A NOTE FROM THE SECTION CHAIR:
Greetings! On behalf of the Section on Commercial and Related Consumer Law, we are looking forward to seeing you at the 2018 AALS Annual Meeting. This year, we are excited to partner with the Section on Real Estate Transactions to co-host a program during the meeting. Please join us from 1:30 pm to 3:15 pm on Thursday, January 4, in Pacific Ballroom 17, for our panel, *Exploring New Frontiers in Real Estate Development*.

The program will offer a cutting-edge discussion of diverse issues associated with real estate development, from the Fair Housing Act to financing public higher education. A decade following the financial crisis, it is a particularly opportune to examine the diverse issues associated with real estate development from variety of legal perspectives, including finance, commercial law, bankruptcy and restructuring, fair housing, and related consumer protection laws. Confirmed speakers are Professors Andrea J. Boyack (Washburn University School of Law), Robin Paul Malloy (Syracuse University College of Law), David Reiss (Brooklyn Law School), Jennifer Taub (Vermont Law School), and Carol Zeiner (St. Thomas University School of Law).

I also am pleased to report that the Section had a productive fall semester thus far. The highlight was our co-sponsorship with the Section on Property of the Property Implications of the Sharing Economy Workshop hosted by and held at Penn State Law in University Park, PA in early October. Section members Jim Hawkins and Stacey-Ann Elvy presented their works in progress, *Consumers as Sellers* and *Commodifying Consumer Data* (respectively). Many thanks to Penn State Law for inviting us to be part of the interesting and productive workshop.

Hope to see you all at the AALS meeting!

#AALS2018
Teaching Consumer Law: Where Have We Been—Where Are We Going?
(University of Houston Law & University of New Mexico Law @Santa Fe, NM)

The Center for Consumer Law at the University of Houston Law Center, in cooperation with the University of New Mexico School of Law, is organizing its tenth biennial international teaching consumer law conference. The Conference will be held at the Hilton Hotel in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

The Conference will focus on traditional issues of consumer law, in the context of significant changes in technology, privacy and social media. The Conference is directed at those currently teaching or interested in teaching consumer law at the law school or college level.

The 2018 conference will deal with themes such as:

- How might we integrate the increased use of social media into a consumer law course?
- What innovations can or should we bring to the consumer law classroom to reflect popular culture?
- Do we need more consumer regulation, or less?
- What is the impact in the US of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), and how do you teach about the CFPB?
- Are there innovative ways to resolve consumer problems, other than the typical court and alternative dispute resolution systems?
- How do we deal with intra-state and intra-national consumer transactions?
- Is online dispute resolution good or bad?
- How can we teach the multitude of subjects encompassed within the term "consumer law"? What should we emphasize? What should we delete?
- International consumer law developments and innovations.
- Recent developments in substantive US consumer law.
- The view from the trenches—what do practicing attorneys see as the current consumer law issues.

Those who wish to submit a paper or presentation topic are invited to forward a proposal including a brief abstract of not longer than 400 words and contact information for the author. The proposals should be sent to Professor Richard M. Alderman at alderman@uh.edu. **Proposals should be submitted no later than 15 January 2018.**

Authors will be promptly notified of acceptance. Final drafts of the papers that are to be included in the Conference materials are to be forwarded not later than the 1st of May 2018. The language of the conference is English. Conference registration fees will be waived for all presenters. Some scholarships are available for travel and room costs. Selected papers will be published in the Journal of Consumer and Commercial Law.
Section Members to Participate in CFPB Student Loan Ombudsman’s Forum on Student Debt and Consumer Law & Policy (Washington DC)

The Student Loan Ombudsman and Assistant Director for the Office of Students and Young Consumers at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) is launching an initiative to help spark scholarly writing and research on issues related to student loan markets and the law. Currently, 44 million Americans together owe $1.4 trillion in student debt. The gathering will discuss how the growth in student loan debt has presented unique legal and financial challenges for borrowers, and will identify ways that consumer law and policy is only now beginning to adapt to address these issues.

Under the Dodd-Frank Act, the Student Loan Ombudsman is required to analyze consumer complaints and develop policy recommendations that respond to the needs of America’s student loan borrowers. This academic forum on student debt and consumer law is a part of fulfilling that goal.

