

Call for Proposals for Open-Submission Programs for the 2017 AALS Annual Meeting

The Program Committee for the 2017 Annual Meeting of the Association of American Law Schools is pleased to request proposals for open-submission programs for the 2017 Annual Meeting to be held January 3-7, 2017 in San Francisco. There are four types of open-submission programs for the 2017 Annual Meeting:

- **Discussion Group** programs provide a setting for informal discussions among a larger group of invited participants and attendees.
- **Symposium** programs are extended 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.
- **Academy** programs are open-submission programs that do not fit into the other three categories.

If you have a good idea for a proposal, submit it now for one of the categories with earlier deadlines. If your idea doesn't fit into the Symposium or Discussion Group categories, you should make a submission for the Academy category.

All program organizers should allow time for audience participation. We also welcome proposals for programs that depart from the typical format of having participants present 10-20 minute talks. Organizers could, for example, submit a proposal for a roundtable style program in which participants answer a series of questions posed by the moderator and the audience.

Discussion Group, Hot Topic, and Academy programs that are selected by the Committee will be scheduled by the AALS staff for 1 ¾ hour sessions. By contrast, symposium programs are full-day or half-day programs.

The 2017 Meeting's theme, selected by AALS President Kellye Y. Testy, Dean, University of Washington School of Law, is "Why Law Matters." We encourage program organizers to consider that theme in framing their proposals.

Deadlines

Proposals for Discussion Group and Academy programs are due **April 14, 2016**. Proposals for Symposium programs are due **May 12, 2016**. Proposals for Hot Topic programs are due **October 6, 2016**.

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 or Fee-Paid law schools. International faculty; visiting faculty (who do not retain a permanent affiliation at another law school); graduate students; and non-law school faculty are not eligible to submit proposals but may serve as presenters.

Proposals for Symposium and Academy programs may reserve one or more spots for participants selected from a call for participation. Participants selected from a call for participation must be identified no later than September 29, 2016. For Discussion Groups, calls for participation will follow a different process that is described in more detail below.

A proposal for any of the four program categories 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) if applicable, an indication that one or more speakers will be selected from a call for participants.
- Names of speakers to be invited including their full names and schools with links to or copies of their curricula vitae.
- If applicable, the journal or edited volume that will be publishing the program. .

Program organizers should take the AALS Core Value of diversity into account when developing their proposal. Organizers are also encouraged to include junior faculty and participants who provide viewpoint diversity appropriate to the program as well as representation from a wide range of types of law schools.

Examples of successful proposals submitted in prior years are [available here](#).

All proposals should be submitted using the [online submission form](#).

Discussion Group Programs

Proposals Due: April 14, 2016

A Discussion Group program provides a group of faculty the opportunity to engage in a sustained conversation about a topic of interest to the participants. Discussion Group participants will typically be expected to write and share a short presentation summary (3-5 pages) as part of their participation. The Discussion Group sessions, however, will not feature formal presentations. Instead, the written summaries are intended 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 Groups will 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” could invite perspectives from multiple vantage points, obviously including public law and criminal law, but also including critical, feminist, and comparative law perspectives as well.

A Discussion Group program should feature no fewer than 10, and no more than 15, invited participants. The proposal should identify approximately 2/3 of the participants or possible invitees, and the balance should be invited from an open call that the AALS staff will disseminate after the proposal is accepted. As with other programs at the Annual Meeting, people who are not invited participants are welcome to attend the Discussion Group, and at some point during the program, the moderator should plan to open discussion up to all attendees.

Proposals for a Discussion Group program should follow the general submission guidelines set forth above. For all accepted proposals, the Annual Meeting Program Committee and the AALS staff will post calls for participation and will facilitate the program organizers’ review of the submissions. The final participant list is subject to review and approval by the Committee. Organizers are expected to moderate the Discussion Group unless another moderator is identified in the proposal. Organizers are responsible for ensuring timely communication among the participants prior to the Annual Meeting, including disseminating any paper requirements and deadlines for circulating papers to participants.

In reviewing Discussion Group Program proposals, the Committee will consider the overall quality of the program, including whether:

- The proposal is well written and thoughtfully constructed;
- The program is likely to lead to an interesting and constructive discussion among the participants;
- There is a diversity of presenters, including diversity of schools, viewpoints, and identity characteristics; and
- There are junior participants included in the proposal.

Discussion Group Program proposals are due **April 14, 2016** and should be submitted using the online submission form [here](#). Questions may be directed to discussiongroup@aals.org.

Symposium Programs

Proposals Due: May 12, 2016

Symposium programs are full-day or half-day programs that focus on an in-depth scholarly exploration of a topic of academic interest. The Committee encourages symposium program organizers to arrange for the publication of the papers in a journal or edited volume.

In addition to following the general submission guidelines set forth above, symposium proposals should also include:

- An abstract of up to 750 words describing the program and its anticipated contribution to legal scholarship.
- Abstracts of up to 250 words describing each proposed symposium paper.
- A description of any publication arrangement (or potential arrangement) for the program in a journal or edited volume.

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.

In reviewing Symposium Program proposals, the Committee will consider the overall quality of the program, including whether:

- The proposal is well written and thoughtfully constructed;
- The program is likely to be of interest to Annual Meeting attendees;
- There is a diversity of presenters, including diversity of schools, viewpoints, and identity characteristics;
- There are junior participants included in the proposal; and
- The abstracts reflect papers that are likely to contribute substantially to the scholarship in the field.

Symposium Program proposals are due **May 12, 2016** and should be submitted using the online submission form [here](#). Questions may be directed to symposium@aals.org.

Hot Topic Programs

Proposals Due: October 6, 2016

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 that cannot be changed to accommodate speakers due to scheduling constraints.

In addition to following the general submission guidelines set forth above, Hot Topic proposals should include an explanation of why the topic is “hot” and why it was not possible to make the proposal in one of the other program categories with an earlier deadline.

Hot Topic 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.

In reviewing Hot Topic Program proposals, the Committee will consider the overall quality of the program, including whether:

- The proposal is well written and thoughtfully constructed;
- The program is likely to be of interest to Annual Meeting attendees;
- There is a diversity of presenters, including diversity of schools, viewpoints, and identity characteristics;
- There are junior participants included in the proposal; and
- The proposed topic is “hot” and could not have been made in one of the other program categories with an earlier deadline.

Hot Topic Program proposals are due **October 6, 2016** and should be submitted using the online submission form [here](#). Questions may be directed to hottopic@aals.org.

Academy Programs

Proposals Due: April 14, 2016

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 Academy Program proposals, the Committee will consider the overall quality of the program, including whether:

- The proposal is well written and thoughtfully constructed;
- The program is likely to be of interest to Annual Meeting attendees;
- There is a diversity of presenters, including diversity of schools, viewpoints, and identity characteristics; and
- There are junior participants included in the proposal.

Academy Program proposals are due **April 14, 2016** and should be submitted using the online submission form [here](#). Questions may be directed to academy@aals.org

Program Committee for the 2017 Annual Meeting

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