



AALS SOUTHWEST AND BIG 12 LAW FACULTY PRE-RECRUITMENT WORKSHOP: SO, YOU WANT TO BE A LAW PROFESSOR



Wednesday, August 13, 2025

8:00 AM Central Time - Breakfast Buffet
9:00 AM - 1:15 PM Central Time - Panel Discussions

1:45 - 6:00 PM Central Time
Optional Interviews with Participating Law Schools

The program portion is approved for 3.75 hours of Texas MCLE credit

University of Houston Law Center
John M. O'Quinn Law Building

AGENDA

8:00 – 8:50 AM

Breakfast

9:00 – 9:10 AM

Welcome

Leonard M. Baynes

Dean, Hugh Roy and Lillie Cranz Cullen
Distinguished Chair, and Professor of Law
University of Houston Law Center

Daniella Landers

2025-2026 President
Houston Bar Association

9:10 – 10:00 AM

**So, You Want to Be A Law Professor:
The Hiring Process**

Steve Clowney

Professor of Law
University of Arkansas School of Law

Meredith J. Duncan

Alumnae College Professor of Law
Assistant Dean for Opportunities, Pedagogy, and
Community Engagement
University of Houston Law Center

Kyle Velte

Associate Dean, Faculty
Karelitz Chair in Evidence Law
Professor of Law
University of Kansas School of Law

Attorneys may self-report their hours commensurate with the time in attendance using the course number or QR code provided at the workshop. If you are licensed in another jurisdiction and require an out-of-state certificate to pursue credit or if you have questions about CLE credit, please email Kristina Van Arsdel at kgvanars@central.uh.edu. The amount of credit is as follows:

9:00 - 10:00 AM - **1.0 hour** | 10:10 AM - 12:00 PM - **1.75 hours** | 12:15 - 1:15 PM - **1.0 hour**

AGENDA

10:10 – 11:00 AM

**So, You Want to Be A Law Professor:
Scholarship**

Emily Berman

William B. Bates Distinguished Chair in Law
Assistant Dean of Faculty Development
Professor of Law
University of Houston Law Center

Orly Mazur

Professor of Law
SMU Dedman School of Law

Christopher K. Odinet

Professor of Law & Mosbacher Research Fellow
Texas A&M University School of Law

11:10 AM – 12:00 PM

So, You Want to Be A Law Professor: Teaching

Martin Edwards

Assistant Professor of Law
University of Mississippi School of Law

Victoria Mather

Professor of Law
St. Mary's University School of Law

Peter N. Salib

Assistant Professor of Law
University of Houston Law Center

AGENDA

12:15 – 1:15 PM

Lunch and Deans' Perspective on Hiring Law Faculty

Robert Ahdieh

Chief Operating Officer, Texas A&M Fort Worth
Vice President for Professional
Schools & Programs, Texas A&M University
Dean & Anthony G. Buzbee Endowed Dean's Chair
Texas A&M University School of Law

Leonard M. Baynes

Dean, Hugh Roy and Lillie Cranz Cullen
Distinguished Chair, and Professor of Law
University of Houston Law Center

Patricia Roberts

Dean and Charles E. Cantú
Distinguished Professor of Law
St. Mary's University School of Law

Douglas Sylvester

Dean Emeritus, Professor of Law
Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law
Arizona State University

1:45 – 6:00 PM

Interviews

If you are participating in interviews, please
proceed to the William D. Wood Advocacy Atrium
on the second floor

BIOGRAPHIES



ROBERT AHDIEH

*Chief Operating Officer, Texas A&M Fort Worth
Vice President for Professional Schools & Programs, Texas A&M University
Dean & Anthony G. Buzbee Endowed Dean's Chair
Texas A&M University School of Law*

Robert Ahdieh has served as dean of Texas A&M University School of Law since 2018, in addition to more recent appointments as Texas A&M University's Vice President for Professional Schools & Programs and the Chief Operating Officer of Texas A&M–Fort Worth. A graduate of Princeton's School of Public and International Affairs and Yale Law School, Ahdieh served as law clerk to Judge James R. Browning of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit before his selection for the Honors Program in the Civil Division of the U.S. Department of Justice.

