



Fredric G. Levin College of Law
Office of the Dean

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October 15, 2021

MEMORANDUM

TO: Voting Faculty

FROM: Laura A. Rosenbury, Dean

RE: Faculty Meeting Agenda, Friday, October 22, 2021

I have scheduled a faculty meeting for Friday, October 22, 2021, beginning at 2:30 p.m. and ending no later than 4:00 p.m. The meeting will take place virtually, and the agenda will be as follows:

1. Approve Faculty Meeting Minutes for September 24, 2021, attached
2. Information Item: Update from Assistant Dean M Smith Regarding Diversity-Related Topics
3. Approve a visiting professor to teach Torts and Remedies during the Spring 2021 semester, CV attached
4. Information Item: Discuss Hiring Goals and the Appointments Process

You may join virtually at:

<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/94133781661?pwd=Q1ppZEJhR2Nab1lGV3Rab2lwRXNHUT09>

UF Levin College of Law Faculty Meeting Minutes

September 24, 2021, 2:30 p.m., Virtual

PRESENT:

Mary Adkins, Mary Jane Angelo, Thomas Ankersen, Rachel Arnow-Richman, Sarah Bishop, Stephanie Bornstein, Karen Burke, Dennis Calfee, Paige Carlos, Jonathan Cohen, Robin Davis, Lisa DeSanctis, Teresa Drake, Seth Endo, Barbara Evans, Mark Fenster, Ben Fernandez, William Hamilton, Andrew Hammond, Kristen Hardy, David Hasen, Mindy Herzfeld, Blake Hudson, Joseph Jackson, Michelle Jacobs, E. Lea Johnston, Shani King, Sabrina Little, Charlene Luke, Pedro Malavet, Grayson McCouch, Timothy McLendon, Silvia Menendez, Jon Mills, Peter Molk, Jason Nance, Lars Noah, Kenneth Nunn, Jane O'Connell, William Page, Teresa Reid, Robert Rhee, Laura Rosenbury, Elizabeth Rowe, Katheryn Russell-Brown, Joan Stearns Johnsen, Amy Stein, Stacey Steinberg, John Stinneford, Henry Wihnyk, Andrew Winden, Michael Wolf, Sarah Wolking, Danaya Wright, Jennifer Zedalis, Wentong Zheng

NOT PRESENT:

Yariv Brauner, Annie Brett, Neil Buchanan, Judy Clausen, Charles Collier, Nancy Dowd, Berta Esperanza Hernandez-Truyol, Maryam Jamshidi, Christine Klein, Elizabeth Lear, Merritt McAlister, Margaret Temple-Smith, Lee-ford Tritt, Steven Willis

Meeting called to order at 2:32 p.m.

1. Approve Faculty Meeting Minutes for August 27, 2021

Dean Laura Rosenbury launched a poll to approve the faculty meeting minutes for August 27, 2021. *Minutes approved*

2. Information Item: Modality of Future Faculty Meetings

Dean Laura Rosenbury launched a poll regarding preferences for modality of future faculty meetings. Results were recorded and modality will be communicated with distribution of the next faculty meeting agenda. *Information item only*

3. Information Item: Update from Assistant Dean M Smith Regarding Diversity-Related Topics

Assistant Dean M Smith provided an update regarding diversity-related topics. *Information item only*

4. Information Item: Update from Associate Dean Rachel Inman Regarding New Student Life Canvas Page

Associate Dean Rachel Inman provided an update regarding the new Student Life Canvas page. *Information item only*

5. Information Item: Update on staff hiring

Dean Laura Rosenbury provided an update on staff recently hired and staff positions to be hired. *Information item only*

6. Information Item: UF Campaign for Charities Donation Period and Community Organizations

Dean Laura Rosenbury described UF Campaign for Charities donation period and community organizations involved in the campaign. *Information item only*

7. Information Item: Update from Professor Sabrina Little, Director of Legal Writing and Drafting

Professor Sabrina Little and Professor Mary Adkins provided an update on Legal Writing and Drafting. *Information item only*

8. Information Item: Update from the Appointments Committee (Peter Molk and Wentong Zheng, chairs)

Professor Peter Molk provided an update on Tenured and Tenure-Track Appointments. *Information item only*

9. Select Primary and Alternate Representatives to the AALS House of Representatives for Virtual Meeting on January 8, 2022, from 12:35 p.m. to 1:50 p.m. Eastern Time.

