Call for Proposals for Open-Submission Programs for the 2016 AALS Annual Meeting

The Program Committee for the 2016 Annual Meeting of the Association of American Law Schools is pleased to request proposals for open-submission programs for the 2016 Annual Meeting to be held January 6-10, 2016 in New York City. There will be five types of open-submission programs for the 2016 Annual Meeting:

- **Crosscutting** programs focus on multi-subject and interdisciplinary topics that transcend any one legal field and offer new perspectives on legal issues or the profession.
- **[New] Discussion Group** programs are sessions that provide a setting for less formal discussion of topics among a larger group of participants.
- **[New] Academy** programs are open-submission programs that do not fit into any of the other four categories. Have an idea for a great program that does not fit into any of the other categories? Submit a proposal for an academy program.
- **Symposium** programs are full- or half-day sessions that focus on in-depth scholarly exploration of a topic of academic interest.
- **Hot Topic** programs focus on topics that emerged too late to be included in other types of programs.

Previous meetings have featured Crosscutting, Symposium, and Hot Topic programs. Discussion Group and Academy programs are new this year. Please note that the hot topic category has been refined to focus strictly on topics that emerged too late to have been proposed for inclusion in one of the other categories. If you have a good idea for a proposal, submit it now for one of the categories with earlier deadlines. If your idea won't fit into the Crosscutting, Symposium, or Discussion Group categories, you should make a submission for the Academy category.

We encourage all program organizers to allow time for audience participation. The talks at this year's Symposium, for example, were limited to ten minutes, leaving plenty of time for a lively discussion. We also welcome proposals for programs that depart from the typical format of having participants present ten-to-twenty minute talks. This format works well for some topics, but not as well for others. Organizers could, for example, submit a proposal for a program where each participant would make brief remarks, then answer a series of questions posed by the moderator and the audience.

Deadlines

Proposals for Crosscutting, Discussion Group, and Academy programs are due **April 27 , 2015**. Proposals for Symposium programs are due **May 12, 2015**. Proposals for Hot Topic programs are due **October 5, 2015**.

General Submission Guidelines

Specific guidelines for submissions for each type of program can be found below. The following guidelines apply to all open-submission proposals.

Programs may be proposed by full-time faculty members or administrators at AALS Member Schools. Foreign, visiting, and adjunct faculty members are not eligible to submit a proposal. Program participants, however, need not be faculty members or administrators at AALS Member Schools. Preference generally should be given to participants from AALS Members Schools, but program organizers may include participants from foreign or non-member law schools or from outside of the legal academy.

Proposals for Crosscutting, Symposium, and Academy programs may reserve some spots for participants selected from a call for participation. Because of timing concerns, Hot Topics proposals may not use a call for participation. Participants selected from a call for participation must be identified by September 28, 2015. For most types of programs, no more than two or three spots should be filled by calls for participation.

A different process will be used for Discussion Group calls for participation. That process is described in the Discussion Group section of this document.

Each proposal should include:

- The program title.
- The names and contact information of the program organizers.
- A detailed description of the proposed program, including (a) the format of the proposed program, (b) an explanation of the overall goal of the program, and (c) a specification about whether some of the participants will be selected from a call for participants.
- Names of speakers to be invited including their full names and schools with a link to or copy of their curricula vitae.
- An indication of whether the program will be published, and, if so, where. Symposium programs are required to be published. Publication of other programs is encouraged but not required.

Program organizers should take the AALS Core Value of diversity into account when developing their proposal. Organizers are encouraged to include participants who are junior and who come from a wide range of types of law schools. Participants should represent a diversity of viewpoints appropriate for the topic of the program. Viewpoint diversity might be unnecessary or even inappropriate for some programs. The criteria for the five types of programs therefore include "viewpoint diversity appropriate to the program."

Open submission programs should not address the same exact topic as a Section or other program. Organizers should check the preliminary Annual Meeting program on the AALS website to be sure that there is no direct conflict between the proposed topic and a program already on the schedule. The Committee will narrowly construe this requirement and will try to avoid disqualifying proposals due to conflict with an existing program.

