Call for Proposals
Open Submission Programs
for the 2022 AALS Annual Meeting

Submission dates vary

The Program Committee for the 2022 Annual Meeting is pleased to request proposals for "open submission" programs. Open submission programs are those that are not sponsored by AALS Sections. All Annual Meeting attendees are eligible to participate as speakers.

The 2022 Annual Meeting theme, selected by AALS President Vincent Rougeau, is **Freedom, Equality, and the Common Good**. In his presidential address, Rougeau elaborated to the academy that "as we emerge from the pandemic and begin to address the social, economic, and political turmoil left in its wake, I believe this is the right time to explore these three concepts, critical to our understanding of democracy and rule of law. It is my hope that this theme will offer all of you an opportunity from the perspective of your own areas of specialty to consider how our legal system will engage the realities of a post-pandemic world."

We encourage program organizers to consider using the 2022 Annual Meeting theme in framing their proposals, but it is not a condition for submission or selection.

The AALS schedules 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 discussants and engaged participation by the audience.

- **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. Open Source and Hot Topic programs should allow at least 15 minutes for audience participation, and Discussion Groups should allow 30 minutes or more for audience participation. **Symposia** run half-day (3 hours) or full-day (6 hours) and should include appropriate time for audience participation.

Deadlines
Proposals for **Discussion Groups** and **Open Source** programs are due **April 12, 2021**.
Proposals for **Symposium** programs are due **May 10, 2021**.
Proposals for **Hot Topic** programs are due **October 18, 2021.**

General Submission Guidelines
Full-time faculty members or administrators at AALS Member or Fee-Paid law schools may propose programs. 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 speakers.

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

- Program title.
- Names, affiliations, 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; (c) a description of how diversity is achieved by the program's

speakers, content, and/or structure; and (d) if applicable, an indication that one or more speakers will be selected from a call for participants.

- Names, titles, and affiliations of speakers to be invited including links to or copies of their curricula vitae. Except for Discussion Group discussants, the number of speakers per program or Symposium panel should be limited to a maximum of four, plus one moderator. Discussion Groups typically have between eight and twelve discussants. Speakers should represent a mix of institutional affiliations.
- 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 proposals and identifying speakers. Relevant diversity considerations include but are not limited to speakers' gender; race; years of teaching experience; faculty status (i.e., junior/senior faculty, tenured/tenure-track/clinical/non-tenure-track faculty); type of law school; geographic location; and viewpoint. To further viewpoint diversity in programming in particular, proposals should include speakers who will represent a range of philosophical, ideological, doctrinal, and/or methodological perspectives on the program topic as framed.

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 who further the diversity goals described above; and

- Includes topics or viewpoints that further the diversity goals described above.

Program Committee for the 2022 Annual Meeting
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Open Source Programs

Proposals Due: April 12, 2021

Proposals should follow the General Submission Guidelines set forth above.

Open Source programs may take many shapes: programs may be interdisciplinary and cut across the interests of two or more sections, address themes outside the scope of any existing section, or focus on specific issues such as recent cases or developments in a given area of law.

In addition, we welcome innovative proposals for Open Source programs that depart from the typical format of having speakers present 10- or 20-minute talks. For example, Open Source proposals might offer the following:

- A roundtable-style program in which speakers answer a series of questions posed by the moderator and the audience.
- A program where speakers engage in one or more role-play sessions.
- A program that invites extended engagement with specific scholarly work, such as an "Author Meets Reader" program that discusses a significant new book, or a "Living Legend" program that invites attention to the overall work of an established scholarly figure.
- A program that consists of short presentations coupled with questions designed to set the presentations against one another to foster debate and discussion.

Proposals for Open Source programs may reserve one or more spots for speakers selected from responses to a call for participation. Speakers selected from a call for participation must be identified no later than **September 24, 2021.**

Open Source Program proposals are due **April 12, 2021,** and should be submitted using the online submission form. Questions may be directed to opensource@aals.org.

Discussion Group Programs

Proposals Due: April 12, 2021

Proposals for a Discussion Group program should follow the General Submission Guidelines set forth above.

