

## PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY SECTION FALL 2007 NEWSLETTER

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*This newsletter is a forum for the exchange of information and ideas. The opinions expressed here do not represent the position of the Professional Responsibility Section of the American Association of Law Schools.*



### SPECIAL FALL BULLETIN 2007

Please accept my apologies. Your regular fall newsletter is in the final stages of development, but while it's being pulled together, we wanted to get to you some important and time sensitive matters. *In particular, please note on page 3, the Section dinner being hosted by Fordham on January 3<sup>rd</sup>. If you would like to attend, you must RSVP by December 14<sup>th</sup> to Jessi Tamayo at Fordham Law School at (212) 636-6988 or Carol Needham at Saint Louis (314)977-7104.*

Thank you for your patience.  
Randy Lee

### A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR REGARDING PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE BYLAWS

By Russell G. Pearce

At our business meeting on January 3, 2008, the Executive Committee will propose an amendment to our Section's Bylaws. The Amendment would create the position of Secretary as an officer; increase the number of Executive Committee members to twelve in addition to the three officers; and increase the term for Executive Committee members from two years to three years.

Given the large membership of our section, we would like to include more members on the Executive Committee. At the same time, in order to promote continuity and institutional memory, we propose lengthening the term of Executive Committee members from two to three years. In addition, the Executive Committee has found it necessary to create the position of Secretary to take and distribute the minutes for our meetings. To reflect the responsibility of the position, we seek to

make this position an office recognized in the bylaws.

The text of the proposed amendment is submitted below. Please feel free to email me with any questions or comments.

Resolved that Article III of the Bylaws be amended as follows (strike-outs indicate deletions, bracketing indicates additions):

### Article III. Officers, Committees

Section 1. Officers. The officers of this section are the chairperson[,] ~~and~~ the chairperson-elect, [and the secretary.] The chairperson-elect shall be elected at each annual meeting of the Association, shall qualify by acceptance and shall succeed to the office of chairperson at the close of the next annual meeting. [The secretary shall be elected for a two-year term at every other annual meeting.]

### Section 2. The Executive Committee.

(a) The Executive Committee of the section is the chairperson of the section, chairperson-elect, [secretary,] and ~~six~~ [twelve] other members.

(1) [The three members elected at] ~~At~~ the annual meeting in ~~2003~~ [2008]; ~~three members will be~~ [shall be deemed to be] elected to a ~~one~~ [three-] year term ~~and three members will be elected to a two-year term.~~ [Following enactment of these bylaws, the Executive Committee shall fill the

vacancies pursuant to (2) below with one member to serve a three-year term, four members to serve a two-year term, and four members to serve a one-year term.] Thereafter all members will be elected to a ~~two~~ [three] year term.

(2) In the case of a vacancy on the Executive Committee, the chairperson shall appoint a member of the section to fill the vacancy, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee.

(b) The Executive Committee shall act in the interval between annual meetings and may create standing and special committees.

## **AALS PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY SECTION ANNOUNCEMENTS**



### ***ANNUAL MEETING PROGRAMS***

We are hoping for another great turnout of Section members at this year's AALS Annual Meeting in New York January 2-6, 2008. This year our primary Section program is an extended program from 2-5:00 pm on Thursday, January 3, 2008, entitled *The Legacy of Brown v. Board of Education and the Future of Race and the American Legal Profession* (this program is [4240] when you fill out your registration). The Section's annual business meeting will

follow at the conclusion of this program, and an exciting Section social event will follow on the heels of the business meeting (see *Dinner Bunch* below). The Section is also co-sponsoring, with the Section on ADR, *Troubling Ethics Issues in ADR: Time to Modify the Rules to Catch up with Reality?* [6560] on Saturday, January 5, from 3:30-5:15

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***GRACIOUS INVITATION TO THE SECTION FROM FORDHAM FOR THE SECTION DINNER AT THE ANNUAL MEETING***

Reminder for those of you who will be in New York for the AALS Annual Meeting that Fordham is hosting a Professional Responsibility Scholarship Roundtable, light dinner and a reception on Thursday January 3, 2008. We will start with a reception at 5:00 p.m. and we have the room until 9:00 p.m. After everyone has eaten, we'll open the floor for members of the Section on Professional Responsibility to present their research. This is an opportunity to discuss works in progress or an aspect of a research project which is in a more final stage.

