

SOUTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION OF LAW SCHOOLS, INC. (SEALS)  
*Minutes of 2020 Annual Meeting*

**Call to Order.** The 2020 Annual Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Southeastern Association of Law Schools, Inc., convened on August 3, 2020, on Zoom. President Colin Marks called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m. He thanked the attendees for serving on the Steering Committee.

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

**Minutes.** Kathy Cerminara announced that the 2019 minutes had been posted in advance of the meeting. No additions were made to the minutes other than for typographical errors. The minutes were approved (motion by David Brennen; seconded by Joan Heminway) by voice vote with no objection.

She announced that Committee reports will be included as Appendix A to these minutes, which will be available on the website shortly after the annual meeting ends. She asked that any Committees not submitting their reports should please send them to Caprice for inclusion. The reports are used by the Board to, among other things, evaluate the continuing efficacy of individual committees and relevance of their activities.

**Election of Officers and Trustees.** Kathy Cerminara announced that information about the election process for 2020 had been posted to the website after the 2019 meeting.

She indicated that information about each nominee was provided to the designated representatives by the date posted on the website. One nomination was received and accepted for executive director: Russell Weaver. Two nominations were received and accepted for vice-president/president elect: Caroline Osborne (West Virginia University) and Ben Spencer (William and Mary). Two nominations were received and accepted for the at-large trustee position: Robert McFarland (Faulkner University) and Charles (Rocky) Rhodes (South Texas College of Law).

She explained that balloting would proceed online and reminded attendees that only one representative per dues-paid Institutional Member school could vote. Those who were unsure whether their schools are affiliate or institutional members

could learn through the SEALS website and had been emailed a link about that last week.

She asked if there were questions or comments. Hearing none, she then explained the Board and officer election procedure, which includes initial balloting and necessary run-offs, found in By-Laws Article VII, Section 4: “Election is by a majority of the votes cast. . . . [I]f no candidate receives a majority of votes on the initial ballot, the procedure is that “one candidate will be eliminated by drawing a single name from a receptacle containing the names of each candidate receiving an equal number of votes.”

The choices for voters are “for,” “against,” and “abstain.” An abstention counts as a vote being cast, meaning that when the fraction of positive votes cast is computed, the “abstain” will be counted within the denominator.

She asked the members of the Steering Committee to vote online through Qualtrics for the three positions and then to refrain from submitting their ballots pending the vote on the final question on the ballot. The Steering Committee members did so.

**Bylaws Amendment.** Kathy Cerminara reminded the attendees that a SEALS bylaw amendment had been circulated by email on July 6, 2020. The amendment re-incorporates provisions inadvertently dropped from SEALS organizational documents in reforming the articles and bylaws in 2018.

After asking if there were any questions, Kathy Cerminara explained the voting procedure for the bylaws amendment. The bylaws provide, in Article XI on amendment:

**Section 5. Passage Requirement.** A proposed amendment shall become effective after such proposed amendment has been submitted to the Institutional Members for approval and when approved by two-thirds (2/3) of those voting in a ballot conducted in a manner permitted by the applicable Florida statutes, provided that at least one-half of the Institutional Members cast ballots.

She asked if there were questions or comments. Hearing none, the voting proceeded. The choices for voters were “for,” “against,” and “abstain,” defined as it was earlier. Attendees voted online through Qualtrics and submitted their ballots.

Qualtrics calculated all the results. Russell Weaver was re-elected as SEALS' executive director; Caroline Osborne was elected as SEALS vice-president/president-elect; and Charles (Rocky) Rhodes was elected as at-large trustee for the period 2020-2023.

The bylaws amendment passed.

**Next Elections.** Kathy Cerminara announced that information about the 2021 election will be posted to the website shortly after the 2020 meeting ends. Nominations will open at that time. The vice-president/president-elect will be elected from a school in Georgia or Alabama. The other open positions are secretary and at-large trustee. Those positions can be filled by faculty members from any Institutional Member school other than a school represented by one of the nine Board members. The names, institutional affiliations, and positions of officers and board members for 2020-21 are included as Appendix B to these minutes.

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

**Site Selection Information.** Executive Director Russ Weaver reported that SEALS had contracted for sites for the Boca Resort & Club in 2021; the Sandestin Golf & Beach Resort in 2022; the Boca Resort & Club in 2023; the Marriott Harbor Beach Ft. Lauderdale in 2024; the Omni Amelia Island in 2025, 2026, and 2027; and the Marriott Harbor Beach Ft. Lauderdale in 2028.

**Program and Committee Updates.** Russ Weaver reported on the unusual year. Thanks to the Marriott's agreement to apply the force majeure clause of SEALS' contract to avoid payment of penalties associated with having to convert to online programming.

As for the program, he noted that the virtual meeting seems to have gone quite well. He thanked Dean Megan Carpenter of the University of New Hampshire for volunteering Zoom services and support, and Peter Jetton of Washington and Lee University for exceptional website support. He thanked all the committees, which are the lifeblood of SEALS, for their hard work.

While committees for the next year are usually appointed by this time, those appointments will be delayed this year due to work associated with the need to convert the program to the virtual format. He invited members to submit names for committee membership to him and Deputy Executive Director Caprice Roberts. A

reminder of that invitation and a list of committees and brief descriptions will be circulated after this meeting.

