

Statements of Interest
Proposed 2019 SALT Board Slate

New Members

Kristen Barnes

Associate Professor of Law
The University of Akron



I am honored to submit this statement of interest regarding joining SALT's Board of Governors. SALT serves a vital function in providing critical information and support to many communities. I have always been impressed by SALT's energetic and devoted participation in groundbreaking litigation that serves substantive equality goals and its valuable contributions to shaping legal education and the legal profession. I am an associate professor of law. My work focuses on racial inequalities and education, international human rights law, and oppressive property and monetary structures. My primary objectives include challenging mainstream ways of thinking about the law and offering novel perspectives. I would welcome the opportunity to bring my insight, innovative approaches, and enthusiasm to SALT. I have served in leadership roles in other venues such as AALS, as chair of the property law and real estate transactions sections. The experiences were highly rewarding. They underscored the value of actively participating in instrumental organizations to build and sustain them in positive ways. My AALS work also highlighted the benefits of collaboration. I am committed to SALT's mission of social justice, inclusiveness, and diversity. Serving on the Board would permit me to continue to make meaningful contributions to the legal profession.

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Caitlin Barry

Director, Farmworker Legal Aid Clinic
Co-Director, Community Interpreter Internship Program
Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law



I am so pleased to share my interest in joining the SALT Board of Governors. My participation in SALT activities as a member has included coordinating the SALT pipeline conference at Villanova in 2015 and attending the SALT conference in Chicago in 2016, where I co-presented a workshop on teaching movement lawyering and attended the workshop for new faculty. Attending the SALT conference as a new clinician truly changed my vision of what law teaching could look like. It introduced me to a network of law professors who were dedicated to centering social justice in legal education, from admissions to faculty hiring to our classroom curriculum to our lawyering practice. My own commitment to making the legal profession more accessible is reflected in my work on challenging hiring and teaching practices that exclude marginalized students, staff and faculty, as well as in my pedagogy as Director of the Farmworker Legal Aid Clinic. While I find joy and hope in this work, I am equally cognizant of the depth of our shortcomings in addressing racial inequity in the lawyering profession and the administration of justice, particularly in this historical moment of heightened attacks on racialized communities. I would be honored to join the SALT Board and deepen my commitment to breaking down barriers to justice and equity both within and outside of the legal academy.

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Anthony Paul Farley

James Campbell Matthews Distinguished Professor of Jurisprudence
Albany Law School



The Society of American Law Teachers was my introduction to the legal academy. I am proud of the attention we brought to issues of inclusion and diversity back in the 1990s when I was a member of the board of governors. This nomination, twenty years after, is an honor.

Austerity is a danger to academic freedom. I recently published an essay in *Academe*, the magazine of the American Association of University Professors, in which I expressed my worry that reason itself is being replaced by money, the most common measure. There are no easy answers, but an important first principle can be found in the AAUP's 1940 *Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure*: "Institutions of higher education are conducted for the common good and not to further the interest of either the individual teacher or the institution as a whole."

Education is a public good. SALT has always promoted the idea of education as public good, as a search for something that Wittgenstein once called "the liberating word." The language of austerity tends to reduce words to their purchasing power, as with Donald Trump's 2016 declaration that he possessed "the best words." Words and reasons and disciplines matter in ways that cannot always be measured by money. It would be wonderful to organize conferences and other ways of sharing and developing our thoughts on education, academic freedom, the public good, and the challenges of austerity. I am excited about the possibility of doing so as a board member.

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Returning Members

Matthew Charity
Professor of Law
Western New England University



The next few years will see further redefinition in the experiential and representative components of legal education. During this period, it is imperative that the legal profession be made more diverse, and that we broaden our perspectives on inclusion and access to justice, if we hope to provide representation to those most marginalized in our society.

While there are a number of excellent organizations that focus on particular issues of advocacy, SALT serves as both a launching pad for expanded diversity in our profession, and a clearinghouse for progressive advocacy, while demanding excellence in the legal academy and in the legal arguments to which we lend our name. Our work in legal education, access to justice, and human rights is interrelated and interdependent, and I am so proud to be a part of that work.

I currently serve as a Co-President of SALT for the 2018 and 2019 years, and look forward to continuing work with our committees on legal education and human rights, as well as supporting our access to justice initiatives, teaching conference and faculty development workshop, pipeline programs, and retreats to support public interest work.

As a reminder, we can all continue to support SALT on committees, even without serving on the Board of Governors – though I am incredibly excited to work with others to maintain and expand SALT’s vision. I hope that many members will feel excited at the opportunities to support SALT’s work through committees and programs, and to consider service on SALT’s Board.

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Donna H. Lee

Senior Associate Dean of Clinical Programs and Professor
CUNY School of Law



I joined the SALT Board of Governors in 2016 and am seeking to renew my Board position for an additional term. I support SALT’s mission of *“making the legal profession more inclusive and reflective of the great diversity of this nation; enhancing social justice training and quality legal education with cutting edge teaching methodologies; and advancing the use of the law to serve under-served persons and communities.”* My work at the Legal Aid Society and ACLU National Prison Project before joining the academy, my past service on the Clinical Legal Education Association (CLEA) Board, and my on-going work at CUNY Law School have been consistent with the core values of diversifying the legal profession and educating social justice lawyers.

Engaging with a national group of progressive law teachers feels especially important in the wake of our current political realities. I look forward to participating in an exchange of ideas and strategies for promoting social change and collaborating with communities and individuals who do not have access to equal justice under law. I believe that work on issues related to who enters law school, what kind of educational experience is provided, and trying to align licensing requirements with competence to practice law all contribute to a larger vision of “law in the service of human needs.”

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Zinelle October
Vice President of Network Advancement
American Constitution Society



It has been an honor to serve on the SALT board for one term, and I would be delighted to serve an additional term. These are trying times for all of us as a progressive community, and SALT plays an important role in organizing us and moving us forward. My work at the American Constitution Society (ACS) complements the amazing work of SALT. Leveraging our networks in the law school community to accomplish common goals and to fulfill the mission of SALT is essential at this time.

I'm excited about the possibility of continuing to work closely with fellow board members and the general membership to leverage the important voice and expertise that this community holds. Advancing social justice requires all of us working together and I'm looking forward to playing my part.

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Hari Osofsky

Dean, Penn State Law and the Penn State School of International Affairs; Distinguished Professor of Law; Professor of International Affairs; and Professor of Geography
The Pennsylvania State University, University Park



It is an honor to be nominated for a fourth term on the SALT Board of Governors. I have appreciated the opportunity to collaborate with the wonderful SALT membership and Board to advance the values of diversity, academic freedom, and opening doors to opportunity. My work for SALT has largely focused on supporting pipelines to academia over the years, and in Fall 2018, Penn State Law in University Park will be hosting the SALT Teaching Conference with my support as its dean. I am excited that this conference will add new dimensions, including a partnership with the AALS Section on Technology, Law, and Legal Education, virtual conferencing, and collaboration with the HackPSU.

Since becoming a dean, I have focused on leadership pipeline work as well, trying to encourage more women, people of color, and those from other underrepresented groups to consider deanships and mentoring people who are interested in applying. As someone who hesitated to become a dean both because I needed to be convinced I could make the world a better place as well in this role and because I thought I was unqualified, I reach out nationally offering to talk to others who are interested but doubt their qualifications.

I look forward to working with my SALT colleagues in the coming years to continue to advance SALT values and support a better future for legal education, access to justice, and social justice.