

SOUTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION OF LAW SCHOOLS, INC. (SEALS)
Minutes of 2018 Annual Meeting

Call to Order. The 2018 Annual Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Southeastern Association of Law Schools, Inc., convened on August 9, 2018, in Fort Lauderdale, FL. President Billie Jo Kaufman called the meeting to order at 12:25 p.m. She thanked the attendees for serving on the Steering Committee.

iLaw. Billie Jo Kaufman recognized Ken Randall from iLaw (part of BARBRI), which sponsored the Steering Committee luncheon. He made brief remarks about iLaw.

Minutes. Billie Jo Kaufman announced that the 2017 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 Charles “Rocky” Rhodes; seconded by Steve Friedland) with no objection.

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

Election of Officers and Trustees. Gail Richmond announced that information about the election process for 2018 was posted to the website after the 2017 meeting. She also announced that an earlier election was held by mail to fill the vacancy in the treasurer position; that position is now held by Tom Metzloff (Duke).

She indicated that information about each nominee was emailed to the designated representative by the date posted on the website. Three nominations were received and accepted for vice-president/president elect: Arnold Loewy (Texas Tech University); Colin Marks (St. Mary’s University); Charles “Rocky” Rhodes (South Texas College of Law Houston). Two nominations were received and accepted for secretary: Vince Cardi (West Virginia University); Kathy Cerminara (Nova Southeastern University). Three nominations were received and accepted for the at-large trustee position: David Brennen (University of Kentucky); Melissa “Missy” Lonegrass (Louisiana State University); Rob McFarland (Faulkner University).

She asked the institutional members of the Steering Committee to submit their ballots for these positions. Ballots were counted by Ben Barton, Steve Friedland, Michael Green, Marcia McCormick, and Ron Rychlak. Colin Marks was elected vice-president/president elect; Kathy Cerminara was elected secretary; and Missy Lonegrass was elected at-large trustee.

Finally, she announced that information about the 2019 election will be posted to the website shortly after the 2018 meeting ends. Nominations will open at that time. The vice-president/president-elect will be elected from a school in Kentucky or Tennessee. The other open position is at-large trustee. That position can be filled by a faculty member from any institutional member school other than a school represented by one of the nine board members.

Appendixes to Steering Committee Minutes. Gail Richmond announced that the names (and titles, as relevant) of officers and board members for 2018–2019 are included as Appendix A. The board’s current groupings for rotation of the presidency are included as Appendix B. Committee reports are included as Appendix C. The minutes and appendixes are posted to the website shortly after the annual meeting ends.

Site Selection Information. Executive Director Russ Weaver reported that SEALS had contracted for sites (dates are posted on the website) for 2019–2021 (Boca Raton Hotel and Resort, 2019 and 2021; Fort Lauderdale Harbor Beach Marriott, 2020). He noted that he is committed to keeping the conference

affordable and continues to look for potential sites for 2022 and thereafter. Members should contact him with site suggestions. He also noted that the meetings in Boca will be in late July. The meeting this year was too late, given the start of law school classes at some schools and K–12 classes in several jurisdictions. The 2020 meeting is currently scheduled to run into August, but he will try to get that meeting moved to an earlier date.

2019 Program. Russ Weaver announced that online panel submission will begin this fall. Ideally, a draft program will be available by the end of October, thus giving him time to move conflicting sessions and respond to other member comments. He reminded members that faculty with ideas for programs do not have to have them vetted by a committee.

Board Action Items and Other Information.

Deputy Positions. Russ Weaver announced that Joan Heminway will become corporate compliance officer (a change from her prior position as deputy corporate compliance officer/secretary based on the revised articles and by-laws approved by the Steering Committee by mailed ballots) and that Billie Jo Kaufman will become deputy executive director. Although these positions are non-board appointed positions, Billie Jo Kaufman will continue during this transition year also serving as a voting trustee in her capacity as past president.

Treasurer's Report. Tom Metzloff reported that we remain in sound financial condition, with revenue primarily from dues and registration fees. The board continues its efforts to keep expenses under control.

Governance Discussion by Board. Gail Richmond thanked the institutional member school representatives for participating in the mail-in voting for treasurer and for the substantive governance changes approved by the board at its December meeting. The revised articles and by-laws are posted to the website.

