

SOUTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION OF LAW SCHOOLS, INC. (SEALS)
Minutes of 2017 Annual Meeting

Call to Order. The 2017 Annual Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Southeastern Association of Law Schools, Inc., convened on August 4, 2017. President Nancy Levit called the meeting to order at 12:25 p.m. She thanked the attendees for serving on the Steering Committee. She indicated that SEALS continues to expand its support of faculty scholarship, including the Call for Papers, Works-in-Progress, and New Scholars programs. Papers from two of this year's panels will be published as symposia in the *Kentucky Law Journal* and the *Mercer Law Review*. In addition, the *University of Missouri-Kansas City Law Review* will publish a group of papers on the history of SEALS.

Attendance. Secretary Gail Richmond announced there was a quorum of representatives from Institutional Members. All attendees are listed at the end of these minutes.

Minutes. Gail Richmond announced that the 2016 minutes were posted in advance of the meeting. No additions were made to the minutes other than for typographical errors. The minutes were approved (motion by Linda Jellum; seconded by Tim Holbrook) by voice vote with no objection.

She announced that Committee reports will be included as Appendix C to these minutes. The minutes will be available on the website shortly after the annual meeting ends. The reports are used by the Board to, among other things, evaluate the continuing efficacy of individual committees and relevance of their activities in light of potential changes to SEALS operations.

Election of Officers and Trustees. Gail Richmond announced that information about the election process for 2017 was posted to the website after the 2016 meeting.

She indicated that information about each nominee was provided to the designated representative by the July 20 deadline. One nomination was received and accepted for vice-president/president-elect: Ron Rychlak (University of Mississippi). One nomination was received and accepted for treasurer: Linda Jellum (Mercer University). One nomination was received and accepted for the at-large trustee position: Margaret Hu (Washington & Lee University).

She asked the Steering Committee to elect those nominees by acclamation. A motion to that effect was made by Kevin Govern and seconded by Matt Lyon. The Steering Committee approved the motion by voice vote with no objection.

Finally, she announced that information about the 2018 election will be posted to the website shortly after the 2017 meeting ends. Nominations will open at that time. The vice-president/president-elect will be elected from a school in Texas. The other two open positions are corporate compliance officer/secretary and at-large trustee. She announced that she will not be running again.

The names (and titles, as relevant) of officers and board members for 2017-18 are included as Appendix A to these minutes.

The board's current groupings for rotation of the presidency are included as Appendix B to these minutes.

Site Selection Information. Executive Director Russ Weaver reported that SEALS had contracted for sites (dates are posted on the website) for 2018 through 2021 (Boca Raton Hotel and Resort, 2019 and 2021; Fort Lauderdale Harbor Beach Marriott, 2018 and 2020); each contract includes the current \$159/night room rate. The Marriott is not as spread out as the Boca Raton property but it has fewer

rooms. He noted that he is committed to keeping the conference affordable and continues to look for potential sites. Members should contact him with site suggestions.

Program and Committee Updates. Russ Weaver announced that online panel submission will begin this fall. He thanked all the committees, which are the lifeblood of SEALS, for their hard work. He recognized Caprice Roberts, who undertook the role of Vice Chair for Programming this year and organized the resource teams.

Board Action Items and Other Information.

Deputy Positions. Russ Weaver announced that Joan Heminway will continue as deputy corporate compliance officer/secretary and that Ben Barton will become deputy executive director. These positions are non-voting appointed positions.

Treasurer's Report. In Treasurer David Partlett's absence, Russ Weaver reported that we remain in sound financial condition. The board continues its efforts to keep expenses under control.

Governance Discussion by Board. Nancy Levit announced that the board continues to consider governance changes, which it will propose to the members for their consideration. Proposals will be announced in advance. The board discussion includes the articles and bylaws, including officer duties.

Recognition-Related Items.

New Members. Nancy Levit asked the Steering Committee to welcome three new affiliate members: Loyola University of Chicago School of Law; University of the Pacific-McGeorge School of Law, represented by Professor Michael Vitiello; and Yeshiva University Cardozo School of Law.

Acknowledgements. Nancy Levit thanked the schools, companies, and other individuals and groups that sponsored events at the 2017 meeting: University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law; Loyola University of Chicago School of Law; Billie Jo Kaufman; Carolina Academic Press; Edward Elgar; Federalist Society; iLaw Ventures; West Academic (which includes Foundation Press); ThomsonReuters; and Wolters Kluwer.

Distinguished Service Award. Nancy Levit presented two Distinguished Service Awards in absentia—to David Partlett, who served SEALS as vice-president, president, past-president, and treasurer, and to Chris Pietruszkiewicz, who served as deputy corporate compliance officer/secretary and as vice-president, president, and past-president. Chris was also the primary drafter of the current articles and bylaws.

Recognition of Staff. Nancy Levit thanked Karen Batts, Maggie Bratcher, Beth Damon, Christina Hood, and John Plummer for providing superb pre-meeting and on-site support. She also thanked Peter Jetton for his efforts with the website. It was noted that these individuals are largely invisible because they function so well in meeting SEALS's needs.

Recognition of Volunteers. Committees are responsible for a variety of functions. Nancy Levit asked the Steering Committee to thank the committees and their chairs.

Committee Recognition. Nancy Levit thanked all committee chairs for their work this year. Linda Jellum, who worked with all the committees in her role as Deputy Executive Director, asked the Steering Committee to recognize Colin Marks and Gary Simson, chairs of the Scholarly Research Committee, who went above and beyond their expected mission. Due to their hard work, two of the

SEALS programs are being turned into law review symposia: one at the University of Kentucky Law School and the other at Mercer University Law School.

