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## **SALT - Society of American Law Teachers**

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To: ABA Council on Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar  
From: Society of American Law Teachers ("SALT")  
Date: March 12, 2015  
RE: Update on SALT Activities

SALT appreciates the opportunity to share with the Council the important work it pursues on behalf of its members. Since submitting our last report, SALT continues to actively promote its three-part mission: making the legal profession more inclusive; enhancing legal education through innovative teaching methodologies and incorporation of social justice into curricula; and extending the power of law to underserved people.

### **MAKING THE LEGAL PROFESSION MORE INCLUSIVE**

On April 18, 2015, SALT will partner with New York Law School to sponsor a BA to JD Pipeline Program. For the first time, we are targeting community college faculty and administrators from three colleges. This program will draw from colleges located in New York City: LaGuardia, Manhattan, and Kings. We are partnering with LatinoJustice PRLDEF and other local firms to make the program available. It will feature information about personal statements, the LSAT and critical skills. Students will also participate in a mock law school class.

### **ENHANCING LEGAL EDUCATION**

In January, SALT continued to address New York's possible adoption of the Uniform Bar Examination. In addition to the concerns raised about the UBE itself, SALT called on the New York State Board of Law Examiners to study the potential disparate impact on racial and ethnic minorities of adopting the UBE.

SALT continues to support annual public interest and social justice retreats. These retreats allow law students a critical opportunity to meet with public interest and social justice practitioners, law faculty, and students from other law schools. SALT supported the Rocky Mountain Public Interest and Social Justice Retreat, hosted by the University of Denver Sturm College of Law for the first time, September 20-21, 2014. SALT also supported the Norman Amaker Retreat, Loyola University Chicago School of Law in

February, the Robert M. Cover Retreat, Sargent Center, NH; in February and will support the Trina Grillo Public Interest/Social Justice Retreat, Santa Clara University School of Law on March 20-21, 2015.

Furthermore, SALT continues to submit comments on issues affecting legal education, including letters to the Standards Review Committee (SRC) on process and transparency. SALT testified in February at the public hearing in Houston at the Task Force on the Financing of Legal Education. Also in February, SALT also addressed the SRC in Washington, DC regarding the accreditation standards that require nondiscrimination and equality of opportunity for law school students, faculty and staff.

#### **EXTENDING THE POWER OF LAW TO UNDERSERVED INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES**

In November, SALT issued a statement calling on local officials to uphold the rule of law in relation to the death of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri. SALT and its members are committed to ensuring that the system of justice in the United States operates effectively in a manner that affirms the principles of equality and justice. In keeping with our mission, and as a community of engaged law professors, we wrote to offer the support and expertise of our members to help address systemic inequities that erode faith in our justice system and to facilitate discussion, dialogue and concerted action to address the issues that Michael Brown and the Ferguson protests have raised at the local and national level.

In January, SALT hosted the Robert Cover Workshop addressing issues relevant to legal education. More than 50 local attorneys, professors, law students and activists attended the workshop January 3, 2015 in Washington DC, at Georgetown University Law Center. The workshop was entitled "Focus on Ferguson: Racism, Policing and Communities of Color."

#### **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

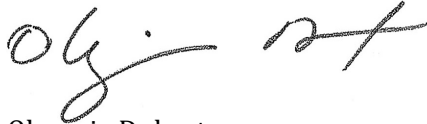
During the AALS Annual Meeting, SALT bestowed the Great Teacher and M. Shanara Gilbert Human Rights awards at the SALT Annual Dinner, which was held at the Georgetown University Hotel and Conference Center, on January 4, 2015. The 2015 dinner recognized Professor Martha "Marnie" Mahoney of the University of Miami Law School as the 2015 SALT Great Teacher, and Professor Hope Lewis of Northeastern University School of Law as the M. Shanara Gilbert Human Rights award recipient.

SALT is co-sponsoring *Breaking Into the Legal Academy*, in conjunction with the Southeast/Southwest People of Color Legal Scholarship Conference to be held March 19, 2015 at North Carolina Central School of Law in Durham, North Carolina. The theme for this year's conference is: "The Pipeline: Preparing Prospective Students for Law School, Law Students for Law Practice, and the Next Generation of Law Professors." SALT and the SE/SW People of Color have invited members of local affinity bars, law students and faculty to attend this day-long event.

SALT continues to work hard to pursue creative and expansive avenues to advance our core values of teaching excellence, social justice and diversity. Our website continues to provide job opportunities, calls for papers, and conference posting for the legal academy. We appreciate the hard work of our members in supporting our programs and serving on SALT committees. We are also grateful to the

Council for your invitation to submit comments to you. Thank you for the opportunity to update you on our efforts.

Submitted on behalf of the Society of American Law Teachers by,

Handwritten signature of Olympia Duhart in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'O' followed by 'ly.' and a separate 'st'.

Olympia Duhart  
Co-President

Handwritten signature of Ruben Garcia in blue ink, written in a cursive style.

Ruben Garcia  
Co-President