Dean Laura Rosenbury asked for volunteers for primary and alternate representatives to the AALS House of Representatives. Rachel Arnow-Richman volunteered to be the primary representative, and Joan Stearns Johnsen volunteered to be the alternate representative. Dean Rosenbury launched a poll to approve Rachel Arnow-Richman and Joan Stearns Johnsen as primary and alternate AALS House Representatives respectively. *Rachel Arnow-Richman was approved as the primary representative and Joan Stearns-Johnsen was approved as the alternate representative.*

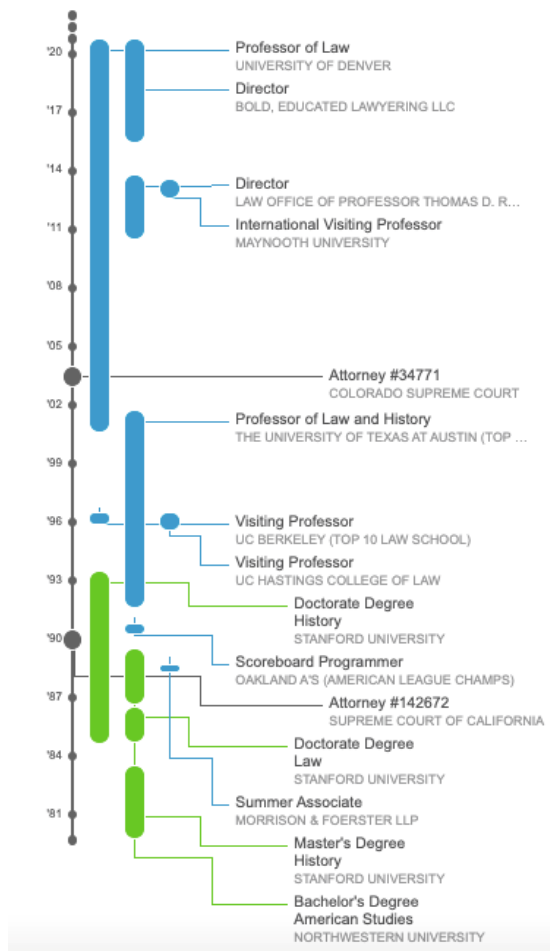
Meeting adjourned at 3:34 p.m.

THOMAS D. RUSSELL, J.D., Ph.D.

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A fall 2019 Torts student raved: "Professor Russell teaches the most practical course I've ever had in my entire life." Students voted me best teacher in 2019-20. My teaching and scholarship concern the real world. During the pandemic, I taught a hybrid Torts class in our part-time J.D. program and a spring American Legal History class to 57 students. I'm synchronous, asynchronous, live, and ready to pivot.

Like my Torts class, my research draws upon my practice. My article, [Frivolous Defenses](#), is an empirical analysis of 298 complaints and 356 answers in Colorado car-crash lawsuits. This path-breaking piece earned spots (mostly #1) on [20 SSRN top-ten lists including three all-time lists](#). A cross-over between practice and academia, attorneys are citing the piece in motions. Disrupting Frivolous Defenses examines federal district court Judge Milton Shadur's disruptive efforts. Defending Frivolous Defenses will canvass defense explanations and justifications for their answers and analyze data concerning a Colorado Rule change that the defense has ignored. Recent talks: Business Torts section of the American Association of Justice; the Dallas Trial Lawyers Association; and the Kentucky Justice Association.