Recognition of Officers and Board Members. Board members and officers are responsible for governance of the organizations. Nancy Levit asked the Steering Committee to recognize her fellow officers and board members: Michael Z. Green (who is leaving the board after this meeting), Joan Heminway, Jeff Hirsch (who is leaving the board after this meeting), Linda Jellum, Billie Jo Kaufman, Marcia McCormick, David Partlett (who is leaving the board after this meeting), Gail Richmond, Lou Virelli, and Russ Weaver. Outgoing officers and board members will receive gavels commemorating their service.

Nancy Levit asked the Steering Committee to express its particular appreciation for Russ Weaver's exceptional efforts to make the annual meeting a success and his responsiveness to problems raised by attendees.

Moment of Silence. Nancy Levit read the list of deceased faculty members (and deceased retired faculty members). The list below reflects names received before and during the meeting.

Joe E. Anderson, St. Mary's University
Hans Baade, University of Texas
Clinton Bamberger, University of Maryland
Lawrence Berger, University of Nebraska
Dan Bernstine, Law School Admission Council (Howard University)
Gertrude Block, University of Florida
Michael Botein, New York Law School
Albert P. Brewer, Samford University
Loftus Carson, University of Texas
George C. Cochran, University of Mississippi
Neil Cohen, University of Tennessee
Vance Cowden, University of South Carolina
Shelly Darling, University of Alabama
Mary Doyle, University of Miami
James R. Eissinger, Texas Tech University
David Johnson, Southern Illinois
Jacqueline Rothschild Kanovitz, University of Louisville
John Levy, William & Mary
Peter Lewis, South Texas College of Law Houston
Henry T. Lowe, University of Missouri (Columbia)
M. Minnette Massey, University of Miami
Kamilla Mazanec, Northern Kentucky University
Tamar Meekins, Howard University
Virginia Darren Meeks, Charleston School of Law
Walter Probert, University of Florida
P. Scott Rammell, St. Mary's University
Roark Reed, Southern Methodist University
Michael Rich, Elon University
Wallace Rudolph, Seattle University; University of Nebraska
William Schroeder, Southern Illinois
Karla Simon, Catholic University
Otis Stephens, University of Tennessee
Elizabeth Whipple, University of Alabama

A.N. (“Thanassi”) Yiannopoulos, Tulane University

Presidential Seal. Nancy Levit turned the Presidential Seal over to President-Elect Billie Jo Kaufman. Russ Weaver led the Steering Committee in thanking Nancy Levit for her outstanding efforts as President this year.

ELFA and Other International Visitors. Russ Weaver introduced four faculty members from European Universities: José María de Dios Marcer; Irène Bouhadana; William Gilles; and Andreas Ziegler.

Meeting-Related Items.

Panels and Room Block. Nancy Levit announced that solicitation of panels, discussion groups and other events for 2018 meeting should be submitted by November 1st. Questions should be directed to Russ Weaver. As always, SEALS is a democratic organization, which welcomes submissions from all faculty at member schools.

Comments on the 2017 Program. Nancy Levit indicated that faculty will have an opportunity to comment on the post-meeting survey sent out by Ellen Podgor. She urged attendees to complete the survey and to encourage other faculty members to do so. The board uses survey results in planning future meetings.

Blog. Nancy Levit reminded members that those who sign up for the SEALS blog will receive notification when items are posted. Sign up via the website.

Mindfulness Conference. Nancy Levit noted that SEALS is a co-sponsor of the Mindfulness Conference, which has scheduled several sessions during our conference.

Other. Nancy Levit invited attendees to stay until the next sessions began and talk informally.

The meeting adjourned at 12:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Gail Levin Richmond, Secretary

Attendance
Institutional Member Schools (one vote per school)

Alabama: Julie Hill	Mississippi: Ben Cooper; Ron Rychlak
American: Billie Jo Kaufman	Mississippi College: Matt Steffey; Rich Meyer
Arkansas-Little Rock: Lindsey Gustafson	Missouri-Columbia: Lyrissa Lidsky
Ave Maria: Kevin Govern	Missouri-KC: Jasmine Abdel-khalik; Nancy Levit
Barry: Glen-Peter Ahlers; Eang Ngov	North Carolina: Jeff Hirsch
Belmont: Elizabeth Usman	North Carolina Central: April Dawson
Campbell: Lucas Osborn	Northern Kentucky: Barbara Wagner
Catholic: Suzette Malveaux	Nova Southeastern: Kathy Cerminara; Gail Richmond
District of Columbia: LaShanda T. Adams	Regent: Tom Folsom
Duke: Trina Jones	Richmond: Allison Tait
Elon: Steve Friedland	Samford: Alyssa DiRusso
Emory: Timothy R. Holbrook	South Carolina: Seth Stoughton
Faulkner: Rob McFarland	South Texas: Charles Rhodes
Florida Coastal: Christopher Roederer	Southern: Alfreda Diamond
Florida International: Kerri Stone	Southern Methodist: Keith Robinson
Florida State: Steve Johnson	St. Louis: Marcia McCormick
George Mason: Rachelle Perkins	St. Mary's: Colin Marks
George Washington: LeRoy Paddock	St. Thomas: Ira Nathenson
Georgetown: Kristen K. Tiscione	Stetson: Jason Bent; Lou Virelli
Georgia: Camilla Watson	Tennessee: Bradley Areheart; Ben Barton; Joan Heminway
Georgia State: W. Edward Afield	Texas: Steve Vladeck
Houston: David Kwok	Texas A&M: Michael Green
Howard: Darin Johnson	Texas Southern: E. Ericka Kelsaw
John Marshall-Atlanta: Caprice Roberts	Texas Tech: Arnold Loewy
Kentucky: Jennifer Bird-Pollan	Tulane: Catherine Hancock
Liberty: Tory Lucas	Vanderbilt: Jennifer Shinall
Lincoln Memorial: Matt Lyon	Virginia: Ben Spencer
LSU: Michael Coenen; Melissa Lonegrass	Washington (St. Louis): Bob Kuehn
Louisville: Russ Weaver	Washington & Lee: Margaret Hu; Peter Jetton
Loyola-New Orleans: Karen Sokol	West Virginia: Vince Cardi
Maryland: Donald Tobin	William & Mary: Aaron Bruhl
Mercer: Linda Jellum	
Miami: Osamudia James	

