



# ASSOCIATION OF ACADEMIC SUPPORT EDUCATORS

HAPPY  
Holidays



## Meet the Team

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Sarah Garrison, University of Detroit Mercy School of Law

Dyann Margolis, University of Cincinnati College of Law

Nachman Gutowski, William S. Boyd School of Law, University of Nevada Las Vegas

Leila Lawlor, Washington & Lee University School of Law

Kelly Collinsworth, Southern Illinois University Simmons Law School

Krishnee Cooley, University of Richmond School of Law

Kathleen Bolus, California Western School of Law

Jennifer Fernandez, CUNY School of Law

### ***Mark Your Calendars for the Following Upcoming Events:***

More information for these events can also be found [on the website here](#).

**Friday, December 19, 2025**

Northeast Consortium of Academic Success Professionals (NECASP): Academic Success Innovation

Location: New York, New York

Time: 11am -3 pm

**Friday, February 27, 2026**

Pedagogy in Tumultuous Times Conference

Time: 9 am - 6 pm

**Friday, March 6, 2026**

Professional Development Committee: Job Talk and Navigating Getting Hired

Time: TBD (Member Only Event)



**Tuesday, April 7, 2026**

Mastering Integrated Question Sets: Preparing Students for the NextGen Bar Exam (JD Advising)

Time: 2-3:30 pm

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## Call for Proposals

AASE Conference Proposals will be accepted until January 12, 2026.

If you would like information regarding how to put together your proposal and you missed the information session held earlier this month, here is link to the recording: [video1226386708.mp4](https://video1226386708.mp4) (Note: you may need to download the file to watch it.)

The PowerPoint slides may be accessed here:

[https://cdn.ymaws.com/associationofacademicsupportededucators.site-ym.com/resource/resmgr/conferences/2026\\_conference/aase\\_conference\\_proposal\\_fa.pptx](https://cdn.ymaws.com/associationofacademicsupportededucators.site-ym.com/resource/resmgr/conferences/2026_conference/aase_conference_proposal_fa.pptx) (Note: you will need to copy & paste the link into your browser.)

Thank you to the Professional Development Committee for this helpful information!

Follow, comment, and like us on our social media platforms:



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### Reserve Now!

AASE has secured an exclusive room block at Embassy Suites by Hilton Las Vegas for May 18-22, 2026. This family-friendly, pet-friendly, non-gaming hotel offers comfort and convenience—right across the street from the Law School!

#### Why You'll Love It:

- Unbeatable Rate: 2-room suites for just \$174 + tax (no resort fees!)
- Daily Happy Hour with 2 complimentary drinks and light snacks
- Hot Breakfast included every morning
- Evening Transportation: Buses will pick up and drop off right at the hotel for conference events
- Prime Location: Steps away from the Law School

#### Booking Details

It's easy! Click [HERE](#) to visit AASE's booking page and select "Book a Room" to access our preferred group rate.

- Pay When You Stay – Only a credit card needed to reserve
- Free Cancellation up to 24 hours before check-in
- Book Early – Don't wait! We have enough rooms for everyone

**Important:** We have a rolling block of 20 rooms that replenishes as they're booked. If the booking page shows no availability, don't worry! Simply call the hotel directly or email [Nachman.Gutowski@unlv.edu](mailto:Nachman.Gutowski@unlv.edu) and we'll reload the next block of rooms for you.

# AALS CONFERENCE PRESENTATION NEWS



Are you heading to New Orleans for the AALS Conference?

Check out the following presentations and support your AASE colleagues:



Date & Time	Presenter(s)	Session Name/Topic
January 6, 2:35 to 3:50	Mary Basick, UC Irvine School of Law; April Milburn-Knizer & Megan Montcalm, Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University	<i>Teaching So Gen Z Students Can Learn</i>
January 6, 2:35 to 3:50	Toni Miceli, Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law Arizona State University	<i>Beyond NextGen: Licensure Reform and Equity in Attorney Licensure</i>
January 6, 4:10 to 5:25	Sara Berman, USC Gould School of Law	<i>From Classroom to Clicks: Best Practices and Lessons Learned in Legal Education</i>
January 6, 4:10 to 5:25	Jamie Kleppetsch, DePaul University College of Law	<i>Helping Every Student Develop Practice Ready Skills Across the Curriculum</i>
January 6, 4:10 to 5:25	Kelly Collinsworth, Southern Illinois University Simmons Law School	<i>Bridging Theory and Practice: A Reproducible Classroom Method for Strengthening Legal Reasoning Across the Curriculum</i>
January 6, 4:10 to 5:25	Susan Landrum, Fordham University School of Law	<i>Pedagogy, Advising, and Beyond: Disabled Law Students, Disabled and Allied Law Student Associations (DALSAs), and Other Student Organizations Focused on Disability</i>
January 7, 1:00 to 2:15	Jennifer Fernandez, CUNY School of Law	<i>The Access Imperative: A Special Issue of the J. of Leg. Edu.</i>
January 7, 4:10 to 5:25	Susan Landrum, Fordham University School of Law	<i>Countdown to the NextGen UBE</i>
January 8, 9:35 to 10:50	Dyann Margolis, University of Cincinnati College of Law	<i>Teaching Evidence Law: Pedagogy, Practice, and Modern Challenges</i>
January 8, 1:00 to 2:15	Tia Gibbs, Georgia State University College of Law	<i>The NextGen Bar is Upon Us: How Will It Impact Law Schools' Curriculum?</i>
January 8, 2:35 to 3:50	Emily Hawkins, Themis Bar Review; Chris Robertson, Boston University; Jessica Findley, Univ. of Arizona; Joseph McClintock & Joseph Terry, Aspen Publishing	<i>Increasing Bar Passage: Data, Strategies, and Tools for Law School Success</i>
January 9, 8:00 to 9:15	Kelly Curtis, Syracuse Univ.; Cassie Christopher, Texas Tech Univ.; Dayna Smith, Vermont Law; Mary Purvis, Mississippi College Sch. of Law; Leila Lawlor, Washington & Lee Univ.; Andrew Realon, George Washington Univ.; Titichia Mitchell Jackson, Penn State Dickinson Law	<i>Fostering Impact and Resilience: Institutional Academic Support for Law Students and ASP Faculty</i>
January 9, 9:35 to 10:50	Kris Franklin, New York Law School	<i>New Scholars Works-in-Progress Session Moderator (and look for Kris at several other events during the Conference)</i>



