

2025 AALS Annual Meeting
Section on Civil Rights
Call for Proposals: How to Teach Justice in the Face of Nihilism

The AALS Section on Civil Rights welcomes submissions for its upcoming program, “How to Teach Justice in the Face of Nihilism,” at the 2025 AALS Annual Meeting in San Francisco. The program is scheduled to be held Saturday, January 11, 2025, from 8:00-9:30 am.

A description of the program is below. Interested individuals should submit the following to Jeremiah Chin, secretary of the Section on Civil Rights (jerchin@uw.edu):

1. Your name, title, and institutional affiliation;
2. A 500-750 word abstract;
3. A current CV.

The deadline for submission is September 9, 2024. Please use “How to Teach Justice in the Face of Nihilism” in the subject line.

Program Description: The current Supreme Court has dramatically altered the articulation of civil rights under the Constitution. Students, practitioners, and professors have always expressed frustration over civil rights jurisprudence, yet the scale and breadth of recent changes to established legal regimes have amplified pessimisms into nihilism. Civil rights are a necessary, though not sufficient condition, for justice and current events have made this relationship even murkier. This panel will therefore consider how law schools might embrace practical and aspirational visions of justice in ways of teaching and thinking about the law. How can and should law teaching address ideals and aspirations, in light of recent changes to the law and courts that may lead to students souring on conceptions of civil rights.