### **Board Action Items and Other Information.**

**Positions.** Russ Weaver announced that Caprice Roberts will serve again this year as deputy executive director, subject to Board approval, and complimented her tremendous efforts this year in converting the program from in-person to virtual. This position is a non-board, appointed position for one year.

Joan Heminway also will serve again as compliance officer, subject to Board approval. The position is a non-board, appointed position for three years.

**Treasurer's Report.** Tom Metzloff reported that the corporation is doing well financially, thanks to avoidance of potential penalties of about \$350,000 for cancelling this year's in-person meeting sessions. He explained that SEALS has three main sources of income: dues, conference registration fees, and sponsorships. The sponsors are carrying over their sponsorships, and registration for the conference is only slightly down, being around 600 rather than the usually 700-plus. Dues had been coming in at a faster rate than usual until March, which payments virtually ceased, perhaps because of COVID shutdowns meaning lack of staff in offices to process the payments. He noted that a number of members' dues remain unpaid and asked attendees to see him if unsure whether their institutions have paid their SEALS dues. The Board continues its efforts to keep expenses under control.

### **Recognition-Related Items.**

**New Members.** Colin Marks asked the Steering Committee to welcome five new affiliate members, Albany, Detroit Mercy, Quinnipiac, St. John's, and Utah. He asked any representatives in attendance from those schools to indicate their presence for the recognition of the others on Zoom.

**Acknowledgements.** Colin Marks thanked the schools, companies, and other individuals and groups that had agreed to sponsor events at the planned in-person 2020 meeting, and then agreed to have their sponsorships carried over to next year. They are: the American Bar Association, Carolina Academic Press, iDesign, iLaw, MF Digital Marking, West Academic, and Wolters Kluwer.

Colin also thanked Dean Megan Carpenter of the University of New Hampshire Franklin Pierce School of Law for generously agreeing to provide technology resources to enable the conference to be run virtually this year. From UNH, A.J. Kierstead took the lead in organizing all of the Zoom sessions, and Paul LaClair and Richard Mechaber assisted. The conference could not have happened without them.

**Distinguished Award.** Colin Marks announced two Distinguished Service Awards, to Tom Metzloff and Caprice Roberts, for exceptional service to the organization in transitioning registration and program plans from those needed for an in-person to those needed for a virtual conference.

**Call for Papers Winners.** Colin Marks announced this year's Call for Papers winners: Hannah Bloch-Wehba, *Access to Algorithms* (Drexel University Thomas R. Kline School of Law); Susan Hazeldean, *Privacy as Pretext* (Brooklyn Law School); Zachary D. Kaufman, *Protectors of Predators or Prey: Bystanders and Upstanders Amid Sexual Crimes* (University of Houston Law Center).

**Recognition of Staff.** Colin Marks thanked Maggie Bratcher, Christina Hood, Judy Perry, Tracie Cole, and John Plummer for providing superb pre-meeting and on-site support. He also thanked Peter Jetton for his efforts with the website, magnified this year by the need to convert to a virtual format. 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. Colin Marks asked the Steering Committee to thank the committees and their chairs.

**Committee Recognition.** Colin Marks asked the Steering Committee to recognize the members of the New Scholars Committee for their excellent work on that committee. Those members are chair Missy Lonegrass, vice-chair John Anderson, Darren Bush, Atiba Ellis, Chris Lund, Gwen Majette, Seema Mohapatra, Ed Rubin, Kenya Smith, and Karen Sneddon.

**Recognition of Officers and Board Members.** Board members and officers are responsible for governance of the organizations. Colin Marks asked the Steering Committee to recognize his fellow officers and board members: David Brennen, Kathy Cerminara, Joan Heminway, Margaret Hu (who is leaving the board after this meeting), Missy Lonegrass, Colin Marks, Tom Metzloff, Elizabeth

Pendo, and Russ Weaver. Outgoing officers and board members receive gavels commemorating their service.

Colin Marks asked the Steering Committee to express its 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.** Colin Marks read the list of deceased faculty members (and deceased retired faculty members). The list below reflects names received before and during the meeting.

Howard Abrams, University of Detroit Mercy  
Frank Anderson, Albany Law School  
Donald Baker, University of Alabama  
Fletcher Baldwin, University of Florida  
James W. Beard, Jr., Texas Southern University  
David Combe, Tulane University  
Wilhelmina Reuben Cooke, University of the District of Columbia  
Joe Crea, Brooklyn Law School  
Victoria Dodd, Suffolk University  
Robert Felix, University of South Carolina  
Janet Flaccus, University Arkansas Fayetteville  
Hoffman Fuller, Tulane University  
Oscar Gray, University of Maryland  
Bob Habl, Brooklyn Law School  
Carol Henderson, Stetson University  
Robert "Gill" Johnston, University of Illinois Chicago  
Norman Lefstein, University of North Carolina  
Kathryn Venturatos Lorio, Loyola University New Orleans  
Jim McGoldrick, Pepperdine University  
Francis McGovern, Duke University  
George Pugh, Louisiana State University  
Ronald Smith, University of Illinois Chicago  
Terry Smith, St. Thomas University  
Athornia Steele, Nova Southeastern University

**Presidential Seal.** Colin Marks explained that he had earlier turned the Presidential Seal over to President-Elect David Brennen. After this year, David will be president of the organization until after the 2021 meeting.

