Private Law Workshop

Fall 2016

Prof. John C.P. Goldberg
Areeda 232
x 6-2086
jgoldberg@law.harvard.edu

Prof. Henry E. Smith
Hauser 320
x 6-8835
hesmith@law.harvard.edu

We will meet on Wednesdays from 3:00 to 5:00 pm. The workshop will host paper presentations by seven invited speakers. For classes held during “off” weeks that precede presentations, we will read background materials relevant to future presentations. Papers and materials will be posted about a week prior to each session.

For each session at which an invited speaker presents a paper, you are obligated to submit by e-mail, to both of us, at least two written questions about the paper. Questions are due by noon on the Tuesday before the presentation.

You are also required to write a paper for the seminar on any topic relevant to private law. There is no required paper length, but 25 pages might serve as a target. You must submit by e-mail to both of us a tentative description of your topic by 5 pm on Friday, October 7. We will meet with you individually during the week of October 10 to discuss your proposed topic. Papers are due on 5 pm of the last day of the spring semester exam period.


September 14: Nate Oman, “Reconsidering Contractual Consent: Why We Shouldn’t Worry Too Much About Boilerplate and Other Puzzles.”


October 5: Chris Newman, “How to Use Hohfeld Without Destroying Property.”

October 12: John Harrison, “Immunity Rules.”


October 26: Patricia McMahon, “The Interplay Between Codes and the Fusion of Law and Equity in the Nineteenth Century: a Comparison between England and New York.”


November 16: Rebecca Stone, “A Positive Theory of Promise Keeping.”