



American Association of Law Schools

Call for Proposals Now Open for  
2018 AALS Annual Meeting: **“Arc of Career”** Sessions

Proposals due: April 13, 2017

As part of the AALS’s efforts to respond to the needs and interests of its members, the AALS Arc of Career Committee (formerly the Professional Development Committee) continues to encourage programming at the Annual Meeting to address a broad spectrum of issues related to professional development. Moving beyond presentations on substantive legal topics, Arc of Career sessions address a broad range of matters related to the professional careers of law faculty and administrators. The Committee hopes to include perspectives from all legal education professionals, including tenure and tenure-track faculty, contract and special faculty, administrators and other constituencies.

To this end, the AALS Arc of Career Committee requests proposals for creative and interactive sessions on professional development issues broadly conceived for the 2018 AALS Annual Meeting to be held January 3-6, 2018, in San Diego, CA. Successful sessions at the 2017 Annual Meeting included, among others, sessions on joining the administration, career issues for post-tenured faculty, building and sustaining academic communities, and preparing for life beyond the legal academy. We offer this list as illustration, not to imply any limit of the kinds of topics that would be appropriate for sessions. Indeed, other topics may arise from critiques raised in last year’s sessions, such as: Is the arc of career an appropriate metaphor for legal education professionals today? Are other metaphors more appropriate and, if so, what are they? What other issues remain submerged or unaddressed in these changing times in legal education? Still other topics might include:

- Exploring alternative media, such as blogs, electronic postings, and social media, for projecting your intellectual voice
- Modes of engagement as a public intellectual
- Life stage theory and “editing” commitments
- Lateral moves
- Alternatives to traditional scholarship
- Odd person out: Career challenges when your views are a distinct minority in your field (this could be framed other ways, “Gaining recognition when...” or “Building networks, finding mentors, and making your way when ....”)
- Avoiding the echo chamber—building scholarly networks outside your ideological comfort zone
- Public service
- Interdisciplinary collaboration
- Consulting, expert witness work, board appointments
- Retirement and other transitions

- Transitioning from academia: part-time teaching? Cold turkey? Other pursuits?
- Financial planning and budgeting
- Mindfulness, design thinking, and other ways of escaping the “law professor” mental box
- Mentoring: From mentee to mentor
- How to establish a research center or institute

### **General Submission Guidelines**

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.

### **Additional Information**

Proposals should describe the concept or theme of the session and the mode(s) of presentation and include a full or partial list of suggested speakers/facilitators, but need not be more than 2 - 5 pages long.

**Strong preference will be given to proposals that incorporate interactive experiences for the audience other than or in addition to Q and A.** Preference will also be given to proposals:

- Submitted by collaborative groups spanning more than one law school;
- With an interdisciplinary element and/or suggestions of participants with perspectives from other disciplines. (Funds may be available for non-law school speakers);
- Reflecting diversity of schools and presenters (geographic, institutional rankings, race, gender, ideology, etc.)

Arc of Career Program proposals are due by **April 13, 2017**, and should be submitted using the online submission form found [here](#). Questions may be directed to [arc@aals.org](mailto:arc@aals.org)

### **The AALS Task Force on Professional Development:**

Susan D. Carle, American University Washington College of Law, **Chair**  
Kay Kindred, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, William S. Boyd School of Law  
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Jason Palmer, Stetson University, College of Law  
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