

2018 AALS Conference on Clinical Legal Education

Gathering Momentum: Learning from the Past, Responding to the Now, Planning for the Future

April 29 – May 2, 2018
Chicago, IL

Request for Proposals for:

- Concurrent Sessions
- Poster Session
- Workshops
- Working Group Facilitators

EXTENDED DEADLINE: Monday, October 16, 2017 @ 11:59 PM EDT
SUBMIT TO: Online [form](#)

I. Overview of Conference

The 2018 AALS Conference on Clinical Legal Education will be held Sunday, April 29, through Wednesday, May 2, 2018, at the Palmer House Hilton, in Chicago, Illinois. The biennial Workshop for New Law School Clinical Teachers will take place before the start of the main conference on Sunday, April 29.

AALS and the Planning Committee for the 2018 Conference on Clinical Legal Education made a decision to relocate the Conference from Austin to Chicago because of actions by the Texas legislature to discriminate against individuals seeking to immigrate to the United States and against members of the LGBTQ community. A letter sent to the Mayor of Austin can be found at <http://www.aals.org/aals-newsroom/aals-relocates-2018-conference-on-clinical-legal-education/>. We encourage all clinical teachers to attend the conference in Chicago in support of the decision to move the conference and in support of a city which does not discriminate on the basis of nationality or gender identity.

The half-day Workshop for New Law School Clinical Teachers will start at 8:45 a.m. on Sunday, April 29, and conclude at 12:30 p.m. The main conference begins in the afternoon on Sunday, April 29, with speakers, concurrent sessions, and working group discussions, followed by the AALS opening reception with poster presentations at 5:30 p.m. The conference continues with sessions on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, ending at 12:15 p.m. on Wednesday, May 2. It will include a keynote session, two plenaries, a poster session, concurrent sessions, working group sessions, multi-session workshops, and works-in-progress/Bellows Scholars' presentations.

The Conference Planning Committee seeks proposals for concurrent sessions, posters, and workshop sessions. We also seek volunteers to serve as facilitators for working groups. We invite proposals from individuals or multiple presenters for the listed categories of presentation

at the conference.¹ We especially encourage faculty who have not presented before or who have not presented in the past few years to submit proposals. We also encourage collaboration within and across institutions.

Proposals should be submitted through the online [form](#) by 11:59 p.m. EDT on Monday, October 16, 2017. The planning committee plans to notify participants by November 15, 2017 of the status of acceptance.

II. Conference Theme

This year's theme is Gathering Momentum, which refers to developing ideas and strategies for teaching and lawyering in these extraordinary times, while learning from lawyering struggles of the past and engaging in long-range strategic planning. Clinicians face internal institutional pressures caused by the changing nature of legal education and external threats to our clients and the rule of law. Our responses to these challenges are more likely to be effective if they are informed by lessons from the past and include self-assessment and planning for the future.

The Planning Committee invites proposals for concurrent sessions, posters, and workshops that expand on the conference theme. Among the questions that the conference will address are:

Current Strategies: What replicable teaching tools and techniques are we developing in this unique environment to respond to current challenges?

- What tools, emerging from different clinical contexts, have been most effective in meeting present challenges and which are transferable to other contexts?
- Are there ways we might consolidate and combine different clinical approaches to strengthen our impact?
- What relationships can our clinics develop with social justice movements?
- How do we adjust to a quickly changing legal landscape and how do we help our students do the same?
- How are we practicing self-care and helping our students learn balance and self-care in their own lives?

Lessons from the Past: Lawyers and clinicians have long been involved in responding to abuses of power, system failures, and injustices.

- What lessons can we learn from those past struggles that will help us with our current work?
- How do we avoid repeating past mistakes?
- How do we help our students understand and learn from the past as they face the social problems of today and tomorrow?

¹ Faculty members including adjunct faculty and fellows at AALS member and fee-paid schools are eligible to submit proposals or serve as presenters. International faculty, visiting faculty (who do not retain a permanent affiliation at another law school), graduate students, and non-law school faculty may serve as presenters. Concurrent session presenters, poster presenters, working group facilitators, and workshop leaders must pay the registration fee and are responsible for their own expenses related to attendance at the Conference.

