

Boalt Boot Camp

Berkeley Law Academic
Placement Committee

August 9, 2013

(Final) Countdown to an Academic Career

- Who's this talk for?
- Broad Goals
- Narrow Needs
- Ways to Get There
- Questions?



Who's this talk for?

- Those 2+ years away from the market
- Those gearing up to gear up (1 yr. away)
- Those going on the market now



Broad Goals: Develop your brand

- Broadly: Develop answers to:
 - Who am I as a scholar?
 - Who am I as a teacher?
 - Who's on my team?
- Overall:
 - Qualified
 - Interesting
 - Reliable



Narrow needs

- You'll need to produce
 - Written work, most importantly a job talk
 - Research Agenda (umbrella with 3-4 ideas)
 - Teaching Package
 - Set of references



Broad: Who am I as a scholar?

- Probably the most important:
 - What's my field? Sub-field?
 - What's my methodology?
 - Whom do I want to emulate?
 - Why am I qualified to do it?
 - (and how can I grow?)

Broad: Who am I as a teacher?

- Less emphasized, but worth it to have done some thinking about it:
 - What courses will I teach?
 - What kind of teacher will I be?
 - What materials am I likely to use?
 - How can I show I'm a low risk proposition in front of a room of 1Ls?
 - What do I think about legal education?

Broad: Who's on my team?

- Who's going to go to bat for me, and what are they going to be able to say?
- How can I get them invested in me?



A few years out...

- Some action items
 - Self-reflection. Why do I want this job?
 - Develop expertise in your field.
 - Write every day...even if it's bad.
 - Idea file/research diary
 - Contact mentors ASAP – get them involved
 - Consider a fellowship/VAP
 - Consider adjunct teaching

A year out...

- Hone in on your job talk. Keep writing.
- Turn your idea file into an RA
- Keep mentors involved and invested
- Raise your academic profile
 - Conferences, presentations, meetings
- Hone in a little more on teaching ideas

Edging up to the market

- Finish the job talk *paper*.
 - Draft by mid-summer
- Hone the RA – first paragraph is key
- Teaching – specific plans (book, etc.)
- Keep your mentors in the game
- Practice, practice, practice
 - The job talk: expertise and accessibility
 - AALS: a mini job talk—sell your *brand*