

**Call for Participation in a Discussion Group on**  
***BREAKING NEWS IN U.S. LEGAL REGULATORY REFORM***

**Abstracts due: August 31, 2021**

**Introduction**

The following is a Call for Participation in a Discussion Group on *Breaking News in U.S. Legal Regulatory Reform* to be held during the virtual AALS Annual Meeting from January 5-9, 2022.

Discussion groups allow a small group of faculty to engage in a sustained conversation about a topic of interest. This discussion group's participants are expected to write and share a short abstract (3 pages, double-spaced) to begin their participation in the discussion. The rest of the session will feature a lively and engaging discussion among the small group of participants. The participants in this discussion group will be the people identified in the original proposal submitted to the Annual Meeting Program Committee, plus additional individuals selected from this call for participation. There will be limited audience seating for those not selected in advance to be discussion participants.

**Description**

This session will focus on recent, groundbreaking changes to the regulation of legal practice and legal services in the U.S.

Recently, Utah created a groundbreaking “regulatory sandbox” (using a model from the financial services space) to incubate and test new ways of delivering legal services. Arizona eliminated rules barring non-lawyer ownership and investment in law firms and authorized a new type of legal service provider, Legal Paraprofessionals. A handful of states adopted some form of diploma privilege for 2020 graduates, eliminating the need to pass a bar exam for entry into the profession, and states across the country began considering these and other reforms to legal regulation.

This interactive session brings together a handful of the nation's leading experts in legal regulatory reform including innovation lab directors, reform leaders, and researchers with U.S. and comparative expertise. The panelists will discuss a range of topics related to recent and potential changes to the way legal services and the practice of law are regulated, including up-to-date news at the time of the session. The panelists will encourage audience members to raise additional questions and engage in conversation.

Topics will include: What is the relationship between regulatory reform and efforts to increase access to justice for low- and middle-income Americans? What is the status of legal regulatory reform efforts around the country and what is driving these changes? Which states have implemented regulatory reform, and what is the nature of the reforms? What can we learn from changes to legal regulation in other countries? Who is evaluating and studying regulatory

reform? What is the status of efforts to eliminate the bar exam as a barrier to entry for the legal profession? What role has the pandemic played in shaping or activating reform efforts? What does all of this mean for the future of legal education?

### **Call for Abstracts**

The Annual Meeting Program Committee invites faculty and administrators who would like to join this Discussion Group to submit a three-page abstract that addresses any of the topics outlined in the Description above **by August 31**. Current organizers and confirmed discussion participants include:

Stacy Butler, University of Arizona  
Anna Carpenter, University of Utah (moderator)  
Bridget Gramme, University of San Diego  
Milan Markovic, Texas A&M University  
Jeff Ward, Duke University

Space in this Discussion Group is limited; the Committee, along with the faculty who proposed this discussion, will select the remaining discussion participants from the abstracts submitted. At the AALS Annual Meeting in January, selected participants will make a one-two minute presentation during the Discussion Group. The remaining time will be devoted to a moderated, roundtable group discussion.

Each submission for this Discussion Group should include:

- The title of the submitted presentation/paper;
- The name, school and email of the applying participant;
- A three-page, double-spaced abstract that addresses the topics described in the Description above; and
- The curriculum vitae of the applying participant.

In reviewing the submitted abstracts, the Discussion Group organizer and selection committee will consider the following:

- The fit and overall quality of the abstract for the Discussion Group;
- The diversity that the applying participant may bring in terms of a variety of factors including viewpoint diversity, institutional affiliation and status (tenure-track, non-tenure track, tenured); and if applicable
- The applying participant's willingness to publish his or her paper along with other Discussion Group papers.

Abstracts are due by **August 31, 2021** and should be submitted using the online submission form <https://aalsweb.wufoo.com/forms/r7szvob1pac94u/>.