Law from the Outside-In: In Honor of Jane Larson

Moderator: Elizabeth E. Mertz, University of Wisconsin Law School
Speakers: Cynthia G. Bowman, Cornell Law School
          Linda Hirshman, Author, New York, NY
          Michelle Oberman, Santa Clara University School of Law
          Clyde Spillenger, University of California, Los Angeles, School of Law
          Gerald Torres, The University of Texas School of Law

This panel honors the scholarship, teaching, and service of Professor Jane Larson. Her work on gender, poverty, race, and law combined theory, practice, teaching, and service to excluded and marginalized peoples, including the residents of the colonias in Texas. Across all of her endeavors ran a thread that turned traditional views of law on their head, bringing “outside” perspectives into the heart of legal analysis and practice.

The Bench, the Bar, and the Academy Unite to Discuss Legal Education

Moderator and Speaker: Mary Garvey Algero, Loyola University New Orleans College of Law
Speakers: Kim M. Boyle, Partner, Phelps Dunbar LLP, New Orleans, LA
          The Honorable Stephen A. Higginson, Judge, U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, New Orleans, LA
          The Honorable Madeleine Landrieu, Judge, U.S. Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals State of Louisiana, New Orleans, LA
          Todd Wallace, Attorney and Shareholder, Liskow and Lewis, New Orleans, LA

Legal educators debate among themselves their objectives regarding students, including training future lawyers, training students to analyze and develop the law, and training students to think. This program invites lawyers and judges to the table with legal educators to speak about what it means to provide a legal education in today’s world. The panelists will discuss what they perceive to be the strengths of the newly-minted lawyers they encounter and the weaknesses, what they value in new lawyers, and how law schools might adapt curricula and teaching methods so that they best serve all interested parties.

As law schools focus more on outcomes assessment and skills training, some professors have engaged in this type of discussion with judges and lawyers in one-on-one conversations. This program will put the idea of uniting the bench and the bar with the academy at the forefront, perhaps even encouraging more law professors to engage in similar conversations.