Recognition-Related Items.

New Members. Billie Jo Kaufman asked the Steering Committee to welcome six new members. They are Drexel University School of Law, University of New Hampshire School of Law, University of North Texas School of Law, University of Oklahoma School of Law, and Wayne State University Law School, which joined since the 2017 meeting, and Yeshiva University School of Law, which joined last year. She asked any representatives in attendance from those schools in attendance to stand.

Acknowledgements. Billie Jo Kaufman thanked the schools, companies, and other individuals and groups that sponsored events at the 2018 meeting: American University; Nova Southeastern University; Drexel University; Wayne State University; Yeshiva University; American Inns of Court; Carolina Academic Press; Edward Elgar Publishing; Federalist Society; iDesign; iLaw; LexisNexis; National Institute for Trial Advocacy; seatGen; West Academic (which includes Foundation Press); and Wolters Kluwer.

Distinguished Service Awards. Billie Jo Kaufman announced three Distinguished Service Awards—to Robert Felix, who served SEALS as president-elect, president, past-president, and co-treasurer; to Paul Kurtz, who served SEALS as president-elect, president, and past-president; and to Ellen Podgor, who served SEALS as at-large trustee, vice-president, president, and past-president and conducted the post-meeting survey for the past several years.

Honorary Memberships. Billie Jo Kaufman announced that the board voted to make Chris Pietruszkiewicz, who left legal education to become president of the University of Evansville, and Ian Holloway, the dean at the University of Calgary, honorary members of SEALS.

Recognition of Staff. Billie Jo Kaufman thanked Maggie Bratcher, Beth Damon, Christina Hood, Judy Perry, 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. Billie Jo Kaufman asked the Steering Committee to thank the committees and their chairs. She also thanked the authors who contributed to the University of Missouri-Kansas City symposium on the history of SEALS and particularly thanked Nancy Levit, who organized the symposium issue.

Committee Recognition. Ben Barton, who worked with all the committees in his role as Deputy Executive Director, asked the Steering Committee to recognize Brad Areheart and Leah Grinvald, chairs of the Prospective Law Teachers Workshop, for their excellent work on that committee.

Recognition of Officers and Board Members. Board members and officers are responsible for governance of the organizations. Billie Jo Kaufman asked the Steering Committee to recognize her fellow officers and board members: Ben Barton (who is leaving office after this meeting), Joan Heminway, Margaret Hu, Nancy Levit (who is leaving the board after this meeting), Marcia McCormick (who is leaving the board after this meeting), Tom Metzloff, Gail Richmond (who is leaving the board after this meeting), Ron Rychlak, Lou Virelli, and Russ Weaver. Outgoing officers and board members receive gavels commemorating their service.

She also 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. Billie Jo Kaufman read the list of deceased faculty members (and deceased retired faculty members). The list below reflects names received before and during the meeting.

John B. Anderson, Nova Southeastern University
Peter Appel, University of Georgia
Regis Campfield, Southern Methodist University
Claude Carr, John Marshall–Chicago
Joe Conboy, Texas Tech University
Camille Wright Cook, University of Alabama
Dick Danner, Duke University
Robert Hamilton, University of Texas
Paul Haskell, University of North Carolina
Gregory Holtz, Ave Maria School of Law
Donald Hunt, Texas Tech University
Gordon Hylton, University of Virginia
Peter Jason, Western Michigan University–Cooley
Lawrence A. Jegen, III, Indiana University–Indianapolis
Gil Johnston, John Marshall–Chicago
James T.R. Jones, University of Louisville
Tom Jones, University of Alabama
John Kraemer, Texas Tech University

Joseph Lawson, Loyola University–New Orleans
Barbara Lewis, University of Louisville
Fred McChesney, University of Miami
Susie Mead, Indiana University–Indianapolis
J. Dickson Phillips, Jr., University of North Carolina
John A. Robertson, University of Texas
Jonathan Rohr, The University of Tennessee
J. Clay Smith, Jr., Howard University
Heathcote “Pete” Wales, Georgetown University
Perry Wallace, American University
Bob Weninger, Texas Tech University
Jeff Wittenberg, Suffolk University

Presidential Seal. Billie Jo Kaufman turned the Presidential Seal over to President-Elect Ron Rychlak. He thanked everyone for their support over the past year and noted that SEALS is engaged in several interesting initiatives that will be announced this year. The attendees then thanked Billie Jo Kaufman for her outstanding efforts as President this year.