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Affiliate Member Schools (no voting rights) and International Guests

Brooklyn: Heidi Brown	Nebraska: Adam Thimmesch
California-Hastings: Laurie Zimet	Nevada-Las Vegas: Francine J. Lipman
California Western: Barbara Cox	New York Law: Frank Bress
Case Western Reserve: Jonathan H. Adler	Pace: Vanessa Merton
ELFA: José María de Dios Marcer (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona); Andreas Ziegler (University of Lausanne)	Pacific (McGeorge): Michael Vitiello
Indiana-Bloomington: Pamela Foohey	Paris I (Panthéon-Sorbonne): Irène Bouhadana; William Gilles
Iowa: Mihailis Diamantis	Pepperdine: David Han
John Marshall-Chicago: Julie Spanbauer	Southern Illinois: George Mocsary
Lewis & Clark: Samir Parikh	Suffolk: Leah Grinvald
Loyola Los Angeles: Katie Pratt	Western Michigan (Cooley): Patrick Tolan
Marquette: Paul Secunda	Widener Commonwealth: Michael Dimino
Michigan State: Philip Pucillo	

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On-Site Staff

John Plummer, Chief of Staff	Maggie Bratcher	Beth Damon
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Appendix A: 2017–2018 Officers and Board Members

The following individuals will serve in 2017–2018. Those elected at the meeting are indicated in italics. The individual appointed to serve as deputy executive director is indicated in small capital letters. (Deputies are non-board officers.)

Nancy Levit (Past-President)	Joan Heminway (Deputy Corporate Compliance Officer/Secretary)
Billie Jo Kaufman (President)	<i>Linda Jellum</i> (Treasurer)
<i>Ron Rychlak</i> (Vice-President/President-Elect)	Marcia McCormick (At-Large; term ends 2018)
Russ Weaver (Executive Director)	Lou Virelli (At-Large; term ends 2019)
BEN BARTON (Deputy Executive Director)	<i>Margaret Hu</i> (At-Large; term ends 2020)
Gail Richmond (Corporate Compliance Officer/Secretary)	

Appendix B: Rotation of Presidency

The presidency currently rotates as follows (the president-elect is elected one year in advance of the year listed):

2019: Texas (president-elect elected at 2018 meeting)
2020: Tennessee and Kentucky
2021: Virginia and West Virginia
2022: Georgia and Alabama
2023: Florida
2024: North Carolina and South Carolina
2025: Arkansas and Missouri
2026: Maryland and District of Columbia
2027: Mississippi and Louisiana

Appendix C: 2016–2017 Committee Reports

Beginning and Newer Law Teachers Committee (Steve Friedland, Elon University, Chair)

The 2017 Beginning and Newer Law Teachers Committee created a variety of sessions aimed at both new and newer law teachers concerning the core activities of teaching and scholarship. The Committee decided to continue sessions in demand, while also adding several topical sessions. Since scholarship is central to the tool kit of the newer law teacher, a discussion session will be presented by top-notch scholars, titled “Becoming a Productive Scholar.” The coverage of basic matters continues with two teaching sessions, Teaching Fundamentals I and Teaching Fundamentals II. Fundamentals I focuses on designing an effective law school course or seminar. Fundamentals II focuses on classroom teaching, led by outstanding teachers from around the country.

Another session, “the deans panel,” (“What I’d Like to Ask a Dean—An Opportunity for Newer Law Professors to Ask Questions and Get Advice”), has become a salient part of the program and will be offered again. Given the importance of assessment, a discussion group about the methods of formative and summative assessment will be offered. In addition, the Committee will sponsor a new discussion group–workshop that will apply design thinking innovation to legal education.

Finally, the Committee has observed that despite the comprehensive nature of the workshops offered, we omitted an important component of any gathering of law teachers—the opportunity for camaraderie in an informal setting. Thus, the Committee will steward its second annual optional law professor dinner for anyone who desires to meet other professors and make connections.

Call for Papers Committee (Ron Rychlak, University of Mississippi, Chair)

This year the Call for Papers Committee was made up of Professors Bill Araiza (Brooklyn), Gary Meyers (Missouri), Steve Friedland (Elon), and Marco Jimenez (Stetson), as well as the chair. Russ Weaver put out the call for papers in late September, with a submission deadline of December 1. As always, it was noted that submissions may be on any topic related to law and may involve either an unpublished paper or an abstract, but the call also explained that in the past the judges have tended to favor completed papers over promising abstracts. We received approximately 20 submissions, which is low but consistent with numbers received in years since we have made it clear that completed papers were strongly favored over abstracts. Almost all of the submissions were completed papers of a very high quality. The entire committee read each paper, and we had two rounds of voting. The winning authors and papers are: Professor Stephanie Bornstein, University of Florida Fredric G. Levin College of Law, *Reckless Discrimination*; Professor David Han, Pepperdine University School of Law, *Middle-Value Speech*; and Professor John Newman, University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law, *The Myth of the Free*.

