Call for Participation in a Discussion Group on
WHAT IS FRAUD ANYWAY?
Due: August 25, 2017

This is a Call for Participation in a Discussion Group on *WHAT IS FRAUD ANYWAY?* to be held at the AALS Annual Meeting, January 3, 2018, from 1:30 pm – 3:15 pm, in San Diego. Discussion Groups are designed to facilitate a lively and engaging real-time discussion among participants. As part of his or her participation, each Discussion Group participant is expected to write and share an abstract (3 pages) outlining an aspect of the topic he or she would like to explore through the session. The Discussion Group sessions do not feature formal presentations. Instead, the participants' abstracts are intended to offer the session moderators guidance in constructing the discussion and to generate conversation and debate among the participants. Participants in the Discussion Group consist of a mix of people identified by the moderators in their original proposal for this program along with additional individuals selected from this Call for Participation. There will be limited audience seating for those not selected in advance as discussion participants.

Description

Federal white collar fraud statutes in the United States (e.g., Securities Fraud, Mail and Wire Fraud, and Bank Fraud) have increasingly come under attack as exceedingly vague and subject to prosecutorial abuse. Such vagueness may be a necessary evil given the demonstrated creativity of white collar criminals, but the legal uncertainty raises notice concerns and may also have a chilling effect on legitimate market activity. This Discussion Group will consider these and other concerns regarding federal fraud statutes and evaluate reforms.

Call for Abstracts

The Annual Meeting Program Committee invites faculty and administrators who would like to join this Discussion Group to apply for participation by submitting a three-page abstract that addresses issues related to the problem of vagueness in federal fraud statutes **by August 25.** Current organizers and confirmed discussion participants include

- **Moderators:** John P. Anderson (Mississippi College School of Law); David Kwok (University of Houston Law Center)
- **Participants:** Miriam Baer (Brooklyn Law School); Samuel Buell (Duke Law School); Jill Fisch, (University of Pennsylvania Law School); Greg Gilchrist (The University of Toledo College of Law); Stuart Green (Rutgers Law School); Michael Guttentag (Loyola Law School, Los Angeles); John Hasnas (Georgetown Law School); Joan MacLeod Heminway (University of Tennessee College of Law); Craig Lerner (George Mason Antonin Scalia Law School); Veronica Root (Notre Dame Law School); Andrew Verstein (Wake Forest University School of Law)

Space in this Discussion Group is limited; the Annual Meeting Program Committee and the session moderators (faculty who originally proposed this Discussion group) will select the remaining Discussion Group participants from the abstracts submitted. At the outset of the Discussion Group session during the AALS Annual Meeting in January, each participant will make a two-minute presentation on a facet of the problem of vagueness in federal fraud statutes that he or she would like to pursue through the Discussion Group. The remaining time will be devoted to a moderated, roundtable group discussion.

Each application for participation in this Discussion Group should include an abstract consisting of:

- A title;
- The name and contact information of the applicant; and
- An outline of an aspect of the problem of vagueness in federal fraud statutes that the applicant would plan to explore through the session.

Each application also should include the curriculum vitae of the applicant.

In reviewing the submitted abstracts, the Annual Meeting Program Committee and session moderators will consider the following:

- The fit and overall quality of the abstract; and
- The diversity that the applicant and topic may bring to the program in terms of a variety of factors (including viewpoint, institutional affiliation and status as, e.g., tenure-track, non-tenure track, or tenured faculty).

Applications are due by **August 25, 2017** and should be submitted using the online submission form.