

Midwest Academy of Legal Studies in Business

2026 Annual Conference

Conference Registration and Call for Participation

March 25-27, 2026

Chicago, Illinois

Registration/Submission Deadline: January 20, 2026



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The Midwest Academy of Legal Studies in Business (MALSB) Annual Conference is held in conjunction with the MBAA International Conference. MBAA International draws hundreds of academics from business-related fields such as accounting, business/society/government, economics, entrepreneurship, finance, health administration, information systems, international business, management, and marketing. The MALSB has its own program track on Legal Studies and provides optional CLE credit for participation. Attendees may also take advantage of the multidisciplinary nature of this international conference and attend sessions held by other program tracks. Conference attendees may participate in informal networking and job placement opportunities, engage with vendor exhibitors, and participate in MALSB and MBAA social events.

Tentatively, MALSB paper and panel presentations are scheduled to begin Thursday morning (March 26, 2026) and conclude Friday afternoon (March 27, 2026). If registration numbers require additional sessions, they will be held Wednesday afternoon (March 25, 2025).

MBAA Registration and Cost: Participants may register (designating Legal Studies/MALSB as the primary discipline) and pay for the conference through the links on the [MBAA International website](#). The early bird registration fee for 2026 is \$265; late registration is \$315. Students may register for \$90. This fee includes the MBAA International Conference fee and its free social events, the MALSB Annual Conference fee, and the annual MALSB membership fee. MALSB offers CLE credit for participants. Individuals who elect CLE credit will be charged \$100 for CO, \$205 for TX, and \$75 for other states for the administration costs of offering this credit.

Travel and Hotel Accommodations: Participants are responsible for their own travel and hotel reservations at the historic [Palmer House Hilton Hotel](#) in the heart of Chicago's Loop. The MBAA conference rate is \$245 plus tax. Rooms can be booked at the conference rate [here](#).

MALSB Call for Participation

Participation Opportunities and Awards

MALSB invites you to join us for the annual conference in Chicago on March 25-27, 2026, and to [share your scholarship](#), including: papers, abstracts, panel presentations, or other substantive presentations. Submissions to the MALSB/Legal Studies track must relate to business law, the legal environment of business or ethics, or the teaching of one of these topics. Program sessions provide an opportunity to present papers and learn from the scholarship of others in a collegial environment. **The submission deadline is January 20, 2026.**

MALSB encourages submission for its Master Teacher Competition, its Proceedings Awards, and its newly created Student Paper Competition. Submissions for these awards must comply with the requirements outlined below and final papers must be received by the submission deadline. Submissions will be evaluated for Awards and MALSB Proceedings, based upon a peer review process.

Abstracts, substantive presentations, and works in progress may be submitted. While a proposal may be accepted for presentation based upon an abstract or similar, all presenters must prepare and submit [substantive materials](#) by March 1, 2026. These substantive materials are required to support CLE credit.

MALSB also invites and strongly encourages participation as a peer reviewer for the Proceedings and Awards. If you are willing to assist with peer review, please email Proceedings Editor, Cara Putman (cputman@purdue.edu).

Instructions for Submission:

Participants must submit papers and other proposals through [FourWaves](#), MBAA's submission and review system by the **January 20, 2026** deadline. Submissions must designate the Midwest Academy of Legal Studies in Business/Legal Studies track. At least one author will need to create an account in FourWaves to submit your work.

- By submitting a manuscript, abstract, or panel presentation proposal, authors indicate that this is original work that has not been previously published or presented and is not under review elsewhere.
- Authors also agree:
 - To present accepted submissions at the conference—either virtually or in person.
 - That at least one author will register for the conference. Any authors presenting must be registered.
 - If the submission is not a paper, authors agree to submit substantive materials by March 1, 2026.
- Submissions with multiple authors should indicate the contact person.
- Student papers should be designated as such and may be eligible for the student paper award.
- Participants who submit an abstract or proposal in advance of the submission deadline and who are accepted for presentation at the conference are strongly encouraged to submit their paper by the final submission deadline for consideration for Proceedings Awards.

Master Teacher Competition, and Proceedings Awards (including MBAA Distinguished Paper Award, & Outstanding Proceedings Award), and **Student Paper Competition** Consideration: You

should review the requirements on the pages that follow and electronically submit your completed paper to the appropriate sub-track (Master Teacher or Proceedings) ***without author identification*** in PDF format ***by the submission deadline - no later than January 20, 2026.***

Questions about the conference may be directed to Track Chair, Rachel Rolf (rrolf@peru.edu). Questions about Paper Submission, including requirements for the Master Teacher Competition, Proceedings Awards, and Student Paper Competition should be directed to Proceedings Editor, Cara Putman (cputman@purdue.edu).

**** Please remember that you must register for the MBAA International Conference, designating MALSB (Legal Studies) as the “Primary” discipline.**

MALSB Submission Guidelines for Proceedings Awards Consideration

Papers submitted for consideration for the MALSB Proceedings Awards must comply with the following guidelines. Please electronically submit your paper in FourWaves **no later than January 20, 2026**. All papers will be double-blind peer reviewed.

