

Call for Participation in a Discussion Group on
INCREASING AUTHOR DIVERSITY IN LEGAL SCHOLARSHIP:
INDIVIDUAL AND INSTITUTIONAL STRATEGIES

Due: August 24, 2015

The Annual Meeting Program Committee introduced a new program format to facilitate scholarly discussion and engagement at the 2016 Annual Meeting. Discussion Groups will provide a small group of faculty an opportunity to engage in a sustained conversation about a topic of interest. The Discussion Group sessions do not feature formal presentations. The objective is to facilitate a lively and engaging real-time discussion among participants. The following is a Call for Participation in a Discussion Group on *INCREASING AUTHOR DIVERSITY IN LEGAL SCHOLARSHIP: INDIVIDUAL AND INSTITUTIONAL STRATEGIES* to be held at the AALS Annual Meeting, Saturday, January 9, 2016, from 3:30-4:45, in New York City.

Description

A number of studies concerning author diversity in legal scholarship provide the background for our discussion. This Discussion Group will explore some of the scholarship on diversity in legal scholarship, including an exploration of various aspects of what diversity means in that process. The Group will consider: 1) how faculty members and law journal boards can help increase the chance that an article written by women or people of color will be accepted; and 2) how journal leadership can adopt an agenda that results in a more diverse set of authors in its publication. The Discussion Group hopes to engage faculty to think about our many different roles: as scholars who submit articles for law review publication, as law review advisors, and as mentors to students and other faculty.

More specifically, participants will focus on a series of questions related to author diversity in legal scholarship, including: 1) Why is this discussion needed, and what prompted each person to want to participate on this panel?; 2) Why is author diversity important to the participants as well as more generally to the legal community and beyond?; 3) What do we

mean by author diversity?; and 4) What changes are desirable, and what changes are feasible, at the personal, institutional, and law school levels?

In discussing what changes might be appropriate, participants will be encouraged to offer concrete suggestions for both faculty and students. For example, what are the benefits and drawbacks of the author-blind review process, and what changes can be implemented that both correct for the drawbacks while maintaining the benefits? What other strategies might be more appropriate? How can law schools support diversity in faculty scholarship? What conversations might faculty have with law review editors about the importance of author diversity? How should the law review publishing process affect our careers, and in what ways should it not affect them?

Call for Abstracts

The Annual Meeting Program Committee invites faculty and administrators who would like to join this Discussion Group to submit a three page abstract that addresses why you care about author diversity in legal scholarship and some of your relevant experiences to **by August 24**. Current organizers and discussion participants include Sahar Aziz (Texas A & M), Ann Bartow (University of New Hampshire), Khaled Beydoun (Barry), Naomi Cahn (George Washington), Adrienne Davis (Washington University- St. Louis), Martha Ertman (Maryland), Nancy Leong (Denver), Shari Motro (Richmond), Paula Monopoli (Maryland), Carol Sanger (Columbia), and Julie Silverbrook (Board member, Ms. J.D.).

Space in this Discussion Group is limited; the Committee, along with the faculty who proposed this discussion, will select the remaining discussion participants from the abstracts submitted. At the AALS Conference in January, selected participants will make a one-two minute presentation during the Discussion Group. The remaining time will be devoted to group discussion. Participants are strongly encouraged to commit to publication of the papers summarized at the Meeting. The organizers of the Discussion Group are currently seeking publication opportunities in appropriate journals.

Each submission for this Discussion Group should include:

- The title of the submitted presentation/paper;
- The name and contact information of the applying participant;
- A detailed three-page, double-spaced abstract that addresses the challenges of diversity in legal scholarship, the author's experiences, and recommendations for change; and
- The curriculum vitae of the applying participant.

In reviewing the submitted abstracts, the selection committee will consider the following:

- The fit and overall quality of the program for the Discussion Group;
- The diversity that the applying participant may bring in terms of a variety of factors, including factors such as institutional affiliation and status (tenure-track, non-tenure track, tenured); and
- The applying participant's willingness to publish his or her paper along with other Discussion Group papers.

Abstracts are due by **August 24, 2015** and should be submitted using the online submission form [here](#).