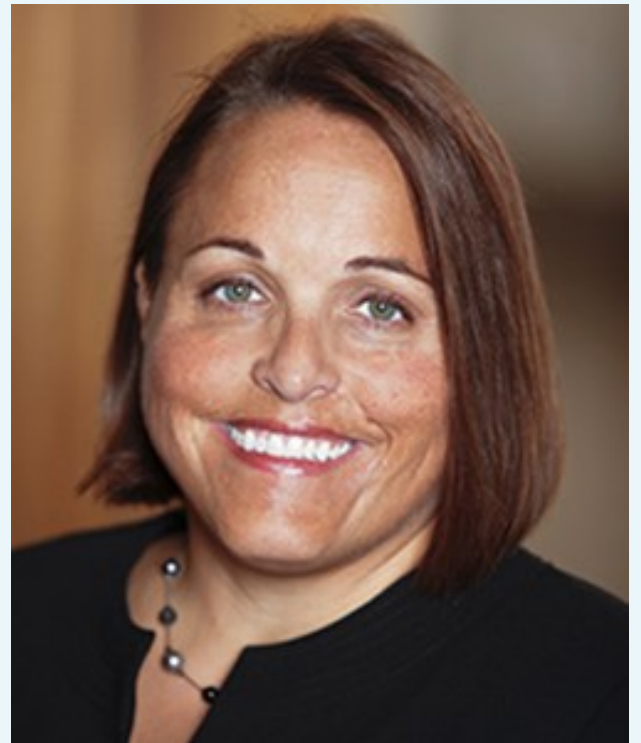# Dennis Kennedy and Kirsten Davis

Dennis Kennedy

Dennis Kennedy from Michigan State University College of Law is an esteemed recipient of the inaugural "Technology Mentorship Award." A well-regarded figure in the legal tech community, Kennedy has been a guiding force in nurturing innovation and technology adoption among students and professionals alike. As an adjunct professor and through his prolific writing, podcasting, social media sharing, and public speaking, he has been instrumental in demystifying complex tech concepts for legal practitioners. His mentorship has empowered many to embrace technological advancements, thereby elevating the practice of law and contributing to a more efficient and accessible legal system. Congratulations to Dennis Kennedy on this well-deserved recognition.

Kirsten Davis

Kirsten Davis, from Stetson University College of Law, is one of two honored recipients of the inaugural "Technology Mentorship Award." A respected authority in legal ethics and communication, Prof. Davis has made significant strides in integrating technology into legal education particularly with respect to appropriate use of Generative AI. Through her impactful pedagogy, scholarly work, and direct mentorship, she has been a catalyst in helping both students and peers understand and adapt to the rapidly evolving technological landscape in legal practice. Her initiatives have not only enriched Stetson's educational offerings but have also set a benchmark for technology mentorship within legal academia. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Kirsten Davis for this well-deserved accolade.

Meet Your 2024 Executive Board

Jon Garon, Chair

Shepard Broad College of Law, Nova Southeastern University

Amy Emerson, Executive Committee

Charles Widger School of Law, Villanova University

Ashley Krenelka Chase, Chair-Elect

Stetson University College of Law

Kris Niedringhaus, Executive Committee

Georgia State University College of Law

Eric Chafee, Secretary

Case Western Reserve University School of Law

Jennifer Brobst, Executive Committee

University of Memphis, Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law

With Thanks to Our 2023 Committees

Annual Meeting Conference Program

Co-Chairs - Jessica De Perio Wittman & Kevin Lee

Deborah Denno

Wayne Unger

Brenda Reddix-Smalls

Brittany Persson

Ryan Groff

Rebecca Purdom

Communication & Collaboration

Co-Chairs - William Byrnes & Sue Zago

Beth Adelman

Andrew Mamo

Jonah Perlin

Khelani Clay

Nominations and Awards

Chair Gabe Teninbaum

Ashley Krenelka Chase

April Dawson

David Thomson

LeighAnne Thompson

Scholarship

Co-Chairs Karen Sanner &

Hilary Escajeda

Drew Simshaw

Jennifer Brobst

Michelle Zakarin

Amanda Runyon

Webinar Series

Co-Chairs Tara Willke & Jeff Ward

Joshua Jones

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Joe Regalia

Kamina Richardson