**International Affiliations.** Russ Weaver noted that most of the many scheduled international attendees could not be present in person this year, but a number of individuals still participated in sessions online. He thanked Patrick Hugg of Loyola University New Orleans for the great job he had done on the Global Outreach Committee and recognized the following two international organizations for their consistent support of and affiliation with SEALS: the European Law Faculties Association (ELFA) and the IMODEV (Paris, France).

### **Meeting-Related Items.**

**Panels and Room Block for 2021.** Colin Marks announced that solicitation of panels, discussion groups and other events for the 2021 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 2020 Program.** Colin Marks indicated that faculty will have an opportunity to comment on the post-meeting survey. He 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.** Colin Marks reminded members that those who sign up for the SEALS blog will receive notification when items are posted. Sign up via the website.

**Final Kudos.** Immediately prior to adjourning, Kathy Cerminara led the Steering Committee in thanking Colin Marks for his outstanding efforts as President this year, and David Brennen spoke briefly of how impressed he had been with the Board's work in light of the exceptional circumstances this year. While hoping for an in-person event next year, he praised the efforts of everyone, but especially Tom Metzloff as Treasurer, in ending the year in a financially positive position.

**Adjournment.** The Steering Committee Meeting adjourned at 12:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy L. Cerminara  
Secretary

**Attendance**  
**Representatives of Institutional Member Schools**  
**(one vote per school)**

Beiner, Theresa-Arkansas Little Rock	Nachman, Dorothy-North Carolina Central
Bock, Jeremy-Tulane	Nance, Jason-Florida
Brennen, David-Kentucky	Nathanson, Ira-St. Thomas
Campbell, Charles-Faulkner	Niedringhaus, Kris-Georgia State
Cerminara, Kathy-Nova Southeastern	Osborne, Caroline-West Virginia
Davis, Tressa-South Carolina	Owsley, Brian-North Texas Dallas
Farringer, Deborah-Belmont	Pendo, Elizabeth-St. Louis
Faucon, Casey-Alabama	Pomeroy, Chad-St. Mary's
Faulkner, Keith-Liberty	Reid, Melanie-Emory
Glickman, Robert-George Washington	Rhodes, Rocky-South Texas
Green, Michael-Texas A&M	Rychlak, Ronald-Mississippi
Heminway, Joan-Tennessee	Smith, Dexter-William & Mary
Hirsch, Jeffrey-North Carolina	Smith-Butler, Lisa-Charleston
Kan, Sam-Barry	Soonpaa, Nancy-Texas Tech
Katz, Elizabeth-Washington	Steffey, Matt-Mississippi College
Keller, Diedre-Florida A&M	Wasserman, Howard-Florida International
Kelsaw, Ericka-Texas Southern	Weaver, Russell-Louisville
King, J.D. – Washington & Lee	
Kwok, David-Houston	
Lain, Corinna-Richmond	
Lonegrass, Melissa- Louisiana State	
Madison, Ben-Regent	
Metzloff, Thomas-Duke	
Myers, Gary-Missouri	

**Representatives of Affiliate Member Schools, Officers,**  
**Board Members, Nominees**  
**(no voting rights)**

Archerd, Erin-Detroit Mercy  
Grinvald, Leah-Suffolk  
Henderson, Stephen-Oklahoma  
Marks, Colin-St. Mary's (institutional but attending as officer/Board member)  
McFarland, Rob-Faulkner (institutional but attending as nominee)  
Scharf, Rebecca-UNLV  
Sheley, Erin-California Western



Sinha, G. Alexa-Quinnipiac  
Zimmerman, Emily-Drexel

## **Staff**

Maggie Bratcher

## **Appendix A: 2019–2020 Committee Reports**

### **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), Ellen Black (Belmont), Gary Meyers (Missouri), Steve Friedland (Elon), Marco Jimenez (Stetson), John Stinneford (Florida), and 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 consistent with recent years. Almost most 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: Susan Hazeldean, *Privacy as Pretext*; Zachary D. Kaufman, *Protectors of Predators or Prey: Bystanders and Upstanders Amid Sexual Crimes*; and Hannah Bloch-Wehba, *Access to Algorithms*. These papers will be presented remotely at the annual meeting.

### **Electronic Education Committee/Online Education Program Annual Report 2019-2020 (Chair Jon Garon, Nova) Updated July 30, 2020**

#### *Mission*

The mission of the SEALS Electronic Education Committee is to encourage the development of best practices for online and blended learning for individual faculty instructors, program development, law school administrations, and regulatory bodies. Through programs at SEALS and collaborations with committees at AALS, CALI, AccessLex, LSAC, and other associations working on the development of online, electronic, and blended education, the Electronic Education Committee fosters the development of teaching materials, pedagogical practices, and recommendations on governance norms.

#### *SEALS 2020 Committee Highlights*

So much has changed for legal education regarding online and electronic education as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020 and the universal adoption of at least some online courses as well as the increase in ABA variances for online legal education programs. The pandemic has also changed the practice of law, requiring lawyers to have skills in Zoom meetings, online verification of parties, and other technologies to support the practice of law in an online environment.

As an experiment, the Online Education Committee has launched a Discord site to supplement the ongoing interaction at its panels. Anyone from SEALS (or any ABA law school faculty and staff member) can join. The link is here: <https://discord.gg/CFKSKEg>

Lisa Smith-Butler and her colleagues at Charleston School of Law have created a “Libguide,” a digital bibliography on online learning as part of the SEALS Online Ed panels. It may be accessed at <https://charlestonlaw.libguides.com/distance-education>.

