



The Association of American Law Schools

Advancing Excellence in Legal Education

Institutional Advancement Newsletter – Jan./Feb. 2024

Happy New Year and Here's to an Early Spring!



Already the Annual Meeting is in the rear-view mirror and we are on to February and the good news that Punxsutawney Phil (“America’s Groundhog”) predicts an early spring!

For those who attended the Annual Meeting, it was action packed and fun-filled. The IA Section meeting saw the election of our Co-chairs, Robin Fulton Langhans and Colleen Taricani as well as the passage of our Bylaws amendment, providing more options for virtual engagement in section elections. A great big Thank You to Stephanie Silvestri and Liz Field for their leadership in 2023. There is a quick recap of the conference below and a few photos from DC. Planning is underway for a year of webinars and virtual socials. To start the year, we will leap into a primer on planned giving scheduled on February 29, 2024. Information and the link to register is below. Please send in your topics of interest and help us plan another great year!

IA Section at the AALS Conference



Defending Democracy

January 3 – 6, 2024, Washington D.C.

For the first time our IA Section brought 5 sessions to the annual meeting, engaging IA peers from communications, marketing, development and alumni relations with law faculty and administrators in dialogue around key topics facing law schools today.

Wednesday, January 3

- From Transactional to Transformational - Advancing Your Major Gifts Program
- Engaging Alumni Across Different Generations, Experiences, and Affinities, Co-Sponsored by Student Services
- Section Business Meeting

Thursday, January 4

- What Administrators and Faculty Members Need to Know About Working with the Media

Friday, January 5

- Fostering Diversity in Legal Education: From Recruitment to Graduation & Beyond
- Leading your Community Through National or Global Issues, Co-Sponsored by Balance & Well-Being Legal Education, Law School Deans, and Student Services

It was a great start to the new year with new connections, robust discussions, and fun!



Captions (top row): Hotel entry/Seton Hall Law faculty-staff mixer/Stephanie Silvestri (Seaton Hall Law), Prof. Jennifer Oliva (Maurer School of Law), Robin Fulton Langhans (Penn State Dickinson Law)
 Captions (Bottom row): Dean Michael Hunter Schwartz (University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law), Mary Walsh Fitzpatrick (Albany Law School), Dominique McIntyre (Case Western Reserve University School of Law), and Bekah Saidman-Krauss (Penn State Dickinson Law)/Session presentation.

Upcoming Events



Gift Planning Webinar featuring Tony Simon, Esq. (Penn State's Office of Gift Planning)

February 29, 2024 | 12 pm - 1:00 pm ET / 9 am – 10 am PT

Join the IA Section for a Gift Planning 101 webinar. Hear from Tony Simon, a licensed attorney and Gift Planning Officer at Penn State University in University Park, PA. Tony previously served as Director of Major Gifts for Penn State's College of Liberal Arts.

Speaker: Tony Simon, Esq., Penn State's Office of Gift Planning
Moderator: Stephanie Silvestri, Seton Hall Law

[Click here to register!](#) (FREE)

Save the Date



2025 AALS Annual Meeting

2025 AALS Annual Meeting - San Francisco, CA
January 7 – 11, 2025
#AALS2025

Institutional Advancement Around the Country

Our IA Section members are hard at work around the country. Send in photos of your events, travels, and other happenings! To be featured in an upcoming newsletter, submit your photos with brief captions to Mary Ann Soden, msoden@law.uci.edu.



[Left] The Communication and Events Team from the William S. Boyd School of Law at UNLV.

[Right] "On the Road with Dean Parrish" landed in San Francisco this month. UCI Law's Rebekah Bergeron, Associate Director of Alumni and External Relations, with Dean Austen Parrish and alum, Chris Valentino '18.



Way to Go!

The image shows a digital form titled "AALS Section on Institutional Advancement Kudos!". Below the title is a subtitle: "All Colleagues are doing fantastic things every day. Let's celebrate their personal accomplishments in the KUDOS TO YOU section of our newsletter." The form contains four numbered fields, each with a "Required" asterisk and a "Enter your answer" placeholder:

1. Your Name *
2. The name of the person receiving the kudos (can be yourself) *
3. Title of Person receiving kudos *
4. Institution Name *

We don't believe in thankless work, so please send us a note about a job well done, an accolade for a colleague, or a successful event or project you or your team has recently undertaken! [You can submit kudos to celebrate yourself or a colleague on this quick and easy form.](#)

Congratulations to Kellye Testy on her appointment as the Executive Director and CEO of AALS beginning in July 2024. [Press release.](#)

Professional Development

Good Read

- [2024 — The Year of LEAP: Embracing Opportunities and Prosperity](#)

This Medium article dives into the essence of 2024, exploring its dual significance as a leap year and the Year of the Dragon.

- *Difficult Conversations: How to Discuss What Matters Most' – Stone, Patton, Heen 3rd edition.*

Recommended reading from the IA panel on Fostering Diversity in Legal Education: From Recruitment to Graduation & Beyond at the annual meeting. Based on almost thirty years of research, Difficult Conversations walks you through a step-by-step approach for how to have your toughest conversations with less stress and more success.

Good Listen

- [Making the Most of your Mistakes](#)

Hosted by HiddenBrain. When we're learning, or trying new things, mistakes are inevitable. Some of these mistakes provide us with valuable information, while others are just harmful. This week, we kick off the new year with researcher Amy Edmondson, who explains the difference between constructive failures and those we should try to avoid.

Good Watch

- [Shonda Rhimes - My Year of Saying Yes to Everything](#)

In this TED Talk, Shonda Rhimes, the titan behind Grey's Anatomy, Scandal and How to Get Away With Murder, we join Rhimes on a journey through her "year of yes" and find out how she got her "hum" back.

Sharing is Caring

Winter Topic – Marketing Planned Giving

Does your school actively promote planned giving to its alumni? Brochures, societies, events? Share your stories, tips and best practices on our [Section Sharing Sheet](#) on the [Institutional Advancement Website!](#)

You can post links to annual reports, alumni magazines, marketing collateral, or any other materials you'd like to share with your IA colleagues.

Did You Know?

AALS Sections are interest groups comprised of faculty members and professional staff of AALS member schools. Sections present programs at the AALS Annual Meeting and provide newsletters for their members. They may also present awards, offer mentoring programs, and provide exam exchanges, directories, and discussion lists. To view a full list of AALS sections, visit <https://www.aals.org/sections/>.

Questions? Comments?

Feel free to reach out to your 2024 IA Section Officers:

- [Robin Fulton Langhans](#), Co-Chair, Penn State Dickinson Law
- [Colleen Taricani](#), Co-Chair, University of California, Irvine School of Law
- [Judy Asbury](#), Assistant Dean of Communications & External Relations, Lewis & Clark Law School
- [Brian Costello](#), LMU Loyola Law School
- [Elizabeth Field](#), The George Washington University Law School
- [Katey Howerton](#), William & Mary School of Law
- [Heather Rappaport](#), University of Nevada, William S. Boyd School of Law
- [Stephanie Silvestri](#), Seton Hall University School of Law
- [Mary Ann Soden](#), University of California, Irvine School of Law

Access past newsletter issues and archived webinars on the [Institutional Advancement website](#)