While still a student, Ahdieh published what remains one of the seminal treatments of the constitutional transformation of post-Soviet Russia: "Russia's Constitutional Revolution—Legal Consciousness and the Transition to Democracy." Ahdieh's work has also appeared in the *Boston University Law Review*, *Michigan Law Review*, *Minnesota Law Review*, *NYU Law Review*, and *Southern California Law Review*, among other journals.

Prior to Texas A&M, Ahdieh was the K.H. Gyr Professor of Law at Emory University. During his tenure at Emory, Ahdieh also served as Associate Dean of Faculty and Vice Dean.

An elected member of the American Law Institute, Ahdieh has served as a visiting professor at Columbia and Georgetown law schools, as well as Princeton University. He has also visited the Institute for Advanced Study, the University of British Columbia, the University of Warsaw, and Singapore Management University, among other overseas institutions.



LEONARD M. BAYNES

*Dean
Hugh Roy and Lillie Cranz Cullen Distinguished Chair
Professor of Law
University of Houston Law Center*

Leonard M. Baynes, now the currently longest serving law dean in Texas, made history in 2014 with his appointment as the first dean of African descent of the University of Houston Law Center.

During his deanship, the UH Law Center's entering credentials increased from a median LSAT score of 159 to 161 and a median GPA of 3.47 to 3.75 with almost 20% of the students from first-generation college backgrounds and over 80% of first-generation law school backgrounds. Also, during his tenure, the ultramodern \$93 million, state-of-the-art John M. O'Quinn Law Building

opened in 2022. Dean Baynes initiated an award-winning Pre-Law Pipeline Program designed to create more opportunities for first-generation, economically challenged, and under-resourced college students.

In 2020, Dean Baynes was named to the Lawyers of Color Power List by the Lawyers of Color Foundation. In 2022, he was recognized by the AALS with the Clyde Ferguson Award and by his alma mater, Columbia University School of Law, with the Paul Robeson Award. Dean Baynes has written more than 35 law review articles and in 2020 published a casebook titled *Communications Law in the Public Interest* with Wolters Kluwer.

BIOGRAPHIES



EMILY BERMAN

*William B. Bates Distinguished Chair in Law
Assistant Dean of Faculty Development; Professor of Law
University of Houston Law Center*

Professor Emily Berman is a constitutional scholar with expertise in executive power and national security law. Her scholarship identifies areas of law where executive power is subject to inadequate restraints and proposes novel mechanisms for imposing checks and balances and democratic accountability on the executive branch. Berman teaches Constitutional Law, Federal Courts, and National Security.

Professor Berman received her A.B. in political science from Duke University and her J.D., *magna cum laude*, from New York University School of Law, where she was the editor-in-chief of the *NYU Law Review*. She also received an LL.M. in International Law from NYU. After graduating from law school, Berman clerked for the Hon. John M. Walker, Jr. of the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. Prior to joining the University of Houston Law Center faculty in the fall of 2014, she taught for two years as a visiting assistant professor at Brooklyn Law School. She previously was a Furman Fellow and Brennan Center Fellow at New York University School of Law and held positions as counsel and Katz Fellow in the Liberty and National Security Program at the Brennan Center for Justice. Berman's work has been published in top journals, such as the *Minnesota Law Review*, the *Iowa Law Review*, the *Boston University Law Review*, the *Fordham Law Review*, the *Indiana Law Journal*, and the *New York University Law Review*; her opinion pieces have appeared in *Just Security*, *Lawfare*, *The Atlantic Online*, the *National Law Journal*, *Legal Times Online*, and CNN.com, among others.



STEVE CLOWNEY

*Professor of Law
University of Arkansas School of Law*

Professor Stephen Clowney joined the faculty of the University of Arkansas School of Law in 2014. Before moving to Arkansas, he held the Frost Brown & Todd endowed professorship at the University of Kentucky. At the University of Arkansas, Professor Clowney teaches Property, Land Use, Trusts & Estates, and a seminar on Race & the Law.

