

## **Call for Presentations for the Sections on State and Local Government and Communication, Media & Information at the 2025 AALS Annual Meeting**

The State & Local Government Law and Communication, Media & Information and Sections are pleased to announce a Call for Presentations for a joint program to be held during the AALS 2025 Annual Meeting in San Francisco from January 7-11, 2025. The program is entitled *Local Government: Innovation, AI Transformation, & Legislation*. The program description is below.

### **Form and length of submission:**

Please submit a maximum 300 word abstract in Word or PDF to the State and Local Section Chair, Erin O’Neal ([honeal@pacific.edu](mailto:honeal@pacific.edu)) and Communication, Media & Information Chair, Hannah Bloch-Wehba ([hbw@law.tamu.edu](mailto:hbw@law.tamu.edu)) with “AALS Submission: State & Local-Communication, Media & Information” in the subject line. Submissions must be received by **August 30, 2024**. *We are seeking co-sponsors for this program, so please reply if your section is interested in participating.*

Consistent with the 2025 AALS conference theme, “Courage in Action,” we welcome submissions that engage with the problems described in the Program Description below that focus on the questions presented below as well as broader ones regarding trends in and impacts on courageous policymaking and innovation at the local level. We invite proposals from law faculty including junior faculty and clinical faculty as well as participants who provide viewpoint diversity appropriate to the program and who reflect a variety of law schools.

Submissions will be reviewed by members of the Executive Committees of both Sections. Preference will be given to abstracts for projects that are substantially complete and that offer novel scholarly insights.

Selected presenters will be announced by no later than September 15, 2024. By submitting an abstract for consideration, you agree to attend the 2025 AALS Annual Meeting and this Joint Session should your idea be selected for presentation. Presenters will be responsible for paying their own registration fee.

### **Program Description:**

#### ***Local Government: Innovation, AI Transformation, & Legislation***

#### **State and Local Government Law and Communication, Media & Information Sections**

This joint session examines the potential of innovation in local government as the governmental entity that touches the lives of citizens most directly on a daily basis. Whether the subject is housing, voting, the provision of government services and methods for addressing constituent concerns, support for local journalism, education, privacy, or criminal law and law enforcement, there is both a growing literature and list of examples of innovative proposals for change being enacted at the local level. As with examples related to elections administration and school district policies, some local government entities have bumped up against new preemption

measures at the state level that constrict local government autonomy. In addition, the use of technology in local government in areas ranging from digital government, open records, AI, autonomous vehicles, combatting cybersecurity threats, automation of services, and numerous other examples provide additional arenas in which local governments are innovating and thinking outside of the box when it comes to creating an environment that can help to foster the provision of constituent services more effectively and efficiently.

Bearing in mind AALS' location in San Francisco this year and the intersection with technological innovation in the Bay Area and Silicon Valley, ideas include but are not limited to:

- The life and execution of “smart cities” ideas
- Artificial intelligence, in everything from local government to local news to data collection and analysis
- The role of technology in pretrial screenings, law enforcement (e.g., gunshot detection technology), surveillance, and other aspects of criminal law
- Technology and city administration, transportation, and constituent services
- Local government innovation in voting and elections administration
- Soaring infrastructure and transportation costs
- Post-pandemic K-12 public education
- State laws regulating social media
- Innovation in support for local journalism
- Special districts, including but not limited to the Disney dispute in Florida

The program will include presentations on local government innovation and the intersection with law and policy at the state level. These might include one or more outside speakers from the tech space, along with academic voices drawn from a call for presentations. Those presentations will be followed by a focused discussion. The program will serve as an important opportunity for scholars in fields connected to local government innovation to be in dialogue with those working on complementary questions, whether in academia, practice, or policy.

Please share this invitation with the members of your section and feel free to forward to others. We look forward to receiving your proposals and participating in an engaging discussion.