



ASSOCIATION OF ACADEMIC SUPPORT EDUCATORS

April 2026 Newsletter

Meet the Teams

DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

Carlota Toledo

Director, Academic and Bar Success
Syracuse University College of Law

Krishnee Coley

Professor of Law, Legal Practice & Director of Academic
Success Program
University of Richmond School of Law

Tia Gibbs

Director of Academic Advisement and Bar Success
Georgia State University College of Law

Niccol Kording

Associate Director of Bar Programs
University of Detroit Mercy School of Law

Geraldine Muir

Associate Dean
Boston University School of Law

Kiana K. Wilson

Assistant Director of School Academic Support
University of Alabama, School of Law

Ronda L. Harrison

Assistant Dean - Academic Success and Bar Readiness
Thurgood Marshall School of Law

MEMBER ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Laura Mott: Co-Chair, Assistant Professor of Law,
Lincoln Memorial University, Duncan School of Law

Andrew Stewart: Co-Chair, Assistant Director of Academic
Enrichment, *Washburn University School of Law*

Michele H. Berger, Visiting Assistant Professor of Academic
Success and Bar Support, Albany Law School

Sandy Boisrond, Assistant Professor of Academic Success and
Bar Preparation, St. Thomas University School of Law

Nikkee E. Espree, Assistant Dean for Academic Success,
Baylor University School of Law

Tia L. Gibbs, Director of Academic Advisement and Bar Success,
Georgia State University College of Law

Megan Kreminski, Director of Academic Success,
Northwestern Pritzker School of Law

Toni Miceli, Professor of Practice and Director, Bar Exam
Success Program,
Arizona State University Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law

Megan E.K. Montcalm, Director of Academic Excellence and
Assistant Professor of Legal Skills, Thomas R. Kline School of
Law of Duquesne University

Betsy Brand Six, Clinical Professor of Law, Director of Academic
Resources, University of Kansas School of Law

Liam Skilling, Director of Academic Success, Associate Faculty
Specialist, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Spring
vibes

Now that Spring is finally here for us all, we hope that you are enjoying
some amazing weather!


The **Information & Media Committee** wishes you all the best as we move
into grading and bar prep season!

See you in the fall!


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

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Reminder: AASE Resource Center



DOCUMENTS ARE NEEDED FOR THE NEW AASE RESOURCE CENTER! The AASE Executive Board, in collaboration with the AASE Assessment Committee, is developing a resource center for use by all AASE Members. The AASE Resource Center (ARC) will include ASP and Bar Prep documents shared by AASE Members for use in teaching, mentoring, and program implementation. The current version is to include the following types of documents:

- Syllabi;
- Status & Promotion Documents;
- Bar Prep Materials;
- NextGen UBE Materials;
- 1L ASP Materials;
- 2L & 3L ASP Materials;
- General Teaching Materials;
- Governance & Policy Materials;
- Orientation & Pre-Orientation Materials;
- AI Materials;
- Data Tracking (Surveys, Forms, Reports, Templates); and
- Communication with Students & Faculty/Staff – Templates.

Document collection has begun! Please look through your existing resources and find one or more documents to share. **With the help of the AASE Membership we can develop a resource that will enable us to serve our law students and alumni nationwide! Please support this endeavor and help the Assessment Committee create a resource that all AASE Members will value.**

To submit, go here. To review resources, go here.

CAREER CORNER

Don't forget to check out the AASE Career Center! It's updated regularly with exciting job openings and opportunities tailored for our community. Whether you're actively searching or just exploring, this is your go-to resource.

Visit the Career Center and take the next step in your career journey!

<https://aaselaw.org/networking/>



WAYS YOU CAN HELP: **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)

Looking to raise your professional profile? We are looking for guest bloggers for the ASP blog Email: InfoMediaAASE@gmail.com for more!





2026 AASE Board Nominations/Applications



The Association of Academic Support Educators is looking for engaged, committed, and outspoken leaders who can continue the work of AASE. We cannot thrive on legacy alone. We need new voices and new talents to continue the strong trajectory that our predecessors have begun.