Prior to entering academia, Professor Clowney served as a Law Clerk in the Chambers of the Hon. Ruggero J. Aldisert, in Santa Barbara, California. He has also worked as a legal consultant in Hawaii, a college admissions officer, and a gravedigger.

His main areas of research include zoning regulations, monuments, the history of cities, handwritten wills, and the presence of violence in informal property systems. Professor Clowney received his A.B. *cum laude* from Princeton University in 2000 and his J.D. from Yale University in 2006, where he was an editor of the *Yale Law Journal*.

BIOGRAPHIES



MEREDITH J. DUNCAN

*Alumnae College Professor of Law
Assistant Dean for Opportunities, Pedagogy, and Community Engagement
University of Houston Law Center*

Professor Meredith J. Duncan is the Alumnae College Professor of Law and the Assistant Dean for Opportunities, Pedagogy, and Community Engagement at the University of Houston Law Center. Her areas of expertise include legal ethics, criminal law, and torts. As Assistant Dean for Opportunities, Pedagogy, and Community Engagement, Duncan oversees the Law Center's award-winning Pre-Law Pipeline Programs, which are race-neutral, gender-neutral, and ethnic-neutral preparatory initiatives designed to equip first-generation undergraduate students, aspiring first-generation law students, and individuals from low-income backgrounds with essential information,

tools, and training to develop a successful law school application.

Professor Duncan teaches Torts, Criminal Law, Professional Responsibility, and other related courses at the Law Center. She has been honored with several teaching awards, including the University of Houston's highest teaching honor, UH's Distinguished Leadership in Teaching Excellence Award. She is one of only 26 law professors studied nationwide in the Harvard University Press book *What the Best Law Teachers Do*, a study of the "methods, strategies, and personal traits of professors whose students achieve exceptional learning." She has been selected numerous times by the Law Center's Student Bar Association as the Outstanding Professor of the Year and by the graduating law students as their "hooder" at commencement. She has also been selected by the graduates as their faculty commencement speaker.

Duncan graduated with a B.A. in Political Science from Northwestern University and earned her law degree from the University of Houston Law Center. She clerked for the Honorable Edith H. Jones, Judge for the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, and was an associate at Vinson & Elkins, L.L.P. She is the co-author of *Tort Law: A Contemporary Approach*, published by West Academic, and *Advanced Torts: A Lawyer's Perspective*, published by Carolina Academic Press. She has published articles in leading legal publications, such as the *Georgia Law Review*, the *Wake Forest Law Review*, the *Brooklyn Law Review*, and the *American Criminal Law Review*. She is a member of the prestigious American Law Institute and a fellow of the American Bar Foundation.



MARTIN EDWARDS

*Assistant Professor of Law
University of Mississippi School of Law*

Professor Martin Edwards joined the Ole Miss Law faculty in 2023 after two years each on the faculties at Belmont University College of Law and Mississippi College School of Law. He teaches Contracts, Business Associations, Mergers & Acquisitions, and Legal Profession, as well as Introduction to American Law & Legal Reasoning in the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College. He has also taught Legal Research and Writing as a Forrester Fellow at Tulane University School of Law.

Professor Edwards graduated from Duke Law School, and he holds a Bachelor's of Accountancy from The University of Mississippi. He clerked for the Hon. Leslie H. Southwick of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, served as a Special Assistant Attorney General at the Mississippi Attorney General's Office, and practiced law at Phelps Dunbar, LLP.

Professor Edwards's research interests include business entity law, corporate governance, contract law and theory, securities and financial regulation, financial technology, antitrust, law and economics, law and technology, and firearms law. His work has appeared or is forthcoming in the *Dickinson Law Review*, *Louisiana Law Review*, *Vanderbilt Journal of Entertainment & Technology Law*, *St. John's Law Review*, *Colorado Law Review*, *Penn State Law Review*, and *Administrative Law Review*.

