A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Colleagues,

It has been my honor and privilege to serve as your chair this year, and it has been an incredible year for our Section. Our Section started the year strong as the co-recipient of the inaugural AALS Section of Year Award, and we kept our momentum going all year!

At the outset of this year, I had two goals for our Section. First, to enhance our already strong programs that provide support, mentoring, and encouragement for our members; and second, to expand our outreach and communication with internal and external constituencies to promote the outstanding work of our members and others in the legal academy. With the help of a fantastic group of officers and executive board members, we have been able to accomplish these goals.

This year, WiLE entered the social media world—unofficially—in order to promote our accomplishments, amplify our voices, and enhance communication within the academy and with the public. Women in Legal Education now has a presence on Twitter (@womeninlegaled) with over 1200 followers, and a private Facebook Group called Women in Legal Education (https://www.facebook.com/groups/WomenInLegalEd/) with nearly 250 members. Please join us there. Start conversations and engage in discussions. Tag us in your tweets and posts. Send us news and information about your publications and accomplishments and let us help get the word out about all the exciting things you are doing. (Please note that these social media accounts are unofficial and the content does not necessarily represent the opinions or views of AALS, the Section, or its members. In other words, this social media is not officially affiliated with AALS or the Section.)

I think we will all look back at this year and remember the Kavanaugh Hearing as an important moment for our Section. So many of you spoke up to show support for each other. Our listserv was the most active it has been in my memory, and I drew great inspiration from our members’ heartfelt messages about the personal impact the hearing had on their own lives and on the lives of our students. The conversation led to concrete actions and plans that will enable our members to make a difference, individually and collaboratively, now and in the future. Also, in response to the Section’s interest, we added additional programming for the AALS Annual Meeting and adjusted some of our other programming so that we would have more opportunities to fully explore the ideas, insights,
and opinions of our members, as well as discuss the impact the hearing will have on our profession, on the judiciary, and on women going forward.

We have rebooted the Section’s Speed Mentoring Session at the AALS Annual Meeting to expand the opportunities for us all to get together each year to discuss issues that affect all of us, as well as our students and colleagues. This year, our program, entitled Building Bridges: WiLE Networking, Mentoring, and Discussion, will focus on achieving four primary goals: (1) to address the meaning of the Kavanaugh Hearing for session participants in their roles as legal academics, lawyers, citizens, and for some, survivors of harassment or assault; (2) to reveal challenges the participants faced in occupying those roles and charting a path forward; (3) to mentor one another by sharing strategies that enabled the participants to cope with the challenges posed; and (4) to provide a forum to network and form alliances in the wake of an event in American political history which galvanized the country and the legal academy. Special thanks to Naomi Cahn, Susan Bisom-Rapp, and Yxta Murray for helping to develop this program, and thanks also to all who have volunteered as discussion leaders. I hope you will attend this important program at AALS.

Our Section’s Oral History Project, which will be featured in our primary Annual Meeting Program, Building Bridges through Shared Experiences: The Women in Legal Education Oral History Project, would not exist without the dedicated work of Marie Failinger and a group of professors who volunteer their time to conduct interviews. We are also extremely grateful to those who have been willing to share their inspiring stories. This project enables our Section to preserve, honor, and learn from the legacy of the women who have shaped our profession. Please come to our Annual Meeting Program to hear more about this collection of oral histories about our trailblazing colleagues’ experiences in legal education. This will be a unique opportunity to view some excerpts from the oral histories and to also hear insights from our colleagues. Speakers will include Carrie Menkel-Meadow, Phoebe Haddon, Lisa Mazzie, and Kaelyn Romey, and I will moderate.

