

SALT EQUALIZER

Volume 2011, Issue 1

Society of American Law Teachers

May 2011

In This Issue

Co-Presidents' Column, page 1

Executive Director's Column, page 1

SALT Annual Dinner, page 5

SALT Teaching Conference, page 6

"Vulnerable Populations" Book, page 7

Breaking in to the Legal Academy, page 7

SALT Governors Sought, page 8

SALT Membership, page 8

SALT Blog, page 9

Human Rights Committee Report, page 10

*Affirmative Action Committee Report,
page 12*

LGBT Committee Report, page 13

*Legal Education Committee Reports,
pages 14-17*

Amaker Retreat, page 18

Cover Retreat, page 20

Grillo Retreat, page 21

*Meet Dorsen-Filler Fellow Kimberly Pray,
page 23*

Breaking news: *Equalizer* goes green; all issues now online only. SALT Salary Survey on hiatus; new and improved version returns in 2012. Details in this issue.



*Co-Presidents Steve Bender
and Raquel Aldana*

Co-Presidents' Column: Progressive and Proud of It

Raquel Aldana, University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law, and Steven W. Bender, University of Oregon School of Law

These are daunting times for progressives inside and outside law school and academia. Mirroring their dismantling of civil rights and social justice reforms and safety nets in the United States, the same neo-con forces are busily at work attacking academic freedom, collective bargaining, tenure and security of position, and critical legal and race scholars and their social justice scholarship. More visibly in the news, conservative forces have surged within the judiciary, and policymakers seem emboldened to attack labor, affirmative action, reproductive choice, and immigrant workers and their

Co-Presidents, continued on page 2

13th Annual Trina Grillo Social Justice Retreat: Focus on Human Rights

Hazel Weiser, Executive Director, SALT

With 180 in attendance, the 13th Annual Trina Grillo Public Interest and Social Justice Retreat, organized and hosted this year by the University of San Francisco School of Law, was an enormous success, bringing to-



Retired Naval Commander Beth Coye

gether students from twelve consortium law schools to explore “Human Rights at Home & Abroad” on March 25-26, 2011.

As Dean Jeffrey S. Brand, Dean and Professor of Law, reminded everyone during his touching and inspiring welcome, Trina Grillo had been a beloved member of the USF faculty when she took ill and died: “The 13th Annual! That phrase in some ways is numbing. It is a solemn reminder that it has been fifteen years since Trina Grillo, our colleague, friend and inspiration, too soon left the planet, three years shy of her fiftieth birthday. That phrase – the 13th Annual – is also inspiring, as it demonstrates the lasting power of Trina’s legacy and the persistence of the struggle in which we all engage and to which the annual retreat is dedicated.”

“A poem written in her memory by her children movingly provides the texture. Listen to these two simple lines: ‘She helped

us to see the light in ourselves / And helped us know it could be taught to shine.’”

That theme – that we can learn how to be better citizens of the world – ran throughout the retreat. Retired Naval Commander Beth F. Coye addressed the crowd in the keynote address on Friday night. Commander Coye was on her way to perhaps becoming the first woman admiral when her conscience and her values made her resign her commission after twenty-one years. She is a lesbian, and although she had fought within the military to open leadership opportunities to women, she knew she could not to fight inside the military to end the discriminatory “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell” policy. Using a framework developed by Cornelius Kerwin, the president of American University, that explains how interest groups influence

Grillo Retreat,
continued on page 22

▼ Grillo Retreat

continued from page 21

government, Commander Coye told us how she risked, struggled, and spoke the truth about the impact of the discriminatory DADT policy on the individual lives of servicemembers and consequently, on the state of the United States military. She organized, edited, and assembled “We Are Family, Too,” stories by thirty-seven members of the five branches of the U.S. military, which were circulated to civilian and military leaders in the Pentagon and to members of Congress and their staffs, and brought into the White House so that the truth about what DADT really means to individuals, their families, and the military would inform the repeal process. As a testament to her professionalism and caring, that rare combination, Commander Coye stayed at the Trina Grillo Retreat for the two days, attended the panel discussions, and made herself accessible to students, faculty, and activists.

The plenary panels were “How International Human Rights Law is Being Used in the United States to Protect Human Rights,” with Marjorie Cohn, Connie de la Vega, and Kyra Millich presenting and Hazel Weiser

moderating, and “Forging the Path, Funding the Vision: How to Support Your Plan,” featuring Emily Arnold-Fernandez, Shirley Hochhausen, James C. Sturdevant presenting and Bryan Hinkle moderating. Concurrent panels focused on the rights of children, immigration reform, the economic downturn, and indigenous rights. Also included was an immigration pro bono training.

After the retreat, Keir Wilkinson, a student at University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law, wrote to SALT Co-President Raquel Aldana, who teaches at McGeorge: “Thank you for the opportunity to spend the weekend at the Trina Grillo retreat. It

reminded me why I went to law school, ideas and feelings that had long since subsided underneath stress about debt, disillusionment about the petty cliquishness of many parts of law school, and the regular threat of ambivalence about making the system, and society, work in a more just fashion. I wish I would have gone my first and second years, as well.”

A hearty thank you to USF and Dean Brand and especially to assistant dean of student affairs Erin Elaine Dolly for coordinating this year’s retreat, and bringing to the event her enthusiasm, dedication, and inclusiveness.



Dean Jeff Brand speaks with students