

PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY SECTION JUNE 2007 ANNOUNCEMENT EDITION NEWSLETTER

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This newsletter is a forum for the exchange of information and ideas. The opinions expressed here do not represent the position of the Professional Responsibility Section of the American Association of Law Schools.

The Professional Responsibility Section's Executive Committee has decided to supplement the regular Spring, Summer, and Fall Section Newsletters with a series of shorter monthly updates with important announcements. This is the first of those abbreviated monthly updates. If you have an event, news or announcement that you would like to include, please contact Jessi Tamayo (Miami, soon to be Fordham) at jessitamayo@yahoo.com or Paul Tremblay (Boston College) at paul.tremblay@bc.edu. Send all professional and personal announcements that you want included in the summer newsletter to Randy Lee at glee@widener.edu by August 16, 2007.



Note: Apologies for the late notice on the June 1st Roundtable. For the future, we intend to circulate these announcements editions of the newsletter at the beginning of each month.

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**SEEKING PANELIST FOR SECTION
PROGRAM ON RACE AND THE
LEGAL PROFESSION AT THE 2008
AALS ANNUAL MEETING**

The Professional Responsibility Section will be selecting one panelist for the Section's program at the AALS Annual Meeting based on a call for papers. The title of the program is: "The Legacy of *Brown v. Board of Education* and the Future of Race and the American Legal Profession." The program is currently scheduled for Thursday, January 3, 2008 from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Professor David Wilkins of Harvard Law School will give a keynote on the topic based on his forthcoming book and five panelists will respond. One panelist will be chosen through this call for papers. If you would like to be considered for the panel, please submit a 3-5 page paper responding to the following program summary to Prof. Russell G. Pearce of Fordham Law School at rpearce@law.fordham.edu by no later than June 22, 2007.

Program Summary:

The American legal profession is in the midst of a profound demographic transformation. Over the last forty years, law has gone from being an exclusive club for White Anglo-Saxon Protestant men of means to one in which women comprise fifty percent of new entrants and racial and ethnic minorities nearly twenty percent. Scholars exploring this transformation have tended to concentrate on two broad themes. The first is largely descriptive: How are women and minorities faring, particularly with respect to obtaining high level positions in law firms and similar institutions, and

what does this say about the structure of opportunity in the profession? The second is more expressly normative: How will the growing presence of women and minorities affect the legal profession's traditional normative commitment to what Sanford Levinson has referred to as a "bleached out" conception of the lawyer's role?

In this session we will attempt to bring these two strands of scholarship together. We will do so in the context of Professor David Wilkins's forthcoming book, *The Black Bar: The Legacy of Brown v. Board of Education and the Future of Race and the American Legal Profession* (Oxford University Press), which explores how the generation of black lawyers who entered the corporate hemisphere of legal practice beginning in the late 1960's have attempted to integrate the upper echelons of the bar while at the same time negotiating their own understanding of the relationship between personal identity (including group-based commitments) and professional role.

**ACADEMICS' ROUNDTABLE AT ABA
CENTER FOR PROFESSIONAL
RESPONSIBILITY CONFERENCE,
CHICAGO JUNE 1, 2007**

The second annual "Academics' Roundtable" will take place on Friday afternoon, June 1, 2007, at the ABA Center for Professional Responsibility conference in Chicago. We will be getting together at the Fairmont Hotel, 200 N. Columbus Drive, from 1:30 to 3:30. Note that academics can participate in the roundtable without paying the registration fee for the conference. Last year in Vancouver about forty people attended the inaugural Academics' Roundtable. For more information, contact

Carol Needham at needhamc@slu.edu (write Roundtable in the subject line), or call 314-977-7104. Those interested in a speaking slot please note "Roundtable Speaking Slot" in the subject line of your e-mail.

**WOULD YOU LIKE A MENTOR?
WOULD YOU LIKE TO MENTOR?**

The AALS Professional Responsibility Section is creating a mentoring system to assist law faculty who are interested in Professional Responsibility with their teaching and/or scholarship.

Mentors are available for law faculty who would like assistance from more experienced teachers in curricular development or the teaching of Professional Responsibility. Mentors are also available to faculty who are interested in producing scholarship in the areas of Professional Responsibility or the Legal Profession.

If you would like a mentor, or if you would be willing to serve as a mentor, please contact Leslie Levin (leslie.levin@law.uconn.edu) or Antoinette Sedillo Lopez (lopez@law.unm.edu).

**THE SECTION IS SEEKING A LIASON
TO THE ABA STANDING
COMMITTEE ON ETHICS AND
PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY**

The Professional Responsibility Section is seeking a member to volunteer to serve as its Liaison to the ABA Standing Committee on Ethics and Professional Responsibility

The function of a liaison is to facilitate communication among groups within an

organization or between different organizations. The Standing Committee on Ethics and Professional Responsibility, which issues ABA formal and informal ethics opinions and proposes amendments to the Model Rules of Professional Conduct, is glad to have liaisons from entities within the American Bar Association and from other institutions whose interests and responsibilities embrace ethics and professional responsibility. Because the effectiveness of the Standing Committee is enhanced by its limited size, which permits a free exchange of ideas as potential opinions are considered, the number of liaisons invited at any one time should not exceed five.