An active member of Colorado and California's bars, I practice what I teach. While a law professor, I have handled and litigated small and big personal injury cases and other matters involving banks, hospitals, and regulated industries while running a small firm. I enrich my Torts class using fee agreements, disclosure statements, demand letters, insurance policies, motions, orders, exhibits, and appellate opinions. I have taught a live-client litigation practicum. I also teach American Legal History and Contracts including UCC Article 2.

I serve the public interest as a litigator. In 2013, I co-counseled Colorado's first-filed marriage equality lawsuit. (We won!) *Rebecca Brinkman and Margaret Burd v. Karen Long and The State of Colorado*, 2014 WL 3408024 (Colo.Dist.Ct.). Some other reported cases are *Marchant v. Boulder Cmty. Health, Inc.*, 2018 COA 126M, ¶ 1, as modified (Oct. 18, 2018), cert. denied, 18SC671, 2019 WL 922352 (Colo. Feb. 25, 2019) (Case of first impression interpreting Colorado hospital lien statute. Denver law students assisted. the litigation and appeal. We lost!) *Mile High Cab, Inc. v. Colo. Pub. Utils. Comm'n*, No. 11SA312, slip op. 2013 WL 1715473 (Colo., Apr. 22, 2013) (Multi-year fight for a startup taxi company that 150 East African immigrants formed ending a Supreme Court unanimous decision overturning Colorado Public Utility Commission's denial of operating authority.) *Wycoff v. Grace Community Church of Assemblies of God*, 251 P.3d 1260 (Colo.App., 2010). (\$4 million trial win for child with spinal cord injury, defeated recreational release, and preserved judgment on appeal.)

I write and teach about systemic racism. My 2010 study spearheaded building a dorm's renaming. "Keep Negroes Out of Most Classes Where There are a Large Number of Girls': The Unseen Power of the Ku Klux Klan and Standardized Testing at the University of Texas, 1899-1999," 52 *South Texas Law Review* 1 (Fall 2010). I examine slave property and law's central role in slave sales and family disruption in "A New Image of the Slave Auction: An Empirical Look at the Role of Law in Slave Sales and a Conceptual Reevaluation of the Nature of Slave Property," 18 *Cardozo Law Review* 473; "Articles Sell Best Singly: The Disruption of Slave Families at Court Sales," 1996 *Utah Law Review* 1161-1209 (1996); and "South Carolina's Largest Slave Auctioneering Firm," in Symposium on the Law of Slavery, 68 *Chicago-Kent Law Review* 1241-82 (1993). From day one of Torts, I talk about race and damages.

I have written about the history of torts. "Historical Study of Personal Injury Litigation: A Comment on Method," 1 *Georgia Journal of Southern Legal History* 109-33 (1991). Lawrence M. Friedman and Thomas D. Russell, "More Civil Wrongs: Personal Injury Litigation, 1901-1910," 24 *American Journal of Legal History* 296-314 (July 1990). I have an unpublished, very fun manuscript titled Blood on the Tracks.

I earned tenure at The University of Texas at Austin School of Law and was a full professor with a courtesy appointment in History. I have visited at the University of California's Hastings College of the Law and Berkeley Law. While a PhD candidate, I co-taught History of American Law with Lawrence Friedman at Stanford.

My international experience includes teaching the Irish law of Torts and Contracts to 175 undergraduate and 12 Masters students at the Republic of Ireland's Maynooth University. I taught the Caribbean's first Restorative Justice seminar as a Fulbright Senior Specialist at the University of the West Indies in St. Augustine, Trinidad & Tobago.

At the University of Denver, I serve on the COVID-19 Planning Committee and the Faculty Executive Committee's Budget Subcommittee. Previous service includes Appointments; Policy (elected); Admissions and Financial Aid; Budget; National Fundraising Campaign; and Library. At UT, I served on the Faculty Council Executive Committee; Budget Advisory Committee of the General Faculty; and was a University Hearing Officer. At UT law school, I was a member of the Curriculum; Standards and Rules; and Computer Services Committees.

References:

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