

Call for Participation in a Discussion Group on

Multifaceted Strategies for Expanding the Pipeline of Diverse Law Students and Attorneys of Color: Law School, Bar Assoc., and Judicial Commission Collaboration

Abstracts due: September 19, 2022

Introduction

The following is a Call for Participation in a Discussion Group on *Multifaceted Strategies for Expanding the Pipeline of Diverse Law Students and Attorneys of Color: Law School, Bar Association, and Judicial Commission Collaboration* to be held during the in-person AALS Annual Meeting from January 4-7, 2023 in San Diego, California. This session is scheduled for Wednesday, January 4, 2023 from 3- 4:40 pm.

Discussion groups allow a small group of faculty and related participants 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 (three 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 individuals identified in the original proposal submitted to the 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

In New York, the partnership between New York State law schools (including Syracuse University College of Law, City University of New York (CUNY) School of Law, St. John's University School of Law, and the University of Buffalo School of Law) along with the Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission, the New York State Bar Association, and affinity bar associations in New York, have worked respectively and collaboratively on pipeline programs to expand diversity in the legal profession. This Discussion Group session will discuss pipeline activities such as those across institutions in New York, as well as programs and collaborations between law schools, legal institutions, and law-related entities in other jurisdictions along these lines.

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 pipeline programs to expand diversity in the legal profession **by September 19, 2022**. Current organizers and confirmed discussion participants include:

Paula C. Johnson, Professor, Syracuse University College of Law, and Director, Cold Case Justice Initiative (CCJI), and Member of the Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission Panel Organizer and Moderator

Natalie Gomez-Velez, Professor, City University of New York (CUNY) Law School and Director, CUNY Law School Center on Latinx Rights and Equality (CLRE)

Tolulope F. Odunsi, Professor and Assistant Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, University at Buffalo School of Law, The State University of New York; Professor, Western New England School of Law (Fall 2022)

Suzette M. Meléndez, Esq., Teaching Professor and Director, Children’s Rights & Family Law Clinic, and Associate Dean for Equity & Inclusion, Syracuse University College of Law

Hon. Troy K. Webber, Associate Justice, First Department of the New York Supreme Court, Appellant Division, and Co-Chair, Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission, of the New York State Unified Court System

Mary Lynn Nicolas-Brewster, Esq.
Executive Director, Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission, of the New York State Unified Court System

Space in this Discussion Group is limited; the Committee, along with the faculty organizer 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 to two-minute presentation during the Discussion Group. The remaining time will be devoted to a moderated, roundtable group discussion. The organizer of the Discussion Group will seek publication opportunities for the panel discussion in appropriate journals.

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 panel topic: *Multifaceted Strategies for Expanding the Pipeline of Diverse Law Students and Attorneys of Color: Law School, Bar Association, and Judicial Commission Collaboration*. Discussants from various geographical regions, legal education institutions, and legal organizations who can share various approaches, collaborations, and perspectives on efforts to increase diversity in the profession are encouraged to participate.
- 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 **September 19, 2022**, and should be submitted using the online submission form: <https://aalsweb.wufoo.com/forms/s5wv2s81nr1kyv/>