Join the AALS Section on Academic Support for a casual social gathering at Spirits Bar, located in the lobby of the Hilton New Orleans Riverside, on Thursday, January 8, at 7:30 p.m.

# Member Spotlight:

## Antonia “Toni” Miceli



Professor Antonia “Toni” Miceli is a well-known leader in the academic and bar support community. An expert on bar licensure, her career has been driven by a commitment to reducing unnecessary barriers, demystifying the licensure process, and creating a more equitable and humane pathway into the legal profession.

Professor Miceli entered bar support and academic success work out of a love for teaching and a deep understanding of how daunting the bar exam and transition into practice can be. Grounded in the belief that law school and legal licensure should be accessible to all students, she focuses her daily work on helping students build the skills, strategies, and confidence they need to succeed. She spent 13 years at Saint Louis University School of Law as the Director of Academic and Bar Success before joining the Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law at Arizona State University in 2024 as its inaugural Director of Bar Success.

Professor Miceli’s impact extends far beyond direct student support. Her scholarship exposes structural obstacles in the licensure pipeline.

She describes her scholarship as “shining a light on the fragmented, often exhausting pathway to licensure that students with disabilities must navigate as they seek accommodations on the LSAT, in law school, on the MPRE, and on the bar exam.” To further her important research, Professor Miceli received the 2025 AccessLex AASE Faculty Scholarship Grant for her project Stop Moving the Bar: How State Practices Undermine Disability Rights in Legal Licensure.

Beyond her licensure scholarship, she is also heavily involved in bar preparation, including working with AccessLex Institute’s Building Bar Skills Initiative to develop NextGen Skill Modules and coauthoring The Ultimate Guide to the UBE.

Professor Miceli is also deeply engaged in AASE. A former President of the organization, she continues to serve on the Member Engagement Committee. When asked what advice she would offer a new member, she shared: “My advice is simple: lean into the community you’ve just joined. AASE is full of mentors, cheerleaders, and collaborators who want to see you

succeed in your role just as much as you want to see your students succeed in law school and on the bar exam. Take advantage of opportunities to connect - get to know colleagues in your region (they’ll be your go-to people for local bar practices and rules) and reach out to members across the country, who will happily answer questions you might think are ‘basic’ and share their materials and experiences as you grow in your position. Getting involved with an AASE committee is a sure-fire way to meet people, but if your time or resources are limited, that’s okay - start by attending a webinar or two and begin learning faces and names. And don’t be afraid to send that email to another AASE member; just like we tell students about going to professor office hours, your fellow AASE colleagues are a tremendous trove of knowledge and genuinely want to help you thrive in this work.”

Thank you, Toni, for your contribution to the law school academic support community.

# Member Spotlight:

## Scott DeVito



If you ask Scott DeVito what first drew him to academic support, he won't hesitate: teaching. Scholarship matters, but his passion is helping students grow. For Scott, it's especially the students who need a little extra time, structure, and encouragement to unlock their academic potential. Before studying the law and embracing ASP, Scott was shaped by an earlier life in graduate study. He earned his Ph.D., completing a dissertation focused on probabilistic causality. His study proved useful when he studied causation as a 1L in torts, a class he earned top marks in. When Scott talks about the bar exam, he's disarmingly practical: the law isn't what makes the bar exam daunting. Rather, it's the volume of material and the psychology around performance under pressure. He's seen firsthand how family responsibilities and work can compound those pressures.

This has led him to engage in scholarship on equity and transparency in bar licensure. His article, "The Kids Are Definitely Not All Right," used multi-school data to show a statistically significant negative correlation between the percentage of accommodated students and first-time bar passage. The paper concluded with an urgent call for better data from state bar examiners and more clarity around the granting (or denial) of testing accommodations. Building on that, Scott and colleagues are launching a three-year, IRB-approved longitudinal study to examine the relationship between bar exam testing accommodations and first-time passage across. Scott's goal is simple: move the conversation from anecdotes to evidence so schools can advocate and design supports for the students who most need them.

Scott's impact shows up in institutional leadership. As Dean of Florida Coastal School of Law, he led a turnaround that brought the school back into full ABA compliance. This included improving bar passage by more than 25 percentage points. He later served as a founding faculty member at Jacksonville University College of Law. Through it all, Scott keeps the focus squarely on students: listen first, measure what matters, and build structures that turn hope into habit. For him, ASP is duty of care inside legal education. Scott's ethic paired with his scholarly inquiry helps our community improve outcomes for every learner. We would all be wise to follow his instinct to pair empathy with data and to identify patterns that help students move past obstacles.

Thank you, Scott, for your contribution to the law school academic support community.

# Get Involved !



**Contribute to the Newsletter!**  
Have info to share? Jobs to list?  
Photos or content from ASP  
activities? Email us at  
[InfoMediaAASE@gmail.com!](mailto:InfoMediaAASE@gmail.com)

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