Speaking priority will be given to those scholars who advise us ahead of time that they have a particular idea to share. E-mail [needhamc@slu.edu](mailto:needhamc@slu.edu) with PR Roundtable Speaking Slot in the subject line to indicate your interest in speaking. If you would like to participate but don't want to make a presentation please send an e-mail to Carol Needham at [needhamc@slu.edu](mailto:needhamc@slu.edu) with PR Attending Roundtable in the subject line. Presenters should plan to spend about five minutes explaining their idea and posing questions, followed by fifteen or twenty minutes of discussion and feedback. Those of you who have come to the Roundtables at the ABA Center for Professional Responsibility the past two years will recognize this as similar – but with the addition of food and a bit more time for each speaker.

**This is also an opportunity for newer scholars to meet and discuss their ideas with more experienced scholars and to developing a mentoring relationship. More established scholars may have advice about placement and presentation of research as well as information about organizations active in professional responsibility issues. Experienced scholars may also receive a fresh perspective on their views.**

All members of the Section on Professional Responsibility are welcome; but space is limited so let us know you are planning to attend. Please also mention if you want a vegetarian or kosher meal when you respond. You do not have to be registered for the AALS meeting to take part in this event. Contact us by Friday, December 14th. For more information, you can also contact *Jessi Tamayo at Fordham Law School at (212) 636-6988 or Carol Needham at (314)977-7104.*

**PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**

***NATIONAL ETHICS TRIAL COMPETITION***

On March 13-15, 2008, McGeorge School of Law will present the Third Annual National Ethics Trial Competition to be hosted by the United States District Court for the Eastern District of California. The competition is open to all ABA-accredited law schools that have demonstrated excellence in the training of law students in ethical trial practice. Applications are available online at [www.mcgeorge.edu/goto?ethics](http://www.mcgeorge.edu/goto?ethics) and are due by **November 30, 2007.**

Trials will be judged by distinguished members of the bench and bar including judges of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of California and

members of the Anthony M. Kennedy and Milton Schwartz Inns of Court.

***ABA 2008 MICHAEL FRANCK  
PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY  
AWARDS***

The ABA, through the Center for Professional Responsibility, is currently accepting nominations for the Michael Franck Professional Responsibility Award. The ABA presents this award each year to someone “whose contributions in the professional responsibility field evidence the highest level of dedication to legal professionalism.” Past Section winners include **Fr. Robert Drinan, Monroe Freedman, Andrew Kaufman, and Deborah Rhode.**

Nominations must be received by the Center for Professional Responsibility no later than **December 15, 2007.** Visit the Center’s web site at [www.aba.net.org/cpr](http://www.aba.net.org/cpr) for more information about Michael Franck, past recipients of the award, and an electronic version of the nomination form.

***FUNDING OPPORTUNITY FOR  
SCHOLARSHIP RELATING TO  
LITIGATION***

The ABA Litigation Section has announced the establishment of the Litigation Research Fund “to support original and practical scholarly work that significantly advances the understanding of civil litigation in the United States. The Litigation Section anticipates making individual awards of between \$5,000 and \$20,000.” Legal academics are invited to apply.

While there is no deadline and awards will be made on a rolling basis, priority consideration for the initial awards will be given to submissions received by **January 1, 2008.** Applications should be submitted by email with the subject line “Litigation Research Fund” to Patsy Engelhard, Executive Director, ABA Section of Litigation, [pengelhard@staff.abanet.org](mailto:pengelhard@staff.abanet.org) with a copy to Robert Nelson, Director, American Bar Foundation, [rmelson@abfn.org](mailto:rmelson@abfn.org).

The Litigation Research Fund will be administered by a Litigation Section Task Force chaired by Fordham Professor **Bruce Green**, a former Chair of the AALS Section on Professional Responsibility. For additional information on this program, please contact Professor Green at [bgreen@law.fordham.edu](mailto:bgreen@law.fordham.edu)

***NATIONAL AWARD FOR INNOVATION  
AND EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING  
PROFESSIONALISM***

The National Awards for Innovation and Excellence in Teaching Professionalism have been given to full-time law teachers by the ABA Standing Committee on Professionalism and the Conference of Chief Justices since 2004. The first place winner receives \$2000 and honorable mention winners receive \$500. The presentations by the three finalists and the selection of the first place winner of the 2008 Award for Innovation and Excellence in Teaching Professionalism will take place Thursday, February 21 and Friday, February 22 at Georgia State University in Atlanta in conjunction with an international Conference on the Future of Legal Education. Applications are submitted on-line through the Award web site; the application period for the 2008 awards has

not yet opened. More information, including all the past applications for the award, and instructions for getting on an email mailing list to be notified when the application period opens, is available on the Award web site:

<http://law.gsu.edu/ccunningham/Professionalism/Award-Home.htm>