For the upcoming 2020 SEALS meeting, the Electronic Education Committee is sponsoring/cosponsoring six programs addressing a wide range of considerations for online, electronic, and blended education. The programs are:

- **Discussion Group: Online & Hybrid Learning Pedagogy Best Practices and Standards Development**
- **Panel: Accreditation, State Regulation, and Variance Usage**
- **Panel: Developing Content for Online Courses**
- **Discussion Group: Law School Governance Surrounding Online Implementation**
- **Discussion Group: Best Practices for Online Instruction and Assessment**
- **Discussion Group: Master Class for Experienced Online Educators**

The Discord chat and other projects may continue beyond the SEALS 2020 virtual meetings to help facilitate the rapid changes in teaching and learning in the online environment. If you want to join the committee, please let the chairperson, Jon Garon, know with an email: [garon@nova.edu](mailto:garon@nova.edu).

#### *Committee Members*

Jon Garon (Nova Southeastern) (Chair) [garon@nova.edu](mailto:garon@nova.edu)  
Kenneth Randall (Alabama)  
Lisa Smith-Butler (Charleston)  
Vickie Sutton (Texas Tech.)  
Ellen Podgor (Stetson)  
Gordon Russell (Lincoln Memorial)  
Brian Sites (Barry)  
Ellen Murphy (Wake Forest University School of Law)  
Spencer Weber Waller (Loyola University Chicago School of Law)  
Susan Stephan (Nova Southeastern University Shepard Broad College of Law)  
Max Huffman (Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law)  
William Byrnes (Texas A&M University School of Law)  
Rebecca Purdom (Emory University School of Law)

#### **SEALS Global Outreach Committee Annual Report 2019-2020 (Co-Chairs Greg Bowman, Dean, Roger Williams University Law School, and Patrick Hugg, Professor Emeritus, Loyola University New Orleans College of Law)**

Special thanks to SEALS Executive Director, Professor Russ Weaver, for active support of this committee and his recruiting of many of the international speakers.

It has been a year of exciting expanding relationships. The past 12 months have been marked by dynamic expansion of the committee's global outreach, yet frustrated by the Covid 19 cancellation of our physical meeting in Fort Lauderdale. To have so many international scholars join SEALS colleagues at our conference would have been special. Nonetheless, the virtual collaboration remains richly valuable.

At this year's conference, twenty-one international scholars will participate online, from law faculties in Peking and Hong Kong, China; Lisbon, Portugal; Paris, France; Hannover, Mainz, and Breuhl, Germany; Katowice and Poznań, Poland, Budapest, Hungary; Doha, Qatar; Ankara, Turkey; and Bucharest Romania.

They will be joined in the multiple panels listed below by twenty-eight colleagues from U.S. law schools. We are pleased at this outpouring of interest and participation.

Especially noteworthy this year is the collaboration between SEALS and the European Legal Practice Integrated Studies (ELPIS) Network. The group was to be represented in Fort Lauderdale by many members, and several are participating in the workshop on Internationalization-ELPIS (see description below). Other panels include similar Workshops on International Collaborative Learning, a Workshop on the Law of Hong Kong, a Workshop on Collaborative Learning, as well as a Discussion Group on International Cooperation and Faculty Exchanges, a Discussion Group on the EU's General Data Protection, and a Workshop on Free Speech (involving multiple international participants).

**ADDENDUM OF PROGRAMMING DEVELOPED BY THE GLOBAL OUTREACH COMMITTEE  
WORKSHOP ON INTERNATIONALIZATION  
ELPIS (European Legal Practice Integrated Studies)**

Faculty Representatives from the European Legal Practice Integrated Studies" (ELPIS) group will address: "Today's Crucial Issues in Legal Education and the ELPIS Approach to European, Comparative, International and Global Law Learning, Teaching and Researching, featuring presentations with different views on with methodological issues, and theoretical discussions on issues presented in today's legal education, and other topics of interest. The ELPIS network includes more than 35 European Faculties as members and realizes exchanges of students, professors and staff members under the Erasmus framework, at the same time organizes pedagogical or scientific conferences and other activities. Another branch of the ELPIS group, is the ELPIS Master Program, that is led by the Faculties of Hannover, Lisbon, Rouen and Myklos Romeris (Vilnius).

**Moderator:** Professor Vasco Pereira da Silva, University of Lisbon Faculty of Law (Portugal), & Chair, Elpis Network,

**Speakers:** Professor Nuno Cunha Rodriguez, University of Lisbon Faculty of Law (Portugal), & Vice-President, European Institute; Professor Elvin Evrim Dalkilic, Bilkent University Faculty of Law (Turkey); Professor Class Friedrich Germelmann, University of Hanover Faculty of Law (Germany), & Faculty Coordinator for International Relations; Professor Arndt Künnecke, Federal University of Applied Sciences for Public Administration (Breuhl, Germany); Professor Dan Oancea, University of (Bucharest, Romania), & Head, Department of Public Law; Dean Bernd Opperman, University of Hanover Faculty of Law (Germany), & Former ELPIS Chair.

