

Section on the Empirical Study of Legal Education & the Legal Profession 2024 AALS Annual Meeting Call for Presentations

The AALS Section on the Empirical Study of Legal Education & the Legal Profession is pleased to announce its main program, to be held during the 2024 AALS Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, from January 3-6, 2024. The program is titled, “Empirical Perspectives on Professional Identity in the Legal Academy.”

Program Description

With the passage of and revisions to Standard 303, the American Bar Association has released new requirements for the incorporation of professional identity in law schools. These requirements will have enduring impacts on legal education and the legal profession. But the meaning of “professional identity” is capacious and perhaps somewhat amorphous, encompassing such constructs as expert professionalism and social trustee professionalism—both of which have come under fire, given the increasing automation of legal services and heightened social and political polarization, respectively. This program will examine the many facets of legal professional identity in discussing how our law schools have and should be developing young lawyers in their chosen profession. In doing so, this program will probe the meaning of professional identity and the great need for its incorporation in law schools. The program will focus on empirical scholarship addressing one or more of the following topics: novel operationalizations of legal professional identity; measurement of existing professional identity programming; development of innovative curricular design relating to the formation of professional identity for law students; and efforts to inculcate professional identity within the legal profession.

Up to three panelists will be chosen from this Call for Presentations and will join one or two additional pre-confirmed panelists from academia and/or student services.

Call for Presentations – Submission Details

Please submit a maximum 500 word abstract in Word or PDF to the Chair of the Section on the Empirical Study of Legal Education & the Legal Profession, CJ Ryan (cj.ryan@louisville.edu), with “AALS Submission: Section on the Empirical Study of Legal Education & the Legal Profession” in the subject line. Submissions must be received by August 13, 2023.

We welcome submissions that address any of the topics described in the Program Description that involve law schools or lawyers. We invite proposals from law faculty, including junior and/or clinical faculty, law school staff, as well as participants who provide diversity and who reflect a variety of law schools. Selected presenters will be announced in September 2023.

Inquiries or Questions

Any inquiries about the Call for Presentations should be submitted to Professor CJ Ryan, University of Louisville Brandeis School of Law (cj.ryan@louisville.edu).