His current works in progress include an analysis of Delaware corporate cases. He regularly presents works-in-progress and conference papers at conferences such as the Southeast Association of Law Schools Conference, Association for American Law Schools Annual Meeting, the National Business Law Scholars' Conference, Public Choice Society Annual Meeting, and the Firearms Law Works-in-Progress Conference, and participates in discussion and reading groups sponsored by the International Center for Law & Economics, Liberty Fund, and the Federalist Society for Law & Public Policy Studies.

BIOGRAPHIES



DANIELLA LANDERS

*2025-2026 President
Houston Bar Association*

Daniella Landers is the 2025-2026 President of the Houston Bar Association (HBA). She has served on the HBA Board of Directors as first vice president, secretary, and for two terms as director. She has also served as vice chair of the Houston Bar Foundation, chair of the Dispute Resolution Center, president of the Houston Lawyer Referral Service, and chair of Houston Volunteer Lawyers. Additionally, she has co-chaired several HBA committees, including Communities In Schools, Law & the Media, AIDS Outreach, Judicial Polls, Membership, Lawyers for Literacy, CLE, Lawyers Against Waste (now Lawyers for a Beautiful Houston), Gender Fairness, and Minority

Opportunities in the Legal Profession (now Diversity, Equity and Inclusion).

Landers has been dedicated to the legal profession and greater Houston community through her service to several professional and community organizations, including the Houston Lawyers Association, Women in Energy Network Houston Chapter, the Institute for Energy Law, the National Bar Association, the Center for Women in Law, the HAY Center Foundation, the Fort Bend County Chapter of the Links Inc., the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., the Continentals Houston Chapter, and as a long-time member of the Houston Bar Association and Life Fellow of the Houston Bar Foundation.

As an attorney with over 25 years' experience, Landers has represented energy, chemical, commercial and industrial clients on a broad range of environmental, health & safety and land use issues, with a focus on dispute resolution, risk mitigation, regulatory compliance, ESG and sustainability, and transactional matters (mergers, sales, acquisitions, joint ventures). She has also served as an adjunct professor at South Texas College of Law and the University of Houston Law Center. Landers is a prolific speaker and writer on environmental, energy and litigation issues.



VICTORIA MATHER

*Professor of Law
St. Mary's University School of Law*

Professor Mather joined the St. Mary's faculty in 1985, after practicing law in a civil practice firm in Illinois and studying for her LLM degree. She teaches and writes in the areas of Property, Family Law and Wills and Trusts. She also taught Population Law and Policy several times for the St. Mary's Institute on World Legal Problems in Innsbruck, Austria and has served as co-director of the Institute. She has been a visiting professor at the University of Texas and the University of Illinois.

She served as the Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs at St. Mary's University School of Law from 1999-2002 and 2006-2016. In her capacity as Associate Dean she worked with students and faculty on assessment, curriculum development, student disability services, academic standards, and student academic issues.

BIOGRAPHIES



ORLY MAZUR

*Professor of Law
SMU Dedman School of Law*

Orly Mazur teaches and writes in the area of tax law and policy. Her scholarship focuses on the intersection of tax law and technology, international and comparative taxation, and taxation in the digital economy. Her work has been published in numerous journals, including the *California Law Review*, *Boston College Law Review*, *Pepperdine Law Review*, *Columbia Journal of Tax Law*, among other law review and peer-reviewed journals.

Professor Mazur is actively involved in the academic and legal community. In 2016, she received the university-wide Golden Mustang Teaching Award. In 2022, Professor Mazur was appointed to serve as Vice-Chair to the International Tax Committee of the Tax Section of the State Bar of Texas. She is also a fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation and has served as a member and chair of the executive committee of the American Association of Law Schools' Section on Taxation. Professor Mazur has also been a guest blogger for TaxProf Blog's Weekly SSRN Tax Article Review and Roundup and was featured in *Forbes* in 2020.

Before joining the SMU faculty, Professor Mazur worked as an associate in the Business Planning and Taxation group at Haynes and Boone, LLP. She also worked as a certified public accountant at PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP, where she focused her practice on international taxation. Professor Mazur received her B.B.A. and M.P.A., *summa cum laude*, from the University of Texas at Austin and her J.D., *summa cum laude*, from SMU Dedman School of Law, where she graduated first in her class and was a member of the *SMU Law Review*. She holds an LL.M in taxation from NYU School of Law.



