



/ Request for Proposals

2025 Disaster Resilience Symposium

Due Date Extension: January 31, 2025
Originally Due By: January 13, 2025

/ Symposium Overview

Equal Justice Works invites proposals for interactive sessions that align with the themes and objectives of the 2025 Disaster Resilience Symposium. Sessions should engage participants in dynamic learning experiences, foster collaboration and knowledge-sharing, and contribute to advancing justice and equity in disaster resilience efforts.

Title: Resilience Redefined: Charting the Path Forward

Description: The 2025 Disaster Resilience Symposium invites you to join us for a forward-looking exploration of resilience in the face of disasters. This symposium, held in Gulfport, Florida, offers a unique opportunity to reflect on the lessons learned from past disasters, including the pivotal 20th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina. Through dynamic keynote presentations, interactive workshops, and collaborative discussions, participants will delve into the latest trends and best practices in disaster response, preparedness, and recovery. Our goal is to redefine resilience by centering equity, justice, and community empowerment in our collective efforts to build more resilient societies. Together, we will chart a path forward towards a future where all communities are equipped to withstand and thrive in the face of adversity.

Event Dates: March 18-19, 2025

Venue: Stetson University College of Law

PROPOSALS DUE

Extension: Friday, January 31, 2025

Originally Due By: January 13, 2025

[Submit Your Proposal](#)

/ Proposal Guidelines & Procedures

COMMITMENT TO DEI

Equal Justice Works is committed to fostering a culture of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in all aspects of the 2025 Disaster Resilience Symposium. As part of this commitment, we expect all session presenters to demonstrate a strong dedication to promoting DEI principles in both session substance and speaker representation.

We look forward to receiving proposals that demonstrate a strong commitment to DEI and contribute to advancing justice and resilience in disaster contexts.

SESSION CATEGORIES

The following categories align with the themes and goals of the 2025 Disaster Resilience Symposium.

When selecting the one category that best describes your proposed session, please consider the following:

- I. **Legal Advocacy and Policy Reform:** Explore innovative legal strategies and policy initiatives aimed at advancing disaster resilience, promoting equitable recovery, and addressing systemic barriers to justice.

Examples:

- *Legal frameworks for disaster response and recovery*
- *Advocating for vulnerable populations*
- *Legislative and regulatory reform*
- *Leveraging litigation as a tool for systemic change*
- *“FEMA 50% Rule”*

- II. **Community Engagement and Empowerment:** Empower communities to take an active role in disaster preparedness, response, and recovery efforts, fostering partnerships between legal professionals, grassroots organizations, and affected communities.

Examples:

- *Community-centered approaches to disaster resilience*
- *Participatory planning and decision making*
- *Building trust and collaboration with marginalized communities*
- *Amplifying community voices in policy discussions*

- III. **Climate Justice and Environmental Equity:** Address the intersection of climate change, environmental degradation, and social inequities in disaster risk and resilience, advocating for solutions that prioritize environmental justice and equitable adaptation.

Examples:

- *Climate-induced displacement and migration*

- *Environmental justice litigation*
- *Indigenous rights and land sovereignty*
- *Promoting sustainable and resilient infrastructure*

IV. Disaster Response Innovation and Technology: Explore emerging technologies and innovative approaches to disaster response and recovery, leveraging data, artificial intelligence, and digital tools to enhance preparedness, coordination, and service delivery.

Examples:

- *Digital humanitarianism and crisis mapping*
- *Remote sensing and geospatial analysis*
- *Leveraging open-source technology for community resilience*

V. Legal Preparedness and Capacity Building: Build the capacity of legal professionals, emergency responders, and community leaders to effectively navigate legal challenges in disaster contexts, ensuring access to justice for all.

Examples:

- *Disaster law training and education*
- *Legal aid delivery models*
- *Pro bono mobilization and volunteer recruitment*
- *Interdisciplinary collaboration between legal and emergency management professionals*

VI. Global Perspectives on Disaster Resilience: Foster cross-border learning and collaboration by examining international approaches to disaster resilience, sharing best practices, and identifying opportunities for global solidarity and cooperation.

