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Staff Report

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## Law Faculty Land Leadership Roles with Professional Society

Several professors will lead sections of the Association of American Law Schools

MARCH 7, 2019 BY STAFF REPORT



Susan Duncan

OXFORD, Miss – Three faculty members from the University of Mississippi School of Law will serve in leadership positions this year with the Association of American Law Schools.

Dean Susan Duncan was elected to the executive committee for the association's Section on Law School Deans and is among five members on this national committee. Ben Cooper, the school's senior associate dean, was elected chair of the Section on Professional Responsibility, and Will Berry, associate professor of law, was elected chair of the Section on Law and Sports.

Duncan, who is in her second academic year as UM law dean, brings a unique perspective to the committee because of her path in legal education. Before joining the Ole Miss faculty, she served as interim dean at the University of Louisville's Louis D. Brandeis School of Law for five years.

She also has held nearly every type of faculty position over the last 24 years, from adjunct to tenure-track professor in the legal writing field.

"I think my unique background can benefit this particular group when we discuss issues that may be facing deans and faculty," Duncan said.

The section works to discuss issues that may be facing law school deans, including assessment, recruitment and bar passage rates.

Duncan said her core values include community, reverence, service and leadership, all of which she can put into practice in this national role through servant leadership.

"I ran for this position because I wanted to give back to current and future leaders of law schools," she said.

Developing strategic plans is one of Duncan's passions, something she said she has enjoyed in her previous national roles and is looking forward to engaging in with AALS.

"Strategic planning really energizes me, and it's been fun to do on the school level," she said. "It's only going to be more fun to do on a national level with talented colleagues from institutions across the country."

Cooper specializes in legal ethics and the law governing lawyers, and he teaches courses including Legal Profession, Civil Procedure and an advanced seminar on Legal Ethics.

By becoming active in the professional responsibility section of AALS shortly after he arrived at the law school in 2007, Cooper has been able to connect with colleagues in his field from other institutions. The Section on Professional Responsibility offers support for pedagogical and scholarly endeavors for legal scholars in the field of professional responsibility.

"I initially became involved as a young professor, and that involvement allowed me to meet others who were more senior in my field," he said. "Through these relationships with colleagues, I got great mentoring on my teaching and scholarship, and eventually these relationships have also led to great opportunities that I otherwise would not have gotten, like writing a textbook and receiving invitations to speak across the country. This is an opportunity to give back."

Berry has been a member of the executive committee of the Section on Law and Sports for three years. He said he is excited about the

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OXFORD, Miss. – Peer recognition is a rewarding experience for anyone, but University of Mississippi researcher Amir Mehrara Molan was elated when an article he co-authored recently received the Most Cited Paper Award at the 102nd Transportation Research Board meeting in the nation's capital. The International Journal of Transportation Science and Technology presented the civil engineering

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OXFORD, Miss. – Stephanie Jennings Teague, of Chicago, sees her commitment of \$100,000 to the Patterson School of Accountancy's new building at the University of Mississippi as a means of saying "thank you." "It is a way to show a small token of my appreciation to Ole Miss, the faculty and staff, and the accounting

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#### Reuters: Keep an Eye on the Money Supply

U.S. inflation roller coaster prompts fresh look at long-ignored money supply By Michael S. Derby NEW YORK – The amount of money sloshing around the U.S. economy shrank last year for the first time on record, a development that some economists believe bolsters the case for U.S. inflation pressures continuing to

opportunity to lead law school faculty who teach and write about the intersection of sports and law.

At this year's conference, the section hosted a panel presentation on corruption in sports, in which Berry presented a paper examining the recent felony convictions of Adidas executives paying college athletes. The 2020 conference will feature another program on a hot topic in sports law, where leading scholars on the subject will speak and discuss.

Berry's role as chair will also include increasing membership, choosing the section award and distributing the annual newsletter. As with many other AALS sections, this one provides opportunities for collaborations.

"More than anything, the section exists to help sports law faculty network, build relationships, share teaching and scholarly ideas, and further career opportunities," Berry said. "For instance, the outgoing section chair and I are co-authors on the new edition of a leading sports law textbook."



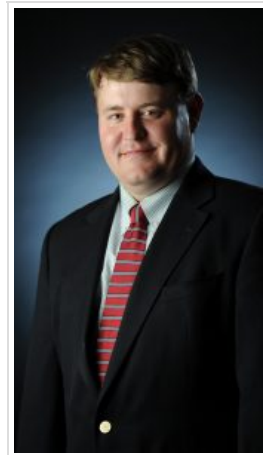
Ben Cooper

Besides building next year's conference for all AALS-member schools, each section is tasked with duties throughout the year, including developing topics for discussions, creating webinars for faculty, awarding scholarships and distributing newsletters.

The UM School of Law is an institutional member of the association, along with 178 other legal education institutions. Each year, the conference offers programming for specific areas of interest, which is particularly beneficial to faculty who may be the only expert in their practice area at their home institutions.

Besides Duncan, Cooper and Berry serving in leadership roles, four other Ole Miss law school faculty members are on executive committees of AALS sections.

Michele Alexandre, associate dean for faculty development and professor of law, is serving on the executive committee for the Section on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Issues; Renee Cain, associate director of continuing legal education and assistant professor



Will Berry

of legal studies, is serving on the executive committee for the administrative Section on Continuing Legal Education; Richard Gershon, professor of law, is serving on the executive committee for the Section on Socio-Economics; and Lisa S. Roy, professor of law, is serving on the executive committee for the Section on Law and Religion.

The mission of AALS is to advance excellence in legal education through teaching, scholarship, academic freedom and diversity, while also improving the law profession and serving local communities.

For more information about the organization, visit <https://www.aals.org/>. To learn more about the UM School of Law, visit <https://law.olemiss.edu/>.

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