

2015-2016 New Scholars Committee Report
Prepared for Steering Committee Meeting
June 17, 2016

Soon after the 2015 Conference ended, the Committee prepared and circulated its annual New Scholars Survey in cooperation with the Mentors Committee. New Scholars who participated in the 2015 program generally reported that the SEALS New Scholars Program was a positive and enriching experience. Those results were in line with results from past surveys. However, the response rate for the survey was low, with only 11 of our 33 participants sending feedback. The Committee will work to increase our response rate following the 2016 Annual Meeting by getting the survey out quickly following the conference and following up repeatedly with participants asking for their feedback.

Beginning in the fall and extending into the spring, the Committee accepted nominations to the 2016 New Scholars Program and organized participants into panels. As was the case in 2015, the number of participants in the 2016 New Scholars Program is quite low compared to past years. The 2016 New Scholars Program includes 35 participants organized into 11 panels. The Committee believes that the low numbers are caused by stagnation in faculty hiring and decreases in travel budgets, even for untenured faculty. We would like to increase participation at future meetings; however, this may be difficult to do without changing the fundamental purpose and scope of the New Scholars Program. As long as numbers remain low, we will continue to make our best efforts to organize the papers thematically and provide participants with ample opportunities for feedback and interaction with senior scholars.

The Committee's Junior Scholars Works-in-Progress Workshops (held in 2014 and 2015) have been further developed and spun off into a new program, the Works-in-Progress Series. As a result, the 2016 Works-in-Progress series was organized by Louis Virelli with the assistance of an ad hoc committee. Future iterations of the Works-in-Progress series will be organized entirely by the new Works-in-Progress Series Committee.

The New Scholars Committee also continued its tradition of organizing one substantive panel on a topic of teaching, scholarship, or service and geared toward beginning or newer law faculty. This year's program is titled "Productive and Fulfilling Scholarship Across the Tenure Spectrum." The program is designed to cover strategies for achieving scholarly success and satisfaction both before and after tenure. Committee members selected panelists from across the tenure spectrum: years 1-2, years 3-4, years 5-6, and post-tenure who can provide advice and perspective to attendees about all manner of scholarly activities.

Finally, the Committee has continued in its new emphasis on socializing and networking opportunities for the New Scholars. The New Scholars Happy Hour will be held on Friday, August 5 at which New Scholars and their guests can meet and interact in a relaxed and convivial atmosphere.