

## Medical-Legal Partnerships: A Symposium and Scholarly Journal

### Call for Abstracts

The Solomon Center for Health Law and Policy at Yale Law School, the Georgetown University Health Justice Alliance, and Penn State Dickinson Law—in partnership with the *Journal of Law, Medicine, & Ethics*—are pleased to announce a call for abstracts examining the past, present, and future of Medical-Legal Partnerships (MLPs), with the goal of producing groundbreaking scholarship and direction for the MLP movement.

Medical-Legal Partnerships integrate lawyers into health care settings—providing classic civil legal services on issues that often create barriers to optimal health and wellbeing in places of comfort and trust for patients. MLPs take a holistic approach to care, increase access to justice, and help avoid crises by addressing legal issues early. Working as part of an interdisciplinary team, lawyers address patients’ social determinants of health that require legal advocacy by tackling issues such as housing conditions, access to public benefits, employment discrimination, and physical safety. The MLP model dates back to 1993 and is now a well-established national movement. In recent years, the number of MLPs across the United States have nearly tripled: there are now at least 450 MLPs in 49 states and the District of Columbia, including many that are part of a university or that include academic partners. MLPs are an important tool for advancing health equity and have the potential to reduce inequalities. More rigorous research and scholarship are critical to their continuing development and establishment of best practices.

The authors of selected papers will be invited to present their work at a conference hosted at Yale Law School on March 3, 2023. Those whose papers are not selected are also welcome to attend the conference.

### Areas of Interest

We invite contributions that address a range of questions relating to Medical-Legal Partnerships, and are particularly *interested in empirical or other rigorous field work about MLPs and their impact*. We envision four general topics for the special issue:

#### ***Health Justice, Racial Justice and Intersectionality in Medical-Legal Partnerships***

*How have concepts of racial justice and intersectionality influenced or not influenced the design and implementation of MLPs?*

*How does (or should) MLP work to promote racial health equity?*

*What promise does MLP hold as a unique space of interprofessional and coalitional activity for addressing racism within our professions, institutions, and communities?*

### ***Data and MLP Outcomes***

*How are studies of MLP outcomes being designed? What can we learn from what is being measured? What else should be measured?*

*What are the major ethical issues affecting the conduct of research into MLP outcomes and how can they be resolved?*

*How have community-based participatory research or other collaborative models produced new knowledge regarding the effects—whether policy effects, economic effects, or other effects--of MLPs?*

### ***Academic MLPs***

*How are academic MLPs promoting faculty and student collaborations to advance research on MLP outcome or otherwise contribute to the education, service, research, scholarship, and/or policy goals of their institutions and communities? What special roles can institutions of higher education play in advancing the national MLP model?*

*How are medical schools engaging learners in the MLP model?*

*How can the academic MLP movement have the greatest impact?*

*How are academic MLPs fostering interprofessional education at the pre-professional level by engaging students from different disciplines (e.g., social work, public health, medicine, nursing, and law)?*

### ***Policy impact of MLPs***

*How and where have MLPs made a difference on policy in areas important to our patient/client populations and how? How can policy impact be studied and documented?*

*What are the ethical and “small-p” political considerations MLP practitioners have struggled with in participating or leading advocacy campaigns?*

*What are essential components of a national MLP policy agenda?*

Please note that this list is not meant to be exclusive or exhaustive. Instead, it suggests potential avenues for inquiry.

## How to Participate

Those interested in submitting their work are asked to send their 250-500-word abstract of a proposed paper, to James Bhandary-Alexander at [james.bhandary-alexander@yale.edu](mailto:james.bhandary-alexander@yale.edu), with “MLP Abstract” in the subject line of email, no later than August 1, 2022.

Successful abstracts will go beyond stating a topic. Instead, they will explain the importance of the topic and summarize the argument or report that the paper will advance. In your abstract, please estimate how many double-spaced, 12-point font pages you anticipate a final draft will require. Our anticipated timeline is as follows:

- September 15, 2022: authors of selected articles will be notified
- February 17, 2023: Pre-symposium draft due to editors
- May 15, 2023: Revised draft for peer review due to editors
- July 15, 2023: Final draft for publication

We ask that each author of an accepted piece commit to peer review of one other article for the journal issue.

Please contact James Bhandary-Alexander at [james.bhandary-alexander@yale.edu](mailto:james.bhandary-alexander@yale.edu) should you have questions.