A liaison is not a member of the Standing Committee and thus has no vote. The role of the liaison is to act as an intermediary between the Standing Committee and the liaison's group. The liaison may seek to catalyze relationships and may also play a crucial role in bringing to the Standing Committee areas of concern, which the Standing Committee should address. To be effective, the liaison must understand the Standing Committee as well as the group the liaison represents. A liaison to the Standing Committee is bound by the rules of confidentiality that apply to members of the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee does not provide funding or reimbursement of expenses for liaisons.

Any Section member interested in this liaison position should contact Paul Tremblay (Boston College) at paul.tremblay@bc.edu.



LEGAL ETHICS CONFERENCE IN QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA

We are pleased to announce the Third International Legal Ethics Conference to be held at the Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia. This event is being hosted by Griffith University and the University of Queensland.

Dates: Sunday 13 July – 16 July 2008 inclusive.

Keynote speakers: Prof. David Luban and Prof. Deborah Rhode

Provisional Themes:

Functions and purpose of model rules
Ethical decision making in practice
Lawyering: business or profession
Character, integrity, virtue
The legal ethics project in legal education
Large law firms: Ethics and managing professional conduct
Models of professional regulation
Empirical research on lawyering

Please send an email to
legalethics@griffith.edu.au if you wish to register your interest.



NELSON MULLINS RILEY & SCARBOROUGH CENTER ON PROFESSIONALISM CONFERENCE

In the spring newsletter we published an announcement that the Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough Center on Professionalism at the University of South Carolina School of Law will host a conference entitled "Mentoring -- the Future of the Legal Profession" in Columbia, SC on March 27-

29, 2008. That announcement should have indicated that the Center has invited the ABA Standing Committee on Professionalism to cosponsor the conference rather than that the ABA Standing Committee on Professionalism will cosponsor the conference. We apologize for any confusion.



CALL FOR PAPERS

The American Bar Association and the Center for Professional Responsibility announce the Centennial Celebration of the Canons of Professional Ethics:

**Regulation of the Legal Profession:
Past, Present & Future
Call for Participation –
Abstracts Due by August 1, 2007
Final Articles Due by March 1, 2008
Presentations in May and August 2008**

The year 2008 marks the 100th Anniversary of the American Bar Association's adoption of the Canons of Professional Ethics. To celebrate this Centennial, the American Bar Association and the Center for Professional Responsibility will hold a Symposium on *Regulation of the Legal Profession: Past, Present, and Future* at the American Bar Association Annual Meeting in New York City on August 7-12, 2008. This Call will be used to select some of the papers and speakers for this Symposium.

Persons whose proposals are selected for inclusion in the program will be expected to submit a previously unpublished article for publication in a special symposium issue of *The Professional Lawyer* published for the Centennial Celebration. Those selected may also be invited to present their papers at either

the National Conference on Professional Responsibility in Boston in May 2008 or the Symposium at the ABA Annual Meeting in New York City in August 2008.

Papers will have a maximum length of 10,000 words inclusive of footnotes.

We invite scholars and practitioners from around the world to reflect on how the regulation of the practice of law has changed over the past 100 years and, more importantly, to consider how the regulation of lawyers in America, and in the international arena, will continue to evolve over the next 100 years.

The Centennial Committee welcomes proposals on any topic that addresses the development of lawyer regulation. However, the Committee offers the following as guides for possible topics:

Past:

The historical context for the development of the Canons. Why were they adopted when they were? What does the text of the Canons tell us about the profession and the rule of law at the time?

The role of the ABA in the development of lawyer regulation. What factors influenced its decisions? Where was it successful? Where was it not?

How were the promise and purpose of the Canons fulfilled (or not fulfilled) in the ensuing century, focusing on broad themes or particular goals?

Present:

The current state of regulation for the legal profession.

Has the ABA been successful in its role as perhaps the single most influential non-governmental source of rules governing the legal profession? How might it improve?

How are other influences, governmental or not, affecting the regulatory framework?

The convergence of civil liability standards and Rules of Professional Conduct.

Comparison of lawyer regulation in the United States and in other countries, and the ABA's role in shaping rules of professional conduct around the world.

Future:

The move toward increased federal regulation of lawyers and the desirability of a national governing structure for the legal profession.

The impact of globalization on lawyer regulation.

Who will be the lawyer regulators of the future?

What form should the next generation of rules take?

Licensing and conduct of other, non-lawyer legal services providers.

An honorarium of \$2000 will be paid for papers that are accepted and completed according to the schedule. Travel expense reimbursement will be available for selected speakers. Additional information will be available at www.abanet.org/cpr/.

We look forward to your participation in the Centennial Celebration of the Canons of Professional Ethics sponsored by the American Bar Association and the Center for Professional Responsibility.