Electronic Education (formerly Distance Learning) Committee (Rebecca Trammell, Stetson University, Chair)

Electronic Education Committee members reviewed the Committee’s activities and programs and considered ways to establish a closer working relationship with CALI (Center for Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction). Members discussed possibilities with CALI executive director, John Mayer, at the June CALIcon meeting. CALI is the organization that facilitated publication of **Distance Learning in Legal Education: Design, Delivery and Recommended Practices**, which is posted on the SEALS page under the Distance Learning link. Several of our Committee members are involved with this project, and an update to the current publication is under consideration. The Electronic Education Committee is seeking ways to contribute to this project. The Committee also submitted a call for short (2 to 4 page) papers focusing on the use of online education strategies and/or technologies as part of a course or instructional program. The Committee is considering making this an ongoing project.

Committee members recognize the growing importance of online learning in legal education and its impact, not only on faculty, but across the law school. The need for expanded awareness and understanding of the multi-faceted importance of distance learning is reflected in the Committee’s 2017 programs. The Committee developed two Workshops on Electronic Education, one focusing on “Cool Tools” and one on Learning Management Systems. The Committee also collaborated on Workshop on Teaching programs, including one focused on Technology Pedagogy and another on Institutional Repositories. Ken Randall has been appointed co-chair of the Electronic Education Committee, and members are looking forward to an ongoing discussion of the Committee’s role in facilitating and supporting electronic education in legal education.

Hospitality Committee (Tony Baldwin, Mercer, and Eang Ngov, Barry, Co-Chairs)

The Hospitality Committee typically completes a directory for the upcoming meeting. For the 2016 Annual Meeting, the committee hosted a “Newcomers Meet & Greet” The Meet & Greet served as an informal opportunity for those attending their first SEALS Conference to ask questions and receive

information about SEALS from committee members. The event was successful and will be repeated at future meetings.

Inclusiveness Committee (Margaret Hu, Washington and Lee, Chair)

During the 2016-2017 year, the committee engaged in the following activities:

- Reviewed 2016 annual meeting survey responses for inclusiveness concerns
- Reviewed 2016 annual meeting new scholars survey responses for inclusiveness concerns
- Supported the recommendation to host a discussion group or panel in 2017 that addresses inclusiveness concerns (will host a discussion group on national security issues and the recent Executive Order on the travel ban)
- Encouraged review of future conference sites and potential conference sites for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act
- Encouraged review of future conference sites and potential conference sites for compliance with federal anti-discrimination laws
- Encouraged an alternate hotel venue in 2016 for those meeting participants who did not wish to stay at the Omni Amelia Island Plantation Resort
- Participated in meeting with hotel management at the Omni Amelia Island Plantation Resort during the 2016 Annual Meeting to discuss member concerns
- Recommended posting on the SEALS website the new letter from the Board on actions taken in response to concerns expressed about the 2016 conference venue, including notice of a resolution passed by the Board not to return to the Omni Amelia Island Plantation Resort hotel until “Plantation” is removed from the hotel name
- Discussed drafting a mission statement for the Inclusiveness Committee and began process of drafting a mission statement

International Committee (Rich Meyer, Mississippi College, Chair)

The International Committee sponsored only a single event for SEALS 2016. The panel on U.S. & Cuba Rapprochement included presentations by Ron Rychlak, Marcia Narine, Joseph Morrissey, and Rich Meyer as well as participation from European Law Faculties Association (ELFA) President Vera Kalvodova. For SEALS 2017, the committee decided to make a push to provide more events and to include more comparative law events for general inclusiveness. The result is four events including two focused on comparative analysis. Continuing our reciprocal relationship with ELFA, Rich Meyer represented SEALS at the ELFA conference in Brno Czech Republic, in April presenting a panel on comparative legal education. The committee was also able to coordinate for Max Maxwell, the U.S. military representative for legal education in Africa to present at ELFA as well. For their part, incoming ELFA President Jose Maria de Dios Mercer of Barcelona will be attending SEALS 2017 and participating in a panel. Mississippi College Law continues to host videos of past Committee presentations through its web page.

This committee’s name will be changed to Global Outreach for 2017–2018 and beyond.

Mentor Committee (Ben Barton, Tennessee, and Kathy Cerminara, Nova Southeastern, Co-Chairs)

We love the process of finding and guiding mentors for the new scholars and commentators for the works-in-progress panels. We think those panels—and the matching of mentors/discussants with new or seasoned scholars—are the heart of the SEALS experience.

Our process for matching each new scholar with a mentor is now routine: each member of the Mentor Committee locates mentors for one or two panels. Members each choose the panel or panels for which they wish to locate mentors, based on their own areas of expertise. We always face the challenge of late

cancellations or additions, but we have managed to handle those relatively efficiently by keeping a roster of emergency mentors for these occasions. Our work with the scholars presenting at the works-in-progress panels is handled similarly, primarily by the co-chairs.

We keep a list of mentors, identifying their subject areas of expertise, and we also track which mentors have worked well or not so well on our “naughty or nice” list. As per usual, we are very grateful to the Chair of the New Scholars Committee, Missy Lonegrass, who is a wizard of panel creation and is always a pleasure to deal with.