The call for Nominations/Applications is now open for the following offices: [Apply HERE](#)

President-elect
Treasurer-elect
Secretary-elect
Chief Diversity Officer

For more details regarding the responsibilities for each role, please review the [AASE Bylaws](#).

Deadline to apply is April 15. The official slate will be published, and voting will open on May 1. Voting will close after the last session on Day 1 of the conference. Only 1 vote per eligible individual member.

Do you know someone with strong organizational skills, visionary and vocal leadership qualities, the ability to make sound decisions, the time available to serve, and a desire to work with a group of the most fabulous professionals in legal education? If this describes you or an AASE member that you know, please consider submitting a nomination for one of the open offices. AASE elected officers manage our organization's resources and programming. Board service will directly impact a community that supports and encourages the scholarly exchange of ideas devoted to improving legal education and the status of academic support professionals. All leadership roles are functionally for a two-year term, with the first year spent in the elect role, and the second in the primary role. The Chief Diversity Officer is also a 2-year role, no-elect position is in place for that role.

Any dues-paid AASE Individual Members may submit a nomination or self-nominate. Nominations must include a candidate statement, a headshot photo, and if available a link to the prospective nominee's faculty page or law school profile page, and the office for which the person is being nominated/applying for. Only Individual Members are eligible to be elected, and no one may run for more than one open position at a time. The President will confirm eligibility and distribute an open ballot for member voting by May 1, 2026. Winners will be announced on day 2 of the annual conference.

If you are unclear on anything or would like to review the Manual of Procedures, please reach out to Nachman directly via President@AASELaw.org

See you at the
conference!



See you at the
conference!

Alternative Hotels for the 2026 AASE Conference

The Host Hotel has all but sold out; however, we have two alternative options that are just next door:



Hyatt Place Las Vegas Book Today

Hyatt Place Las Vegas
4520 Paradise Road,
Las Vegas, NV 89169
+1 702 369 3366

Why You'll Love It:

- Prime Location: Super close to the Law School
- Reasonable prices
- Comfortable rooms. No frills, no thrills.
- Non-gaming hotel

Booking Details

We do not have a block of rooms at this hotel. You will need to book directly

Important: ALL Evening events are either at the Embassy Suites or have transportation leaving from and returning to the Embassy Suites. It is just STEPS AWAY



Curio Collection by Hilton, Virgin Hotels Las Vegas Book Today

Hyatt Place Las Vegas
4455 Paradise Road,
Las Vegas, NV 89169
+1 702 693-5000

Why You'll Love It:

- Prime Location: Behind the Embassy Suites
- Surprisingly reasonable rates still available
- Truly impressive amenities
- Vegas-style Gaming and Entertainment hotel

Booking Details

We do not have a block of rooms at this hotel. You will need to book directly

Important: ALL Evening events are either at the Embassy Suites or have transportation leaving from and returning to the Embassy Suites. It is just STEPS AWAY

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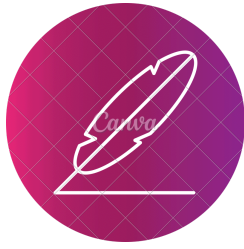


THE AASE/ACCESSLEX SCHOLARS APPLICATION IS LIVE

AASE and AccessLex Institute® are dedicated to the academic and bar success of law students across the nation. This goal is achieved when academic support educators are recognized as program and thought leaders. The Faculty Scholarship Grant is a proven and productive collaboration that has spurred meaningful scholarship from academic support educators, especially those newer to the discipline who face shortfalls in institutional research support.

Entering its fifth year, this scholarship grant seeks academic support faculty and staff applicants interested in pursuing new scholarship, preferably in areas of law school academic support.

Questions: Please email Ashley London, Associate Professor & Director of Bar Studies Program, Duquense University at londona@duq.edu



ASP PUBLICATION NEWS

Check out these recent publications
by our Members:



Marsha Griggs, Professor of Law, Saint Louis University School of Law, Judicial Regulation Without Remedy.

Dr. Andrew D. Realon, Director of Student Academic Development & Professorial Lecturer in Law, The George Washington University School of Law & **Michael Loch**, Director of Academic Success and Bar Support, University of Illinois College of Law, Bar Exam Reform and Forum Choice: A Dilemma for Repeat Takers.