CHRISTOPHER K. ODINET

*Professor of Law & Mosbacher Research Fellow
Texas A&M University School of Law*

Professor Odinet's research focuses on commercial law, consumer finance & banking, and property law, with an emphasis on digital assets, financial regulation, bankruptcy, and mortgage lending. Professor Odinet's courses include Property Law; Secured Transactions; Real Estate Law & Finance; Bankruptcy; and Consumer Banking & Finance Law. Professor Odinet also holds appointments at the Texas A&M Mays Business School and the Texas A&M Bush School of Government & Public Service.

His book titled *Foreclosed: Mortgage Servicing and the Hidden Architecture of Homeownership in America* was published by Cambridge University Press in 2019. Professor Odinet also has a forthcoming book with Oxford University Press titled *Digital Commercial Law: Private Law in a World of Tokens, Platforms, and Automation*. He has been quoted in numerous national media outlets, and he is a co-author on several casebooks dealing with property, real estate, and commercial transactions.

Professor Odinet is an elected member of both the American Law Institute and the European Law Institute. He is a fellow of both the American College of Real Estate Lawyers and the American College of Consumer Financial Services Lawyers. Additionally, he has held several leadership positions with the American Bar Association's Section of Real Property, Trust & Estate Law. Professor Odinet has also chaired both the Commercial and Consumer Law Section and the Real Estate Transactions Section of the Association of American Law Schools.

Prior to joining the Texas A&M Law faculty in fall 2024, Professor Odinet was the Josephine R. Witte Distinguished Professor of Law at the University of Iowa College of Law. Before that, he served on the faculties of the University of Oklahoma College of Law and at the Southern University Law Center. Before entering academia, he practiced law in the business and finance group at Phelps Dunbar LLP.

BIOGRAPHIES



PATRICIA ROBERTS

*Dean and Charles E. Cantú Distinguished Professor of Law
St. Mary's University School of Law*

Patricia Roberts is the Charles E. Cantú Distinguished Professor of Law and 10th dean of St. Mary's University School of Law. Dean Roberts practiced law for eight years after earning her law degree from William & Mary. She returned to her alma mater as a clinical professor of law, director of clinical programs, and vice-dean before becoming the dean at St. Mary's in 2020.

Dean Roberts's leadership has encouraged innovative programs, increasing the law school's national reputation. In 2021, St. Mary's became the first law school in the nation approved to offer a fully online J.D. program accredited by the ABA. The law school increased its national ranking

among the best advocacy programs to first, and applications to the law school have reached historic levels.

Dean Roberts led legal efforts nationally to aid veterans and was inaugural president of the National Law School Veterans Clinic Consortium. She is a Board Member of the Law School Admission Council, Member of the AALS Deans' Steering Committee, Co-Chair of the AALS Dean Section, and Executive Member of the Ad Hoc Rural Access to Justice Committee. She is a fellow in the Foundations of the ABA, Virginia Law, and San Antonio Bar, and hosts the legal education podcast *Aspen Leading Edge*.



PETER N. SALIB

*Assistant Professor of Law
University of Houston Law Center*

Peter N. Salib is an Assistant Professor of Law at the University of Houston Law Center and Associated Faculty in Public Affairs. He also serves as Law and Policy Advisor to the Center for AI Safety in San Francisco and is co-Director of the Center for Law & AI Risk.

Peter is an expert in the law of artificial intelligence. His research applies substantive constitutional doctrine and economic analysis to questions of AI governance. He has previously written about how machine learning techniques can be used to solve intractable-seeming problems in constitutional policy. Peter's current research focuses on how law can help mitigate catastrophic risks from increasingly capable AI.

