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**.

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.