Toni Miceli, Professor of Practice & Director, Bar Exam Success Program, Sadra Day O'Connor College of Law Arizona State University, Accommodating Justice: The Fragmented Path to Legal Licensure for Students with Disabilities.

Erica M. Lux, Director, Academic Success Programs & Associate Director, First-Generation Resources, Texas Tech School of Law, Put Me In Coach: Enhancing Foundational Lawyering Skills Across the Curriculum with Neurodivergent Law Students in Mind.

Jennifer Ciarimboli, Associate Professor of Academic Support, Suffolk University School of Law, Honing Homework: Assigning Less and Better to Increase Learning and Quality of Life in Law School.

Mary Basick, Assistant Dean for Academic Skills & **Tina Schindler**, Associate Director of Academic Skills, UCIrvine School of Law, MBE Decoded (2d edition).

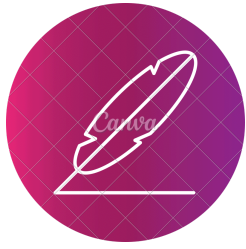


Have you checked out the latest issue of The Learning Curve? If not, you can find it here. In this issue, you'll find timely articles written by: **Dayna Smith, Harold E. Heck, Andrew D. Realon, Rachel N. Johnson, Kathleen Bolus, and Erica M. Lux.**

DON'T FORGET

If your work is not listed in our Scholarship Library on the AASE website, please send the details to Ashley London so it can be added.

The goal is to create a repository of all our work to help us cite one another and build our scholarly profiles.



ASP NEW POSITIONS & PROMOTION NEWS



Christopher Engle-Newman is now the permanent Director of Bar Success & Associate Professor of Practice at University of Denver Sturm College of Law.

Meralee Hoffeit in the new Assistant Director of Bar Success and Visiting Assistant Professor of Practice at University of Denver Sturm College of Law.

Amy Vaughan-Thomas is joining Detroit Mercy Law School in a tenure-track position as the Director of Academic & Bar Support for the Online JD Program.

Noccol Kording is also joining Detroit Mercy Law School in a tenure-track position as an Assistant Professor of Law.

Krishnee Coley was promoted from Associate Professor to Professor of Law, Legal Practice at the University of Richmond School of Law.

**Bar prep season is right around the corner.
Don't forget that AASE has a [NextGen
Resources page](#) that is updated regularly.**

Member Spotlight:

Michele Berger



Michele Berger's dedication to her students is the throughline of her career. She began as a high school English teacher, where she first discovered her passion for working with students. Although she left the classroom to pursue her childhood dream of becoming a lawyer, she found herself missing being in the classroom and returned to teaching, this time at the law school level. That pull ultimately led her to a career in Academic Success and Bar Preparation.

Michele is currently an Assistant Professor at Albany Law School, where she teaches both Academic Success and Bar Prep courses and works closely with students one-on-one. Her path to Albany has included roles at several institutions, including Charleston School of Law, Lincoln Memorial University Duncan School of Law, Gonzaga University, and Thomas Jefferson School of Law. She credits this range of experiences with strengthening her teaching, broadening her toolkit, and connecting her with mentors who have shaped her professional growth.

At the core of Michele's work is a deep and enduring commitment to her students. Even after they leave her classroom or her institution, she remains a resource and mentor. As she puts it, "I am a teacher first and an attorney second, and I'm your teacher until you no longer need me to be." For Michele, the most meaningful aspect of Academic Success and Bar Prep is the opportunity to build lasting relationships with students as they navigate the full arc of law school, from orientation through the bar exam.

In 2025, Michele was awarded the AASE AccessLex Scholarship Grant for her project, *Rewiring Legal Education: Teaching Strategies for Students with Traumatic Brain Injuries*. This work is deeply personal. After

experiencing a traumatic brain injury herself, Michele had to relearn how to learn. Having previously relied on a partially eidetic memory, she developed new strategies, such as spaced repetition, that transformed her understanding of how students can adapt their learning approaches. Her scholarship reflects both her lived experience and her commitment to making legal education more accessible and effective for all students. Michele is also an active and engaged member of the Academic Success community. She has presented at AASE conferences multiple times, most recently on one of her favorite topics: the MPT.