ELFA and Other International Visitors. Russ Weaver introduced four faculty members from schools outside the United States: Veronica Ruiz Abou-Nigm; Irene Bouhadana; William Gilles; and Junko Shibata. Their institutional affiliations appear in the Attendance section of these minutes.

He announced that a newly formed group, the Global Legal Education Associations Consortium (GLEAC) plans to hold its first meeting in conjunction with the 2019 SEALS meeting.

He also announced that ELFA will meet in Turin, Italy, April 10–12, 2019. ELFA and SEALS have an ongoing relationship, and SEALS members are welcome at ELFA sessions.

Meeting-Related Items.

Panels and Room Block. Billie Jo Kaufman announced that solicitation of panels, discussion groups and other events for the 2019 meeting should be submitted by November 1st, earlier if possible. 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 2018 Program. Billie Jo Kaufman 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. Billie Jo Kaufman 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. Billie Jo Kaufman noted that the Mindfulness Conference has again scheduled several sessions during our conference.

Adjournment. Billie Jo Kaufman adjourned the meeting at 1:08 p.m. Attendees were welcome to stay until the next sessions began and talk informally.

Respectfully submitted,
Gail Levin Richmond, Secretary

Attendance

Institutional Member Schools (one vote per school)

American: Billie Jo Kaufman	Miami: Shakira Pleasant
Arkansas-Fayetteville: Brian Gallini	Mercer: Jeremy Kidd; Gary Simson
Arkansas-Little Rock: Lindsey Gustafson	Mississippi: Ben Cooper; Ron Rychlak
Ave Maria: Kevin Govern	Mississippi College: Rich Meyer
Barry: Samuel Kan	Missouri-Columbia: Amy Schmitz
Belmont: Ellen Black	Missouri-KC: Del Wright
Campbell: Elizabeth Berenguer	North Carolina: Richard Myers
District of Columbia: Twinette Johnson	North Carolina Central: Todd J. Clark
Duke: Tom Metzloff	Nova Southeastern: Kathy Cerminara; Gail Richmond
Elon: Steve Friedland	Regent: Ben Madison
Emory: Jennifer Murphy Romig	Richmond: Corinna Lain
Faulkner: Melvin Otey; Rob McFarland	South Carolina: Jacqueline Fox
Florida: Stephanie Bornstein; Caprice Roberts	South Texas: Rocky Rhodes
Florida A&M: Nicky Boothe-Perry	Southern: Alfreda Diamond
Florida International: Howard Wasserman	St. Louis: Patricia Lee; Marcia McCormick
Florida State: Nancy Benavides	St. Mary's: Colin Marks
George Mason: David Bernstein	St. Thomas: Ira Nathenson
Georgia: Fazal Khan	Stetson: Jason Bent; Lou Virelli
Georgia State: Ted Afield	Tennessee: Joan Heminway; Brad Areheart; Ben Barton
Houston: David Kwok	Texas A&M: Michael Green; William Byrnes
Howard: Matthew Bruckner	Texas Tech: Arnold Loewy
Kentucky: Jennifer Bird-Pollan	Virginia: A. Benjamin Spencer
Liberty: B. Keith Faulkner	Wake Forest: Jonathan Cardi
LSU: Raff Donelson	Washington (St. Louis): Robert Kuehn
Louisville: Russ Weaver	Washington & Lee: Margaret Hu
Loyola-New Orleans: Mitch Crusto	West Virginia: Vincent Cardi
Maryland: Simon Canick	William & Mary: Eric Chason

Affiliate Member Schools (no voting rights), International Guests, and Luncheon Sponsor

