



**PennState**  
Dickinson Law

Penn State Dickinson Law  
**Dickinson Law IDEAS**

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Events at Dickinson Law

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Dec 6th, 9:35 AM - 10:20 AM

## Taking Collective Action to Integrate the Law School Curriculum

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<https://ideas.dickinsonlaw.psu.edu/events/lwi2019/lwi2019schedule/3>

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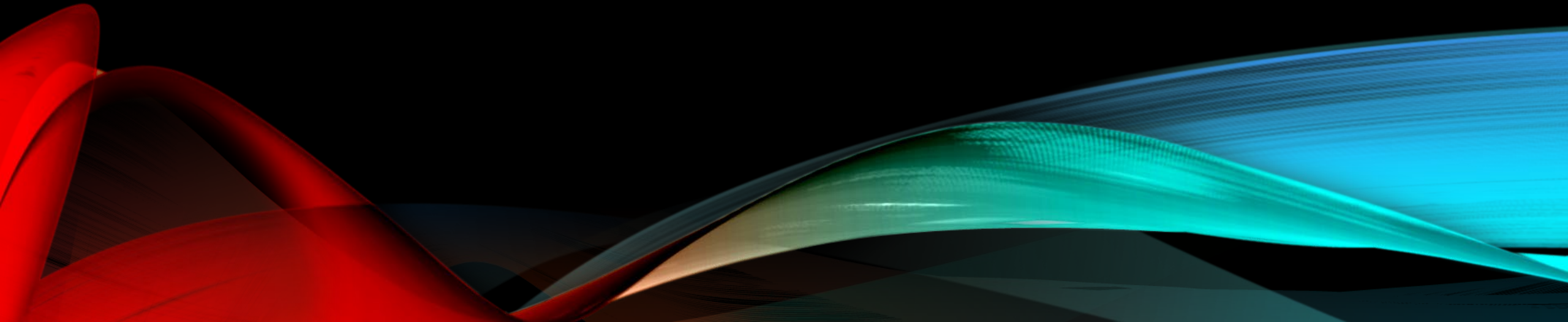
# **TAKING COLLECTIVE ACTION TO INTEGRATE THE LAW SCHOOL CURRICULUM**

**Legal Writing Institute One Day Workshop**

***Dismantling the Separate but Equal Paradigm:  
Integrating Legal Research & Writing into the Law School Curriculum***

**Penn State Dickinson Law  
December 6, 2019**

# IMPEDIMENTS TO INTEGRATION



## First Year Law Experience

### Focus on Practice

- Drafting/Legal Writing
- Legal Analysis
- Bar Courses
- Opportunities to take upper division courses

## Second Year Law Experience

### Split Focus Academic and Practice

- Heavily Involved in Student Organizations
- Moot Court
- Drafting Classes/
- Working/Internships
- Seminar Writing Requirement

## Third Year Law Experience

### Practice Focus Clinic/Seminars/Bar Courses

- Clinic
- Drafting Classes
- Seminar Writing Requirement
- Clerkships
- Working/Internships/Job Search

## Post-Law School

- Work
- Applying for Jobs
- Bar Prep
- MLS Program

First Year Courses		Summer Courses/Activities	Second Year Courses	Summer Courses/Activities	Third Year Courses	Post- Law School/ Pre-Bar
FALL	SPRING					
Comparative Historical Legal Perspectives	Civil Procedure I*	Legal Research Ethics	Legal Research Ethics	Legal Research Ethics	Clinic Seminars – Writing Requirement	Work
Contracts*	Constitutional Law*	Seminars	Seminars- Writing Requirement	Seminars – Writing Requirement	Drafting Courses	Applying for Jobs
Criminal Law*	Property*	Study Abroad	Drafting Courses		Moot Court	
Elements of Legal Argumentation I	Elements of Legal Argumentation II	Clerkship/Internship	Moot Court	Clerkship/Internship	Bar Courses*	Bar Prep
Practicum	Opportunity for Elective	Study Abroad	Bar Courses*	Clinic	Evidence/Trial Practice	MLS/LLM Programs
Torts*	Moot Court		Evidence/Trial Practice	Study Abroad	Clerkship/Internship /Job Search	
			Clerkship/Internship		Journals	
			Journals		Study Abroad	

# OUR DEFINITION OF THE “SEPARATE BUT EQUAL” PARADIGM

## Status

## Hidden work

- always busy but never present
- always present but never busy

## Limited teaching opportunities



Sherri Thomas at the Reference Desk (2013)