When asked what advice she would give to a new AASE member, Michele emphasized the importance of connection: "Lean into the community. Go to the meetings and meet people because it can make your life much easier. I've been a one-woman show in the past, and it was the AASE community that helped me manage it because there were so many wonderful resources that I was able to tap into, and I'm grateful for those connections. Since then, I've had the privilege to pay it forward within the AASE community, and I'm grateful for those connections too!"

Member Spotlight:

Raef Granger



Raef Granger enjoys thinking several moves ahead. One place this shows up is in his passion for Warmachine, a tabletop strategy game that involves carefully building models, learning their capabilities, and engaging others in deliberate, rule-bound battles. Success in Warmachine comes from preparation, patience, and an ability to fully understand the terrain before committing to a move. Those same qualities shape how Raef approaches academic support.

Raef arrived in ASP as a self-described latecomer, but with a remarkably deep toolkit. Before joining the William S. Boyd School of Law at UNLV as Assistant Director of Academic Success and Assistant Professor in Residence, he spent decades in legal practice, entrepreneurship, and professional coaching. He ran his own client-centered law practice, built a reputation in consumer bankruptcy, advised small business owners, and later coached professionals on leadership, time management, and mindset. Each chapter added a layer before he ever stepped fully into legal academia. It's no surprise, then, that Raef gravitates toward Warmachine as it is a game rooted in intentional building and strategic patience.

Now at UNLV, Raef is still very much in the process of settling in, even as his plate fills quickly. In addition to working closely with students, he is serving as the host school representative for the AASE annual conference in May 2026. He is excited to welcome colleagues to Las Vegas and hopes attendees will truly experience the city and let loose just a little after full conference days. Behind the scenes, that welcome requires meticulous planning (coordinating room blocks, mapping session spaces, managing catering logistics, and tending to countless details) that ensure the conference experience feels seamless to everyone who attends.

Looking ahead to summer 2026, Raef is especially focused on the final cohort of students taking Nevada's current bar exam before the transition to the new format.

He wants to see them through this particular moment. His view of the bar exam mirrors his view of strategy games and life more broadly: the challenge is rarely just the substance. It's managing the scope, the stress, and the stories people tell themselves under performance conditions. When asked what he finds most rewarding about ASP work, Raef doesn't hesitate. It's the smiles. The lightbulb moments. The visible shift when a student realizes they can do this. Those moments are small, but they are decisive. In Warmachine terms, they are the turns where the board suddenly looks different and the path forward becomes clear.

At his core, Raef is a builder. He helps students assemble systems for learning, routines for managing time, and tools for responding to anxiety. He believes students already hold the answers they need; his role is to help them see the terrain, sharpen their strategy, and move forward with clarity and confidence. Our academic support community is stronger for educators like Raef, who remind us that success is rarely accidental. Thoughtful preparation can turn even daunting battles into opportunities for growth.

Presentation Opportunity!

The 18th Global Legal Skills Conference will be held at Facultad Libre de Derecho de Monterrey, in Monterrey, Mexico, on December 2-4, 2026.



Proposal Deadline and Form:

All proposals must be submitted through the [GLS Call for Proposals Website](#). The link can also be found on the [Global Legal Skills Institute website](#).

Proposal Submission Deadlines:

Priority Deadline:

The priority deadline is Friday, May 1, 2026 at 23:00 GMT.

Proposals submitted by May 1 will be given priority.

The Program Committee will notify presenters by the end of May whether their presentation has been accepted.

Second Deadline:

The second deadline is Friday, September 18, 2026 at 23:00 GMT.

For proposals submitted by the second deadline, the Program Committee will notify presenters by the end of October.

Please submit a proposal on any aspect of Global Legal Skills, including experiential learning, distance education, comparative law, international law, course design and materials, teaching methods, use of legal skills in practice, and opportunities for teaching anywhere in the world.

See the website for details and proposal submission guidelines and rules.

Thank you to our Vendor & Institutional Members!



If we missed a publication, promotion, new hire, or award please contact Rebecca Scilio at: rebecca.scalio@law.villanova.edu so we can include you in our next newsletter.

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