

## Benjamin W. Moulton

Benjamin Moulton is Executive Vice President & Executive Director of the American Society of Law, Medicine and Ethics. Since its founding in 1911, ASLME has provided a forum for high-quality debate, scholarship, and critical thought for the community of professionals at the intersection of law, health care, and ethics.

The ASLME educational mission focus is described below:

1. **Public Health.** Protection of the public's health is one of the nation's highest priorities. ASLME focuses on the juncture of public health policy and practice and enduring legal and ethical principles in health and human rights. Through collaborations with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other endeavors, ASLME sponsors meetings and conferences and promotes research into emerging issues in public health law, policy, practice, and ethics, examining such matters as compulsory treatment, isolation and quarantine, the management of medical care resources in public health emergencies, the expansion of state police powers, and privacy and surveillance. Annually, through ASLME's Health Law Teachers conference, professors who teach health law at schools of public health, law, and medicine convene to discuss emerging research and teaching curricula.
2. **Health Disparities.** Racial, ethnic, and economic disparities in health status and access to health care represent areas of growing concern that justify an ongoing and intensive organizational focus for ASLME. Through research, meetings, and publications, ASLME aims to encourage a continuing examination of the factors that underlie disparities, the extent to which the organization and structure of the health care system itself contribute to disparities, and the proper role of law, public policy, and government in reducing health disparities.
3. **Patient Safety & Quality of Care.** Initiatives such as the Leapfrog proposal, error reporting, and quality benchmarking all raise significant legal ramifications for hospitals. ASLME occupies a unique position in its ability to identify the problems associated with the legal complexities of tort and regulatory law arising out of the patient safety movement. ASLME intends to use its unique multidisciplinary approach to promote research on tort litigation and regulatory oversight, as well as to educate important opinion leaders about the legal and ethical issues that abound in quality improvements.
4. **Biomedical Science & Research.** As biomedical science increasingly challenges what is considered established legal precedent and as biomedical technology advances are an increasingly common aspect of professional practice, ASLME has recognized the importance of continuing educational efforts to explore the interplay of science and law. ASLME has convened national conferences on genetics and has published several editions of JLME devoted to the Human Genome Project, as well as medical research, conflicts of interest, and research ethics. ASLME intends to expand on these efforts. Due to its unique ability to bridge different professional groups, ASLME can facilitate the dialogue between those without a scientific background and those familiar with technology but unfamiliar with the legal, political, and social implications of their work.

Benjamin Moulton graduated with honors from Harvard College, received his law degree from Georgetown Law Center and his Master's degree in public health from Harvard University. He has had an extensive career in health care law serving clients in both the private and public sectors. Mr. Moulton served as legal counsel to George Washington Medical Center, which involved providing legal advice to a medical school, 550-bed teaching hospital, 800 affiliated physicians, and a health maintenance organization owned by the medical center. In addition, he holds a teaching appointment at the Harvard School of Public Health where he teaches a course in the Department of Health Policy & Management.