Plenary Session – Teaching, Service and Scholarship: Overcoming Challenges, Realizing Opportunities

Brenda V. Smith
Danielle Holley-Walker
Kristin N. Johnson
Rose Cuisiøn Villazor

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2019 Annual Meeting

WORKSHOP FOR PRETENURED LAW SCHOOL TEACHERS OF COLOR

Saturday, January 5, 2019 ~ 8:45 am – 4:15 pm
Kabacoff, Riverside Building

AALS would like to thank the

LAW SCHOOL ADMISSION COUNCIL

for their generous three-year grant in support of 2018, 2019, and 2020 workshops
8:45 AM

**Introduction and Welcome**  
Kabacoff, Riverside Building  
Sean M. Scott, Associate Director, Association of American Law Schools  
Cynthia E. Nance, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Robert A. Leflar Law Center and Chair, AALS  
Workshop for Pretenured Law School Teachers of Color

9:00 AM - 9:45 AM  
**Plenary Session: Success Stories: Now That I Have Tenure, What Are My Accomplishments and Triumphs as a Law Professor**  
Kabacoff, Riverside Building  

**Moderator:**  
Cynthia E. Nance, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Robert A. Leflar Law Center and Chair, AALS  
Workshop for Pretenured Law School Teachers of Color

**Speakers:**  
Ruben J. Garcia, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, William S. Boyd School of Law  
Jayesh Rathod, American University, Washington College of Law  
L. Song Richardson, University of California, Irvine School of Law

This panel will focus on success stories of tenured law professors. Speakers will talk about why they chose to become law professors, and share their accomplishments and triumphs as law teachers and legal scholars. Topics may include great classes, teaching effectiveness, law school or university curriculum and policy changes, student mentoring and guidance, publications, conference presentations, op-eds, blogs, community service or social justice projects, and awards for teaching, scholarship or service, or community recognition. Panelists may place these topics on a timeline, i.e. prior to the mid-probationary review, post-mid-probationary review and post-tenure.

9:45 AM - 10:30 AM  
**Plenary Session – Navigating the Path to Tenure and Promotion**  
Kabacoff, Riverside Building  

**Moderator:**  
Kaiponanea Matsumura, Arizona State University Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law

**Speakers:**  
Devon Wayne Carbado, University of California, Los Angeles School of Law  
Wendy Greene, Samford University, Cumberland School of Law  
Lynnise E. Phillips Pantin, Boston College Law School

Speakers will focus their remarks on how to successfully navigate the tenure and promotion process. Topics will include how to balance scholarship with teaching and service, how to build an external network of support, and how to overcome common obstacles often encountered by teacher-scholars of color. This session is intended to provide participants with practical, concrete advice about how to set a scholarly agenda, to manage internal and external reviews, and to position one’s self for success. In the context of
this discussion, speakers will identify things they came to know post-tenure that they wish they had known pre-tenure.

10:30 AM – 10:45 AM
**Refreshment Break**
Kabacoff, Riverside Building

10:45 AM - 12:00 PM
**Small Group Discussions on Scholarship - Part I**
Kabacoff, Riverside Building

These small group sessions, to be facilitated by plenary speakers, will enable participants to explore and discuss more fully issues raised by the preceding plenary session.

**Establishing External and Internal Networks of Support.** Why is it important to develop and maintain professional relationships with teachers and scholars and others, outside of your home institution? What are some tips and strategies for developing and maintaining these connections? What are some tips and strategies for developing and maintaining professional relationships inside your home institution?

**Conferences, Colloquia and Workshops.** Conferences provide opportunities to present your work but which conferences should you attend? How can colloquia and workshop series enhance your scholarship?

**Interpreting the Retention Letter.** The purpose of the retention review is to determine whether a tenure-track faculty member is on track for tenure. What should you do if your review is successful but you are informed of weaknesses or areas of concern? What should you do if the review is glowing?

12:15 – 1:30 PM
**Lunch on your own**

1:45 PM - 3:00 PM
**Plenary Session – Teaching, Service and Scholarship: Overcoming Challenges, Realizing Opportunities**
Kabacoff, Riverside Building

**Moderator:**
Brenda V. Smith, American University, Washington College of Law

**Speakers:**
Danielle Holley-Walker, Howard University School of Law
Kristin N. Johnson Tulane University School of Law
Rose Cuisin Villazor, Rutgers Law School

This final session will focus on teaching and service. With regard to teaching, law professors of color often report special challenges in the classroom stemming from dynamics that are hard to spot and to know how to address. This session will identify specific issues that may be of concern. How do I deal with difficult students? How do I ensure diverse participation in the classroom? How should I address the various differences among students—including racial, sexual orientation, or gender differences — and differences between students and myself? Speakers will offer some advice on how to plan and to facilitate classroom teaching in both large and small courses, and to be a more effective teacher.
With regard to service, new law teachers unexpectedly realize that they must provide service to their school, university, profession, and community as outlets for their academic and non-academic passions and interests. How do you approach the third prong of the tripartite journey toward tenure? How does one determine which service obligation to prioritize? Speakers will explain how service may be viewed as a gateway to learning about, and being active and influential in, the operation of your school and provide an opportunity to interact with your colleagues—and for them to interact with you—to build strong personal and professional relationships. Speakers will also illustrate the ways in which the power resides with you to transform your service obligations, create your own service opportunities, and follow your passion in order to develop and extend your areas of expertise and your networks at the same time.

3:00 PM - 3:15 PM
Refreshment Break

3:15 PM - 4:15 PM
Small Group Discussions on Scholarship - Part II
Kabacoff, Riverside Building

These small group sessions, to be facilitated by plenary speakers, will enable participants to discuss issues related to scholarship. These issues might include (but are not limited to):

**Developing a Scholarly Agenda.** With whom should you discuss and share your work? What are some useful guidelines for selecting a topic, developing a writing schedule and completing the article, essay or book? Why is it important to read and cite other major contributors in the area in which you write?

**Building a Scholarly Reputation.** Why is it important? What are some strategies to enhance opportunities to present your work at conferences and external faculty workshops? Is it worthwhile to cultivate a social media presence? How op-eds may support your scholarly reputation. How do you determine whether your institution value your online contributions?

**Balancing Service, Teaching and Scholarship.** This group discussion will address any other questions not covered by the other groups. Topics may include how to best use research assistants; how to create and capitalize on synergies between teaching and scholarship; determining when and how you should say “no” to various administrative requests.

4:30 - 5:30 PM
Reception
Quarterdeck A, Riverside Building

This reception will bring together past attendees along with presenters to connect, bond and nurture a community with this year’s cohort of teachers attending the Workshop.
PLANNING COMMITTEE FOR THE 2019 WORKSHOP FOR PRETENURED LAW SCHOOL TEACHERS OF COLOR

Kaiponanea Matsumura, Arizona State University, Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law
Cynthia E. Nance, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Robert A. Leflar School of Law, Chair
Brenda V. Smith, American University, Washington College of Law

BIOGRAPHIES


Johnson, Kristin N. McGlinchey Stafford Prof. of Law, Tulane.


Richardson, L. Song Dean and Chancellor's Prof. of Law, Cal., Irvine. JD, 1993, Yale. Officer, Yale J. of Int'l L. Admitted: WA, 1999; CA, 1997; NY, 1994. Professor, Univ. of California, Irvine Sch. of Law, since 2014; Assoc. Professor, American, since 2011; Professor, Iowa, 2012-2014; Assoc. Professor, DePaul, 2009-2011; Ass't Professor, DePaul, 2006-2009; Vis. Professor, Boston Coll., 2009; Part., Schroeter Goldmark & Bender Seattle,

