

**Call for Participation in a Discussion Group on**  
***PROFESSIONAL IDENTITY DEVELOPMENT TOOLS TO HELP LAW STUDENTS MEET THE***  
***NEEDS OF TODAY'S CLIENTS***

**Abstracts due: August 25, 2017**

The Annual Meeting Program Committee for 2016 introduced a new program format, Discussion Groups, to facilitate scholarly discussion and engagement. Discussion Groups provide a small group of faculty with the opportunity to engage in a sustained conversation about a topic of interest. Discussion Group participants are expected to write and share a short presentation abstract (3 pages) as part of their participation. The Discussion Group sessions, however, will not feature formal presentations. Instead, the abstracts are intended to facilitate a lively and engaging real-time discussion among the participants. Participants in this Discussion Group will consist of a mix of the people identified in the original proposal submitted to the Program Committee along with additional individuals selected on the basis of this call for participation. There will be limited audience seating for those not selected in advance to be discussion participants.

The following is a Call for Participation in a Discussion Group on *Professional Identity Development Tools to Help Law Students Meet the Needs of Today's Clients* to be held at the AALS Annual Meeting, Wednesday, January 3 – Saturday, January 6 in San Diego.

**Description**

According to a recent survey, as many as twenty-five ABA accredited law schools have adopted professional identity development courses or programs to help students develop the self-awareness, character and perspective necessary to be excellent counselors. “Professional Identity” refers to a broad array of skills that students traditionally have not been taught in law school that are necessary for them to develop the self-awareness, character, and perspective integral to becoming excellent counselors. It includes characteristics like integrity, work ethic, common sense and resilience. It also includes the ability to solve problems effectively with an awareness of the economic and day-to-day realities of law practice.

This Discussion Group will join a diverse group of legal educators from around the U.S. who have taught professional identity development courses or performed professional identity development mentoring at their institutions. Each discussion participant will present an exercise, assignment, reading, simulation or other resource they have used to enhance their course or program and to improve student learning outcomes related to professional identity development. Other participants from a call for participants would also be welcome to join the discussion. Individual participants may elect to publish scholarly papers related to their participation in the discussion.

### **Call for Abstracts**

The Annual Meeting Program Committee invites faculty and administrators who would like to join this Discussion Group to submit a three-page abstract that discusses an exercise, assignment, reading, simulation or other resource they have used to enhance their course or program and to improve student learning outcomes related to professional identity development **by August 25, 2017**. Current organizers and confirmed discussion participants include:

1. **Michael T. Colatrella** [Discussion Group Organizer]  
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs & Professor of Law  
Pacific McGeorge School of Law
2. **Jeffrey E. Proske** [Discussion Group Organizer]  
Professor of Lawyering Skills  
Pacific McGeorge School of Law
3. **Neil W. Hamilton**  
Holloran Center Director and Professor of Law  
University of St. Thomas School of Law
4. **Jerome M. Organ**  
Professor of Law and Associate Director of the Holloran Center for Ethical  
Leadership in the Professions  
University of St. Thomas School of Law
5. **Stephanie Hartung**  
Teaching Professor  
Northeastern University Law School
7. **Mary Bowman**  
Director of the Legal Writing Program and Associate Professor of Law  
Seattle University Law School
8. **Ann Southworth**  
Professor of Law  
University of California, Irvine  
School of Law

9. **Patrick Longan**

William Augustus Bootle Chair in Ethics and Professionalism  
in the Practice of Law

Mercer University School of Law

Space in this Discussion Group is limited; the Committee, along with the faculty who proposed this discussion, will select the remaining discussion participants from the abstracts submitted. At the AALS Annual Meeting in January, selected participants will make a one-two minute presentation during the Discussion Group. The remaining time will be devoted to a moderated, roundtable group discussion.

Each submission for this Discussion Group should include:

- The title of the submitted presentation/paper;
- The name, school and email of the applying participant;
- A three-page, double-spaced abstract that discusses an exercise, assignment, reading, simulation or other resource they have used to enhance their course or program and to improve student learning outcomes related to professional identity development; and
- The curriculum vitae of the applying participant.

In reviewing the submitted abstracts, the discussion group organizer and selection committee will consider the following:

- The fit and overall quality of the abstract for the Discussion Group;
- The diversity that the applying participant may bring in terms of a variety of factors including viewpoint diversity, institutional affiliation and status (tenure-track, non-tenure track, tenured); and if applicable
- The applying participant's willingness to publish his or her paper along with other Discussion Group papers.

Abstracts are due by **August 25, 2017** and should be submitted using the [online submission form](#).