

December 6, 2007

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

We are writing to invite you to participate in the eighth biennial Immigration Law Teachers Workshop, which (as previously announced on the Immprof listserv) will take place from May 1-3, 2008, at the University of Miami School of Law.

The Workshop will be co-hosted by the University of Miami School of Law and St. Thomas University School of Law. Professors David Abraham of the University of Miami School of Law and Lauren Gilbert of St. Thomas University School of Law will be our site coordinators, with help from Michael Vastine and Peter Kelly at St. Thomas, Ediberto Roman and Becky Sharpless at Florida International University, and Jim Wilets at Nova Southeastern.

The teaching panel organizers are Clare Huntington (Colorado) and Maria Pabon Lopez (Indiana-Indianapolis). Muneer Ahmad (American University), Dan Kanstroom (Boston College), and Cristina Rodriguez (NYU) are putting together the scholarship panels. Hiroshi Motomura (North Carolina) will serve as works-in-progress coordinator and overall chair.

The workshop will begin with a dinner on Thursday evening, May 1, at 7:00 p.m. and conclude after lunch on Saturday, May 3, 2008. Program events will be held at the University of Miami.

The workshop

The workshop will consist of the following sessions: four plenary scholarship panels, one plenary teaching panel, and several smaller break-out sessions devoted to scholarly works in progress and topical teaching issues. We also plan to have a noon session on Friday with a speaker on issues affecting one of the immigrant communities in the area.

Four plenary scholarship sessions. Each of these sessions will focus on an important issue or recent development that prompts fundamental rethinking of scholarship in our field. The scholarship panels will explore:

- (1) Deportation Law and Human Rights
- (2) Race, Immigration, and Integration
- (3) Comparative Immigration Studies
- (4) Immigration Reform and the 2008 Election

We have chosen these topics to cut across the traditional categories that have defined (and sometimes confined) our work—categories such as constitutional law, refugees and asylum, citizenship, and human rights, all of which are part of each of these four topics. We hope that this framing prompts discussion that cuts across traditional categories, and in turn opens up conversation not only amongst ourselves, but between us and other scholars and advocates.

In format, these panels will be constructed not around traditional papers, but rather short pieces (about five pages) that panelists will submit by way of commentary on an issue or recent

development. The moderator will assume that all attendees will have read the pieces (to be distributed before the meeting), so we can devote the full session time to discussion.

One plenary teaching panel. The plenary teaching session will address current experiences and practices regarding the integration of doctrinal and clinical immigration law courses. This is a crucial aspect of immigration law teaching that needs to be further examined. The starting point for the plenary session discussion will be the results of a short survey administered this fall to immigration law professors. The panelists will then discuss their own experiences in the integration of doctrinal and clinical immigration law courses and articulate methods and techniques to achieve specific goals regarding skills and doctrinal pedagogy.

Breakout teaching sessions. After the plenary teaching panel, there will be three break-out teaching sessions as follows:

- (1) Continuing the conversation about integration of doctrinal and clinical courses;
- (2) Break-out session for new teachers;

(3) Panel discussion of Phil Schrag's new book *Asylum Denied* (Univ. of California Press 2008), with a focus on using the book as a supplement to traditional law school teaching materials in Refugees and Asylum courses. (Some of you may remember a similar teaching session several workshops ago on Anne Fadiman's *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down*.)

Breakout work-in-progress sessions. These will be small breakout sessions designed to engage in intensive discussion, and provide constructive criticism, of each work-in-progress. The size of each session will depend on the total workshop size and the number of works-in-progress submitted. Each paper will have a commentator, who will assume that all attendees will have read the paper in advance and will proceed immediately to discussion.

For these sessions, we are asking scholars to volunteer to share their works-in-progress. In order to set up these groups, we ask that you provide Hiroshi (motomura@email.unc.edu) with a title and brief abstract of your work-in-progress by February 1. Please do this by filling out the works-in-progress questionnaire that accompanies this letter.

The papers themselves must be submitted by March 15, in order to allow the planning committee to review each paper, arrange for a commentator, and assemble a discussion group. We will distribute the papers to attendees around April 10, i.e., three weeks before the workshop. In order to keep the advance reading for workshop participants reasonable, please limit your submission to a maximum of 50 pages. If your paper will be longer, please plan on providing an edited version that focuses the discussion in a way that you would find most helpful as an author.

Hotel information

We have blocked a group of 65 rooms at the Grand Bay Miami Hotel, a hotel in historic and trendy Coconut Grove. This elegant hotel, which overlooks beautiful Biscayne Bay, is a short walk from the historic landmarks, shops, restaurants, movie theatres, and nightclubs of Coconut Grove. Founded in 1873, Coconut Grove in the 1950s developed an international reputation as an artists' colony. The first production of Samuel Beckett's *Waiting for Godot* took place at the historic Coconut Grove Theatre on January 3, 1956. Coconut Grove is also home to several historic buildings, including the Barnacle, built in 1891 and the oldest residence in Miami-Dade County.

Available rates at the Grand Bay Miami are \$165/night for May 1-3. Given the popularity of this area, the Grand Bay will only hold this block until *March 15, 2008*, so we strongly

encourage people to make their reservations early. You may also want to consider sharing a room with a fellow attendee to limit costs. A limited number of double rooms are available. Suites are available based on availability for an additional \$50 per upgrade per day. Group rates will be offered three days prior and three days after the meeting dates, subject to availability of rooms at the time of reservation. You may, of course, look around for better rates, but these rates, we are told, are quite reasonable. You may also want to consider sharing a room with a fellow attendee to limit costs. Bus transportation will be provided each day to and from the University of Miami.

To book a room at the Grand Bay Miami, call 305-858-9600 or 877-GBGrove (877-424-7683), ideally during regular business hours. Identify yourself as a participant in the Immigration Law Teachers Workshop. All reservations must be guaranteed by a major credit card, but can be cancelled up to 72 hours prior to arrival. Failure to cancel will result in a cancellation fee equivalent to one night room and tax.

Miami International Airport (MIA) is a short cab ride to Coconut Grove (about \$25 by cab, or \$1.50 by public bus). There are also many reasonable flights into Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport (FLL), which is about a 30-45 minute car drive to Coconut Grove. From FLL share-a-ride vans are \$35; taxi fares are much higher.

Next steps

Please mark your calendars, if you haven't done so already! You can book air travel and hotel now.

The conference registration fee will be \$175. This covers five meals (continental breakfasts and box lunches for both Friday and Saturday, as well as dinner on Friday evening), local bus transportation, and administrative expenses. For Thursday night's dinner, you will need to pay your own way. We will send out a registration form and ask you register in early March.

If you are interested in presenting a work-in-progress, please fill out the Works-In-Progress Questionnaire that accompanies this letter (in Word format) and send it to Hiroshi (motomura@email.unc.edu) by February 1, 2008. The questionnaire asks you for the title and an abstract of your paper.

If you would be interested in serving as a commentator on a work-in-progress, please so indicate on the form, and indicate as well if you have any subject-matter preferences.

We are very excited about this workshop. This community of teachers and scholars has come a long way since our first workshop in May 1994 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. We look forward to hearing from you, and to seeing you in Miami.

Warm regards,

David, Lauren, Clare, Maria, Dan, Muneer,
Cristina, and Hiroshi