



## **Uncomfortable Conversations About Legal Education Student Debt, Diversity, and More**

August 8, 2019, San Francisco Marriott Marquis: Lower B2 Level, Nob Hill A/B.

### **Introduction**

**8:30 a.m. – 8:40 a.m.**

Kyle McEntee, Abhay Nadipuram, and Tommy Preston Jr.

Law schools face an unrelenting system of incentives that make lowering prices, equitable access, and curricular innovation extremely difficult. This half-day program examines how to cause positive change in legal education.

### **Law School Deans Panel: Obstacles to Lowering Costs**

**8:40 a.m. – 9:35 a.m.**

Ben Barros, Dean and Professor of Law, University of Toledo College of Law

Camille Nelson, Dean and Professor of Law, American University Washington College of Law

Carla Pratt, Dean and Professor of Law, Washburn University School of Law

Three current law school deans will discuss barriers to more accessible and affordable legal education. The discussion will cover *U.S. News & World Report* rankings, accreditation, university culture, and more.

### **Lightning Talks**

**9:35 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.**

#### **Introduction to the Blue Sky Initiative**

Maggie White, an Iowa attorney and member of Law School Transparency's board of directors, will describe a wide-ranging initiative from Law School Transparency and other partners to address the cost of legal education.

### **House of Cards**

Maggie White will discuss the risks changes to the federal student loan program pose to the law school business model.

### **Open Source Learning**

John Mayer, executive director of CALI, the Center for Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction, will share the opportunity for free and low-cost learning materials, what stands in the way of widescale adoption, and how to overcome these barriers.

### **15-MINUTE BREAK**

### **Income Share Agreements**

Barry Cynamon, CFO at Better Future Forward Inc., will describe an alternative to student loans for financing higher education.

### **Implementing Income Share Agreements**

Jerry Anderson, dean of Drake University Law School, will discuss consideration to implementing ISAs from a university's perspective, including whether it is a solution at all.

### **Inequitable Pricing**

Paulette Brown, senior partner and chief diversity officer at Locke Lord LLP and past president of the ABA, will highlight how law school pricing strategies threaten the diversification of the legal profession and what the ABA Section of Legal Education should do about it.

## **Mitigating the Impact of the *U.S. News* Rankings**

**11:20 a.m. – 12:10 p.m.**

Kyle McEntee, executive director of Law School Transparency, will discuss prospective efforts to reduce the influence of *U.S. News* on how law schools allocate resources. The efforts include increasing competition, reducing paralyzing groupthink, and persuading *U.S. News* to value efficiency over wasteful spending.

## **What Long-Term Change Can Make Legal Education More Affordable?**

**12:10 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

Kyle Fry, Chair of the Iowa State Bar Association Innovation Committee

Craig Boise, Dean and Professor of Law, Syracuse University College of Law

Rachel Moran, Dean Emerita and Professor of Law, UCLA Law School

Karen Sloan, Legal Education Editor and Senior Writer, National Law Journal

Participants will discuss how technology and systems-level changes can reduce the cost of legal education in the future. We'll discuss how several ideas, including online education and AI grading, serve as cost-adders given legacy costs that law schools cannot quickly shed. We'll take a decades-long view towards planning for and ultimately enacting change that can make law school meaningfully more accessible and affordable.