

Greetings,

As the new Chair of the Aging and Law Section, I look forward to our collaboration over the coming year. We are a diverse group and teaching in one of the most dynamic and important areas of the law. As you read this, I hope you will find ways that you can participate in our section.

We were fortunate this past year to have as our chair **Susan Gary** from the University of Oregon School of Law. Susan contributes in many ways to AALS, not the least of which was organizing and chairing our program's session last week in D.C. Despite juggling many responsibilities at her law school and in our section, she is always gracious and thorough in what she tackles. Thanks, Susan, from all of us!

**Jon Forman** (OK) has worked hard to keep us informed by managing our listserv, and has kindly agreed to continue in that role. You can reach Jon at [jforman@ou.edu](mailto:jforman@ou.edu)

**Marguerite Angelari** (Loyola-Chicago) has moved up to become our Chair Elect. She will be putting out 2 newsletters and also planning our group dinner at the next annual meeting in NYC. So, be on the lookout for her request for your news sometime in April!

**Last week's annual meeting** -- It was great to see some of section members at the annual meeting. And, the weather in DC was wonderfully warm most of the time, so some of us got to the zoo and saw the baby panda (actually, a teen panda already).

The section's program on Mediation and the Elderly featured these topics and speakers:

**Prof. Mary Radford** (GA State) - "Is the Use of Mediation Appropriate in Adult Guardianship Cases" - For her seminal article on this, see [www.law.stetson.edu/lawrev/abstracts/PDF/31-3Radford.pdf](http://www.law.stetson.edu/lawrev/abstracts/PDF/31-3Radford.pdf)

**Prof. Kate Mewhinney** (Wake Forest) - "North Carolina and Mediation of Guardianships."

**Prof. Ellen Waldman** (Thomas Jefferson) - "Mediating Health-Care Disputes At the End of Life."

**Prof. Lela Love** (Yeshiva Univ. Cardozo) - "Mediation Clauses in Wills."

**Prof. Carol Liebman** (Columbia Law School) - "Mediation and the Elderly - Health Care Disputes."

We'll be putting the PowerPoints and other materials from the session onto the internet; stay tuned for more information on that in the next weeks.

Those interested in this field should check out an upcoming program on **ethical standards for elder mediation**, at Temple University's law school in **April 2007**: [www.mediation-services.org/eldr\\_med\\_symp.html](http://www.mediation-services.org/eldr_med_symp.html).

**Executive Committee:** We elected two new members: **Sally Hurme** (Adjunct Prof. at GW) and **Kim Dayton** (Visiting Prof. at Wm Mitchell). They will add extensive experience in the field of law and aging to our section. We say "Aloha" to our former chair, **Calvin Pang** (Hawaii) who rotated off the Exec Committee!

In addition to the program, several of our section members had excellent **poster presentations**:

**Nina Kohn** (Syracuse) - Elder Empowerment as a Strategy for Curing the Hidden Abuses of Durable Powers-of Attorney.

**Alyssa DiRusso (Samford/Cumberland)** - He Says, She Asks: Gender, Language, and the Law of Precatory Words in Wills.

**Roberta Flowers** (Stetson) and **Rebecca Morgan** (Stetson) - Access and Justice for All.

**The Newsletter:** Would you consider helping with the newsletter? Other sections have used newsletters to share information about conferences, teaching methods, syllabi, and the like. Please consider offering this type of material, either for the newsletter or on this listserv. (To submit something, contact Marguerite at [mangela@luc.edu](mailto:mangela@luc.edu).) Several section members have already agreed to write short pieces for the newsletter. Upcoming this year, with tentative topics:

**Richard Hechler** (Golden Gate) - Criminal prosecution of adult abuse, neglect and exploitation (Richard is an assistant DA in San Francisco);

**Sally Hurme** (GW) - Guardianship issues across jurisdictions;

**Kim Dayton** (Wm Mitchell) - Topic TBA; and

**Phebe Haugen** (Wm Mitchell) - Bioethical disputes at the end of life.

**The Listserv:** Please continue to ask questions and share resources with each other on this listserv.

In the next few months, **Roberta Flowers** (Stetson) will give us a overview of a resource we should all be using in our teaching: the Aspirational Standards for the Practice of Elder Law. They can be found at [www.naela.com/PDFFiles/aspirationalstandards.pdf](http://www.naela.com/PDFFiles/aspirationalstandards.pdf). Leading NAELA members - including former Section Chair and NAELA President **Rebecca Morgan** - put together a practical and user-friendly set of standards. If you have used that resource in your teaching and want to discuss it with her, please let her know!

Speaking of **NAELA** (the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys), consider attending its annual meeting in **Cleveland, from May 3 to 6**. The materials and speakers at these conferences are always top notch. A highlight of the meetings is getting to see **Larry Frolik** (Pittsburgh) boogeying at one of the parties!

**Tell Your Students:** One of NAELA's other projects is the **Second Annual NAELA Student Journal Writing Competition** -- money and fame for one of your law students, perhaps? **Katherine Pearson** (Dickinson/Penn State) and **Kim Dayton** (Wm Mitchell) are heading up that project. It has a May 1 deadline. The contact person for more details and a flyer is Bridget Jurich, [bjurich@naela.com](mailto:bjurich@naela.com).

Finally, our section has experts on a wide range of issues so don't be shy about asking or offering. For example, **Jan McClendon** (Stetson), who continues on our section's Executive Committee, will share information with us about developments in the field of pensions and employee benefits.

**Needs:** We could have a **website** for such things as sample course syllabi, the posters from the annual meeting, interesting articles and papers, etc... If you could give us your time to set that up, let me know! I'll be contacting some of you about being on a **newsletter committee** -- but if this happens to be one of your New Year's resolutions, drop me a note. Other sections have used their newsletters for such things as listing related conferences, job postings, etc...

Thank you for participating in the Aging and the Law Section!

*Kate*

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