Moderator and Coordination Committee (Jancy Hoeffel, Tulane, Chair; Lucas Osborn, Campbell, Vice-Chair)

Once the program was final, in January 2017, the Moderator Committee proceeded to obtain moderators for all of the panels that did not pick their own moderators. As a result, the Committee obtained moderators for the approximately 50-60% of the panels that did not find their own moderator. The Committee did not obtain moderators for the Discussion Groups as they always choose their own—it is typically the person who organized the group. The Committee also did not find moderators for the newly minted Mindfulness programming, as that group organized all of its panels and chose its own moderators. The Committee obtained all of the moderators for the New Scholars panels.

The Committee was able to fill most of the moderator positions itself, typically by reaching out to members of our own schools, or, if a Committee member has a specialty (such as Health Law), by reaching out to colleagues in the field for a relevant panel. However, there were a number of panels we were unable to fill ourselves and had to ask that the available positions be announced to the SEALS distribution list at large. In this way, we were able to fill all of the slots.

After finding moderators for all panels, in April the Committee divided up the list of moderators and e-mailed each of them. The moderators were given the moderator guidelines and were asked to get in touch with their panel members. It is helpful to do this a few months before the Conference because this is how we often learn that moderators do not plan on attending and can work to find replacements. This was the case in several instances.

Finally, on the day before each moderator is to moderate a panel at the Conference, a Committee member e-mails the moderator and ensures that he or she is present and ready, and we answer any last minute questions. Each year, this is a relatively smooth process.

New Scholars Committee (Missy Lonegrass, Louisiana State, Chair)

Soon after the 2016 Conference ended, the Committee prepared and circulated its annual New Scholars Survey in cooperation with the Mentors Committee. New Scholars who participated in the 2016 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. We received 17 survey responses, which is a slight uptick from the past year. We attribute this uptick to circulating the survey much earlier than in past years: immediately after the conference.

Beginning in the fall and extending into the spring, the Committee accepted nominations to the 2017 New Scholars Program and organized participants into panels. The 2017 New Scholars Program includes 37 participants organized in 10 panels. As was the case in 2016, the number of participants in the 2017 New Scholars Program is quite low compared to conferences held five to ten years ago. We can only continue to attribute the relatively low participation to continuing decreases in travel budgets and the general lull in faculty hiring.

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 New Scholars Committee continued its tradition of organizing substantive panels on topics of interest to new scholars. This year we decided to focus only on topics of scholarship (avoiding topics on teaching and service, which are amply dealt with by the Newer and Beginning Law Teachers and Prospective Law Teachers programming). We organized two substantive panels for this year's conference. The first, "Getting Out There," is designed to give new scholars ideas about how to identify, get into, and organize conferences and workshops and maximize their scholarly impact. The second, "Inside the Mind of an Outside Reviewer," gives new scholars an "inside" look at the outside review process and its role as an essential component of the tenure review.

One new initiative for the committee this year was the development of a "New Scholars Newsletter"—a one-page formatted email newsletter containing information about the SEALS conference for New Scholars. We included dates and times of New Scholars Panels, substantive programming, and social events. We also included at-a-glance information about how the program and panels are conducted, a link to the Program Guidelines, and a reminder to look for and attend New Law Teachers Workshop programming.

Finally, the Committee has continued in its new emphasis on socializing and networking opportunities for the New Scholars. Both our New Scholars Luncheon and our New Scholars Happy Hour will be held on Wednesday, August 2. Both of these events offer wonderful opportunities for New Scholars to interact with each other, mentors, and committee members.

Program Advisory Committee (Jonathan Cardi, Wake Forest, Chair)

The committee continues to serve as a resource for the Executive Director on an as-needed basis. It is charged with advising him on panel proposals and other issues regarding the program on which he would like broader and more diverse viewpoints. Committee input was not needed for the 2017 meeting.

Program Committee (Russ Weaver, Louisville, Chair; Caprice Roberts, Savannah, Vice-Chair)

A. Overview

The committee accepted program submissions, prepared the program, and worked with other committees as needed. As always, submissions arose organically from anyone wishing to make a proposal. This year SEALS also created Resource Teams to facilitate more robust programming. Professor Caprice Roberts, Savannah Law School, led this new project as the Vice-Chair of Programming. She created the Resource Teams across a variety of subject matters, including underserved subjects, to ensure brainstorming, discussions, and collaboration for developing high-quality programming. Then, she helped individual submitters and Resource Teams finalize and submit proposals. SEALS appreciates Caprice's efforts in launching this effort, which helped contribute to this year's successful program. We hope to continue enhancing programmatic offerings in the years to come.

B. Vice-Chair of Programming Report

This year SEALS created a new position, Vice-Chair of Programming, to develop Resource Teams and promote robust, diverse programming. Goals included generating new content while continuing to encourage democratic programming. I accepted the position at the 2016 SEALS Conference and then

immediately began a dialogue with SEALS officers and attendees about goals and execution plans for the role. To help spread the word about the new position and receive suggestions, I circulated information on social media and sent congratulations to the 2016 scholarly paper winners. I worked in consultation with Deputy Executive Director Linda Jellum and Executive Director Russ Weaver from beginning to end of this ambitious project.

After receiving suggestions, I reviewed prior programming for gaps, synthesized notes from various conversations, and confirmed with SEALS leadership which projects should be the priority for this inaugural year. Then, I created all of the founding templates for the position, including announcements and a complete description on the SEALS website: <http://sealslawschools.org/boards-and-committees/resource-teams/>. I also reviewed and revised other core SEALS documents on the submission process to ensure clarity and consistency.

