

AALS Workshop for New Law Teachers

Name of Session: Outside the Classroom

Lawrence C. Levine, University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law

Mai Linh Spencer, University of California, Hastings College of the Law

Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this session, participants will:

- Understand the key means and methods of connecting with students outside the classroom, including: the number and nature of office hours; considerations in hiring individual students as research and teaching assistants; ways to mentor individual and groups of students (for example, as an advisor to a student organization).
- Recognize some of the considerations in deciding whether and how to engage in the above methods, such as when and how to reach out to individual students.
- Begin thinking about where and how to set appropriate boundaries with students, including the need to protect junior faculty (especially faculty of color) from being inundated with student or institutional requests requiring significant student interactions. How to say no.
- Identify concrete steps to create sustainable, authentic, professional connections with students outside the classroom. When and whether to connect on social media.

Teaching Methods

- Poll Everywhere polling – *participants should download the app and sign into our class* “mlspencer” or go to pollev.com/mlspencer
- If time permits, Zoom breakout rooms followed by group discussion
- PowerPoint (very minimal)
- Discussion of hypotheticals via a light “Socratic” method