We also have the great privilege this year to honor one of our most outstanding members with the 2019 Ruth Bader Ginsburg Lifetime Achievement Award. At the WiLE Luncheon this year, we will bestow our Section’s highest award to Chancellor Phoebe Haddon of Rutgers University—Camden. Chancellor Haddon served as law professor and law dean for many years before becoming the Chancellor at Rutgers. She embodies the qualities that our award seeks to recognize, and we are thrilled to be able to recognize her contributions to the legal academy and to our Section. Charisse Lillie and Joan Howarth will introduce Chancellor Haddon and speak about her many accomplishments and contributions to legal education. Special thanks to Susan Bisom-Rapp for handling the nominations process and to Tamara Lawson and St. Thomas University School of Law for providing the beautiful plaque that we will present to Chancellor Haddon. I hope you will make plans to attend the luncheon; please purchase your ticket in advance.

In addition to these three programs, and in direct response to the discussion on our Section’s Listserv this fall, we have put together a special Hot Topics session at the AALS Annual Meeting, entitled Civil Rights in the Aftermath of the Kavanaugh Hearings and Confirmation. In this session, legal scholars will address the ways in
which Justice Kavanaugh’s nomination, hearing, and confirmation impact a wide variety of legal domains, including sexual harassment and assault laws, workplace equality, policing, substantive and criminal law, administrative law, the field of judicial ethics, and the standards of proof appropriate for criminal, legal, and political processes. We will also engage the ways in which Justice Kavanaugh’s role in today's political and legal climate intersects with jurisprudence, such as critical legal feminism and the moral theory of epistemic injustice. Naomi Cahn and I will co-moderate this session, and speakers will include Susan Bisom-Rapp, Jessica Clarke, Eric Miller, Yxta Murray, Judith Resnik, Camille Gear Rich, and Vicki Schultz.

As the largest AALS Section, with over 1,500 members, the Section on Women in Legal Education provides a variety of services and support for all our members throughout the year. I want to highlight some of these programs and thank those who keep them going. We have an outstanding mentoring program that pairs new faculty members with more experienced colleagues to provide new faculty members with someone outside their own institution to get advice and encouragement on topics like teaching, scholarship, maneuvering the politics at their school, or anything else. We even have several volunteer mentors who are sitting or former deans who are eager to provide mid-career mentorship and support for those interested in moving into administrative positions. Thank you to Naomi Cahn, Leigh Goodmark, and Christina Sautter, whose dedicated work keeps this important program going.

Each year, our Section sponsors a breakfast at the AALS New Faculty Workshop, and Okianer Christian Dark organizes that breakfast. This year, we had a fantastic speaker, Veronica Root, whose remarks you can read in this newsletter. Thank you to Okianer and Veronica for volunteering their time to make this important connection with our newest colleagues.

Also, Chair-Elect Rona Kaufman, organizes the WiLE Hospitality Suite, including a dean’s panel, at the AALS Faculty Recruitment Conference each year. This provides a welcome respite from the grueling interview process for our future colleagues and an opportunity for formal and informal mentoring as they begin their careers. Thanks to Nancy and to all of the volunteers who participated.

You have a dedicated team of officers, executive board members, and other volunteers who work hard all year long to provide you with support, encouragement, and opportunities. I was amazed and inspired when I became chair to see how many people are involved every year to keep all of our outstanding programs running. I would like to give special thanks to our Section officers: Chair-Elect Rona Kaufman, Secretary Tamara Lawson, Treasurer Susan Bisom-Rapp, and Immediate Past Chair Kerri Stone; and to our Executive Committee members: Naomi Cahn, Ederlina Co, Susan Looper-Friedman, Lisa Mazzie, Angela Onwauchi-Wellig, Sarah Ricks, Kaelyn Romey, and Ettie Ward.

I encourage you to get involved. This is your Section and we could not do all the things we do without your support and involvement. If you would like to become more involved in the Section leadership, please email me and let me know about your interest. I look forward to seeing you at the
annual meeting in New Orleans and, until then, I remain,
Sincerely yours,
Cynthia L. Fountaine
cfountaine@law.siu.edu
Chair, 2018
AALS Section on Women in Legal Education

WELCOME TO NEW FACULTY

Cynthia Fountaine, Chair of the AALS Section on Women in Legal Education

Congratulations on landing your first teaching job and welcome to law teaching! You are about to embark on what I think is an incredibly rewarding career path. Being a law professor will provide you with many moments of joy in working with students, many moments of pride as you see your work take shape and capture the attention of your colleagues and the outside legal audience, and many moments of great satisfaction as you become more involved in the governance of your law school and in the broader legal education community and you see the tangible results of your efforts to make one of the world’s best legal education systems even better.