The initial plan required the creation of the Resource Teams. SEALS especially wanted to broaden subject matters while also ensuring continued high-quality content from anyone wishing to suggest programming and participate in SEALS. As stated in the foundational materials, the main function of the Resource Teams project “is to encourage additional programming in specific subject areas and consolidate overlapping proposals.” Specifically, “the Resource Team members will facilitate inclusive planning discussions and organize program submissions within their fields.” This year, I created almost thirty Resource Teams and still have additional ones in the works for the future. The teams range from Law & Humanities to ADR, from Library Resources to Food Law, from Commercial Law to Indian Law.

In order to create the Resource Teams, I engaged in a series of conversations via email and phone with those familiar with SEALS as well as newcomers. We explored matters such as whether to create a comprehensive Resource Team covering many smaller subjects, which SEALS did in areas like Business Law. SEALS also designed interlocking groups when desired by relevant constituencies such as establishing Workplace Law as a Resource Team with a Disability Law Liaison. I gave each Resource Team a charge to begin its own dialogue among members and other interested professors in order to brainstorm ideas and ultimately to submit proposals for the program. I empowered each Resource Team to operate on its own without my oversight, but I also offered to assist if desired. Many teams asked for my edits on their proposals or with help securing speakers. I also assisted with recruiting diverse members and viewpoints.

Along the way, I checked in to ensure progress and answered questions about panel and discussion group requirements. A few groups were off to the races, such as Trusts & Estates and Family Law; for example, Resource Team member Naomi Cahn kept me updated on progress and often provided helpful suggestions. In many instances, I assisted Resource Teams with securing broader participants. I sometimes drafted content and uploaded proposals into the submission system. As necessary, I offered technical suggestions to enhance the SEALS website interface, and Peter Jetton always answered the call with improvements.

I made every effort to congratulate Resource Teams on successful submissions and offered help should anything not appear as desired. When possible, I encouraged and helped secure moderators within the subject matter. During this process, I also matched like-minded scholars and proposals with Resource Teams to coordinate on programming. I assisted individual professors outside of the Resource Teams. If those professors wanted to coordinate with a Resource Team, I facilitated, but I also assisted those professors who wanted to produce independent content. I repeatedly reiterated that SEALS remains democratic, such that anyone may build and submit content. Ultimately, all these efforts helped expand dynamic, robust, and diverse program content.

Throughout the process, I periodically reviewed overall program content to see if I could stimulate additions outside of the Resource Team structure. This included assisting SEALS leadership anytime someone made a suggestion like: Wouldn't it be great if SEALS would have a panel on Financial Regulation in the Trump Era? As programming began to look full, I reviewed everything again to see if there were conflicts and overlaps. I found a few overlaps and connected the submitters to see if they wanted to combine. In most instances, submitters did not prefer to combine. SEALS supported that decision and worked with the groups to demonstrate the unique angles of their panels and discussion groups. I also explored with those submitters advantages of placing the programs together versus providing a couple different opportunities for attendees across the week.

In this role, I also worked with other committees where I could be of assistance. For example, I suggested, in conjunction with our SEALS President Nancy Levit, soliciting new member schools for SEALS. In addition, I coordinated and helped promote the Scholarship Committee publication opportunity. I asked Resource Teams to provide the audience with more information about the content of discussion groups, such as synopses of submitted drafts. Peter Jetton helpfully provided lists such that I also could contact all independent submitters to request their help with creating a more inclusive discussion group environment for participation.

As SEALS finalized the program, I offered final edits and reviewed the big picture to make improvements such as linking like-minded programming into a Workshop. I worked with Professor Ben Cooper on the Program Formatting Committee regarding final formatting. Also, many professors contacted me because their plans changed, which required removing them from this year's program. Whenever possible, I worked diligently to find replacement speakers. I assisted SEALS leadership to add additional programming to enhance the overall slate.

Overall, the Vice-Chair of Programming facilitated communication across other committees and Resource Teams to increase dialogue on content across broader circles of professors to widen topics and participants. During this effort, I continued to emphasize the democratic openness for any newcomer to formulate and submit proposals. I look forward to ever-broadening the impact of SEALS from scholarly and teaching enhancements to life-long connections.

Program Formatting Committee (Ben Cooper, University of Mississippi, Chair)

The Program Formatting Committee this year successfully performed its mission: formatting the full conference schedule and day-at-a-glance. The committee worked very well together in proofing the schedule and dealing with a large volume of changes prior to the conference. We also worked with a graphic designer to make the final formatting of the program and day-at-a-glance, and then sent the programs to West to have those documents printed and sent to the hotel. We also continued to work with Peter Jetton on improving the electronic program submission system.

Prospective Law Teachers Workshop Committee (Bradley Areheart, Tennessee, and Leah Chan Grinvald, Suffolk, Co-Chairs)

With the word spreading among fellowship and visiting assistant professor (VAP) programs, as well as among SEALS attendees, in 2016 we were able to accept the highest number of candidates yet for the workshop. We instituted a number of new programmatic developments designed to increase the feeling of "community" among the workshoppees, including a welcome reception at the hotel bar the night before the workshop began. We also had the candidates arrive a bit early each day to check-in with Brad and Leah, which also led to the candidates feeling part of a workshop and community.

This year marks the fifth consecutive year of the workshop. We were again quite successful in raising awareness of the workshop among the many fellowship and VAP programs around the country, as well as more general knowledge among the legal community (shown through the applications we received from practitioners). The committee received approximately 23 applications to participate in the workshop, which was about the same as in 2016. Therefore, we were able to have another successful competitive process, and have accepted 12 candidates for the 2017 workshop, all of whom are quite impressive.

