

*Call for Speakers & Presentations*  
*Supreme Court of Ohio*  
*Student to Lawyer Symposium (S2L)*  
*October 16, 2020*

*Think Like a Futurist: Envisioning New Paths for Teaching, Practice, and Service*

The Student to Lawyer (S2L) Symposium is a biennial, day-long conference that brings together a variety of stakeholders— including students, lawyers, law schools, law firms, industry leaders, corporate counsel, bar associations — to explore a single topic. The goal of the conference is to develop a sustainable focus on assisting law students in their transition to becoming practitioners and on supporting the practicing bar. This year the Commission envisions three tracks of programming to empower participants to “think like a futurist.”

A futurist is someone who studies the future and makes predictions based on current trends. Lawyers, and hence the legal profession, are focused on precedent — or what happened — and aren’t taught the skills of looking forward, which is part scenario planning, part forecasting. Accordingly, what would the legal profession look like if, in addition to “thinking like a lawyer,” we learned to “think like a futurist”? How would we teach, work, and serve? How could we transform our profession if we adopted a “skate to where the puck is going to be, not to where it has been” mindset? The 2020 Symposium will be devoted to exploring the possibilities through programming that highlights the ways law schools, law firms and other entities would differ if such an approach were adopted.

This year the Commission seeks proposals for presentations that:

- (1) **Address the modernization of legal education**, *i.e.*, classes that promote the T-shaped lawyer or the more recent Delta Lawyer Competency Model, online instruction, scholarship analyzing how future trends impact policy (for example, climate change and its impact on property law);
- (2) **Explore future-now practices in the workplace**, *i.e.*, separation of the business of law from the practice of law, legal operations, alternative legal service providers; or
- (3) **Highlight innovative ways to address access to justice.**

If you would like to speak on one or more of these topics, we invite you to submit a proposal for the Symposium. Proposals will be received through **Friday, June 12**, and should be sent to Martha Asseff, Secretary of the Commission on Professionalism, via e-mail at [martha.asseff@sc.ohio.gov](mailto:martha.asseff@sc.ohio.gov). Proposals shall include a brief program description (100 words or less), title, name and brief bio of all speakers, the length of the

presentation, and list of prior presentations on this topic. Ideally each program proposal will:

- Encourage active learning (indicate in the proposal what active learning strategies you will use to engage the audience in the session instead of having them passively listen to information; some possibilities include case study exercises, role playing, small group discussion, facilitated brainstorming, action plans, quick quizzes, etc.);
- Demonstrate innovative thinking;
- Present ideas, best practices, and/or relevant research for positioning attendees as leaders within their organizations; and
- Present strategies for effective implementation of information learned once attendees are back at their offices.

Reasonable travel expenses for speakers will be reimbursed in accordance with Supreme Court of Ohio policies. If you have any questions or want to talk about ideas you may have please feel free to contact either Martha Asseff at 614.387.9317 or via email at [martha.asseff@sc.ohio.gov](mailto:martha.asseff@sc.ohio.gov) or Mina Jones Jefferson at 513.556.0075 or via email at [mina.jefferson@uc.edu](mailto:mina.jefferson@uc.edu).