

Outline of Scholarship Presentation

for the
AALS Workshop for New Law Teachers
June 30, 2007

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*I was once like you are now, and I know that it's not easy, To be calm when you've got
an article going on. But with your time, write a lot, Why, write of everything you've
thought. For your words will be here tomorrow, but your thoughts may not.*

— (terrible tweaking of) Cat Stevens' classic *Father and Son*

I. The importance and value of synergy

aka ... avoiding the false trichotomy of teaching, scholarship, service

- A. Write about topics you are teaching (or want to teach)
- B. Write about pre-teaching specialties and experiences
- C. Write thoughtful variations on what you have already written
- D. Write with others you have worked with (or want to work with)
- E. Write about topics you are speaking about (or want to speak about)

II. The importance and value of diversity

aka ... avoiding the false norms of “traditional scholarship”

- A. Write on a lot of different topics
- B. Write to a lot of different (legal and non-legal) audiences
- C. Write about all types of big and small ideas in all types of ways
— theory, doctrine, practice; empirical, anecdotal, fantastical
- D. Write in lots and lots and lots of different forms and formats
- E. Write with a lot of different people (and different types of people)
- F. Write as you take on a variety of editorial tasks/responsibilities
- G. Write about teaching, scholarship and service

III. The importance and value of quantity

aka ... avoiding the false comforts of “quality over quantity”

- A. Realize 80% of genius is revealed in the first 20% of efforts
- B. Realize quality is poorly measured, quantity is easily measured
- C. Realize quality is inconsistently rewarded, quantity is always rewarded
- D. Realize quantity can help beget quality (sometimes)
- E. Realize quantity produces confidence, equanimity and freedom

IV. The importance and value of institutional norms

aka ... avoiding the false wisdom of Berman the blogger

- A. Realize importance of impressing (and not threatening) colleagues
- B. Realize norms reflect collective wisdom (as well as a status quo bias)
- C. Realize norms are always evolving, though often in unexpected ways
- D. Realize you can and should help engineer how norms evolve

Some suggested reading

All the papers produced in conjunction with last years' Harvard Law School conference, "Bloggership: How Blogs Are Transforming Legal Scholarship" *available at* http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/JELJOUR_Results.cfm?form_name=journalbrowse&journal_id=890371.

Personal favorites include:

- *Scholarship in Action: The Power, Possibilities, and Pitfalls for Law Professor Blogs* by Douglas A. Berman
- *Blogging While Untenured and Other Extreme Sports* by Christine Hurt and Tung Yin
- *Blogging and the Transformation of Legal Scholarship* by Lawrence B. Solum
- *A Case Study in Bloggership* by D. Gordon Smith
- *Scholarship, Blogging and Trade-offs: On Discovering, Disseminating, and Doing* by Eugene Volokh