

CONFERENCE:

The Fate of Scholarship in American Law Schools

March 31-April 1, 2016

Concurrent Sessions:

Descriptions and Locations

Thursday, March 31, 3:15-4:45 pm

Session A: Courage and Creativity in Legal Scholarship

Led by **Shari Motro**, University of Richmond
Room 603

“Risk being unliked,” counsels Anne Lamott in her classic guide for writers. “Tell the truth as you understand it. If you’re a writer, you have a moral obligation to do this.”

Some legal scholars never face this type of dilemma; law-review-speak comes naturally to them and the truth as they understand it poses no threat to their popularity. But for those whose authentic voice or substantive area of interest does not correspond with the modes and topics most prized by the arbiters of excellence in our profession, breaking out of the mold can be hard. What if I look like a fool? What if I disappoint my mentors? What if, having trained myself to conform for so long, I can’t find my truer, more “authentic” voice?

In this session we will explore writing practices designed to enhance courage and creativity. After a brief introduction, the session will be structured as an experiential writing workshop with time for writing as well as sharing (though sharing will be entirely optional).

Session B: Is Law Review Scholarship Passé?

Led by **Kenneth Lasson**, University of Baltimore
Room 608

There are close to 1,000 law reviews publishing annually in the United States, with many others appearing internationally. In an era of increasing costs and electronic publishing, is the process for submitting, editing, and reviewing law-review articles too time-intensive and energy-inefficient? Are law-review articles still the best means for evaluating a faculty member’s scholarly contributions? In short, has the traditional law-review model run its course? These and related questions will be explored in depth by the panel.

Session C: Legal Scholarship and Foreign Legal Systems

Led by **James Maxeiner**, University of Baltimore
Room 802

Professor Maxeiner will address how much American law reform could benefit from comparative law scholarship and suggest reasons why American legal scholarship pays foreign law so little attention. Three distinguished comparativists will then comment on these issues: Professor Renée Lerner, George Washington University; Professor Fernanda Nicola, American University; and Professor Peter Quint, University of Maryland. All present will then be invited to contribute to the discussion.

Friday, April 1, 1:30-3:00 pm

Session D: Collaboration, Iteration and Design in Legal Scholarship

Led by **Mark Edwards**, Mitchell Hamline School of Law
Room 803

So much contemporary legal scholarship is still produced as if scholars were confined by the technological limits of an earlier era, and with apparent indifference to its users' experience. Drawing on lessons from entrepreneurial thought, this roundtable discussion will explore whether a new approach to legal scholarship is possible, one that values collaboration over autonomy, produces continuous iterations rather artifacts, and consciously incorporates design-thinking to enhance user experience.

Session E: Interdisciplinary Scholarship

Led by **Eric Easton**, University of Baltimore
Room 402

This conversation will feature legal scholars who have worked in the areas of history, political science, economics, and journalism. We will talk about why to engage in interdisciplinary scholarship, how to find and work with collaborators, where interdisciplinary scholarship should be published, and other

topics of interest. Participants will include members of the UB Law faculty, as well as the Legal and Ethical Studies Program at UB and the Government and Politics Program at the University of Maryland-College Park. The format will be completely informal, and all conference participants are invited to share their experiences on interdisciplinary scholarship.

Session F: Library Support for Faculty Scholarship

Led by **Adeen Postar**, University of Baltimore
Room 403

This session is designed to spark a lively discussion on how law libraries can best support faculty scholarship. Beyond providing traditional research and resource support, promoting faculty scholarship through institutional repositories and managing Scholastica and ExpressO submissions, what services should libraries provide? What innovative library services are there that can further institutional goals for scholarship? How can librarians guide faculty through the changing landscape of publishing? How is the role of librarians affected by limited budgets and fiscal restraint?