## **WORKSHOP ON INTERNATIONALIZATION**

### **Law in Hong Kong SAR, Peoples' Republic of China**

The panel addresses the international and transnational dynamics of legal instruction in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the Peoples' Republic of China. These dynamics are discussed from the dual perspectives of American law school faculty that have visited Hong Kong and faculty of the City University of Hong Kong School of Law teaching amidst current social developments. The discussion covers both international/transnational instructional issues and the role of the rule of law in the world.

**Moderator:** Professor Todd Berger, Syracuse University College of Law

**Speakers:** Professor Jason Buhi, Barry University, Dwayne O. Andreas School of Law; Professor Stephenson Pok Yin Chow, City University of Hong Kong; Professor Patrick Hugg, Loyola University New Orleans College of Law; Professor Jeffrey Thomas, University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law; Professor Julia Tomassetti, City University of Hong Kong

## **WORKSHOP ON INTERNATIONALIZATION**

### **International Collaborative Teaching**

This panel will explore innovative pedagogical approaches to transnational teaching. Over the past decade technology has made it increasingly possible for professors to teach transnationally. A professor in one country can teach students, in real time, who are in another part of the world. Professors in multiple countries can co-teach the same class. And importantly, the classroom can be "internationalized" with students in different countries taking the same course, taught by the same faculty. These students learn and discuss the same material, sharing thoughts across borders. This panel is designed to highlight the advantages of transnational teaching, best-practices and challenges. This panel is geared toward faculty who currently teach transnationally and those that wish to do so.

**Moderators:** Professor Todd Berger, Syracuse University College of Law; Professor Conrad Sturm, Qatar University College of Law (Qatar)

**Speakers:** Professor Christopher Kelley, University of Arkansas School of Law; Professor Brian Krumm, The University of Tennessee College of Law; Professor Martyna Kusak, Adam Mickiewicz University (Poznań, Poland); Professor Michael Losavio, University of Louisville Brandeis School of Law; Professor Małgorzata Pohl Michałek, University of Silesia (Poland)

### **Discussion Group: International Cooperation and Faculty Student Exchanges**

As law schools become more global, interactions between faculty and students in international institutions is important. Many international promotion standards and research frameworks encourage collaboration with international partners. This discussion group brings together both U.S. and foreign scholars to consider the mechanics of facilitating those relationships, from funding sources, to logistics of identifying scholars and students, challenges of living in the U.S. and living abroad for short periods of time, comparing expectations of faculty and students in the U.S. and in international settings, considering the fruits of international collaboration, and other important considerations for institutions seeking to become more purposeful in developing international partnerships. Certificates will be provided for international participants.

**Moderator:** Professor Marc Roark, Southern University Law Center

**Discussants:** Professor Lisa Avalos, Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center; Professor Jennifer Bard, University of Cincinnati College of Law; Professor Todd Berger, Syracuse University College of Law; Professor Rafal Blicharz, University of Silesia (Poland);

Professor Rob Blitt, The University of Tennessee College of Law; Dean Gregory Bowman, Roger Williams University School of Law; Professor Fernando Colon-Navarro, Texas Southern University, Thurgood Marshall School of Law; Professor Kevin Govern, Ave Maria School of Law; Professor Joan Hemingway, The University of Tennessee College of Law; Professor Patrick Hugg, Loyola University New Orleans College of Law; Professor Vaughn James, Texas Tech University School of Law; Professor Colin Marks, St. Mary's University School of Law; Professor Luke Milligan, University of Louisville, Louis D. Brandeis School of Law; Professor Matthew Steffey, Mississippi College School of Law; Professor Constance Wagner, Saint Louis University School of Law; Professor Del Wright, University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law

### **Discussion Group: The EU's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)**

(In collaboration with IMODEV)

**Moderator:** Professor William Gilles, University of Paris I Pantheon-Sorbonne (France), IMODEV

**Discussants:** Professor William Araiza, Brooklyn Law School; Professor Stephen Black, Texas Tech University School of Law; Professor Irene Bouhadana, University of Paris I Pantheon-Sorbonne (France), IMODEV; Professor Jon Garon, Nova Southeastern University Shepard Broad College of Law; Professor Margaret Hu, Penn State Law; Professor András Koltay, Pázmány Péter Catholic University, Faculty of Law and Political Sciences (Hungary), and Rector, National University of Public Service (Hungary); Professor Wang Xixin, Peking University Law School (China)

### **Free Speech in an Era of Artificial Intelligence**

The First Amendment was drafted and ratified in the eighteenth century at a time when people communicated orally, or through handwritten or printed works. At the time, computers did not exist. During the ensuing centuries, societies have witnessed lots of change, including the development of computers and the internet. In today's world, people increasingly communicate through the internet through a variety of mediums, including social media platforms. In addition, artificial intelligence now exists so that communication can come, not only through real people, but also through bots, and questions have arisen regarding whether bot speech should be given the same value and the same protection as speech by humans. This panel will explore the implications of robotic speech for the First Amendment.

**Moderator:** Professor Gary Myers, University of Missouri School of Law

**Speakers:** Professor Ronnell Andersen Jones, The University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law; Professor Udo Fink, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz Faculty of Law, Management and Economics (Germany); Professor Jon Garon, Nova Southeastern University Shepard Broad College of Law; Professor Ines Gillich, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz Faculty of Law, Management and Economics (Germany); Professor András Koltay, Pázmány Péter Catholic University, Faculty of Law and Political Sciences (Hungary), and Rector, National University of Public Service (Hungary); Professor Russell Weaver, University of Louisville, Louis D. Brandeis School of Law

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

The Hospitality Committee since our last conference focused on preparing the very popular Hospitality Guide that we provided since I became chair 2 years ago and planning our welcome reception for new members and for prior participants needing on location information. Needless to say, that became moot, but our work was good and valuable for the future when hopefully we can meet again. Essentially what the committee has been doing for the past few years has been very well received by our members and appreciated as it provides very practical and necessary information for attending beyond just the registration information, and it encourages new participants to be involve and included with our new attendees reception.

