

Strengthening the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning in Law Through Reflective Practice

Denise Stockley, PhD

JUNE 23, 2026



Queen's
UNIVERSITY

Institute for Educational
Scholarship and Research



A Continuum: From Reflective Practice to Educational Scholarship

	Excellent Teacher <i>Focus on practice</i>	Scholarly Teacher <i>Focus on inquiry</i>	Scholarship of Teaching and Learning <i>Focus on contribution</i>
 Knowledge	 <i>What works in my teaching</i>	 <i>What is informed by evidence and inquiry</i>	 <i>What advances understanding and informs others</i>
 Source	Experience	Experience & Literature	Experience, Literature & Research
 Dissemination	Personal Use	Local Use	Public Use
 Purpose	Improve my teaching	Enhance student learning and my teaching	Advance knowledge and improve educational practice

Reflection is where learning begins. Scholarship is how we learn together.

When Reflection Becomes Scholarship

Reflective Practice	Scholarly Inquiry	Educational Scholarship
What am I noticing? What is working? What is challenging?	Why might this be happening? What does the literature suggest? How can I gather evidence?	What can others learn? How does this advance practice? How can this knowledge be shared?

Potential SoTL for Legal Educators

- Professional identity formation
- Ethics and judgement
- Experiential learning
- Assessment and feedback
- Student well-being
- Access to justice
- Equity and inclusion

The bottom line:

Good legal education teaches students how to think like lawyers. Reflective legal education asks what kind of lawyers we are helping them become.



From Reflection to Collective Learning



The background of the slide is a composite image of space. On the left, a large portion of the Earth is visible, showing the Western Hemisphere with North and South America. The Earth's surface is a mix of blue oceans and brown/green landmasses, with numerous yellow and white lights representing city illumination at night. On the right side of the slide, the Moon is visible in a crescent phase, showing its characteristic craters and maria. The sky is a deep, dark blue-grey, filled with many small, distant stars. At the very top of the slide, there is a horizontal bar divided into three colored segments: dark blue on the left, gold in the middle, and maroon on the right.

QIESR – QUEEN'S INSTITUTE FOR EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP AND RESEARCH

**WHERE TEACHING
MEETS RESEARCH**

