

Society of American Law Teachers SALT

Public Advocacy Center, Room 223

Touro Law Center

225 Eastview Drive, Central Islip NY 11722

631 650 2310

www.saltlaw.org

Co-Presidents

Raquel Aldana

Steven Bender

Past Presidents

Norman Dorsen

Howard Lesnick

David Chambers

George Alexander

Wendy Williams

Rhonda R. Rivera

Emma Coleman Jordan

Charles Lawrence

Howard Glickstein

Sylvia Law

Patricia A. Cain

Jean C. Love

Linda Greene

Phoebe Haddon

Stephanie Wildman

Carol Chomsky

Margaret Montoya

Paula Johnson

Michael Rooke-Ley

José Roberto Juárez, Jr.

Holly Maguigan

Eileen Kaufman

Tayyab Mahmud

Margaret Martin Barry

Deborah Waire Post

August 2010

SALT is writing to provide an update on the current status of legislative efforts to repeal Don't Ask Don't Tell and to encourage your faculty and students to advocate for the end of this discriminatory practice. Unfortunately, Don't Ask Don't Tell remains the law and the military continues to enforce it. As a law school dean, there is much you can do within the limits of the law to fortify the principles of anti-discrimination and to show unconditional support for your LGBT students during this recruiting season. We ask you to encourage your faculty and students to directly seek the repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell. We ask you to raise awareness and to discuss the continued discrimination directed at your gay and lesbian students who want to serve in the military, but who are precluded from even applying because of the law's constraints. By working together, we can make this the last recruiting season when these students are excluded from such opportunities.

We are very close to finally repealing this law. In May 2010, the House passed the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) which contained a provision to repeal Don't Ask Don't Tell. In September, the full Senate will vote on its version of the NDAA which contains identical repeal language. But even if the bill were to pass the Senate and be signed into law by the President, repeal is not final until additional steps are taken. The current legislative language requires the President, the Secretary of Defense, and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to certify that repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell will not affect military effectiveness, unit cohesion, and morale, and that all necessary regulations to implement repeal are in place. Proponents of repeal anticipate that the certification process will be completed by the first quarter of 2011.

You, your faculty, and students have an opportunity to participate in ending Don't Ask Don't Tell by telling your Senators to support repeal and by urging them to vote "Yes" for the NDAA. SALT, the AALS, and the ABA have all written letters to Senate leaders advocating the end of this discriminatory law. We encourage you, as part of the law school's ongoing amelioration obligations under AALS Memorandum 96-15 to circulate the information contained in this letter to faculty and students at your school, asking them to contact the Senate and speak on behalf of the thousands of men and women in uniform who cannot speak for themselves. If you or anyone at your school has additional questions about repeal efforts, please don't hesitate to contact the SALT office.

Sincerely,

Board of Governors

Bryan Adamson

Elvia Arriola

Michael Avery

Margaret Martin Barry

Barbara Bernier

Doug Colbert

Andi Curcio

Benjamin Davis

Jane Dolkart

Olympia Duhart

Nancy Ehrenreich

Patricia Falk

Ruben Garcia

Jackie Gardina

Neil Gotanda

Joan Howarth

Peter Joy

Beth Lyon

Karla McKanders

Adele Morrison

Camille Nelson

Angela Onwuauchi-Willig

Hari Osofsky

Ngai Pindell

Deborah Waire Post

Denise Roy

Natsu Taylor Saito

Aviam Soifer

Kellye A. Testy

Equalizer Editor

Raleigh Levine

Treasurer

Patricia A. Cain

CLEA Liaison

Claudia Angelos

Secretary

Robert Lancaster

Executive Director

Hazel Weiser

Raquel Aldana

Co-President

Steven Bender

Co-President