

LatCrit-SALT Faculty Development Program

The LatCrit-SALT Faculty Development Program is a proposal that seeks to build on recent initiatives on the part of LatCrit and SALT that are oriented toward new and junior faculty. This proposal also coincides with the election of Gerald Torres as AALS President-elect, and reflects Gerald's interest in this kind of initiative (which he can support as AALS President). The basic concept is to combine efforts and resources synergistically to maximize the programmatic support we can offer to new and junior faculty, especially those with a critical and progressive bent, during the crucial first year or two in the legal professorate. Thus, the proposed partnership might be envisioned as providing a two-year "program" of mutually-reinforcing workshops and mentoring efforts, as follows:

- A series of workshops throughout the academic year designed to focus on the various aspects of entering, and succeeding in, the legal academy of the United States.
- A mentoring program designed to provide one-on-one, year-round advice and support to individual mentees as needed in particular circumstances.

Under this proposal, the annual calendar for the contemplated workshop series might look something like:

June:

Annual Workshop on "Introduction to the Legal Professorate" and accompanying Social Events in conjunction with the Annual AALS New Teacher's Conference (this conference always takes place in Washington, DC – perhaps one or more DC schools would be willing to co-sponsor this event).

Oct:

Annual Workshop on "Teaching and Pedagogy" and accompanying Social Events in conjunction with the Annual SALT Teaching Conference (this conference rotates among different sites – perhaps the rotating sponsors can help to co-sponsor this event).

January:

Annual Workshop on "Professional and Community Service" and accompanying Social Events in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the AALS ((the AALS annual meeting rotates among Washington DC, San Francisco, New Orleans and Atlanta).

May:

Annual Workshop "Scholarship and Critical Outsider Jurisprudence" and accompanying Social Events in conjunction with the Annual LatCrit Conference (this conference rotates among different sites – the rotating sponsors can help to co-sponsor this event).

The basic idea behind this outline is to "meet" each year's entering class of new law teachers during the AALS New Teacher's Conference every June before the fall semester starts, and to offer them an introductory workshop focused broadly on balancing teaching, service and scholarship during their first year or two in the academy. The introductory workshop would then be followed by the three additional workshops geared to specific aspects of success as a law professor throughout the academic year in tandem with other key, ongoing events. During this annual series of four workshops, the new and "veteran" folks are able to get to know each other and, hopefully, the mentor-mentee matches can be made organically sometime during the first year on this basis. The mentoring component of the overall program then would continue into the second year, even as we begin the workshop cycle again the following year with the new entering class of law teachers.