

## **Call for Participation in a Discussion Group on**

### ***FROM SCHOLARSHIP TO IMPACT: BREAKING OUT OF THE IVORY TOWER AT THE SPEED OF TECH***

**Abstracts due: Monday, September 11, 2023**

#### **Introduction**

The following is a Call for Participation in a Discussion Group, “From Scholarship to Impact: Breaking Out of the Ivory Tower at the Speed of Tech”, to be held during the in-person AALS Annual Meeting from January 3-6, 2024 in Washington, DC.

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 (1-2 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**

Law schools are a tremendous repository of knowledge, including many of the country’s leading experts on virtually every policy or regulatory subtheme. However, there is a pervasive difficulty in translating legal scholarship into tangible policy outcomes, both because of a lack of incentives among faculty to prioritize direct policy engagement, and broader structural obstacles that stand in the way of political engagement by non-commercial interests, the latter of which speaks to a broader trend in American democracy prioritizing access and resources over expertise.

The purpose of this session is to engage in a constructive and inclusive conversation on avenues for external policy engagement and, in particular, ways to break down academic silos that limit the ability of faculty to translate their ideas into tangible social or regulatory change. The conversation will be led by the Executive Directors of three tech law institutes that have evolved in different directions to serve as hubs for external engagement and the dissemination of research. Although our overarching thematic focus will be on tech law and policy, we welcome participants from all subfields that are interested in engaging with emerging public policy questions.

The session will be framed around the following five areas of discussion:

1. Agenda setting and prioritizing topics of focus.
2. External engagement and avenues to connect with government and private sector policy-makers for the purpose of impacting change.
3. Developing institutional and decision-making structures for effective policy outcomes.
4. Strategies for attracting funding while maintaining independence.
5. Coordination and collaboration opportunities for participants.

## **Call for Abstracts**

The Annual Meeting Program Committee invites faculty and administrators who would like to join this Discussion Group to submit a 1-2-page abstract that addresses interests and strategies for promoting external policy engagement among scholars and university institutions **by Monday, September 11**. Current organizers and confirmed discussion participants include Michael Karanicolas of UCLA, Natalie Roisman of Georgetown, Brad Bernthal of the University of Colorado, and April G. Dawson of North Carolina Central University.

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-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 1-2-page, double-spaced abstract that addresses interests and strategies for promoting external policy engagement among scholars and university institutions; 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.

Abstracts are due by **Monday, September 11, 2023** and should be submitted using the online submission form <https://aalsweb.wufoo.com/forms/sja3po01qn0yl9/>