**Inclusiveness Committee Annual Report 2019-2020  
(Chair Margaret Hu; Vice Chair Susan Kuo)**

For 2019-2020, the Inclusiveness Committee reviewed the surveys and other informal responses received from members who attended the 2019 Annual Meeting. Feedback included creating more formal conversations for how to structure and implement inclusion strategies into the legal academy. Additionally, members encouraged the Committee to work to ensure inclusive representation in SEALS leadership and programming. One member specifically encouraged more female voices and voices of color on panels and discussion group topics that might be viewed as historically under-represented.

The Inclusiveness Committee worked together with the SEALS Deputy Executive Director in developing and participating in programming initiatives that were responsive to member feedback, such as the “Beating the Odds” Discussion Group to offer a forum for non-traditional law faculty candidates. The Chair and Vice Chair participated in a robust dialogue on challenges in the legal academy in a post-Floyd and post-COVID environment at the 2020 Leading Edge conference, hosted by Wolters Kluwer, a SEALS’ meeting sponsor.

The Inclusiveness Committee also hosted a Discussion Group at the 2020 SEALS Annual Meeting titled, “The Future of Inclusivity.” The discussion was very thoughtful and provided potential action items for the participants on how to increase inclusion efforts at member institutions. Finally, the Inclusiveness Committee learned in 2020 that the Omni Amelia Island Hotel and Resort had dropped “Plantation” from the hotel name. The Inclusiveness Committee had drafted a letter for the Board to send to the Omni in 2016/2017, sharing the Inclusiveness concerns of its members and why “Plantation” was viewed as objectionable by some SEALS members.

**SEALS Marking Committee Annual Report 2019-2020**  
**Chair Jennifer S. Bard**  
**July 30, 2020**

The charge of the SEALS Marking Committee this year was to support enrollment in this coming year's annual meeting by sharing information with prospective attendees including deans about the many professional and personal benefits of SEALS both in general and in relation to specific existing programs, such as the new faculty hiring mechanism, and populations such as VAPS, New Faculty, Professional Staff (e.g., admissions, career services, student services, development), and other identifiable groups.

We did that by

1. Developing a bank of testimonials from faculty who had participated in the VAP or new faculty programming;
2. Drafting a marketing letter to Deans highlighting the role of SEALS as a source of high quality, low cost faculty development programming. Distributing a letter targeted to a more general audience through the different groups with whom members have connections;
3. Coordinating with the new faculty hiring committee to discuss ways the marketing committee could expand awareness of the program.

**Mentor Committee (Jasmine Abdel-Khalik, UMKC, 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 with the online format, but we still had an abundance of people to ask

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

**Moderators Committee Annual Report 2019-2020**  
**(Chair Janet Hoeffel; Vice Chair Lucas Osborn)**

The Moderator Committee successfully found and secured moderators for all panels and workshops for the 2020 SEALS Annual Conference (except Discussion Groups, who designate one of their own to serve as moderator). The moderators chosen adhere to the one-panel limitation of the SEALS conference (excepting Discussion Groups). The Moderator Committee



appointed as moderators people from diverse schools and with diverse backgrounds in order to be as inclusive as possible.

Beginning around April, at the direction of the chair, the Moderator Committee contacts every moderator to confirm participation and asks the moderator to confirm the participation of the respective panelists. The Committee also maintains and sends to moderators guidelines tailored for moderating regular panels, Works-In-Progress panels and New Scholars Workshops.

We have not experienced any issues or problems with our Committee work.

The transition to online only format due to COVID-19 went smoothly for our committee, thanks in large part to the herculean efforts by the SEALS administration, officers, and other committees. The vice-chair was available throughout the online conference to help with any moderator issues.

**New Scholars Committee Annual Report 2019-2020**  
**(Chair Melissa Lonegrass, LSU; Vice Chair John Anderson, Mississippi College)**  
**August 3, 2020**

The following is a report of the activities of the New Scholars Committee. This report summarizes both the 2019 New Scholars Program and the 2020 New Scholars Program.

2019 New Scholars Program: Highlights

The 2019 New Scholars Program included 26 participants. This represents a slight uptick from 2018, in which we hosted 22 participants. The panels generally went well with few technical or other issues. Audience attendance at these panels was increased slightly through a new initiative of the Committee, which was to appoint “discussants” to each panel – that is, one designated audience member per panelist, each of whom was asked in advance to commit to attend a particular panel. Another new initiative of the Committee was the development of a discussion group opportunity for our New Scholars. New Scholars were asked to participate in one of two discussion groups, both titled “The Next Article,” at which New Scholars and other attendees pitched new article ideas and received feedback and guidance on their future project. Both discussion groups were well-attended and well-received. The Happy Hour and New Scholars luncheon were both well-attended.