- **Relevance.** The paper should relate to business law, the legal environment of business or ethics, or the teaching of one of these topics.
- **Scholarly Contribution.** The paper should:
 - Advance or clarify the body of knowledge relating to the topic; or
 - Make a useful contribution to the understanding of any part of the topic; or
 - Make a useful contribution to the art of teaching the topic.
- **Original Research.** The paper should involve original research, defined as a paper that has neither been previously published anywhere nor previously presented at any other conference or symposium.
- **Writing Quality.** The paper should fulfill its purpose or objectives and should follow standard rules of grammar regarding clarity of expression, style, sentence construction, and coherence.
- **Length.** Papers must be no more than 25 pages in length, including footnotes.
- **Margins.** All margins (top, bottom, right, and left) must be exactly one inch and left justified.
- **Title Page.**
 - Title: The title must be exactly 3/4 inches from the top of the page, in all capital letters and centered.
 - Author(s): After the title, use three returns and then list each author, one on each line, centered. Use an asterisk as a footnote reference and footnote the author title(s) and school(s) or other affiliations.
- **Body of the Paper.** Begin the body of the paper after a page break. At the beginning of each paragraph, indent five spaces. Do not double space between footnotes. The paper should be single-spaced, with double-spacing between paragraphs. Titles and headings should be double-spaced. All papers must be typographically correct and single-spaced, with double-spacing between paragraphs, titles and headings, using a Times New Roman, 12-point font, for both text and footnotes.
- **Footnotes.** Footnotes are to be single-spaced at the bottom of the relevant page. Do not use a smaller font size for the footnotes. Footnotes must comply with the Harvard Blue Book.
- **Page Numbering.** Do not number the pages. Page numbers will be inserted when the paper is prepared for publication in the Proceedings.

MALSB Submission Guidelines for the Master Teacher Competition

The MALSB Master Teacher Competition recognizes that a professor is both a teacher and a scholar. The goal is to promote and highlight innovative ideas and techniques in classroom teaching that relate to business law, legal environment, or ethics. The submission of ideas and techniques that incorporate new or evolving course subject matters, advances in pedagogy or advances in teaching technology, or that otherwise encourage students to learn from their own efforts and from each other, are encouraged. **Any MALSB member who has not won this competition within the past three years may make a submission.**

To be considered for the Master Teacher Competition Session, you must submit your paper and any supporting materials no later than **January 20, 2026**. Up to four finalists will be selected from these submissions by blind peer review. Each finalist will be given 15 minutes to present their paper at the plenary Master Teacher Competition session with three minutes for questions. A vote of those in attendance at the presentation of all finalists will determine the 2025 Master Teacher.

Master Teacher Competition Submission Requirements:

To be eligible for the Master Teach Competition, the submission should involve an original idea or technique, i.e., has neither been previously published anywhere nor previously presented at any other conference or symposium. The submission will take the form of a paper and supporting materials.

The paper should describe the learning objectives, the dynamics of the classroom teaching session, how students are evaluated, and any quantitative or qualitative results in an organized and grammatically and typographically correct manner. The paper should also meet the following additional requirements:

- **Length.** Papers must be no more than 10 pages in length, including footnotes.
- **Supporting Materials.** All supporting materials must be included as appendices. Except for PowerPoint, no additional materials can be used in the presentation. NOTE: the supporting materials do not count toward the 10-page limit.
- **Margins.** All margins (top, bottom, right, and left) must be exactly one inch and left justified.
- **Title Page.**
 - o Title: The title must be exactly 3/4 inches from the top of the page, in all capital letters and centered.
 - o Author(s): After the title, use three returns and then list each author, one on each line, centered. Use an asterisk as a footnote reference and footnote the author title(s) and school(s) or other affiliations.
- **Body of the Paper.** Begin the body of the paper after a page break. At the beginning of each paragraph, indent five spaces. Do not double space between footnotes. The paper should be single-spaced, with double-spacing between paragraphs. Titles and headings should be double-spaced. All papers must be typographically correct and single-spaced, with double-spacing between paragraphs, titles and headings, using a Times New Roman, 12-point font, for both text and footnotes.
- **Footnotes.** Footnotes are to be single-spaced at the bottom of the relevant page. Do not use a smaller font size for the footnotes. Footnotes must comply with the Harvard Blue Book.

MALSB Submission Guidelines for Student Paper Competition

MALSB is pleased to invite the submission of student papers. If three or more student papers are submitted, MALSB will award the best student paper based upon double-blind peer review. Papers submitted for consideration for the MALSB Student Paper Competition must comply with the following guidelines. Please electronically submit your paper in FourWaves **no later than January 20, 2026.**

Papers must meet the following requirements:

- **Relevance.** The paper should relate to business law, the legal environment of business or ethics.
- **Scholarly Contribution.** The paper should:
 - Advance or clarify the body of knowledge relating to the topic; or
 - Make a useful contribution to the understanding of any part of the topic.
- **Original Research.** The paper should involve original research, defined as a paper that has neither been previously published anywhere nor previously presented at any other conference or symposium.
- **Writing Quality.** The paper should fulfill its purpose or objectives and should follow standard rules of grammar regarding clarity of expression, style, sentence construction, and coherence.
- **Length.** Papers must be no more than 15 pages in length, including footnotes.
- **Margins.** All margins (top, bottom, right, and left) must be exactly one inch and left justified.
- **Title Page.**
 - Title: The title must be exactly 3/4 inches from the top of the page, in all capital letters and centered.
 - Author(s): After the title, use three returns and then list each author, one on each line, centered. Use an asterisk as a footnote reference and footnote the author title(s) and school(s) or other affiliations.
- **Body of the Paper.** Begin the body of the paper after a page break. At the beginning of each paragraph, indent five spaces. Do not double space between footnotes. The paper should be single-spaced, with double-spacing between paragraphs. Titles and headings should be double-spaced. All papers must be typographically correct and single-spaced, with double-spacing between paragraphs, titles and headings, using a Times New Roman, 12-point font, for both text and footnotes.
- **Footnotes.** Footnotes are to be single-spaced at the bottom of the relevant page. Do not use a smaller font size for the footnotes. Footnotes must comply with the Harvard Blue Book.
- **Page Numbering.** Do not number the pages. Page numbers will be inserted when the paper is prepared for publication in the Proceedings.