Examples:

- *Comparative disaster law and policy analysis*
- *Transnational solidarity networks*
- *Lessons learned from humanitarian crises*
- *The role of international law in addressing cross-border disasters*

VII. Commemoration and Reflection on the 20th Anniversary of Hurricane Katrina: Pay tribute to the resilience of communities impacted by Hurricane Katrina, reflect on lessons learned from the disaster, and examine progress made in enhancing disaster resilience over the past two decades.

Examples:

- *Remembering the impact of Hurricane Katrina on communities*
- *Assessing the evolution of disaster policy and practice since 2005*
- *Recognizing the ongoing challenges and disparities faced by Katrina survivors*
- *Honoring the resilience and strength of affected communities in rebuilding and recovery efforts*

VIII. Other

PRESENTATION FORMAT

Preference will be given to proposals that align with one of the Symposium's named themes and goals and reflect a variety of perspectives on the core topic. Presenters are encouraged to propose engaging and interactive session formats that foster meaningful learning and collaboration among participants. Session formats may include, but are not limited to:

- **Panel Discussions:** Panel discussions bring together multiple experts to share diverse perspectives on a specific topic or theme. Presenters should aim to facilitate dynamic dialogue and audience interaction throughout the session.
- **Workshops:** Workshops provide participants with hands-on learning experiences and practical skills development. Presenters should design interactive activities, group exercises, or case studies to encourage active participation and peer learning.
- **Interactive Presentations:** Interactive presentations combine traditional lecture-style content with interactive elements such as polls, Q&A sessions, or audience participation exercises. Presenters should strive to engage participants and encourage active involvement throughout the presentation.
- **Roundtable Discussions:** Roundtable discussions offer a more intimate setting for in-depth conversation and peer-to-peer networking. Presenters should facilitate small group discussions around specific topics or questions, allowing participants to share insights and exchange ideas in a collaborative environment.

Presenters are encouraged to be creative in designing session formats that align with their content objectives and engage participants effectively. Sessions should prioritize inclusivity, accessibility, and diversity of perspectives to ensure a rich and meaningful learning experience for all participants.

SESSION LENGTH

Sessions will be 60 - 90 minutes in duration.

CONTENT

We invite session proposals that explore diverse topics and perspectives related to disaster resilience, with a focus on advancing justice, equity, and inclusion. Proposed sessions should address current challenges, emerging trends, and innovative approaches in disaster response, preparedness, and recovery efforts. We encourage presenters to incorporate interdisciplinary perspectives, collaborative approaches, and practical insights into their session content. Sessions may include case studies,

interactive workshops, panel discussions, or other formats that engage participants and facilitate learning and dialogue.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

When submitting session proposals for the 2025 Disaster Resilience Symposium, please include session objectives that are clearly articulated and aligned with the overall themes and goals of the symposium. Session objectives should provide a clear and concise overview of what participants can expect to learn, achieve, or gain from attending your session. Each objective should be measurable, distinct, and focused, addressing a key aspect of the session content.

PROCESS

If your proposal is accepted, Equal Justice Works reserves the right to make changes to the recommended presenters, program and materials. Equal Justice Works will work in consultation with submitters. Proposals that are similar in subject matter may be accepted and merged at the discretion of Equal Justice Works. For submissions received by the original due date of January 13th, you will be notified by **January 24, 2025**, as to whether your proposal was accepted or not. Proposal submissions received by January 31st will be notified by **February 7, 2025**.

Once your proposal is accepted, your session will be assigned to an Equal Justice Works staff member to provide strategic support regarding the development of your session and its alignment to the overall goals of the training.

QUESTIONS?

Please contact Shayna Foxworth, Program Coordinator, at DisasterResilienceProgram@equaljusticeworks.org.