Survey of 2019 New Scholars

Soon after the 2018 Conference ended, the Committee prepared and circulated its annual New Scholars 2019 in cooperation with the Mentors Committee. We have remained committed to sending our survey out immediately after the conference in order to get the best response rate possible. We have also continued to use an online survey format with much success. We received 14/26 survey responses, which is a slight decrease in terms of a percentage from the past year. New Scholars who participated in the 2019 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.

## 2020 New Scholars Colloquia

Beginning in the fall and extending into the spring, the Committee accepted nominations to the 2020 New Scholars Program and organized participants into panels. The 2020 New Scholars Program had 28 participants lined up just prior to the onset of the pandemic. We worked very hard to get the number as high as it is, including by reaching out directly to newly hired faculty. Between the onset of the pandemic and the date of the conference, the number of New Scholars fell to 20. Most of the New Scholars who dropped out of the program asked to be included in the 2021 program.

New Scholars panels were scheduled to take place on Sunday, August 2 and Monday, August 3. All panels took place from 8:00-10:00 a.m., with the exception of one panel on which several panelists or mentors were located on the West Coast. That panel began at 10:15 a.m. (Eastern time) to accommodate the time difference for those panelists. As usual, we did our best to organize the papers thematically. Other than a few technical glitches related to the virtual format of the conference, the New Scholars panels ran smoothly. We continued our “The Next Article” discussion groups in 2020. As of the drafting of this report, one of those discussion groups had taken place. It was well-attended (12-14 discussants) and well-received. For obvious reasons, our usual socializing and networking opportunities for New Scholars (the New Scholars Luncheon and the New Scholars Happy Hour) did not take place in 2020.

### **SEALS Newer Law Professor Committee Annual Report 2019-2020 (Chair Steve Friedland, Elon)**

With Covid-19 forcing schools and SEALS to pivot to an online program in the spring of 2020, the Committee moved quickly to adapt to online presentations. Committee members volunteered and stepped up to organize and implement the remote program. Most of what we intended to offer in-person was translated to an online modality. To make this transition, numerous Zoom and WebX sessions occurred in the spring and early summer to redesign each of the sessions.

The Newer Law Professor Committee 2020 program maintained its core sessions on teaching and scholarship, continued its relationship with the Prospective Law Professors group, and advanced some experiments with different session formats. For example, we decided to try break-out groups (prior to Covid-19) for discussants to meet in small numbers to talk about their own teaching packages. The Committee advanced its effort to highlight important issues, such as mentoring, ethics in the classroom, the experience of law school, and how great teachers approach the classroom. We hope the online version will be as good if not better than the in-person programming.

### **SEALS Program Advisory Committee Annual Report 2019-2020 (Chair, Jonathan Cardi, Wake Forest)**

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 the Executive Director would like broader and more diverse viewpoints. Committee input was not needed for the 2020 meeting.

**SEALS Program Formatting Committee Annual Report 2019-2020**  
**(Chair Ben Cooper, Ole Miss)**  
**August 3, 2020**

The Program Formatting Committee successfully completed its mission this year: formatting the full conference schedule and day-at-a-glance. The committee had to adjust to new circumstances. First, the uncertainty of whether there would even be a conference, and, if so, whether it would be in person or remote. That uncertainty changed the timing of our work. Second, once the conference went completely remote, we shifted to a completely online program. We successfully adjusted to these circumstances and were able to complete our work in a timely manner.

**Prospective Law Teachers Workshop Committee Annual Report 2019-2020**  
**(Chair Leah Chan Grinvald, Suffolk)**

The 2019 Prospective Law Teachers Workshop Committee, Co-Chaired by Brad Areheart (Tennessee) and Leah Chan Grinvald (Suffolk), was another successful year for the Prospective Law Teachers Workshop. Our main goal for 2019, our eighth consecutive year, was to increase former workshoppee participation, which we were able to do. We expect even more participation going forward, as more former workshoppees return to the SEALS conference after settling into their new faculty positions.

This year, all workshoppees attended the New Scholars Luncheon, which took place directly after the CV/FAR review session. The New Scholars Luncheon was well-attended and even required the addition of chairs at the last minutes. One of the pieces of feedback we received last year was that it would be helpful if the CV review included a review of draft FAR forms. So this year, for the first time, we asked faculty volunteers to review FAR forms as part of the CV review session. That was a big hit and we plan on continuing it in the future. It was another record year for faculty volunteers, with close to 100 individual faculty members helping out over the course of the workshop. This allowed us to have 10-12 faculty members in each job talk room, better simulating the faculty-filled room at call back interviews. For the mock interviews that simulate those which occur prior to callbacks, we had at least three faculty volunteers in each interview room.

Our 2019 workshoppees have seen a great deal of success on the job market, with the majority securing full-time, tenure-track positions at law schools in a variety of different types of positions, including doctrinal, clinical, and legal writing.

**SEALS Resource Teams Annual Report 2019-2020**  
**(Chair, Caprice Roberts, George Washington)**

Resource Teams were instrumental in building programming content this year. Since 2016, the Vice-Chair of Programming has developed Resource Teams to help generate content across varied

subject matter. We are well underway with 36 Resource Teams and more teams in the works. The teams range from Health Law to Tax Law, from Law & Humanities to Privacy Law, from Indian Law to Property. All existing teams and committee information may be found on our committee page: <https://sealslawschools.org/boards-and-committees/resource-teams/>. We welcome suggestions for additional topics and interested professors.