The Section on Women in Legal Education welcomes you and is here to provide support, encouragement, and opportunities throughout your entire career. We hope you will become involved in the Section, the AALS, and the academic community.

We are the largest AALS section, with over 1500 members, and in January 2018, we received the inaugural AALS Section of the Year Award in recognition of the many programs we sponsor, services we provide, and opportunities we create throughout the year. We hope you will take advantage of these programs, services, and opportunities as you begin your career as a law professor.

We are an inclusive, supportive, community of teacher-scholars, and I hope you become actively involved. You don’t have to be a woman to participate—we welcome everyone! I look forward to getting to know you and I wish you the very best in your new adventure!
CREATING JOY WITHIN THE EVER-ELUSIVE BALANCE
By Veronica Root

I am absolutely thrilled to be part of the group of individuals to welcome you into the academy. If you are anything like myself, being able to participate in the New Teachers’ Workshop is the culmination of years of effort and, frankly, hope. To be a legal academic—and by that I mean to be a teacher, scholar, and member of the legal academy—is quite genuinely the best job in the world.

I’ve titled my remarks today “Creating Joy within the Ever-Elusive Balance.” Before I begin in earnest, I think it is important to make two things clear. First, this is not a “mommy talk,” although some of my examples are “mommy things.” When people hear about work-life balance, it is almost always within the context of trying to juggle a family and work. That’s important, but I think everyone struggles with finding appropriate boundaries between the professional and the personal, particularly legal academics where the professional is quite often a personal endeavor. Second, I think the concept of “work-life balance” is a lie straight from the pit of hell. Now on this, I could be wrong. But I think a better example of my life, particularly my life since joining the legal academy, is that I am constantly attempting to juggle a variety of balls and sometimes I’m better at juggling than others. Alright, with those two caveats: (i) this is not a “mommy talk” and (ii) I’m really going to be talking about juggling and not balance, I have three basic observations.

Observation 1: Find your Pace

When I started my tenure track job at Notre Dame on July 1, 2014, I had a variety of personal and professional balls in the air. I had recently moved into a beautiful 1924 Dutch Colonial within walking distance of our downtown and Farmer’s Market. I was going to be teaching Contracts for the first time. I was scheduled to get married the Friday before fall break that October. And I really felt like it was important to have a piece of scholarship accepted for publication in the February 2015 cycle.

Planning a wedding plus all of the newness associated with starting a tenure track position was stressful, but it was doable. I was organized and made sure all “plans” for the wedding were done prior to school starting. I prioritized my writing to ensure I made significant progress on a piece of scholarship that summer, because I assumed, correctly, that writing would be challenging in the midst of teaching Contracts for the first time while planning a wedding. And, most importantly, I asked for help.

I asked multiple people for examples of Contracts syllabi. Some of those people provided me with notes and course slides, and one of those people basically held my hand while I taught the course. She made the Contracts ball MUCH easier to juggle within the context of my other life demands. As an aside, if someone within the academy offers to hold your hand—say yes now and send them a really nice bottle of wine later. Asking and receiving help is not weakness; it is part of the enterprise.

Within the confines of an expected set of challenges and difficulties, I was graced with the opportunity to find a reasonable pace. I got married, my husband moved from DC to South Bend, I managed to teach a decent first Contracts class, and I even had a paper accepted for
publication in the February 2015 cycle by the *Yale Journal on Regulation*. Life at the end of the 2014-2015 academic year exceeded my expectations in many ways. I had a plan. I found my pace. Things were stressful at times, but at the end of the year, I had gotten where I wanted to be.

