

Call for Participation in a Discussion Group on
Understanding Professional Identity Formation and Integrating Professional Identity
Formation into the Required Curriculum (including in Professional Responsibility and Ethics
Courses)

Abstracts due: Monday, September 11, 2023

Introduction

The following is a Call for Participation in a Discussion Group on *Understanding Professional Identity Formation and Integrating Professional Identity Formation into the Required Curriculum (including in Professional Responsibility and Ethics Courses)* 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 (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 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

This discussion group focuses on the ABA's addition of Standard 303(b)(3), which requires law schools to offer substantial opportunities for students to develop a professional identity.

As stated in Interpretation 303-5:

Interpretation 303-5 Professional identity focuses on what it means to be a lawyer and the special obligations lawyers have to their clients and society. The development of professional identity should involve an intentional exploration of the values, guiding principles, and well-being practices considered foundational to successful legal practice. Because developing a professional identity requires reflection and growth over time, students should have frequent opportunities for such development during each year of law school and in a variety of courses and co-curricular and professional development activities.

This discussion group includes the leaders of the Holloran Center for Ethical Leadership in the Professions, which has been at the forefront of the national movement to foster greater

intentionality in the profession formation of law students and will address four questions or themes:

- (1) How should we understand the concepts of professional identity and professional identity formation?
- (2) How does 303(b)(3) apply to faculty teaching in the required curriculum? What are ways to emphasize professional identity formation in the required curriculum?
- (3) How can faculty teaching professional responsibility and legal ethics do more to integrate opportunities to reflect on professional identity?
- (4) What are ways to foster collaboration across the entire law school to support professional identity formation for law students?

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 ABA's addition of Standard 303(b)(3) and its implications in developing a professional identity, **by September 11**. Current organizers and confirmed discussion participants include Rosario Lozada from FIU College of Law, Jerome M. Organ from the University of St. Thomas School of Law, and various leaders of the Holloran Center for Ethical Leadership in the Professions.

- a. 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.
- b. The organizers would be pleased to add one or two additional discussants from a call for participants. The Holloran Center Professional Identity Implementation blog will publish the materials created and/or shared by the discussants. The discussants may also seek publication in the Journal of Legal Education.

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 concept of professional identity and the process of professional identity formation.
- 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 **Monday, September 11, 2023** and should be submitted using the online submission form <https://aalsweb.wufoo.com/forms/sja3po01qn0yl9/>