

**Call for Participation in a Discussion Group on  
Developing Courageous Leaders: Trailblazing and Diverse  
Approaches to Leadership Education for Law Students  
Abstracts due: Wednesday, August 28, 2024**

**Introduction**

This is a Call for Participation in the Discussion Group “**Developing Courageous Leaders: Trailblazing and Diverse Approaches to Leadership Education for Law Students**” to be held during the in-person AALS Annual Meeting from January 7-11, 2025, in San Francisco.

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 will highlight and discuss creative approaches to developing law students into good and effective lawyer-leaders by featuring programs that employ novel methods and approaches to leadership development. Law schools must equip students who have the courage and character to tackle emerging challenges in the legal industry and beyond, and leadership development programs play a distinctive role in meeting these and other needs.

Attendees will engage examples of courageous leadership from the discussants and identify approaches that can help law school faculty and administrators develop courageous lawyer-leaders in their respective law schools. The discussion in this session aims to illuminate successful methods, inspire new research, and encourage attendees to consider novel ways of understanding leadership development.

## 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 their novel methods and approaches to the leadership development of law students by **Wednesday, August 28, 2024**. Current organizers and confirmed discussion participants include Kenneth Townsend (Wake Forest University School of Law); Benjamin Rigney (Wake Forest University School of Law); Janice Craft (University of Richmond School of Law); Maria Cudowska (Syracuse University School of Law); Joan Heminway (University of Tennessee College of Law); and Leah Teague (Baylor University School 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-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 novel methods, approaches, and rationale pertaining to the leadership development of law students; 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 **Wednesday, August 28, 2024**, and should be submitted at <https://aalsweb.wufoo.com/forms/wb2dffk1xw6pbv/>.