**Observation 2: Prioritize What Gives You Joy**

Well, the first year in the academy went well. My husband’s transition to South Bend, Indiana went well. So we decided to grow our family. I began the second year in my tenure track position in July 2015 and happily learned that I was pregnant. I was given a due date of April 2016. At Notre Dame, I’m contractually entitled to teaching relief for the semester in which I give birth. Given how late in the semester I was due to deliver, I negotiated instead to teach an accelerated course in spring 2016 and to defer my teaching relief to fall 2016. When I say I negotiated, I followed the instructions of a senior colleague who told me what to ask for and my incredibly supportive dean readily agreed. All in all the plan was set. What could go wrong?

The first months of my pregnancy during fall semester 2015 went off without a hitch. That December, I went to Florida to have a big, rowdy, Jamaican Christmas with my mom and several of my aunts who lived near her. Two days after Christmas I went into labor at 24 weeks, 3 days into my pregnancy. Once the doctor realized I really was in labor and not a neurotic, first-time mom (to be fair I thought I was a neurotic, first-time mom so I was pretty calm), I was pumped full of life-saving medications and asked whether I worked outside the home. The doctor then told me I needed to let my employer know that I wouldn’t be back for a while, because I wasn’t going to be allowed to leave the hospital. Which means within about two hours of being admitted, on December 27, 2015, I had to email my dean to say that my carefully negotiated accelerated teaching schedule for spring 2016 would not be happening. I then spent two weeks on hospital bedrest, and I delivered my daughter on January 10, 2016, at 26 weeks, 3 days at 2 pounds, 1.4 ounces (a remarkable weight for her gestational age). I then spent about 12 hours a day for the next 73 days—and towards the end it was more like 16 hours a day—going to “touch time” at a NICU in Florida while my husband commuted back and forth to South Bend.

So all of my carefully laid plans for spring semester 2016 flew out the window. And a whole bunch of new balls were added to my plate. Interestingly enough, my daughter Abigail’s birth was just one of a whole host of unexpected life events in 2016. While she was in the NICU my mom started having symptoms of heart failure, and it was determined she would need her second major heart surgery. In May 2016, after my then four month-old daughter and I were back home in South Bend, I was standing a few rooms away from our kitchen, smelled onions my husband was chopping, and soon thereafter confirmed that I was pregnant once again. In July of that year, my mom had a major heart surgery at the Cleveland Clinic—with enough complications that they were unable to close her chest for three days, which obviously required her to be sedated for longer than normal. That fall my father-in-law began treatment for prostate cancer. And I started having contractions with my son at around 25 weeks into my second pregnancy and was a regular in Labor & Delivery for the rest of the year. If you want to scare a L&D nurse—just tell them you previously
gave birth before the 28-week marker—no one thinks you are neurotic.

Ok, so I just recounted a set of events in 2016 that, I think, make about half of you want to take a nap, the other half ready for a drink, and some of you, probably the ones from Texas, wanting to give me a big hug. I had a rough 2016. It was really hard. By the end I felt like balls weren’t just being added to what I had to juggle, I felt like they were being chunked at my head requiring some sort of weird gymnastic feat to keep juggling. That said, if I had stopped my professional activities, it wouldn’t have helped.

These unexpected balls all came from the personal side of my life, but I still had this whole other professional side. And that professional life also deserved attention. And while I will not pretend I gave it the same type of attention I had given it my first year in teaching, it was still there and still important.

For the best legal academics, their professional life has some sort of personal component. It will be different for everyone, but for me I find true, pure joy when I figure out a solution to a tricky legal puzzle. My scholarship brings me joy, because the challenge of sorting through difficult issues is intellectually rewarding. Which means, that despite the difficulties that occurred in 2016, I focused on the joy associated with my work and kept at it.

Indeed, my scholarship served as a mental break from what was otherwise a very tumultuous time. I wrote portions of an article in more than one hospital waiting room. And in August 2016, I had an article accepted for publication by the Cornell Law Review and later that fall I successfully completed a symposium contribution with the Fordham Law Review. Now some people may hear that and think—she’s a mutant, she’s special, she’s a workaholic. I’m not any of those things—particularly not special.

