

## **Welcome**

On behalf of the Planning Committee, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the 2006 AALS Workshop on Intellectual Property. All of us on the Committee hope that you will enjoy your stay in Vancouver and benefit from the exchange of ideas about a subject that interests us all.

Intellectual property has become a very complex field encompassing topics too numerous to mention. Of these, the Committee has selected four that we think are interesting because of their importance and timeliness, and we have structured our program around plenary sessions devoted to them: Constitutional Law and Intellectual Property, Competition, Teaching Students to Practice Intellectual Property, and the Politics of Intellectual Property. Within this structure, the Committee has tried to create diverse and inclusive opportunities for conferees to actively discuss and learn about these topics in more detail.

On Wednesday afternoon, five of our colleagues have kindly agreed to lead open discussions on constitutional topics related to intellectual property. On Thursday morning, there will be five individual paper presentations selected from responses to the Committee's call for papers. The Committee hopes that these presentations will create lively discussions, and to that end each session will also feature a commentator whose remarks will get things rolling. On Thursday afternoon, we will hear from colleagues involved with innovative methods and programs of intellectual property education, with breakout sessions devoted to the teaching of economics and science – two areas that challenge teachers and students alike. On Friday morning, the conference will turn its attention to the politics of intellectual property. After our plenary session, there will be four concurrent panels on various aspects of this topic. Finally, the conference will close with two panels created by colleagues who submitted proposals to the Committee: Property and Intellectual Property: Marriage or Misfit? and Intellectual Property Considerations for Open Access and Open Source Legal Materials.

The Committee sincerely hopes that these sessions will inspire you to discuss intellectual property enthusiastically with your fellow conferees. We know that the best learning at conferences often takes place outside the formal sessions. Accordingly, we have eschewed the usual lunchtime conference speeches in favor of open time where conferees can talk about subjects of mutual interest over a pleasant meal.

In closing, let me thank the members of the Committee, Keith Aoki (University of Oregon), Roberta Kwall (DePaul University), and Mark Janis (University of Iowa), as well as the AALS staff, for all of the work they have done to make this conference possible. It has been a privilege for me to work with all of them.

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on Intellectual Property