California-Hastings: Laurie Zimet	Nevada-Las Vegas: Stacey Tovino
Drexel: Emily Zimmerman	Oklahoma: Katheleen Guzman
Edinburgh: Veronica Ruiz Abou-Nigm (ELFA representative)	Pace: Lissa Griffin
Indiana-Bloomington: Leandra Lederman	Paris I (Sorbonne)/IMMODEV: Irene Bouhadana; William Gilles
Indiana-Indianapolis: Nicolas Terry	Pepperdine: Barry McDonald
iLaw: Ken Randall; Michael Gregory; Vi To	Southern Illinois: Edward Dawson
Iowa: Greg Shill	Suffolk: Kathy Vinson
Kagawa: Junko Shibata	Wayne State: Peter Henning
Lewis & Clark: Samir Parikh	Western Michigan (Cooley): Kathy Gustafson
Loyola-Chicago: Spencer Waller	Widener Commonwealth: Michael Dimino
Marquette: Atiba Ellis	Yeshiva: Michael Pollack
Michigan State: Philip Pucillo	

On-Site Staff

John Plummer, Chief of Staff Maggie Bratcher Beth Damon

Appendix A: 2018–2019 Officers and Board Members

The following individuals will serve in 2018–2019. Those elected in 2018 are indicated in italics. The individuals appointed to serve as deputy executive director and compliance officer are indicated in small capital letters. (The deputy and the compliance officer are non-voting officers.)

Billie Jo Kaufman (Past-President)	JOAN HEMINWAY (CORPORATE COMPLIANCE OFFICER)
Ron Rychlak (President)	<i>Tom Metzloff (Treasurer)</i>
<i>Colin Marks (Vice-President/President-Elect)</i>	Lou Virelli (At-Large; term ends 2019)
Russ Weaver (Executive Director)	Margaret Hu (At-Large; term ends 2020)
BILLIE JO KAUFMAN (DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR)	<i>Missy Lonegrass (At-Large; term ends 2021)</i>
<i>Kathy Cerminara (Secretary)</i>	

Appendix B: Rotation of Presidency

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

2020: Tennessee and Kentucky (president-elect elected at 2019 meeting)
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
2028: Texas

Appendix C: 2017–2018 Committee Reports

Beginning and Newer Law Teachers Committee (Steve Friedland, Elon University, Chair; Olympia Duhart, Nova Southeastern University, Vice-Chair)

The 2018 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. Sessions were organized around scholarship, teaching, and service.

We also offered “the deans panel” again. This panel has become a mainstay. The Committee also organized its annual optional law professor dinner for anyone who desired 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), Marco Jimenez (Stetson), John Stinneford (Florida) 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 originally received approximately 12 submissions,

but we sent a later invitation, which brought in another eight or so submission. That left us with about 20, which is consistent with numbers received ever since we 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 followed that with voting. We selected three papers: Andrew D. Bradt and D. Theodore Rave, “Aggregation on Defendants’ Terms”; Emily Berman, “A Government of Laws and Not of Machines”; and Carla Reyes, “If Rockefeller Were a Coder.” These papers will be presented at the Call for Papers luncheon at the annual meeting.

Global Outreach Committee (Rich Meyer, Mississippi College, Chair; Jennifer Bard, University of Cincinnati, Vice-Chair)

2017/2018 was an exciting year for the Global Outreach (Previously International) Committee. It all started with a decision to change the Committee’s name. Global Outreach links to the Committee’s focus to expand our contacts with peers across the planet. Consistent with this focus, we decided on having panels that went beyond the traditional subjects of International Law and Comparative Law and instead, the Committee will be sponsoring events on cooperative agreements for teaching overseas. The new Visiting Professor database debuted at the European Law Faculties Association (ELFA) Conference in Barcelona on April 25, 2018. This database will allow our ELFA colleagues to easily post visit opportunities and our SEALS professor to post their availability. Current Chair Rich Meyer and Incoming Chair Jennifer Bard represented SEALS at the ELFA conference.