Planning for the Future: How can we be responsive to emergent crises while remaining committed to a process of longer-range strategic planning?

- How do we link our critical responses to current political, legal, and economic developments with processes for future-oriented planning?
- How should we evaluate our programs?
- What roles should our clients and students play in a clinic's evaluation and planning for the future?
- What barriers to programmatic change do we face and how do we overcome them?
- How can we effectively balance the need to be flexible in an era of uncertainty with the need to chart a long-term course—within our clinics, within our institutions, and within the communities we serve?

Workshop for New Clinical Law School Teachers

This biennial half-day workshop is designed to provide clinical law teachers who are just entering the field or in the early years of their careers with insights and foundational principles for clinical teaching and professional development. Inspirational workshop presenters will share best practices, common mistakes, traps, and valuable resources to help attendees develop a tool kit for professional success as clinicians.

III. How to Make a Proposal

A. Concurrent Sessions

The conference will feature at least four concurrent sessions:

- Monday, April 30, 9 – 10:30 a.m. *and* 4 – 5:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, May 1, 9 – 10:30 a.m. *and* 4 – 5:30 p.m.

The Committee seeks proposals for concurrent sessions that develop the conference themes. Submission of a concurrent session proposal includes a willingness to have that proposal scheduled in any of the concurrent session time slots or in a shorter time slot.

Submission guidelines for concurrent sessions

To propose a concurrent session, submit the online [form](#), selecting “Concurrent Session” from the dropdown menu labeled “Submission for” and attaching one document that contains the following:

1. Description: A one-page description that includes: 1) topic, goals, and learning objectives for the session, 2) a plan for how the session will be conducted, and 3) an articulated connection to themes of the conference. Include your ideas about the structure of the session and the ways in which it will be engaging and interactive. Past attendees have expressed an interest in presentations that focus on specific teaching strategies and methods, include ideas that are replicable in different settings, and supply participants with takeaways. We strongly encourage you to consider those issues in designing your proposal. Ideally, these sessions will deepen attendees' engagement with the conference themes while maximizing individual or group participation.

2. Materials: Please describe any course documents or materials that you intend to provide to participants at your session (including rubrics, surveys, a syllabus, evaluation forms, bibliographies, and classroom exercises). You may also download any actual materials that you already have.

3. Presenters: Identify all individuals whom you expect to participate in the session, including their institutions, whether they come from another discipline or from outside the academy, whether they have presented at the AALS Clinical Conference in the past two years (and, if so, the title and nature of the session), and any other information about presenters that you think relevant. Name one of them as the contact person for the group. We encourage presenters to collaborate with clinicians from institutions outside their own.

B. Poster Sessions

The opening reception on Sunday, April 29, 2018, provides an opportunity for presenters to display posters and discuss their materials as conference participants circulate. The posters will remain on display in the registration foyer, where registrants can view them during the rest of the conference. Poster sessions are an integral feature of professional conferences for many disciplines, and allow for greater participation and dissemination of information beyond a single concurrent session. Posters are particularly useful for presenting descriptive information or other material not well suited for the more interactive format of a concurrent session.

Submission guidelines for poster sessions

To propose a poster, submit the online [form](#), selecting “Poster Session” from the dropdown menu labeled “Submission for.” Please submit a one-page description of your proposal that states 1) your specific goals and learning objectives for the poster, 2) the content you expect the poster to include and how you expect to display it, 3) the relationship of the poster to the conference themes, 4) the names and affiliations of all the individuals who plan to work on the poster, identifying one of them as the contact person for the group, and 5) any other information you believe is relevant.

Bear in mind that many universities offer assistance in poster design and printing. You can find good tips on creating posters at:
<http://www.cis.udel.edu/~pollock/fse04/posterauthorinst.html>.

C. Workshops

We plan to offer workshops again during the 2018 Conference. Workshops provide an opportunity for small groups of pre-registrants to explore a topic in-depth over the course of two or three sessions, rather than in a single concurrent session.

