

American Law and Economics Association

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**2026 Annual Meeting
Friday and Saturday, May 15-16, 2026**

University of Chicago Law School

CALL FOR PAPERS

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: January 16, 2026, 11:59 p.m. (EST)

The American Law and Economics Association solicits submissions of papers for our 2026 annual meeting, which will be hosted by the University of Chicago Law School. All sessions will be held at the David Rubenstein Forum, which is less than two blocks from the Law School. Please note that the conference will be held on a Friday/Saturday.

To submit a paper for consideration, please click editorialexpress.com/cgi-bin/conference/conference.cgi?action=login&db_name=ALEA2026

Choose the “Submit Papers” link on the left-hand side of the screen

Here are the ground rules for submission:

- **Number of submissions:** You can submit no more than 2 papers.
- **Number of Conference presentations:** No person may present more than once during the conference. For example, if you have two papers accepted, you may present one, but if the paper is co-authored, your co-author could present the second paper. The expectation is that a person not have more than 2 papers at the conference, although exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis, particularly in regard to papers with three or more coauthors.
- **Topic areas:** The topic areas are the same as in 2025, but different from some prior years. Please review closely before submitting.
- **When submitting, you will be asked whether the paper** is empirical, experimental, or theoretical; what Area the paper is submitted to (a second choice is also requested); whether and where the paper has been presented previously; and whether the paper is already slated for publication.

Please note that a paper must be (i) unpublished at the time of submission; (ii) expected to remain unpublished at the time of the conference; and, (iii) if accepted for publication by

the time of the conference acceptance decision, early enough in the publication process so that comments at the conference can be reflected in a subsequent draft. If the paper is being submitted to a peer-reviewed journal where revisions are not possible after acceptance, the paper should not have been accepted at the time of submission.

- **The Priest Prize:** When you submit your paper, you will also be asked whether you would like it to be considered for the George L. Priest Prize in Law and Economics. This is a new prize established in honor of ALEA's first President, Professor George L. Priest, to commemorate his leadership in law and economics, his contributions to founding and growing ALEA over three decades, and his mentorship of junior scholars. The Priest Prize is awarded for the best paper submitted for the Annual Meeting by an eligible pre-tenure scholar, judged by criteria including rigor, originality, and significance. The winner will receive a certificate of award and \$2,500.

In order for your paper to be eligible for the Priest Prize, you (the submitting author) must certify that, at the time of submission (1) you do not have a tenured position at an academic institution (or equivalent); AND (2) your most recent terminal degree (PhD, JD, JSD, or equivalent) was awarded within the last 10 years, or you are currently pursuing such a degree.

Coauthored papers. There will be a preference for papers for which all authors meet the criteria above, but this is not required for eligibility. Coauthored papers for which not all authors meet the listed criteria can still be considered for the Priest Prize, as long as the submitting author meets the criteria. If a coauthored paper is selected, only the submitting author will receive the Priest Prize (although they may choose to share the cash award with coauthors as they see fit). If more than one author meets the eligibility criteria, the authors should determine among themselves who will be the submitting author for the paper. Each paper can only have one submitting author, and duplicate submissions will be disqualified.

More information on the Priest Prize is attached and will be posted on the Association's website (www.amlecon.org).

- **Membership:** Although you can submit a paper without paying ALEA dues, your paper will not be considered until you pay the dues.
- **Commitment to attend:** Submission of a paper comes with a personal commitment to attend the meeting and present the paper at any time during the (Friday-Saturday) meeting should it be selected for the program (in the absence of extenuating circumstances). If you are unable to present at a certain time or date please indicate this in the "Submitter's Comments" section on the submission site.
- **Decision letters:** The ALEA Program Committee will send decision letters by early April, 2026.

Note on membership: To become an ALEA member or renew your membership for 2026 (\$70; \$30 for students), go to www.amlecon.org. To see if you have paid your dues, please

- select the "Membership Services" link; (ii) "click here" where indicated to enter the membership registration section; (iii) enter your email address (name is optional); and

- click on your user name. You will see your membership status at the bottom of the page (including the “paid through” date). Please do not email ALEA asking if you have paid your dues, unless you really need to do so.

Topic areas: There are 18 topic areas for submission. Area Organizers (typically two per topic area) will provide expertise in evaluating submissions. They will review the papers and recommend session panels to the Program Committee, which has ultimate responsibility for constructing the program. Papers authored by Area Organizers or members of the Program Committee (other than the chair, who is not allowed to submit) will be evaluated anonymously by subject matter experts selected by the Program Committee chair. All Area Organizers will be able (and are encouraged) to recommend to the Program Committee re-assignments of papers they feel would be better considered in another area, but this process is improved by responding to the request for a second appropriate Area, if applicable.

The topic areas are:

1. Antitrust and Competition Policy
2. Commercial Law, Contracts, and Consumer Law
3. Comparative and International Law
4. Constitutional Law, Public Choice, and Political Economy
5. Corporate Law and Governance
6. Creditors, Borrowers, and Bankruptcy
7. Criminal Law and Law Enforcement
8. Employment Law, Labor Law, and Family Law
9. Financial Regulation and Fintech
10. Health Law (including Public Health), Insurance Law and Torts
11. Intellectual Property and Innovation
12. Judicial Behavior and Legal Profession
13. Litigation and Dispute Resolution
14. Property, Environmental and Administrative Law
15. Securities Law and Finance
16. Tax, Public Finance, Non-Profits and Inequality

17. Technology, Privacy, and Information

18. Other*

* Please submit to the “Other” category only if there is no other area in which your paper would reasonably fit.

Note on Hotels: The hotels in Hyde Park tend to book up fast, so we recommend making your reservations early. A limited block of rooms will be reserved at the closest hotel, The Study, which is located directly behind the Rubenstein Forum where the conference will be held; a booking link will be provided on the Association’s website (www.amlecon.org) shortly. Nearby in Hyde Park are the Sophy (1.2 miles away) and the Hyatt Place (1.4 miles away). There are, of course, numerous hotels in downtown Chicago as well. This list may be helpful as you plan: <https://visit.uchicago.edu/accommodations/>

We hope to see you in Chicago in May!