SEALS maintains its fully democratic and open session submissions. Such that anyone can propose content on any topic. The Resource Teams simply ensure momentum toward possible submissions in the given area.

With most schools going virtual in March 2020 due to the coronavirus, SEALS leadership facilitated cutting edge programming on digital learning and the impact of covid-19. Resource Teams helped to ensure that program content remained intact when SEALS made the decision to go fully virtual for the #SEALS2020 conference.

As the SEALS Deputy Executive Director and Vice Chair of Programming, I am grateful for a successful, vibrant—albeit virtual—SEALS, and I am especially thankful for all of our submitters and attendees for remaining dedicated to advancing provocative content and broadening the SEALS community.

**Scholarly Research Committee Annual Report 2019-2020**  
**(Co-Chairs Colin Marks and Gary Simson)**  
**August 5, 2020**

Over the past year, three law reviews did SEALS-based symposia: *Mercer Law Review*, *Stetson Law Review*, and *Tennessee Journal of Law and Policy*. The Mercer and Stetson journals did live and print symposia; the Tennessee journal did only a print symposium.

Two journals will be doing SEALS-based symposia in the coming year. *Stetson Law Review* will be doing its third consecutive SEALS-based symposium. This one will be with members of the 2020 SEALS Annual Conference discussion group, “The Civil Procedure Transformation after Fifteen Years of the Roberts Court.” The *Florida International University Law Review* will be doing a symposium with a discussion group or panel still to be determined.

In the past, we have also tasked committee members to do short write-ups on selected panels and discussion groups. For the 2020 SEALS Annual Conference, due to a number of our committee members not being able to participate, we did not create a set schedule but simply asked members who did attend a session to write up a summary for the blog. Despite the lack of formal assignments, a number of committee members wrote up short accounts for the SEALS website of highlights of discussion groups and panels they attended.

**SEALS Sponsorship Committee Annual Report 2019-2020**  
**(Chair, Scott Bauries, Kentucky)**

In 2019-2020, SEALS continued to receive support from its sponsors, including West, Wolters-Kluwer, CAP, iLaw, iDesign, BARBRI, ABA, Fast Case, and MF Digital Marketing. Although there was no in-person meeting for SEALS2020, our sponsors remained dedicated to

SEALS and committed to support SEALS2021. Scott Bauries agreed to lead our Sponsorship Committee. Upcoming goals for 2020-2021 include seeking to develop additional sponsorship relationships.

**Website, Technology & Communications Annual Report 2019-2020**  
**(Chair Christina Sautter, LSU)**

This year Christina Sautter (LSU) took over as the Chair of the Website, Technology, and Communications Committee and Sydney Beckman (Lincoln Memorial U.) and Kelly Olson (U. Arkansas Little Rock) served as Committee members. The Committee completed a comprehensive review of the SEALS Website, which it submitted to the SEALS Executive Board. This review included checking all links to ensure they were current and live, flagging items which appeared to not have been updated recently, and making recommendations for other updates to the website. The Committee looks forward to further enhancing the SEALS Website so that it becomes even more user-friendly.

**SALS Works-in-Progress Committee Annual Report 2019-2020**  
**(Chair, Louis Virelli, Stetson)**

The Works-in-Progress Committee had a busy and productive fifth year as a stand-alone committee. The Works-in-Progress Series at the Annual Meeting, which is the Committee's primary undertaking, had 35 scholars agree to participate in six separate groups to discuss their ongoing scholarly projects with one another. Despite the uncertainty and disruption created by the COVID-19 pandemic, more than 25 scholars ultimately participated in those six groups at the 2020 Annual Meeting. The feedback from participants was positive, and the Committee was particularly pleased that the Series included two groups, focusing on clinical education and legal research and writing, that organized their own slate of participants as part of the Series. The Committee hopes these groups and others will continue to think of the Series as a place to come discuss their scholarship with colleagues in their field.

The Committee owes a tremendous debt of gratitude to everyone who served as moderators in the Series, as well as Ben Cooper, Caprice Roberts, Peter Jetton, and the entire Moderator and Coordination Committee, especially the Chairs of that committee, Jancy Hoeffel and Lucas Osborn, for their help in finding moderators. We look forward to another successful year in 2020-2021.

## Appendix B: 2020-2021 Officers and Board Members

The following individuals will serve in 2020–2021. Those elected in 2020 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.)

<i>Caroline Osborne (Vice President/President-Elect)</i>	JOAN HEMINWAY (CORPORATE COMPLIANCE OFFICER)
Colin Marks (Past President)	Tom Metzloff (Treasurer)
David Brennen (President)	Missy Lonegrass (At-Large; term ends 2021)
<i>Russ Weaver (Executive Director)</i>	Elizabeth Pendo (At-Large; term ends 2022)
CAPRICE ROBERTS (DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR)	Charles (Rocky) Rhodes (At-Large; term ends 2023)
Kathy Cerminara (Secretary)	

## Appendix C: Rotation of Presidency

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

- 2022: Georgia and Alabama (president-elect elected at 2021 meeting)
- 2023: Florida
- 2024: North Carolina and South Carolina
- 2025: Arkansas and Missouri
- 2026: Maryland and District of Columbia
- 2027: Mississippi and Louisiana
- 2028: Texas
- 2029: Tennessee and Kentucky
- 2030: Virginia and West Virginia