This past year the Global Outreach Committee carried the SEALS brand across the globe, including:

1. Rob Blitt presented “Amendments to the International Religious Freedom Act: Entities of Particular Concern” during a conference on “War and Peace and Religion: Religious Freedom during Russian-Ukrainian Conflict”, at Yaroslav the Wise National Law University, Kharkiv, Ukraine (April 2018).
2. Greg Bowman created a new Brazil Study Abroad Program in Brazil, hosted Professor Daniel Anorve, a McDougall Visiting Scholar from the University of Guanajuato, Mexico, and the WVU Jessup International Moot Court Team made the regional quarterfinals in the DC regional.
3. Vaughn James worked on two cases of an international flavor, an immigration case (sad case—the petitioner died before his petition for re-entry could be approved) and a probate case (the decedent was a United States citizen formerly resident in New York City). He also worked directly with one bank on a FATCA/CRS-related issue where the expanse of the paperwork was enough “...to kill a forest!”
4. Melanie Reid spent five months teaching criminal law & procedure in Riga, Latvia as a Fulbright Scholar.
5. Rich Meyer led study abroad programs in China, Mexico and South Korea and revised two more in France and Germany. He also presented in Brno, Czech; ChengDu, China; Beijing, China; and Seoul, South Korea and developed partnerships with eight law schools on four continents.

We are excited to be hosting four events for the upcoming SEALS conference. We hope you can join us!

Hospitality Committee (Linda Malone, College of William and Mary, Chair; Charles “Rocky” Rhodes, South Texas College of Law, Vice-Chair)

The Hospitality Committee kicked back into gear in 2018 with a very successful hospitality guide. It also organized 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 University, Chair; Susan Kuo, University of South Carolina, Vice-Chair)

During the 2017-2018 year, the committee engaged in the following activities:

- Reviewed 2017 annual meeting survey responses for inclusiveness concerns
- Reviewed 2017 annual meeting new scholars survey responses for inclusiveness concerns
- Hosted a discussion group at the 2017 annual meeting that addressed inclusiveness concerns (discussion group on national security issues and the 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
- Discouraged considering Omni Amelia Island Plantation Resort as a future conference site in light of member concerns
- Discussed drafting a mission statement for the Inclusiveness Committee and began the process of drafting a mission statement

Marketing Committee (Atiba Ellis, West Virginia University, Chair)

The SEALS Marketing Committee was newly created this fall to develop a strategy to enhance SEALS outreach to the legal academy—and particularly to nonmember schools. Over the course of its first year to date, the committee drafted its mission statement and instituted a first draft of revisions to the “About” tab for the SEALS website. Moreover, the committee has been holding initial discussion about a broader marketing strategy for SEALS. The discussions so far have included how the website’s content ought to be reorganized around themes relevant to the academic and professional benefits of SEALS, how larger messages about the intellectual engagement around SEALS ought to be messaged to reach beyond audiences already connected to SEALS, and how the website, social media, traditional publication, and word-of-mouth strategies ought to be used in concert to message the broader benefits of the organization and its annual conference. The committee will continue to work on a proposed overall marketing strategy and a plan for its implementation in the coming months.

Mentor Committee (Kathy Cerminara, Nova Southeastern University, Chair; William Berry, University of Mississippi, Vice-Chair)

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. This year presented a few challenges

in that fewer prospective mentors will be present at the conference for many days than in past years, but we still had an abundance of people to ask. 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.

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 University, Chair; Lucas Osborn, Campbell University, Vice-Chair)

The Moderator Committee welcomed new members to the Committee this year, which increased our breadth across institutions and enhanced our ability to find moderators for all of the panels. All members of the Committee worked hard to fill the needed slots. As has been the trend, many panels and practically all Discussion Groups had already chosen moderators for their panels. This year we also found moderators for all of the Mindfulness panels and the Works-in-Progress panels and will continue to do so. With guidance from the Works-in-Progress Committee, we added specific moderator guidelines for those panels, just as we have specific moderator guidelines for New Scholars panels. Our Committee continues to be an important contact point for discovering if listed panelists no longer plan to attend for any reason, as we ask moderators to reach out to their speakers months in advance.

New Scholars Committee (Missy Lonegrass, Louisiana State University, Chair; John Anderson, Mississippi College, Vice-Chair)

The following is a report of the activities of the New Scholars Committee for the 2017-2018 academic year:

2017 New Scholars Program: Highlights

The 2017 New Scholars program included 37 participants organized into 10 panels. The panels generally went well with few technical or other issues—with the exception of two missing mentors and one very late moderator. Audience attendance at these panels was relatively low (as it has been in past years), but participation among audience members in Q&A was high (again, as is usually the case). Our substantive panels (Getting Out There and Inside the Mind of the Outside Reviewer) went smoothly and were well attended. The New Scholars Happy Hour was the best-attended ever.