Crosscutting Programs

Proposals Due: April 13, 2015

Crosscutting Programs focus on multi-subjects and interdisciplinary topics that transcend any individual field. They offer new perspectives on legal issues or the profession. For example, a crosscutting program may examine gender bias in the legal academy from a sociological or economics perspective as well as from the perspective of legal writing instructors, tenure stream podium faculty, adjuncts, and administrators. Or, a crosscutting program may cut across legal fields and sections by examining contract law from the frames of business law, employment discrimination law, and critical race theory. The main idea is to focus on subjects that cut across disciplines, fields, and/or perspectives and can attract a wide audience of law faculty who teach in a variety of areas.

Proposals should follow the general guidelines set forth above.

In reviewing proposals, the committee will consider the following:

- The overall quality of the program. In considering overall quality, the committee will consider the following:
    - Is the program well thought out?
    - Is the proposal well-written and well-organized?
    - Is the proposed program likely to be of interest to Annual Meeting attendees?
- Does the program cut across disciplines or topics? Put another way, does the topic transcend a particular subject area?
- Will the program attract a broad audience from different disciplines and fields?

- Is there a diversity of presenters, including diversity of schools, viewpoint diversity appropriate to the program, and diversity based on identity characteristics?
- Are junior participants included in the proposal?

Examples of prior Crosscutting Programs include the following:

- Harnessing Psychological Research to Reform the Criminal Justice Process
- The Concept of Peace in Law, Culture, and Society
- Climate Change and Indigenous Peoples: The Intersection of Environmental Law, Natural Resources Development, Water Law, Energy Law, International Law, and Indigenous Law
- The Business of Tax Patents: At the Crossroads of Patent, Tax, and Business Law
- New Legal Realism
- The Law and Science of Trustworthy Elections: Facing the Challenges of Internet Voting and Other E-Voting Technologies
- Deconstruct and Reconstruct: Reexamining Bias in the Legal System; Searching for New Approaches

The AALS welcomes comments and questions about Crosscutting Programs. Questions should be directed to crosscutting@aals.org

Crosscutting proposals are due April 13, 2015, and should be emailed to crosscutting@aals.org

Discussion Group Programs

Proposals Due: April 13, 2015

The Annual Meeting Planning Committee will introduce 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 to the Discussion Group participants. Discussion Group participants would generally be expected to write and share a short (5-10 page) paper as part of their participation in the Discussion Group. The Discussion Group sessions, however, will not feature formal presentations. The objective, instead, will be to facilitate a lively and engaging real-time discussion among the participants. Subjects could be limited to a single substantive area and subject (e.g., "Equitable Remedies in Civil Rights Litigation"). Ideally, however, Discussion Group proposals would offer an opportunity for faculty in cross-cutting fields to bring useful perspectives to the conversation. For example, a Discussion Group on "Free Speech and Community Policing Post-Ferguson" could invite perspectives from multiple vantage

substantive points, obviously including public law and criminal law, but also including critical, feminist, and comparative law perspectives as well.

Discussion Groups will feature a limited number of formal participants, and the names of all participants will appear in the official meeting program. The participants for a Discussion Group will consist of a mix of people identified in the original proposal and people selected from a call for participation. In total, a Discussion Group should feature around 15 participants. Ideally, a Discussion Group will have at least ten participants and not more than twenty participants. As with other programs at the Annual Meeting, people who are not formal participants are welcome to attend the Discussion Groups, and the moderator may want to open discussion up to all attendees at some point during the program.

Proposals should follow the general guidelines set forth above. Each proposal should identify no more than ten participants for the Discussion Group. The committee and the AALS staff will post calls for participation for all accepted Discussion Group programs and will facilitate review of these proposals by the organizers of the program. The final participant list is subject to review and approval by the committee.   Organizers will be expected to moderate the Discussion Group unless another moderator is identified in the proposal. It will be the responsibility of the organizers to ensure timely communication among the participants prior to the Annual Meeting, to ensure that the paper requirement (if applicable) is clearly communicated, and to ensure that deadlines for circulating papers to the participants are both clearly stated and followed.

In reviewing proposals, the committee will consider the following:

- The overall quality of the program. In considering overall quality, the committee will consider the following:
    - Is the program well thought out?
    - Is the proposal well-written and well-organized?
    - Is the proposed program likely to lead to an interesting and constructive discussion among the participants?
- Is there a diversity of presenters, including diversity of schools, viewpoint diversity, and diversity based on identity characteristics?
- Are junior participants included in the proposal?