Our “graduates” continue to experience success on the market. Our 2016 workshopers accepted positions for tenure-track professorships all around the country. While the workshop cannot take all the credit for helping these candidates secure jobs, the feedback we received was extremely positive and clearly indicates the workshop was helpful in preparing them for the market. In addition, Brad and Leah stayed in touch with the 2016 candidates throughout the job market, checking in with them at critical times. We spent hours on the telephone and over email providing one-on-one advice to candidates about the pros and cons of particular job offers.

Our plan for 2017 is to continue the success that we have seen with the workshop and provide each candidate with mock interviews that are closely related to the real experience of the AALS faculty recruitment conference. Each candidate will have three mock interviews. In addition, our goal is to have a minimum of five faculty members in the audience for each of the candidate’s job talks (in addition to other candidates, which we require to sit in on at least one job talk). Last year, we had approximately 60 faculty volunteers from 30 unique and very different law schools. We believe that the exposure to a wide range of interviewers and job talk audience members is one of the most distinguishing features of this workshop.

In addition to the mock interviews and mock job talks, the workshop also provides candidates with a one-on-one CV feedback session, as well as a panel geared toward navigating the job market. The panel generally features a mix of professors who have spent time on appointments committees and junior professors who have recently succeeded on the job market. As in years past, we coordinated our dates with the Newer Law Teacher’s Workshop so that the candidates can also take advantage of their programming on teaching, research, and service; indeed, we have strongly encouraged each workshoper to attend these sessions as well. Our hope is that the candidates enjoy a well-rounded and rich experience at SEALS, which helps to prepare them for the upcoming market. We hope that the workshop will continue its success in the coming years.

Scholarly Research Committee (Colin Marks, St. Mary’s, and Gary Simson, Mercer, Co-Chairs)

The major activity and accomplishment of the Scholarly Research Committee (the “Committee”) for the year was reaching agreement with two law reviews—the *Kentucky Law Journal* and the *Mercer Law Review*—for each to publish a symposium of articles by the participants in a discussion group that will take place at the SEALS Conference in the summer of 2017. In keeping with the Committee’s longtime purpose of enhancing SEALS’s scholarly reputation, the Committee arranged with both law reviews to make clear in their published symposia that each stems from a SEALS discussion group and is co-sponsored by SEALS.

The *Kentucky Law Journal* will be doing a symposium on “Religious Exemptions and Harm to Others.” Six or seven members of the SEALS discussion group on that topic will be speaking in November at a live symposium hosted by the *Kentucky Law Journal* at the University of Kentucky College of Law. Those speakers, and perhaps one or two individuals who will participate in the SEALS discussion group but not in the live symposium, will submit articles of roughly 10–20 law review pages in length to appear in the *Kentucky Law Journal*. The *Mercer Law Review* symposium will be on “Disruptive Innovation in Criminal Defense.” Ten members of the SEALS discussion group on that subject will speak in October at a live symposium that the *Mercer Law Review* will be hosting at the Mercer University School of Law. They and

two other members of the SEALS discussion group will submit articles of about 10–20 pages apiece for publication in the *Mercer Law Review*.

On the thought that it may be helpful for future reference, we briefly describe below the process we followed in arranging for the two symposia.

The process began with the Committee's approval of a symposium initiative at its meeting during the 2016 SEALS Conference. At the outset, we anticipated that lining up a law review to publish a SEALS-based symposium would be the biggest challenge. However, working through two Kentucky law faculty, Scott Bauries and Josh Douglas (the faculty advisor to the *Kentucky Law Journal*), whom he knows well and who have been involved in SEALS, Colin managed to secure by mid-October a strong expression of interest from the *Kentucky Law Journal*. In addition, in early December, Gary broached with the *Mercer Law Review* editor-in-chief, who had been Gary's student in two classes, the possibility of the *Mercer Law Review* also hosting a SEALS-based symposium. The editor-in-chief was very enthusiastic, and within a few weeks of the law review board's return from intersession, they voted to do so. Notably, both the *Kentucky Law Journal* and the *Mercer Law Review* regularly have an annual live and print symposium.

Another major challenge in pursuing the symposium initiative was ensuring that the law review(s) interested in publishing a symposium would have attractive opportunities from which to choose. For a SEALS discussion group or panel to present an attractive opportunity, it needed to have two principal characteristics: (1) a topic likely to generate both spirited debate at a live symposium and an interesting exchange of views in a print symposium and (2) at least several participants willing to participate in a live symposium at the law review's site and to write an article on the topic of 10–20 law review pages in length.

Very soon after the SEALS executive committee meeting in mid-December at which the symposium initiative was formally approved, Caprice Roberts, the SEALS Vice-Chair of Programming (as well as a member of our Committee), helped get under way the effort to ensure that the law reviews would have a good assortment of panels and discussion groups from which to choose. By e-mail, she notified panel and discussion group organizers of the Committee's symposium initiative and invited them to contact Colin and Gary if their panel or discussion group appeared to be interested in doing a symposium. By mid-January, only a few panels or discussion groups had come forward, and we decided to try to broaden the options for the law reviews by reaching out to various panels and discussion groups—19 in total—that we identified as well-suited to doing a live and print symposium. In each instance, we sent an e-mail to the moderator of the panel or discussion group and asked him or her to (1) poll the other members of the panel or group to ascertain their interest in participating in a live and print symposium in the fall on the topic of their SEALS panel or group and (2) let us know by February 1 how many members had indicated serious interest in participating in a symposium if the panel or group were chosen to do so. We also contacted the few panels and discussion groups that had come forward earlier and asked them to get back to us by February 1 with the same information.

