

Call for Proposals Open Submission Programs for the 2020 AALS Annual Meeting

Submission dates vary

The Program Committee for the 2020 Annual Meeting is pleased to request proposals for “open submission” programs. Open submission programs are those which are not sponsored by an AALS Section. All annual meeting attendees are eligible to participate as speakers.

The 2020 Annual Meeting theme, selected by AALS President Vicki Jackson, is **Pillars of Democracy: Law, Representation, and Knowledge**. In particular, Jackson calls on Association members and faculty to reflect on the crucial role played by the rule of **law**, the structure of **representational** democracy, and the creation and diffusion of **knowledge** in preserving vital democratic governance. We encourage program organizers to consider using the theme in framing their proposals, but it is not a required condition for submission or selection.

There are four types of open submission programs (all more fully described below):

- **Open Source** programs offer an opportunity to present either traditional or innovatively structured programs that stand apart from those proposed by AALS Sections.
- **Discussion Groups** provide a setting for focused discussions among a small group of invited faculty, and also welcome interested participants.
- **Symposia** are extended sessions (half day or longer) that focus on in-depth scholarly exploration of a topic of academic interest.
- **Hot Topic** programs focus on topics that emerged too late in the year to be included in section programming.

Open Source, Discussion Group, and Hot Topic programs will run for one hour and 45 minutes. All programs should allow at least 15 minutes for audience participation. **Symposia** run for three to six hours (half-day or full-day) and should include appropriate time for audience participation.

Deadlines

Proposals for **Discussion Group** and **Open Source** programs are due **April 12, 2019**.

Proposals for **Symposium** programs are due **May 10, 2019**.

Proposals for **Hot Topic** programs are due **October 18, 2019**.

General Submission Guidelines

Programs may be proposed by full-time faculty members or administrators at AALS Member or Fee-Paid law schools. International faculty, visiting faculty (who have no permanent affiliation at another Member or Fee-Paid law school), graduate students, and non-law school faculty are not eligible to submit proposals but may serve as presenters.

A proposal for any of the four program categories should include:

- Program title.
- Names and contact information of the program organizers.
- Detailed description of the proposed program, including (a) the format of the proposed program, (b) an explanation of the overall goal of the program, and (c) if applicable, an indication that one or more speakers will be selected from a call for participants.
- Names of speakers to be invited including their full names and schools with links to or copies of their curricula vitae. The number of speakers should be limited to three, or a maximum of four, plus one moderator.
- If applicable, proposals should name the journal or edited volume that will be publishing any papers that are presented at the program.

Program organizers should take the AALS core value of diversity into account when developing their proposal and speakers' list. Relevant considerations include the prospective speakers' gender, race, and years of teaching experience. Organizers are encouraged to include both senior and junior faculty and participants who provide viewpoint diversity appropriate to the program, as well as representation from a wide range of types of law schools. The scheduled program time should be used only for the academic discussion itself; if there is any "business" to take care of (e.g., discussion of whether to form a new AALS Section, or combine with an existing section), that should take place outside of the allotted time. Examples of successful proposals submitted in prior years are [available online](#).

General Selection Guidelines

In reviewing proposals in any category, the Program Committee will consider the overall quality of the program, and whether the proposal:

- Is well-written and thoughtfully constructed;
- Is likely to be of interest to Annual Meeting attendees;
- Includes presenters from diverse schools, viewpoints, and backgrounds; and
- Includes junior participants.

Open Source Programs

Proposals Due: April 12, 2019

Proposals should follow the general guidelines set forth above.

In addition to interdisciplinary programs that cut across the interests of two or more sections, Open Source programs can address themes outside the scope of any existing section. Open Source programs can also focus on specific issues such as recent cases or developments in a given area of law.

Open Source programs can take many shapes, and we welcome proposals for Open Source programs that depart from the typical format of having participants present 10 - 20 minute talks. For example,

- Organizers could submit a proposal for a roundtable style program in which participants answer a series of questions posed by the moderator and the audience.
- Open Source program participants could engage in one or more role-play sessions.
- Open Source programs can also invite extended engagement with specific scholarly work, such as an “Author Meets Reader” program to discuss a significant new book or a “Living Legend” program that invites attention to the overall work of an established scholarly figure.
- Open Source programs could consist of short presentations, coupled with questions designed to set the presentations against one another in an effort to foster debate and discussion.

Proposals for Open Source programs may reserve one or more spots for participants selected from responses to a call for participation. Participants selected from a call for participation must be identified no later than **September 29, 2019**.