The AALS welcomes comments and questions about Discussion Groups. Questions should be directed to discussiongroup@aals.org

Discussion Group proposals are due April 13, 2015, and should be emailed to discussiongroup@aals.org.

Academy Programs

Proposals Due: April 13, 2015

Academy Programs are open submission programs that do not fit into any of the other categories. If you have a great idea for a program for the Annual Meeting, please submit an Academy Program proposal.

Proposals should follow the general guidelines set forth above.

In reviewing proposals, the committee will consider the following:

- The overall quality of the program. In considering overall quality, the committee will consider the following:
  - Is the program well thought out?
  - Is the proposal well-written and well-organized?
  - Is the proposed program likely to be of interest to Annual Meeting attendees?
- Is there a diversity of presenters, including diversity of schools, viewpoint diversity appropriate to the program, and diversity based on identity characteristics?
- Are junior participants included in the proposal?

The AALS welcomes comments and questions about Academy Programs. Questions should be directed to academy@aals.org.

Academy proposals are due April 13, 2015, and should be emailed to academy@aals.org

Symposium Programs

Proposals Due: May 12, 2014

Symposium programs are full-day or half-day programs that focus on in-depth scholarly exploration of a topic of academic interest. Symposium programs are expected to be published in a journal or edited volume, and proposals must address publication arrangements. The inaugural AALS Symposium was held at the 2014 Annual Meeting. It offered an in-depth look at constitutional change from a comparative perspective. Papers from this symposium were published in *American Journal of Comparative Law* and *International Journal of Constitutional Law*. The Symposium at the 2015 Annual Meeting was on "Congressional Dysfunction and Executive Lawmaking during the Obama Administration." Papers from this symposium will be published in *Chicago-Kent Law Review* and the *American University Law Review*.

Proposals should follow the general guidelines set forth above. Symposium proposals should also include:

- An abstract of up to 750 words describing the overall symposium program and its anticipated contribution to legal scholarship.
- Abstracts of up to 250 words describing each proposed symposium paper.
- A description of the publication arrangements for the program.

If the Symposium will be published in a student-edited law review, the AALS will waive the registration fee for up to two student editors to attend the Annual Meeting. For examples of successful submissions, please review the 2014 Symposium and 2015 Symposium proposals. **In reviewing proposals, the committee will consider the following:**

- The overall quality of the program, with a focus on the potential scholarly impact of the program. In considering overall quality, the committee will consider the following:
  - Is the program well thought out?
  - Is the proposal well-written and well-organized?
  - Do the program and individual paper abstracts together add up to a coherent and compelling program?
  - Do the abstracts suggest that the program will present papers of academic importance?
  - Will the proposed program make a substantial impact on the scholarly literature in the topic area?
- Is there a diversity of presenters, including diversity of schools, viewpoint diversity appropriate to the program, and diversity based on identity characteristics?
- Are junior participants included in the proposal?

The AALS welcomes comments and questions about the Symposium. Questions should be directed to symposium@aals.org.

Symposium proposals are due May 12, 2015, and should be emailed to symposium@aals.org.

Hot Topic Programs

Proposals Due: October 5, 2015

Hot Topic programs focus on topics that emerged too late to be included in other types of programs. Hot Topic Program proposals that are selected by the committee will be assigned a

program time slot and cannot be changed for accommodation of speakers because space and time are limited.

Proposals should follow the general guidelines set forth above. In addition, Hot Topic proposals should include an explanation of why the program is "hot" and why it would not have possible to have made the proposal in one of the other program categories with an earlier deadline.

In reviewing proposals, the committee will consider the following:

- Whether the proposed topic is "hot" and could not have been made in one of the earlier program categories with an earlier deadline.
- The overall quality of the program. In considering overall quality, the committee will consider the following:
    - Is the program well thought out?
    - Is the proposal well-written and well-organized?
    - Is the proposed program likely to be of interest to Annual Meeting attendees?
- Is there a diversity of presenters, including diversity of schools, viewpoint diversity appropriate to the program, and diversity based on identity characteristics?
- Are junior participants included in the proposal?

The AALS welcomes comments and questions about Hot Topic Programs. Questions should be directed to hottopic@aals.org.

Hot Topic Program proposals are due October 5, 2015, and should be emailed to hottopic@aals.org.