Faculty Showcases Law School at AALS Meeting

The University of Wisconsin Law School was well represented this January at the annual Association of American Law Schools (AALS) meeting in San Francisco, where member schools focused on the theme of "Engaged Scholarship." Four Wisconsin faculty members were part of the scholarly program.

The AALS is a non-profit association of 166 law schools that serves as the learned society for law teachers and principal representative of legal education to the federal government, and to other national higher education organizations and societies.

Professor Jane S. Schacter presented at a session addressing democratic governance on the issue of Judicial Review. Her research explores problems of legal interpretation, as well as debates about sexuality and law, with an emphasis in both areas on questions of democratic theory. At the UW, she teaches Constitutional Law, Legislation, Sexual Orientation and the Law, and Civil Procedure.

Professor Gregory Shaffer participated in a panel discussion that explored the idea of jurisdiction and the cross-border assertion of norms in an era of globalization. The panel discussed the theoretical basis for jurisdictional rules from both legal and anthropological perspectives. Shaffer is Director of UW's European Union Center and Co-Director of the University's Center on World Affairs and the Global Economy. He teaches courses in international trade law, international law, European Union law, international business transactions, and public corporations.

Professor Heinz J. Klug spoke on his experiences in South Africa in the workshop "Building a Democratic System." Klug's anti-apartheid activities in his native South Africa as a member of the African National Congress and as a journalist resulted in exile for eleven years. He continued to work in exile in Zimbabwe and Botswana for the ANC, then pursued a legal education in the U.S. Since the fall of apartheid, he has served as an adviser to the new South African government on creating their constitution and on water rights and land tenure issues.

Professor Gretchen Viney moderated a panel that explored contextual influences in interviewing and counseling criminal defense clients. The panel and attendees discussed achieving more sophisticated methods of interviewing and counseling that would more effectively address specific client needs. Gretchen Viney is a clinical associate professor at the UW and associate director of the Lawyering Skills Program.

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But he found the job too big for one blogger. As his own blog took a turn toward discussing everything from gourmet cheese to politics to the Bowl Championship Series, Smith recruited students to work on the instructional blog. Recent posts to the blog included news of the tax code's effect on small businesses, the bankruptcy bill's likelihood of passage, a proposed Internet sales tax, and the strong job market in university towns. "It's the wave of the future," says Wyatt. "It's a great way to get information out, and you don't have to rely solely on traditional media outlets."

— Dennis Chaptman, UW Communications