Peter's long-form scholarship has been published in, among others, the *University of Chicago Law Review*, *Virginia Law Review*, *Michigan Law Review*, *Northwestern University Law Review*, *Texas Law Review*, and *Washington University Law Review*. His shorter works have been published in the digital editions of the *Duke Law Journal*, *Notre Dame Law Review*, *Southern California Law Review*, *Texas Law Review*, and *University of Chicago Law Review*. Peter has presented his work at, among others, the Harvard/Yale/Stanford Junior Faculty Forum, the University of Michigan Junior Scholars Conference, the University of Chicago International Junior Scholars Forum, the Harvard Law and Economics Workshop, and the Yale Freedom of Expression Scholars Conference.

Prior to joining the University of Houston Law Center, Peter was a Climenko Fellow and Lecturer on Law at Harvard Law School. Before that, Peter practiced law at Sidley Austin LLP and served as a judicial clerk to the Honorable Frank H. Easterbrook.

BIOGRAPHIES



DOUGLAS SYLVESTER

*Dean Emeritus
Professor of Law
Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law
Arizona State University*

Douglas Sylvester was the 8th dean of the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University. Under his leadership, ASU Law reached historic heights ranking as high as 24th in the nation, 7th among public law schools, and was the youngest law school in the top 25. From 2012-2020, the law school placed in the top 25 for employment (rising as high as #11 in 2014), hired nearly 60 faculty members, and raised \$81 million — more than twice the amount raised in the prior 45 years combined.

Sylvester was also a driving force for the conceptualization and creation of the Beus Center for Law and Society in downtown Phoenix, which is now home to ASU Law and several other legal-related organizations including the innovative ASU Law Group and the Arizona Legal Center.

In 2007, Sylvester was appointed special consultant to a National Academy of Sciences panel charged with reforming the U.S. Census. He was the founding faculty director of the innovative Technology Ventures Clinic which introduces students to transactional legal practice in high-technology sectors. He also has been an expert witness in cases involving licensing, intellectual property and technology, and has advised numerous entrepreneurs in building their businesses.

Before becoming dean, Sylvester served as associate dean for faculty research and development, responsible for building an environment that fosters faculty scholarship, organizing speaker series, mentoring junior faculty, and seeking innovative ways to increase the faculty's visibility. Prior to joining ASU, Sylvester was a Bigelow Fellow and lecturer-in-law at the University of Chicago and Northwestern University, an attorney at Baker McKenzie in Chicago, and a law clerk for U.S. District Judge C. Clyde Atkins in Florida.



KYLE VELTE

*Associate Dean, Faculty
Karelitz Chair in Evidence Law
Professor of Law
University of Kansas School of Law*

Kyle Velte joined the KU Law faculty as an Associate Professor of Law in 2018 and was promoted to Professor of Law in 2022. Velte assumed the role of Associate Dean for Faculty in August 2022. She became the Karelitz Chair in Evidence Law in 2022. Velte teaches Evidence, Torts, and Sexual Orientation & the Law.

Her scholarship, which examines the intersection of sexuality, gender and the law, has appeared in law journals, including the *Yale Law & Policy Review*, *Cardozo Law Review* and *Connecticut Law Review*. Her recent scholarship focuses on the perceived tensions between religious freedom and LGBT civil rights along three axes — law, policy and theory. She filed or coauthored amicus briefs in the United States Supreme Court cases of *Fulton v. City of Philadelphia*, *R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Homes, Inc. v. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission*, *United States v. Windsor*, *Obergefell v. Hodges* and *Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission* and has appeared in the media discussing issues of religious liberty and its connection to antidiscrimination law, Title IX and marriage equality.

Prior to joining the faculty at KU Law, Velte was a Visiting Assistant Professor at Texas Tech University School of Law and an Assistant Professor of the Practice in the Legal Externship Program at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law. She also taught Civil Procedure, Conflict of Laws, and Sexual Orientation & the Law.

Velte holds an LL.M. from Harvard Law School and a J.D., summa cum laude, from American University Washington College of Law. Before entering the legal academy, Velte practiced complex commercial litigation at the Denver law firm of Reilly Pozner LLP. Prior to entering private practice, she completed two judicial clerkships with Justice Alex Martinez of the Colorado Supreme Court and for the Honorable Roxanne Bailin of the 20th Judicial District in Boulder, Colorado.



UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON LAW CENTER



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