Ultimately, eight panels or discussion groups responded by February 1 that they would like to be considered for a symposium. The next day, we sent by e-mail to the editors-in-chief of the *Kentucky Law Journal* and the *Mercer Law Review* (1) the SEALS 2017 Conference program, where the editors-in-chief and their boards could read a description of each panel or discussion group's topic and see the names and institutional affiliations of its members and (2) a list, which we have appended to this report, specifying how many members of each panel or group had agreed to participate if the panel or group were selected to do a symposium.

When the *Kentucky Law Journal* agreed early in the fall to offer a SEALS-based symposium, we told them that, even if another law review were to agree at a later time to do another such symposium, the *Kentucky Law Journal* would get to choose first from the panels and discussion groups that wished to be considered

for a symposium. In keeping with that understanding, which we made clear to the *Mercer Law Review* when we first approached them, the *Kentucky Law Journal* selected first and chose the “Religious Exemptions and Harm to Others” discussion group. The *Mercer Law Review* followed by selecting the “Disruptive Innovation in Criminal Defense” group.

By all indications, both boards are very happy with their choices. Moreover, we will have an up-close look at how both symposia work out. Gary is one of the SEALS discussion group participants who will be speaking at, and writing for, the *Kentucky Law Journal* symposium. In addition, he agreed to be the Mercer law faculty member who, in keeping with the *Mercer Law Review*’s longstanding policies for symposia, will serve as the requisite liaison between the board and the individuals speaking at, and writing for, the symposium.

An entirely separate initiative that the Committee agreed at its meeting last August to undertake calls for posting on the SEALS website after the 2017 Conference a brief report highlighting some of the interesting scholarly debates that will have taken place in the various discussion groups and panels. The plan contemplates dividing up among the Committee’s many members responsibility to attend particular groups and panels and then having each member write up a short account for the website of the one or two groups or panels he or she attended.

Two other modest initiatives were undertaken in conjunction with the Call for Papers Committee. The first was to send a letter to all SEALS institutional member law reviews describing the call for papers, announcing this year’s winners and the selection process. Colin drafted the letter with Ron Rychlak (chair of the Call for Papers) and sent it to all the EICs of the various law reviews to promote the winning manuscripts. Second, Colin created an email list of past CFP winners which Ron used to notify the past winners of this year’s winning papers and to encourage them to attend the presentation luncheon at SEALS.

Sponsorship Coordinator (Billie Jo Kaufman, American)

SEALS continued to receive support and scholarship from its sponsors including Carolina Academic Press, Edward Elgar, Federalist Society, iLaw, Thomson Reuters, West, and Wolters-Kluwer.

Contacts were made to three other vendors. I often make efforts to connect new vendors to Russ right away because no one can “sell” SEALS quite like Russ. Some of the vendors are much smaller than our regulars are and do not have “marketing”/conference personnel to support a booth for the full conference. I have also offered “newbies” to send marketing material so we can share with attendees. The “technology” type vendors are usually interested in hosting a breakfast/lunch type event so they can share their product, provide a meal, and leave but numbers are often difficult to determine.

I suggest we continue to contact vendors participating in CALI, AALL, and AALS. From my personal experience with two other organizations in the past year, sponsorships are becoming much more difficult. We have routinely depended on support from two vendors, which have really cut back.

This “committee” is more than “lean.” It would be great to expand the members. New or fresh blood could have different contacts and ideas going forward.

Website, Technology & Communications Committee (Peter Jetton, Washington & Lee, and John Keyser, Stetson, Co-Chairs)

The primary task of the Website, Technology & Communications Committee this year was to discuss ways to increase social media activity and interaction during the 2017 conference. Several members of the committee evaluated the efforts already ongoing through the official SEALS Twitter account and made

suggestions to expand efforts. Our plans for the 2017 conference include asking members of the committee in attendance to live-tweet/report on the sessions they attend and to reach out to session moderators to promote and discuss their sessions through their Twitter accounts. The focus will be on increasing interaction/discussion through the use of @ mentions.

Works-in-Progress Committee (Louis Virelli, Stetson, Chair)

The Works-in-Progress Committee is enjoying a productive second year as a stand-alone committee. We had over 20 scholars meet in five separate groups to discuss their ongoing projects with one another at the 2016 Annual Meeting. We are currently scheduled to have about 15 scholars participate in four separate groups at the 2017 Meeting.

We have a process for soliciting contributions and matching presenters with other scholars in their general area of expertise that appears to be working well. It can be challenging in some instances to match participants with others in their subject area because we do not limit or in any way seek to influence the topics of participants' submissions, but this has not yet presented a serious problem. We are also committed to drawing submissions from the widest and most diverse range of scholars possible, so we are reluctant to do anything that may discourage or limit participation.

Limited travel budgets at law schools and lingering concerns about the Zika virus in Florida have caused a few more late cancellations this year than in 2016, but we are encouraged by the fact that initial interest in the Works-in-Progress Series in 2017 was as strong as in the previous year. Planning the program several months in advance and soliciting submissions from participants more than a month before the conference has helped limit the number of late cancellations and is thus a practice that the Committee plans to continue going forward. Finally, the provision of individualized commentators to those panelists who requested them has been a popular and, in our view, hugely beneficial feature of the Series.

We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to everyone who agreed to serve as moderators and commentators in the Works-in-Progress Series, as well as Ben Barton, Linda Jellum, Caprice Roberts, Jancy Hoeffel, and the entire Mentor and Moderator Committees for their help in finding commentators and replacement moderators.