The three possible time slots allocated for Workshops are:

- Monday, April 30, 4 – 5:30 p.m. (at same time as Concurrent Sessions)
- Tuesday, May 1, 4 – 5:30 p.m. (at same time as Concurrent Sessions)

- Wednesday, May 2, 10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. (at same time as Working Group Discussions)

Workshop attendance will be limited to a predetermined maximum number of pre-registrants.

We encourage proposals from groups of workshop planners and presenters. Leading these workshops will require more time and preparation than a single concurrent session. Workshop leaders will play a major role in designing workshop content and in preparing for the workshops before the conference. Since participants will register for workshops in advance, we encourage workshop leaders to assign materials to participants and to convene them remotely before the conference begins.

Submission guidelines for workshop leaders

To propose a workshop, submit the online [form](#), selecting “Workshop” from the dropdown menu labeled “Submission for” and attaching one document that includes:

1. Description: A one-to-two-page description that includes: 1) topic, goals, and learning objectives for the workshop, 2) a structured plan for how the sessions will be conducted, and 3) the methodologies you will use. In your statement, please address why you think your topic has a broad appeal and why it is particularly suited to the multi-session workshop format.
2. Materials: Please describe any course documents or materials that you intend to provide to participants at your session (including rubrics, surveys, syllabi, evaluation forms, bibliographies, and classroom exercises). You may also download any actual materials that you already have.
3. Presenters: Identify all individuals who will be planning and presenting the workshop, identify their institutions, and name one of them as the contact person for the group. Please state the qualifications of the presenters to lead a workshop on the proposed topic. This may include demonstrated experience in the subject of the workshop, past presentations on the topic, and related publications.

D. Working Group Facilitators

Working groups will be moderated by facilitators and organized around clinic subject matter or affinity groups to provide an informal small group setting for processing the content of the conference and for sharing ideas.

Working groups will meet up to four times:

- Sunday, April 29, 3:45 – 5:15 p.m.
- Monday, April 30, 2:15 – 3:45 p.m.
- Tuesday, May 1, 2:15 – 3:45 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 2, 10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. (at same time as Workshops)

The number of subject area groups that the conference can accommodate is limited by the number of small meeting rooms available at the hotel.

We solicit volunteers to serve as facilitators of these working group sessions. We expect to assign two facilitators per working group and will endeavor to match facilitators with groups according to subject matter expertise. We ask facilitators to talk before the conference to discuss their ideas and to prepare for their facilitation of the group.

Submission guidelines for working group facilitators

To volunteer to serve as a working group facilitator, submit the online [form](#) selecting “Working Group Facilitator” from the dropdown menu labeled “Submission for.” Please state whether you have served as a working group facilitator before, how many times, and in which subject areas. You should also indicate the subject areas that you would feel comfortable facilitating for the 2018 Conference. Below is a list of proposed working group subject areas:

Alternative Dispute Resolution
Associate Deans of Experiential Learning
Civil Rights/Discrimination
Clinic Administrators
Community Economic Development
Community Lawyering
Criminal Law
Criminal Law/Juvenile
Education Law
Elder Law
Environmental
Externships
Family/Domestic Violence
Family Law
Health and Disability
Housing
Immigration
Interdisciplinary (Medical/Legal)
International Human Rights
Legislative/Policy Lawyering
Poverty Law
Tax/Securities
Transactional Law/Small Business
Veterans Law

E. AALS Section on Clinical Education Committee Meetings

We will reserve the 7:30 to 8:45 a.m. time slot on Tuesday, May 1, for a meeting of Clinicians of Color. We will reserve the 7:30 to 8:45 a.m. time slots on Monday, April 30, and Wednesday, May 2, for meetings of other AALS Clinical Section Committees. We will offer space for morning contemplative sessions as well.

IV. Conclusion

To submit a proposal for a concurrent session or a poster session, and to express an interest in serving as a workshop leader or as a working group facilitator, please submit the online [form](#) no later than 11:59 p.m. EDT on Monday, October 16, 2017.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact any member of the Planning Committee. Thank you for your interest in the conference. We look forward to seeing you in Chicago in April and May 2018.

2018 AALS Conference on Clinical Legal Education Planning Committee

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