

CALL FOR PAPERS

Association of American Law Schools (AALS)
2015 Annual Meeting
Washington, District of Columbia
January 2-5, 2015

Session of the Poverty Law Section

Working But Poor: Understanding and Confronting the Working Poor Phenomenon

The AALS Poverty Law Section will sponsor a session at the upcoming 2015 AALS Annual Meeting. In collaboration with the *Loyola Journal of Public Interest Law*, the Section seeks papers for possible publication and presentation.

Employment was historically viewed as a means to gain financial security. However, full-time workers increasingly struggle to meet their basic needs. This program will examine the working poor phenomenon – that, despite being fully-employed, many workers still live in poverty. The panel will discuss the increased number of working poor and their deepening poverty, explore possible causes of the working poor phenomenon, and consider whether and how employment might once again offer a reliable means to raise people out of poverty.

Papers might cover topics including, but not limited to:

- ***Historical Perspectives:*** What is the history of poverty among U.S. workers? What are recent trends regarding the working poor? How do these trends relate to other historical trends, including the widening income gap, hypercriminalization, and technological advances?
- ***Impacted Communities:*** What are the demographics of the working poor? How have they changed over time? How does the working poor phenomenon disparately impact members of different communities? Are there differences based on race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, immigration status, sexual orientation and identity, or geographic region? What impact does the working poor phenomenon have on families?
- ***Globalization:*** What are the consequences of globalization for U.S. workers? How, if at all, has globalization exacerbated the working poor phenomenon? How do the experiences of U.S. workers relate to the working poor in other nations? What opportunities do transnational and international perspectives and strategies offer to confront the working poor phenomenon?
- ***Union Decline and Workplace Organizing:*** How has the decline in union density contributed to the working poor phenomenon? What strategies are unions and other worker organizations using to address worker poverty? How effective are they? Are there other approaches to organizing that might be more effective?

- **Workplace Abuses:** What is the relationship between the working poor phenomenon and workplace abuses, such as discrimination and wage theft? What about other violations of workplace rights? How, if at all, does the misclassification of employees as independent contractors impact worker poverty?
- **Legislative Causes and Solutions:** Which government policies have contributed to the working poor phenomenon? Which have alleviated or minimized worker poverty? How effective are minimum wage and overtime laws at alleviating poverty? Living wage ordinances? How do these laws relate to areas more traditionally viewed as poverty law? What are the relative strengths and limitations of federal policies as compared to state and local policies?
- **Workplaces Transformed:** Can work and workplaces be transformed to reduce worker poverty? How? What possibilities do worker-owned cooperatives and democratically-controlled workplaces offer?
- **Other Strategies:** Can employment still offer a reliable means to address poverty? Should workers, activists, academics, and policy-makers focus on employment as a means to eradicate poverty? What might concerned employers do to address the working poor phenomenon? What other strategies can and should be employed?
- **Roles for Scholars, Lawyers, Law Schools and Students:** What can legal scholars, lawyers, law schools, legal clinics, and students do to reduce worker poverty? What unique opportunities do these roles offer? What responsibility, if any, do we have?

The *Loyola Journal of Public Interest Law* will publish a minimum of one paper. The selected author(s) must agree not to publish their work in another journal. Only one of the papers selected for publication will be presented at the annual meeting in Washington, D.C.

Submission Information: Papers should be submitted by email attachment to Annie Smith at abs006@uark.edu. As the Planning Committee will use a blind review process, a cover letter with the author's name and contact information should accompany the paper. The paper itself, including the title page and footnotes must not contain any references identifying the author or the author's school. The submitting author is responsible for taking any steps necessary to redact self-identifying text or footnotes. Near complete papers should be submitted by August 8, 2014. The author(s) of the paper(s) chosen for presentation and/or publication will be notified by September 26, 2014. Completed papers are due by December 15, 2014 with minor revisions in light of conference comments to be completed by February 1, 2015.

Final Paper Length and Format: Papers should be roughly 8,000 words or less (approximately 20 printed pages). The *Journal* prefers papers to be submitted in Word format, but will accept papers utilizing other programs. Papers should be submitted with the text double-spaced, preferably in 12-point typeface, with footnotes rather than endnotes. Citations and article style should conform to the 19th edition of the Bluebook.

Eligibility: Full-time faculty members of AALS member law schools are eligible to submit papers. Foreign, visiting (without a full-time position at an AALS member law school), and adjunct faculty members, graduate students, fellows, and non-law school faculty are not eligible to submit. Faculty at fee-paid non-member schools are also ineligible.

For more information:

Annie Smith

2014 Chair-Elect, AALS Section on Poverty Law

Assistant Professor of Law, University of Arkansas – Fayetteville

(479) 575-3056

abs006@uark.edu