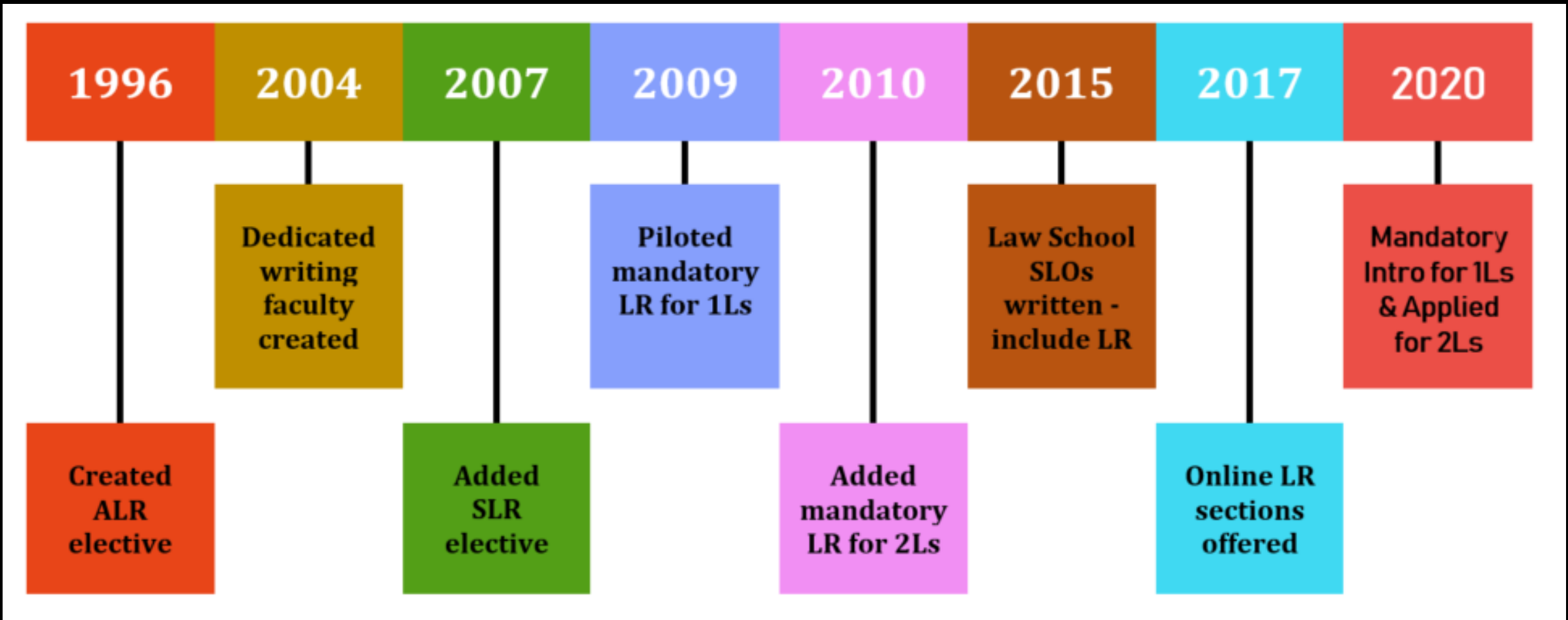
# ALLIES OF THE “OTHER”

- Faculty
- Dean
- Staff
- Students
- University



Michelle Rigual Teaching Legal Research (2004)

# BRIEF HISTORIES AT UNMSOL



# BRIEF HISTORIES AT UNMSOL

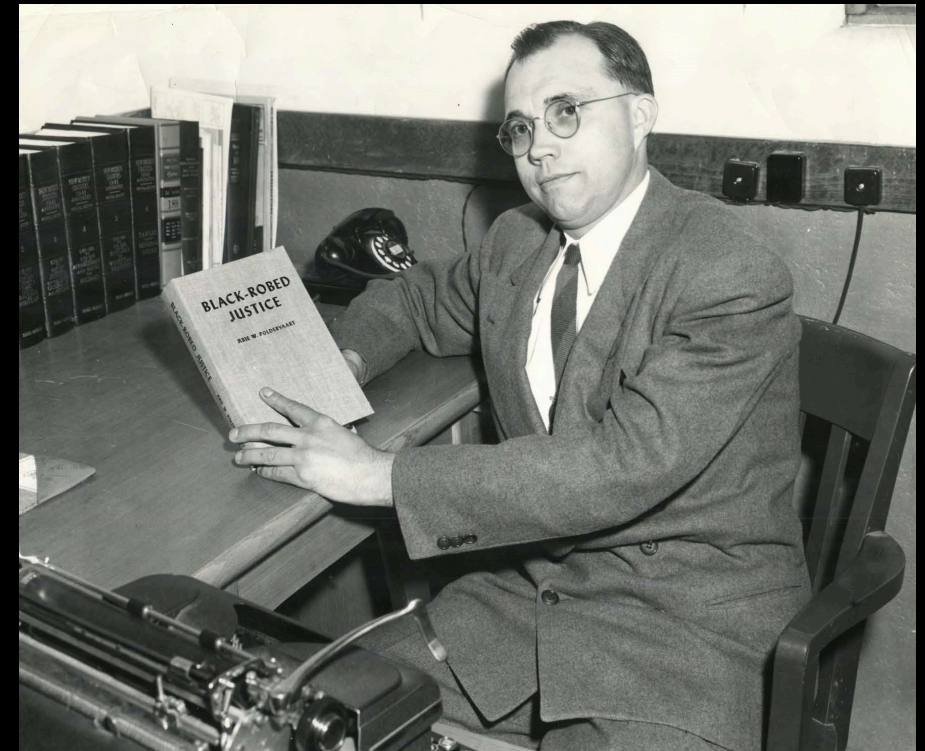
## Tenured Law Librarian & his staff.