Survey of 2017 New Scholars

Soon after the 2017 Conference ended, the Committee prepared and circulated its annual New Scholars Survey in cooperation with the Mentors Committee. New Scholars who participated in the 2017 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 20 out of 37 survey responses, which is a slight uptick from the past year. The survey was circulated immediately following the conference (consistent with last year).

Development of 2018 New Scholars Colloquia

Beginning in the fall and extending into the spring, the Committee accepted nominations to the 2018 New Scholars Program and organized participants into panels. The 2018 New Scholars Program has only 21

participants—the smallest number in recent memory. We can only attribute the relatively low participation to continuing decreases in travel budgets and the general lull in faculty hiring. We may want to think critically about how we can increase participation among member schools.

New Scholars panels are scheduled on Monday, August 6 and Wednesday, August 8. The Monday panels have been scheduled for 10:15 rather than during the traditional 8:00 time slot in an effort to determine if scheduling the New Scholars panels later in the day might increase attendance. Later scheduling has come with a slight downside: each panel has room for only three participants (rather than the traditional four). We did our best to organize the papers thematically, but given the low number of participants some of the panelists are rather imprecisely grouped.

New Scholars Committee members will be reaching out to a number of individuals and groups in an effort to increase audience size and participation at our panels. We intend to contact subject matter experts whose expertise aligns with New Scholars' presentations and encourage them to attend panels in their fields. We intend also to coordinate with the chair of the Moderators Committee (as we have in past years) and ask her to encourage moderators to ask panelists in the New Scholars program to sit in the audience (as a means of increasing audience size and facilitating conversation among panelists). We also intend to contact the chairs of the Prospective Law Teachers Program and ask them to encourage the participants in that program to attend New Scholars presentations. We hope that all of these measures will increase audience size and provide New Scholars with ample questions and feedback on their papers.

Substantive Panels

The New Scholars Committee took a hiatus from its tradition of organizing substantive panels on topics of interest to new scholars. We intend to return to this practice in 2019.

Socializing and Networking Opportunities

The New Scholars luncheon is scheduled for Tuesday, August 7. We anticipate that it will be well-attended, especially since the New Scholars program is only two days long and falls at the beginning of the conference. We anticipate that most New Scholars will be in attendance at the conference on Tuesday. Consistent with this, we have scheduled the New Scholars Happy Hour for the evening of the same day.

Summer Communications

Last year we communicated with the New Scholars during the summer primarily through the use of an online Newsletter. 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 New Scholars guidelines, and a reminder to look for and attend New Law Teachers Workshop programming. While a few of our surveyed participants said that they found the newsletter quite helpful, it is apparent that most of our New Scholars did not read the newsletter. We intend to revert back to traditional (text-based email) communications with New Scholars this summer to ensure that participants have complete information about the program.

Program Advisory Committee (Jonathan Cardi, Wake Forest University, 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 2018 meeting.

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, The University of Tennessee, and Leah Chan Grinvald, Suffolk University, Co-Chairs)

2018 marks the sixth consecutive year of the workshop, and the Prospective Law Teachers Workshop Committee is looking forward to continuing this workshop for the coming year. The feedback that we continue to receive from faculty volunteers and workshoppees has been overwhelmingly positive. The experience from both sides of the table makes for a productive and satisfying workshop.

In 2017, we instituted a number of program innovations designed to increase the level of feedback that the workshoppees receive from faculty volunteers, in addition to increasing the feeling of community. We held a welcome reception at the hotel bar the night before the workshop began. We had the workshoppees arrive a bit early each day to check-in with Brad and Leah. During the workshop, we reinvented the CV review session and ran it as a “round robin.” We split the workshoppees into two groups of six and placed each group of six into different rooms (for space purposes). We then paired each workshoppee with an individual faculty member volunteer. Each pairing had approximately 15 minutes to chat about the workshoppee’s CV or any questions the workshoppee had. The feedback we received from the workshoppees and the faculty members was that this session allowed for greater individual feedback and the opportunity to make connections with a wide range of faculty. We will continue this program feature in 2018.

