

Call for Participation in a Discussion Group on

THE FUTURE OF LAW SCHOOL RANKINGS

Abstracts due: September 19, 2022

Introduction

The following is a Call for Participation in a Discussion Group on *THE FUTURE OF LAW SCHOOL RANKING* to be held during the in-person AALS Annual Meeting from January 4-7, 2023 in San Diego, California.

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 (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

The Discussion Group will focus on law school rankings, with a specific focus on U.S. News rankings. Each participant will begin the discussion with two to three-minute introductory remarks. Speakers will coordinate to ensure each is speaking on a different point. After each speaker gives brief opening remarks, the floor will be open for discussion, which will include both the speakers and audience members. Dean Kronk Warner (S.J. Quinney College of Law, Utah) will moderate. The entire program will last one hour and 45 minutes. The goals of the program include the following: 1) reaching an understanding of whether the existing methodology used to rank law schools is normatively good; 2) if the understanding is that the methodology is not "good," then reaching an understanding of changes that might be made; and 3) discussants might also address whether law schools should continue to submit information to third parties for ranking purposes. In discussing these topics, many of the speakers will critically engage with the proposed discussion topics from anti-racist, diversity, equity, and inclusion perspectives. Additionally, the proposed discussion group directly addresses President Chemerinsky's theme of considering how law schools can make a difference, as the discussion will address how law schools may influence current rankings and methodologies.

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 the future of law school rankings **by September 19**.

Current organizers and confirmed discussion participants include: Michèle Alexandre – Dean, Loyola University Chicago; Lolita Buckner Inniss – Dean, University of Colorado Law School; Eboni Nelson – Dean, University of Connecticut School of Law; Sean Scott – Dean, California Western School of Law; Sudha Setty – Dean, CUNY School of Law; Elizabeth Kronk Warner (moderator) – Dean, S.J. Quinney College of Law, University of Utah; Verna Williams – Dean, University of Cincinnati College of Law.

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.

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 future of law school rankings; 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 **September 19, 2022** and should be submitted using the online submission form: <https://aalsweb.wufoo.com/forms/s5wv2s81nr1kyv/>