Instead, I had people around me who saw that my scholarship made me happy, who encouraged me to keep working on it, and I listened to them. My husband, my mentors, my mother—all encouraged me to keep at it. Thank goodness—I listened to them—because my own internal self would have told me it was too much to do.

And by the end of my third year in the tenure track – the 2016-2017 school year—despite all the difficulty and drama of 2016—things were good. My mom and father-in-law were doing well. I had two precious, adorable, healthy children—for those wondering my son Gabriel was born at 38 weeks, 3 days at 7 pounds, 15 ounces. And I was moving from the beautiful, 1924 Dutch Colonial into a slightly less charming but much more functional home in the suburbs, so that I could achieve the parenting coup of a live-in grandparent. A live-in grandparent, my mother, who reminded me shortly before the birth of my son that it was very important that I not “stop being me.” In making that comment she recognized the fact that I love my work, and urged me to continue working without fear that it would be harmful to my children.

Your joy may be your scholarship. It may be your teaching (lest you get the wrong impression, teaching also brings me joy). It may be mentoring students. It may be going to Crossfit. Whatever it is; hold on to it. You cannot thrive as a legal academic if you aren’t holding on to the things that bring you joy. Just as you cannot thrive as a legal
academic on your own; you must embrace and lean on the community around you.

**Observation 3: Balls Drop and That’s O.K.**

My final, brief point, is that sometimes when you are juggling, balls drop. There are days when I see the ball, the ball drops, it rolls into a corner, and I just leave it there for a while. I don’t forget—I hope I don’t forget—but you just can’t do everything. That’s why I don’t like the idea of work-life balance. There is no balance; instead there is an attempt on each day to do what you can. And in doing so, remembering to prioritize the things in life that give you joy—for me that means continuing to write—and accepting the fact that you may be approaching your first anniversary in a house that still has boxes to unpack. The things that drop might be nice to accomplish—and one day you will—but not everything can be accomplished all at once, so it is necessary to remember that it is ok to let the ball drop, roll into the corner, and gather a bit of dust while sitting there.

Sometimes, if you’re lucky, someone will see that dropped ball, and, if they love you, they won’t judge you for it, but will instead pick it up and juggle it for you. Since joining the legal academy I have determined that most people are generous, kind, helpful, and willing to extend their hands in friendship. Let them.

And on that happy note, WELCOME to the legal academy. I hope you find your joy within this wonderful place and stick with it.
YOUR WOMEN IN LEGAL EDUCATION ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE

(See the Annual Meeting Schedule for Rooms)

Thursday, January 3
10:30-12:15 Co-Sponsoring with the Section on Agricultural and Food Law: Worker Justice in the Food System.

Friday, January 4
8:30-10:15 Building Bridges with Shared Experiences: The Women in Legal Education Oral History Project. Business meeting will be held at the end of the session.

12:15-1:30 Women in Legal Education Luncheon and Presentation of the 2019 Ruth Bader Ginsburg Lifetime Achievement Award to Chancellor Phoebe Haddon. This is a ticketed event; please purchase your ticket in advance.

1:30-3:15 Hot Topic Program: Civil Rights in the Aftermath of the Kavanaugh Hearings and Confirmation.

1:30-3:15 Co-Sponsoring with the Section on Aging and the Law: The Legal Consequences of Living a Long Life: The Differential Impact on Marginalized Communities.

Saturday, January 5
1:30-3:15 Building Bridges: WiLE Networking, Mentoring, and Discussion.