In addition, our goal of having a minimum of five faculty members in the audience of each of the 12 job talks was met, and in fact, surpassed. We had an average of eight faculty members for each job talk room, which provided a great forum for each workshoppee to receive feedback on their presentation. Finally, to close the workshop, we had an informal reception after the last panel of the formal workshop programming to receive feedback from the workshoppees, which was quite successful. It provided an opportunity for the workshoppees to reflect on their experiences and their take-aways for the upcoming job market. This format also allowed for the workshoppees to provide Brad and Leah with valuable feedback about the workshop.

As in years past, we coordinated our dates with the New Professors Workshop so that the candidates can also take advantage of their programming on teaching, research, and service; indeed, we have strongly encouraged each workshoppee to attend these sessions as well. Further to this, in 2017, some workshoppees joined the New Scholars Luncheon, which we will strongly encourage in 2018, as it provides a natural complement to the workshop programming.

Our 2017 workshoppees have been quite successful on the job market, with about half of the workshoppees having already secured full-time positions at law schools. Workshoppees in current fellowship or visiting assistant professor (VAP) programs have also been helping us spread the word to their current colleagues or incoming colleagues about the value of the workshop. In addition, a number of former workshoppees have volunteered to take part in future workshops to be able to “pay it forward.” We continue to stay in touch with former workshoppees as they matriculate and grow into the legal academy.

2018 is shaping up to be just as impressive a year, with an increased number of inquiries from prospective workshoppees over the year prior. Our goal for 2018 is to increase the level and breadth of faculty participation, as well as the level of former workshoppee participation, in order to provide more individualized and productive feedback to each workshoppee.

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

As detailed in the annual report that we submitted at this time last year, the major activity and accomplishment of the Scholarly Research Committee (the “Committee”) for the academic year 2016-17 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 most members of a discussion group scheduled for the SEALS 2017 Conference. In keeping with the Committee’s longtime purpose of enhancing SEALS’s scholarly reputation, the Committee arranged with both the *Kentucky Law Journal* and the *Mercer Law Review* to make clear in their print symposia (which are now both nearing publication) that each stems from a SEALS discussion group and is co-sponsored by SEALS.

In the 2017-18 academic year, the Committee focused on building on the success of that new initiative. As of this writing, three law reviews have each reached agreement with a SEALS Conference discussion group or panel to publish a symposium. In addition, it is very likely that in the next few weeks, a fourth law review that we have been working with will do the same. Like the *Kentucky Law Journal* and the *Mercer Law Review* the year before, two of the three law reviews that have reached agreement with a SEALS Conference discussion group or panel will be hosting a live symposium as well as doing a print one. The third law review will be doing a print-only symposium. When each symposium is published, the publication will make clear the symposium’s SEALS origins and co-sponsorship.

The three law reviews that definitely will be doing a SEALS-based symposium are the *Mercer Law Review*, *The Scholar: St. Mary’s Law Review on Race and Social Justice*, and the *Stetson Law Review*. Not only is the *Mercer Law Review* doing a SEALS-based symposium for the second year in a row, but the editors were so interested in a SEALS discussion group that they seriously considered selecting last year—“Corporate and Financial Reform in the Trump Administration”—that they asked Gary, a Mercer faculty member, to contact that group’s moderator and ascertain whether the seven individuals in that group who had expressed interest in doing a live and print symposium a year ago remained interested. All seven reaffirmed their interest, and as he did last year, Gary has agreed to serve as the designated faculty “liaison” between the speakers and the *Mercer Law Review* editors. Colin, a St. Mary’s faculty member, identified *The Scholar: St. Mary’s Law Review on Race and Social Justice* as a good prospect to do a SEALS-based symposium, and the editors have agreed to do a symposium based on both a SEALS 2018 Conference panel, “Redefining Status: Intersections of Diversity and Status in the Legal Academy,” and a SEALS 2018 discussion group, “Promoting Inclusion and Equity: Connecting Disciplines, Legal Education, and the Legal Profession.” Nine members of the panel and group have committed to writing for the symposium. Thanks to Committee member Lou Virelli, a Stetson faculty member, the *Stetson Law Review* has agreed to do a symposium based on the SEALS 2018 discussion group, “Conversations on the Warren Court’s Impact on Criminal Justice.” Six members of that group are firmly committed to speaking at, and writing for, that symposium, and one or more others may commit to do so in the weeks ahead. The *Tennessee Journal of Law and Policy* is the likely fourth law review to be doing a SEALS-based symposium. Committee member Brad Areheart, a Tennessee faculty member, is responsible for sparking the journal’s interest in doing a SEALS-based symposium.