A Discussion Group program provides a group of discussants the opportunity to engage in a sustained conversation about a shared topic of interest. Discussion Groups will not feature formal presentations. Instead, discussants will typically each prepare brief remarks of three-to-five-minutes (some past discussion groups have referred to these presentations as "opening statements"). These initial presentations are intended to stimulate a lively and engaging discussion that will include both the discussants and members of the audience.

Discussion Groups may be limited to a single substantive area and subject or address a broad topic (past topics have included, "Equitable Remedies in Civil Rights Litigation" or "Post-COVID-19 Online and Hybrid Learning Pedagogy and Best Practices"). However they structure their topic or focus, ideally, Discussion Groups will offer an opportunity for discussants in related 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, including public law and criminal law as well as critical, feminist, and comparative law perspectives.

Discussion Group proposals should have at least eight and no more than twelve invited discussants, including the moderator. Discussion Group proposals should identify approximately two-thirds of the discussants and leave the remaining one-third of the discussants to be selected from an open call for participation disseminated by the AALS staff in coordination with the Discussion Group's organizers. For accepted proposals, the Program Committee and the AALS staff will post calls for participation and will facilitate the Discussion Group's organizers' review of the submissions. The final discussant list is subject to review and approval by the Program Committee.

Once all discussants are identified, they should provide to the organizers one-page abstracts that preview their three-to-five-minute opening remarks. Discussion Group organizers may also wish to share all discussants' abstracts with

each other before the Annual Meeting. This process will allow all discussants to anticipate others' planned remarks.

As with other Annual Meeting programs, conference attendees who are not invited discussants are welcome to attend the Discussion Group as audience members, and the moderator should reserve at least thirty minutes of the program for audience members to participate in the discussion.

Organizers will serve as moderators of the Discussion Group unless another moderator is identified in the proposal. Organizers are responsible for ensuring timely communication among the discussants before the Annual Meeting, including disseminating any abstracts or other materials.

Discussion Group program proposals are due **April 12, 2021** and should be submitted using the [online submission form](). Questions may be directed to [discussiongroup@aals.org]().

Symposium Programs

Proposals Due: May 10, 2021

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 organizers to arrange for the publication of the papers 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 from that law review to attend the Annual Meeting.

Proposals for Symposium programs may reserve one or more spots for speakers selected from responses to a call for participation. Speakers selected from a call for participation must be identified no later than **September 24, 2021.**

Because Symposium sessions will run simultaneously with other programs during the Annual Meeting, attendees may attend panels more sporadically than is common for traditional symposia. For that reason, organizers should think of each symposium session as a self-contained event and be attentive to ensuring diversity, including viewpoint diversity, in each session.

Additional Submission Guidelines

In addition to following the General Submission Guidelines set forth above, Symposium proposals should include:

- An abstract of no more than 750 words about the Symposium program and its anticipated contribution to legal scholarship.
- A 250-word-or-less abstract for 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.

Additional Selection Guidelines

In reviewing Symposium proposals, in addition to applying its General Selection Guidelines, the Program Committee will consider the quality of the paper abstracts, the likelihood that the resulting papers will substantially contribute to the scholarship in the field, and the success of the proposal in achieving diversity for each Symposium session and across the whole of the Symposium.

Symposium program proposals are due **May 10, 2021** and should be submitted using the [online submission form](). Questions may be directed to [symposium@aals.org]().

Hot Topic Programs

Proposals Due: October 18, 2021.

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. Due to scheduling constraints, program times cannot be changed to accommodate specific speakers.

Hot Topic program organizers should check the preliminary Annual Meeting program on the AALS website to be sure that there is no substantial replication of the substance of a proposed hot topic program by a program already on the schedule. The Committee will narrowly construe this requirement and will try to avoid disqualifying proposals on this basis.

Additional Submission Guidelines

In addition to following the General Submission Guidelines set forth above, Hot Topic proposals should include an explanation of (1) why the topic is "hot" and (2) why it was not possible to make the proposal in one of the other program categories with an earlier deadline.

Additional Selection Guidelines

In reviewing Hot Topic proposals, in addition to applying its General Selection Guidelines, the Program Committee will pay particular attention to (1) the timeliness of the proposal's subject matter, and (2) whether the proposal's topic substantially replicates an Annual Meeting program already on the schedule.

Hot Topic Program proposals are due **October 18, 2021.** Proposals should be submitted using the online submission form. Questions may be directed to hottopic@aals.org.