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<td>Naomi Cahn, George Washington (<a href="mailto:ncahn@law.gwu.edu">ncahn@law.gwu.edu</a>)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ederlina Y. Co, McGeorge (<a href="mailto:eco@pacific.edu">eco@pacific.edu</a>)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Susan E. Looper-Friedman, Capital (<a href="mailto:slooper@law.capital.edu">slooper@law.capital.edu</a>)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lisa Mazzie, Marquette (<a href="mailto:lisa.mazzie@marquette.edu">lisa.mazzie@marquette.edu</a>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angela Onwuachi-Willig, Boston University (<a href="mailto:aow@bu.edu">aow@bu.edu</a>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah E. Ricks, Rutgers Camden (<a href="mailto:sricks@camden.rutgers.edu">sricks@camden.rutgers.edu</a>)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kaelyn Romey, Golden Gate (<a href="mailto:kromey@ggu.edu">kromey@ggu.edu</a>)</td>
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<td>Ettie Ward, St. Johns (<a href="mailto:warde@stjohns.edu">warde@stjohns.edu</a>)</td>
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CITATIONS

Afra Afsharipour


Susan A. Bandes


Caroline Mala Corbin


Constance de la Vega

GUIDE TO USING INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS AND CRIMINAL LAW PROCEDURES. It is being published by Edward Elgar. Co-author, Alen Mirza another USF alum.

Katie Eyer


Cynthia L. Fountaine


Andrea Freeman


Leigh Goodmark


Victoria Haneman


Catherine A. Hardee

Joan MacLeod Heminway


*Let’s Not Give Up on Traditional For-Profit Corporations for Sustainable Social Enterprise*, 86 UMKC L. Rev. 779 (2018)

*The Business Transactional Lawyer as SEALS Leader: Reflections on Being in a Good Place with Great People at the Right Time*, 86 UMKC L. Rev. 529 (2018)


Tanya Kateri Hernandez


Leslie Jacobs


Margaret Johnson


Laura Kessler

Laura Kessler (Utah) has been awarded a Fulbright Senior Scholarship for her project “Family Equality in Plural Legal Systems: Achieving Equal Rights in Marriage and Divorce in Israel and the United States.” She will be in Israel for the 2018-2019 academic year at the University of Haifa Law Faculty.


Courtney G. Lee


Cynthia Lee


This fall, Cynthia was interviewed by Minnesota Public Radio about the law reform proposals she advances in this article. Cynthia was also the featured speaker on the podcast Civics 101 for their episode on the Fourth Amendment earlier this year.

She spoke about reforming the law on police use of deadly force at a panel on policing at CAPALF and the Western POC Legal Scholarship Conference at the UNLV Law School in October.

Cynthia also gave a keynote address at the ABA Criminal Justice Section's Fall Institute to kick off the Academic Roundtables at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, DC on November 1, 2018.

Nancy Levit


Jean C. Love

Karla McKanders


Joan Meier

Dangerous Liaisons: A Domestic Violence Typology in Custody Litigation, 70 Rutgers L. Rev. 115 (2017). It discusses Michael Johnson’s typology with particular focus on the ways the notion of "situational couple violence" is being misused in family courts.

Yxta Maya Murray

Editing the Wiktionary Entry for ‘Female,’ Berkeley J. of Gender, Law and Justice (forthcoming).


Natalie Nanasi


Hari M. Osofsky


Lisa R. Pruitt


“To Recognize the Tyranny of Distance: A Spatial Reading of Whole Woman’s Health v. Hellerstedt” Environment and Planning A: Economy and Space (2018) (special issue on feminist legal geography) (co-authored with Michele Statz, University of Minnesota, Duluth).

Lynee H. Rambo


Kalyani Robbins


Kimberly Robinson


Editor, *THOUGHTS ON A FEDERAL RIGHT TO EDUCATION* (forthcoming NYU Press 2019).

Christina M. Sautter

**Sudha Setty**

Sudda Setty became the Dean of Western New England University School of Law in July 2018. She is the first woman of South Asian descent to serve as dean of an ABA-approved law school.

**Michelle Travis**


**Constance Wagner**


*Change from Within: Using Task Forces and Best Practices to Achieve Gender Equity for University Faculty*, 47 *JOURNAL OF LAW AND EDUCATION* 295 (2018).

**Gina S. Warren**

*Small Hydropower Toolkit: Considerations for Improving Global Development and an Accompanying Case Study for Pakistan*, 80 *PITTSBURGH LAW REVIEW* 137 (2018) (co-authors Thomas Mosier, Kendra Sharp, David Hill).


**Elizabeth Weeks**