For purposes of future reference, we note one important respect in which the process that we followed this year differed from the process described at length in our report last year. Last year, we reached out to the

moderators of all the discussion groups and panels in the upcoming SEALS Conference and asked each moderator to poll the members of his or her group or panel for their willingness to commit to doing a live and print symposium. That generated little response, and we only succeeded in getting a significant number of concrete expressions of interest when we targeted particular discussion groups and panels and told each moderator that we saw his or her group or panel as very well suited for a symposium. This year, we decided to proceed by (1) giving the SEALS 2018 Conference Program to each law review that committed to doing a symposium and (2) asking the law review to get back to us with a list of up to ten panels and discussion groups that they saw as attractive possibilities for a symposium. We then (3) told each of the moderators of the named panels and discussion groups that his or her group or panel had been identified by a law review as a good symposium prospect, and (4) asked the moderator to poll within three weeks the members of the group or panel for their willingness to commit to doing a live and print symposium. We are confident that this change in process made the process more efficient and effective.

In our report last year, we outlined a new initiative that the Committee had agreed to undertake at the SEALS 2017 Conference itself. That initiative involved dividing up among the Committee's many members responsibility to attend particular discussion groups and panels at the Conference and then having each member write up within 24 hours a short account for the SEALS website of the one or two groups or panels he or she attended. The short accounts posted on the website highlighted various of the interesting scholarly debates that took place in the discussion groups and panels. By all indications, the initiative added significantly to the scholarly aspect of the Conference and was well received, and we intend to repeat it, with some minor refinements, at the SEALS 2018 Conference.

Finally, this year, like last, we worked with the Call for Papers Committee to promote the papers selected. A joint letter from our two committees was sent in early February to the flagship journal at every SEALS member school. The letter identified this year's winning papers and encouraged the editors to give the manuscripts special consideration in light of this award.

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

Members of the committee in attendance at the 2017 SEALS conference met to discuss various web and technology issues. We also discussed ways to enhance the use of social media generally, and Twitter in particular, to generate conversation at and about the conference. While no major initiatives have resulted from this discussion, it has recently been suggested that a partnership with the new marketing committee might be the best approach to move this idea forward.

Works-in-Progress Committee (Louis Virelli, Stetson University, Chair; Seema Mohapatra, Barry University, Vice-Chair)

The Works-in-Progress Series continues to be a popular choice among conference attendees. We had more than 20 scholars discussing their work in five groups at the 2016 Annual Meeting, and 12 scholars in four separate groups at the 2017 Meeting. We are currently scheduled to have 23 scholars participate in five separate groups at the 2018 Meeting.

The solicitation process has been an overall success. The Series is designed to encourage participation from everyone who would like to share an ongoing project with their colleagues, and so far it has managed to do that. We receive submissions from a wide range of scholars representing a wide range of institutions in a wide array of subject matter areas. The availability of individualized commentators for every participant who requests one has also been a popular feature of the Series, and one we plan to continue.

The biggest challenge in organizing the Series is trying to group scholars by subject area; because there are no guidelines for submissions to the Series, there are not always multiple participants with precisely the same expertise. Fortunately, due to the overall quality of the authors and their projects, what at first appeared to be a challenge has turned into something of a strength. The participants have expressed their gratitude for feedback from scholars with different backgrounds and perspectives that they otherwise may not have had a chance to work with, and the pairing of junior and senior scholars has also been productive, not only for generating interesting discussions about the participants' projects, but also for networking opportunities and professional development.

We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to everyone who has agreed to serve as a moderator or commentator in the Works-in-Progress Series, as well as Jancy Hoeffel, Lucas Osborne, and everyone else on the Moderator and Coordination Committee for their help in recruiting moderators for the program.