

AALS Joint Program Section on Defamation and Privacy and Section on Mass Communication Law—Call for Papers

The Section on Defamation and Privacy and the Section on Mass Communication Law are pleased to announce a Call for Papers from which one additional presenter will be selected for the sections' joint program "Fake News, Alternative Facts, and the Future of Journalism," to be held during the AALS 2018 Annual Meeting in San Diego on Wednesday, January 3 at 1:30.

A discourse with no anchor in truth ceases to have value as discourse. The President's accusations that the media are perpetuating "fake news" have raised numerous legal and ethical questions for lawyers, journalists, government officials, and citizens. This panel, comprised of experts in journalism and media law, will consider the phenomenon and politics of fake news; the law's role, if any, in regulating truth in public discourse; the media's role in ensuring public discourse is anchored in truth and their contribution to the fake news phenomenon; the role of independent fact-checking websites such as Snopes.com and Politifact.com in helping debunk fake news; and the potential impact of the fake news debate on First Amendment press freedoms. Panelists include: Jestin Coler, Disinfomedia; Amy Gajda, Tulane University Law School; Scott Lewis, Voice of San Diego; Richard Marosi, Los Angeles Times; David Mikkelson, Snopes.com; and Rebecca Coates Nee, San Diego State University.

Papers should be submitted electronically in .pdf form to LaVonda Reed, Associate Provost and Professor of Law, at lareed@law.syr.edu by September 22. The author of the selected paper will be notified by October 27. One paper will be selected after review by members of the Executive Committee of the Section. The selected presenter will be responsible for paying their registration fee and hotel and travel expenses.

Any inquiries about the Call for Papers should be submitted to: LaVonda Reed at lareed@law.syr.edu.