### New Track Created

- Librarians earn faculty status university-wide (1969)
- Separate law library faculty created
- Hiring, retention, promotion & tenure
- Lecturer rank comes & goes at Director's discretion.

### Tracks Converge

- Librarians assigned to committees (2004)
- Librarians vote in Dean search (2013)
- Librarians demand vote in curricular decisions
- Unified faculty with commitment that all new hires will be TT (2017)



Arie W. Poldervaart, UNMSOL Law Librarian (1947-1963)



# THE OLD PARADIGM

## **Burdens**

- Imposition of decisions without consultation
  - Director-only decision-making
- Undervalued talent
- Job insecurity

## **Conveniences**

- Little scrutiny
- Option of librarians being generalists
- Merit could be rewarded

# DISMANTLING THE PARADIGM

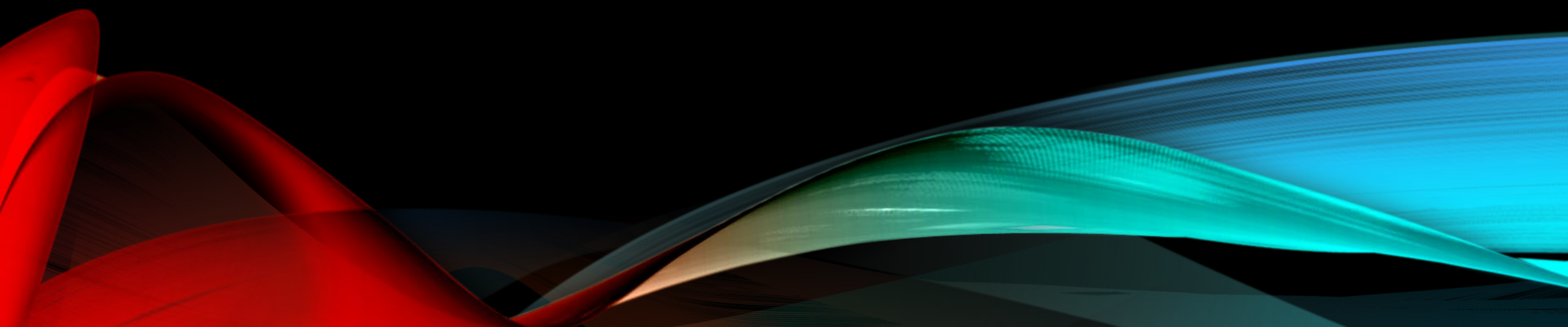
## Intended Actions

- Increased focus on Legal Research
  - Student Learning Outcomes
  - Teaching throughout the curriculum
- Voice in faculty governance
  - Curricular decisions
  - Committee work
  - Full voting privileges

## Unforeseen Consequences

- Law faculty have control of Library tenure & hiring
- Created new internal hierarchy
  - Tenured vs. Lecturer vs. PDF
  - No Librarians on Tenure Track
  - No Library faculty hiring
- Additional burdens of being “Faculty”
- Improved teaching/admin options
- Decreased focus on public service

SUCCESES



# SUCCESSSES AT UNM



## Current Situation

- Legal research appears throughout the curriculum
- Unified faculty includes Library, Writing, Clinic voices
- Library faculty feel valued

## Near Future

- Strategic planning & Dean search
- New faculty hires will be tenure-track
- Fellows receiving opportunity to enter field with solid experience



# SUCCESSSES AT YOUR SCHOOL

## **What you can do**

- Collective action
  - Limited deference to a Director
  - Meet frequently (even if painful)
- Strategic battles
- Persistent and meaningful presence
- Capture and make your value known
- Find your allies

## **What to consider**

- Who do you trust?
- Effect of additional responsibilities
- Picking your battles
- Battle fatigue
- Relationship maintenance

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- Genevieve B. Tung, *Collaboration between Legal Writing Faculty and Law Librarians: Two Surveys*, 23 Legal Writing: J. Legal Writing Inst. 215 (2019).

# WE'D LOVE TO CHAT!

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