

**SECTION ON MINORITY GROUPS
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN LAW SCHOOLS (AALS)**

2025 AALS Conference Program

“Private Law and Race”

The AALS Section on Minority Groups (SOMG) invites submissions for the “Private Law and Race” works-in-progress program at the 2025 AALS Annual Meeting in San Francisco, California. The program will be held on Friday, January 10, 2025, from 8:00 AM to 9:30 AM.

In contemporary legal discourse, discussions on race often gravitate towards criminal justice, civil rights, and constitutional law. However, the role of race in private law areas, such as contract law, corporate governance, tax, securities regulation, business associations, copyright, intellectual property, and patent law, remains underexplored. This WIPs session seeks to shed light on the intersections of race and private law, unveiling unconscious biases and promoting equity in legal practice and academia.

Recent scholarship has started to unveil the ways in which race influences private law doctrines, practices, and outcomes. From corporate decision-making and tax exemptions to copyright enforcement and municipal finance, racial disparities persist, often perpetuating systemic inequalities. This session aims to facilitate critical engagement with these issues, fostering innovative approaches to address them.

We invite submissions that analyze the role of race in private law from diverse perspectives, including doctrinal analysis, empirical research, critical race theory, and interdisciplinary approaches. For example, topics may include, but are not limited to:

- Racial disparities in corporate governance and decision-making processes
- The impact of race on access to and protection of intellectual property rights
- Intersectional analyses of race, gender, and private law doctrines
- The relationship between race, anti-discrimination law, and securities regulation
- Copyright, creativity, and cultural appropriation in racially diverse societies
- Patent law, innovation, and the exclusion of marginalized communities

Submissions may take the form of work-in-progress papers, research proposals, or dissertation chapters. Authors are encouraged to incorporate their practice experiences, where relevant, to enrich the scholarly discussion.

Anyone interested in participating on this panel should send a 500 to 1,000-word abstract to Jade Craig at jacraig@olemiss.edu and Hemanth C. Gundavaram at h.gundavaram@northeastern.edu. Questions about the session or application process may also be directed to Professors Craig and Gundavaram. **The submission deadline is Friday, August 9, 2024.**