

AALS WORKSHOP FOR NEW LAW TEACHERS
Junior Faculty Feedback
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Advice from a 1LP
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As you begin a new chapter of your life as a Law Professor.... remember that you have been granted the privilege to write your own book.

**The components of "writing a book" will be used as a metaphor to capture the experiences of joining the legal academy as a Law Professor.*

Working Title:
The Law Professor: A Privilege to Serve

Chapter 1: Experiences from the first year of law teaching

The "Hook": Remember that you captured the attention and majority vote of your new legal institution...now keep it!

Before you begin the journey to write the next best selling book on the making of a Law Professor- You must first know where good books are maintained.

AALS ("The Library of Congress")
Faculty Recruitment Conference, Workshop for New Law Teachers,
Workshop for Beginning Legal Writers, Clinical Conferences, Mid-Year
Meetings, Annual Meetings and beyond

Alma Mater
The Law Professor/s that influenced you most

New Law School
Colleagues

Section 1: Know your “Audience”

Administration

- Teaching- Includes selection of casebook, drafting of syllabi, preparation for class (delivery/handling questions)
- Scholarship- Includes defining a “scholarly agenda” that is both personal and “public” (personally interesting enough to commit to a writing schedule and fit for “public” consumption, i.e. the specific scholarship and tenure standards of your institution)
- Service- Duties as assigned by your institution and accepted as such

*Locate Retention, Promotion and Tenure requirements

*Know the criteria for Teacher Evaluations

Faculty

- Collegiality- “Lunch can launch you into another chapter (year) or not”(Faculty Meetings, Graduation Ceremony, etc.)
- Integrity- “Don’t say anything that you are not willing to repeat”
- Common Good- “Don’t e-mail anything that will embarrass you after cool reflection”
- Productivity – “You are an Ambassador of your institution”

Staff

- Acknowledge as both instrumental and fundamental to your existence

“I am what I am because of what we all are”

Ubuntu-a popular definition of a South African concept

Students

- Before the first day of class- know the written and unwritten expectations regarding appropriate work attire
- Classroom
 - *Assess your “LPP” Law Professor Personality- Define and refine as needed
 - *Level of Preparation – More is better
 - *Perseverance- Learn the power of Positive Self-Talk
- After Class
 - Responsiveness
 - *Availability (Office Hours)
 - *E-mail (notify reasonable hours)

Section 2: Develop the “Main Character”

Basic Tenets

- Know the mission of your new legal institution and how it advances your personal mission
- Recognize characteristics from other law professors (inside and outside your institution) that you would like to possess
- Practice “Character Builders” that I have found to be helpful
 - *Respect *Tolerance *Cooperation *Responsibility *Perseverance
 - *Patience *Righteousness * Self-Control and *Honesty

Section 3: Write your “Acknowledgements” page

This page simply acknowledges the people and circumstances of your life prior to joining the legal academy. It will provide encouragement as well as a vital frame of reference for unanticipated events or occurrences. It will keep you sane, humble and focused.

*Maintain Chapter 1 (documenting your first year experiences) and all other proof of your accomplishments, e.g. letters, notes, etc. in a file- "Professional Development"

Chapter 2: To be continued...next year

May everyday serve as another page to be added to your "book" so that others may read it and be encouraged to fulfill the Law Professor's responsibility to students, to the community of scholars, to colleagues, to the Law School, to the Bar and general public.

HAPPY WRITING!