

Call for Presenters for the Section on Balance in Legal Education Pedagogy Program at the 2018 AALS Annual Meeting

The Section on Balance in Legal Education is pleased to announce a Call for Presenters for the 2018 AALS Annual Meeting in San Diego, in which at least one additional panelist will be selected for the Section's Pedagogy Program for New Law Teachers. The program, entitled "Applying Positive Psychology and Strengths-Oriented Approaches in Teaching," is scheduled for Saturday, January 6, 2018, from 3:30 – 5:15 p.m., and will be structured as a moderated roundtable discussion highlighting the presenters' chosen areas of focus. Each presenter will give an independent short presentation, followed by a moderated panelist and audience discussion.

Program Summary: Research studies demonstrate that many lawyers and judges suffer from high levels of depression, anxiety, and overall unhappiness. Such unhappiness is initially cultivated in law school, where studies show that the educational environment does not promote sufficient coping and resiliency skills to prepare for the stresses of the profession. However, more recent research and initiatives indicate that there are ways that law school faculty can foster individual and collective student well-being by incorporating positive psychology and strengths-based approaches in teaching and other interactions with students. In this session, the panelists will provide concrete teaching suggestions and techniques in designing and implementing courses that promote, among other things, students' compassion, confidence, creativity, emotional intelligence, autonomy, and self-awareness.

Form and Length of Submission:

Please submit a proposal, including a written synopsis of your presentation focus in 750 or fewer words. The synopsis should address:

- (1) the *aspect(s)* of positive psychology and character strengths involved;
- (2) the possible *scope* of the pedagogical impact of positive psychology in the law school classroom (e.g., the impact in certain types of courses or with certain types of students);
- (3) any specific *challenges* that will be addressed (e.g., pedagogical training, collegiality among faculty, student learning diversity);
- (4) *evidence* of successful pedagogical approaches (e.g., improved student performance, evaluative feedback, pedagogical efficiency); and
- (5) the importance of these pedagogical techniques for *new faculty*.

In addition to the above synopsis, please also include the following basic information: Name, Institution, Contact Information, Scholarship or Past presentations related to Positive

Psychology (or simply submit a CV), membership status in the Balance in Legal Education Section (membership is not required for selection), and a list of presentations given at past AALS Annual Meetings with the year presented.

Submission and Due Date: Proposals should be submitted electronically to Program Committee Co-Chair, Jarrod Reich (jarrod.reich@georgetown.edu), by **Friday, July 28, 2017**. This session's panelists are responsible for paying their registration fee and hotel and travel expenses. In the event insufficient proposals are received prior to the deadline, the Section reserves the right to solicit additional proposals before making final selections. Feel free to contact Jarrod with any inquiries.

Submission Review: Panelists will be selected after review by members of the Balance in Legal Education Section's Program Committee. Any Committee Member with a conflict of interest in reviewing submissions will not participate. In the interests of diversity of voice and viewpoint, a preference will be made for presenters who have never presented at an AALS Annual Meeting before, but all submissions are welcome.