Open Source Program proposals are due **April 12, 2019** and should be submitted using the [online submission form](#). Questions may be directed to opensource@aals.org

Discussion Group Programs

Proposals Due: April 12, 2019

Proposals for a Discussion Group program should follow the general submission guidelines set forth above.

A Discussion Group program provides a small group of faculty the opportunity to engage in a sustained conversation about a topic of interest to the participants. Discussion Group sessions will not feature formal presentations. Discussion Group participants will typically be expected to write and share a short presentation summary (3-5 pages) as part of their participation. These written summaries are intended to facilitate a lively and engaging real-time round table discussion among the participants.

Discussion Groups could be limited to a single substantive area and subject (e.g., “Equitable Remedies in Civil Rights Litigation”). Ideally, however, Discussion Groups will offer an opportunity for faculty in cross-cutting fields to bring useful perspectives to the conversation. For example, a Discussion Group on “Free Speech and Community Policing” could invite perspectives from multiple vantage points, obviously including public law and criminal law, but also critical, feminist, and comparative law perspectives.

Discussion Group proposals should plan for no fewer than 8, and no more than 12 invited speakers or discussants. Of that proposed number of discussants, Discussion Group proposals should identify approximately two-thirds of the discussants. The remaining one-third of the discussants will be selected from an open call for participation disseminated by the AALS staff in coordination with the program’s organizers. For all accepted proposals, the Program Committee and the AALS staff will post calls for participation and will facilitate the program organizers’ review of the submissions. The final participant list is subject to review and approval by the Program Committee. Once the participants are identified, the organizers should solicit one-page abstracts from them and distribute the abstracts to the participants in advance of the meeting.

As with other programs at the Annual Meeting, attendees who are not invited Discussion Group participants are welcome to attend the Discussion Group as observers, and at some point during the discussion, the moderator should open up discussion to all attendees.

Organizers are also expected to moderate the Discussion Group unless another moderator is identified in the proposal. Organizers are responsible for ensuring timely communication among the discussants prior to the Annual Meeting, including disseminating any abstract or paper requirements.

Discussion Group Program proposals are due **April 12, 2019** and should be submitted using the [online submission form](#). Questions may be directed to discussiongroup@aals.org.

Symposium Programs

Proposals Due: May 10, 2019

Symposium programs are full-day or half-day programs that conduct an in-depth scholarly exploration of a topic of academic interest. The Committee encourages symposium program organizers to arrange for the publication of the papers in a journal or edited volume.

In addition to following the general submission guidelines set forth above, symposium proposals should include:

- An abstract of up to 750 words describing the program and its anticipated contribution to legal scholarship.
- Abstracts of up to 250 words describing each proposed symposium paper.
- An indication of whether the request is for a full-day or half-day symposium.
- A description of any publication arrangement (or potential arrangement) for the program in a journal or edited volume.

If the symposium will be published in a student-edited law review, the AALS will waive the registration fee for up to two student editors to attend the Annual Meeting.

Proposals for Symposium programs may reserve one or more spots for participants selected from responses to a call for participation. Participants selected from a call for participation must be identified no later than September 29, 2019.

In its review of Symposium proposals, in addition to applying its general guidelines, the Program Committee will consider the quality of the abstracts and the likelihood that the resulting papers will substantially contribute to the scholarship in the field.

Symposium Program proposals are due **May 10, 2019** and should be submitted using the [online submission form](#). Questions may be directed to symposium@aals.org.

Hot Topic Programs

Proposals Due: October 18, 2019

Hot Topic programs focus on topics that emerged too late in the year to be included in other types of programs. Hot Topic program proposals that are selected by the Committee will be assigned a program time slot by AALS staff. That program time cannot be changed to accommodate speakers, due to scheduling constraints.

In addition to following the general submission guidelines set forth above, Hot Topic proposals should include an explanation of why the topic is “hot” and why it was not possible to make the proposal in one of the other program categories with an earlier deadline.

In its review of Hot Topic proposals, in addition to applying its general guidelines, the Program Committee will pay particular attention to the proposal’s hot topic deadline explanation.

Hot Topic program organizers should check the preliminary Annual Meeting program on the AALS website to be sure that there is no direct conflict between the proposed topic and a program already on the schedule. The Committee will narrowly construe this requirement and will try to avoid disqualifying proposals due to conflict with an existing program.

Hot Topic Program proposals are due **October 18, 2019** and should be submitted using the [online submission form](#). Questions may be directed to hottopic@aals.org.

Program Committee for the 2020 Annual Meeting

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