

SOUTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION OF LAW SCHOOLS

August 25, 16

Dear Dean:

At its 2017 Annual Meeting, the Southeastern Association of Law Schools (SEALS) will host its nineteenth annual New Scholars Workshop. The meeting will be held at the Boca Resort, at Boca Raton, Florida, from July 31 to August 6, 2017. We invite you to nominate junior faculty from your school to participate in this workshop.

The New Scholars Workshop serves a number of objectives. First, it provides new scholars with the opportunity to present a work in progress and receive feedback from their peers. Second, it enables them to showcase their scholarship and hone their presentation skills. Third, the workshop helps participants network with faculty from the region, as well as faculty from our numerous affiliates, exchanging ideas and possibly developing collaborative relationships. Finally, the workshop offers participants the opportunity to showcase their skills to publishing companies who regularly attend to observe new scholastic talent. All New Scholars Workshop participants must register for the SEALS meeting and pay the conference registration fee.

New Scholar Workshop participants typically are faculty with zero to six years of teaching experience, but SEALS is flexible. You can nominate anyone who you believe will benefit from the experience. Some workshop participants present a work that is nearing completion and use the workshop as a forum for making last minute refinements. Others use the workshop as a way to present an idea in order to further develop or crystallize the concept. Both approaches (or a combination of the two) have been well received in the past, and the New Scholars Workshop has been a great success.

In 2005, we added a mentoring component to the workshop, which has helped provide participants with additional feedback. We will be continuing the mentoring program this year and encourage you to nominate interested senior faculty members for the mentoring program. Not every nominated mentor will be needed, but many are, and the nominated mentors will be added to the master mentor list, so nominating someone who is a good mentor is important.

We ask that mentors contact their new scholar at least 30 days before the SEALS conference (and preferably sooner) to discuss the new scholar's presentation, and we also ask mentors to read a draft or outline of the new scholar's paper if one is provided. The mentor also should attend the new scholar's presentation, and give the new scholar confidential feedback after the presentation. We realize that the workshop's mentoring component is an added responsibility for tenured faculty. However, the use of mentors helps provide workshop participants with critically important advice and feedback on their scholarship and presentations. We appreciate your support of these efforts.

Some deans have inquired whether they can nominate two or more faculty members for the New Scholars Workshop. Because demand for the workshops has been high, we can only guarantee each school a single nomination. However, we try to accommodate requests for additional slots

on a space-available basis. If you would like to nominate more than one member of your faculty, please indicate a preferential order in the event we cannot accept multiple candidates from the each school. Additionally, there are many other ways that new faculty can become involved in SEALS; for example, we are always seeking faculty to serve on substantive panels in their areas of expertise.

If you would be kind enough to forward your nominations (both new scholars and mentors) to each of us no later than November 15th, we would appreciate it. In order to perfect the nomination, and hold the New Scholar's slot, we need a tentative title for the talk. However, the title can be changed up until May 1, 2017. An e-mail nomination is fine provided that a tentative title is included. We have developed an online submission process for New Scholar nominations. The link is located on SEALS' website: www.sealslawschools.org.

Should you have questions, please feel free to contact either of us. You may do so at the phone numbers listed below, but preferably by e-mail (see below)

Sincerely,

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