Faculty members (many of whom are members of our section!) set to attend the forum include: Christopher Peterson (Utah), Dalie Jimenez (Connecticut), Jonathan Glater (Irvine), Kate Sablosky Elengold (North Carolina), Prentiss Cox (Minnesota), John Brooks (Georgetown), Cre Johnson (Ohio State), Adam Levitin (Georgetown), Mary Spector (SMU), Alan White (CUNY), Daniela Kraiem (American), and Chris Odinet (Southern). The first meeting will take place on Friday, December 8, 2018.

Member Spotlight

Mindfulness and emotional intelligence are increasingly important in today’s environment. Check out section member Nathalie Martin’s forthcoming book with Cambridge University Press designed to help law students develop skills that will be useful for their professional lives.

Congratulations, Nathalie!
**RECENT SCHOLARSHIP**

**Carl S. Bjerre (Oregon)**


**Susan Block-Lieb (Fordham)**


* Reaching to Restructure Across Borders (Without Over-Reaching), Even After Brexit, 92 AMER. BANKR. L.J. (forthcoming 2018) [SSRN].

* The UK and EU Cross-Border Insolvency Recognition: From Empire to Europe to “Going It Alone”, 40 FORDHAM INT’L L.J. 1373 (2017) [SSRN].

**Andrea Boyack (Washburn)**

* Limiting the Collective Right to Exclude, 44 FORDHAM URBAN L. J. 453 (2017) [SSRN].

* Equitably Housing (Almost) Half a Nation of Renters, 65 BUFFALO L. REV. 109 (2017) [SSRN].

* A New American Dream for Detroit, 93 U. OF DETROIT MERCY L. REV. 573 (2016) [SSRN].

**Kara Bruce (Toledo)**


**Matthew Adam Bruckner (Howard)**


**Kathleen C. Engel (Suffolk)**

*Local Governments and Risky Home Loans*, 69 SMU L. REV. 609 (2016) [SSRN].


**Pamela Foohey (Indiana)**


*Calling on the CFPB for Help: Telling Stories and Consumer Protection*, 80 LAW & CONTEMPP. PROBS. 177 (2017) [SSRN].

Lender Discrimination, Black Churches, and Bankruptcy, 54 HOUS. L. REV. 1079 (2017) [SSRN].

**Boris Kozolchyk (Arizona)**


**Chunlin Leonhard (Loyola-NOLA)**

Dangerous or Benign Legal Fictions, Cognitive Biases and Consent in Contract Law, publication pending, ST. JOHN’S LAW REV. (forthcoming 2017).

**Colin Marks (St. Mary’s)**

COLOR ME SECURED: EXPLORING ARTICLE 9 WITH CRAYONS (with Marc L. Roark) (Peter Lane Pub. 2017).

**Jim Maxeiner (Baltimore)**

Failures of Methods of American Lawmaking in Historical and Comparative Perspectives (forthcoming Cambridge University Press 2018).

**Chris Odinet (Southern)**


Consumer BitCredit and Marketplace Lending, ALA. L. REV. (forthcoming 2018) [SSRN].

David Reiss (Brooklyn)

Charting the Future of the Federal Housing Administration, Probate & Property (forthcoming 2018).


Accessible Credit, Sustainable Credit and the Federal Housing Administration, BANK. & FIN. SERV. POL. REP. (June 2017).


Amy J. Schmitz (Missouri)


FOR CONSUMER DISPUTE RESOLUTION (Oxford University Press 2016).

Building Trust in Ecommerce Through Online Dispute Resolution, RESEARCH HANDBOOK ON ELECTRONIC COMMERCE LAW (Edward Elgar Publishing 2016).

The New Handshake: Where We Are Now, 3 INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF ONLINE DISPUTE RESOLUTION 84 (2016).


Steven L. Schwarz (Duke)


The Financial Crisis and Credit Unavailability: Cause or Effect?, 72 THE BUSINESS LAWYER 409 (Spring 2017).


Voices (Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars & Canada Institute, Issue No. 18, Stephanie McLuhan, ed. 2016).

Macroprudential Regulation of Mortgage Lending, 69 SMU LAW REVIEW 595 (2016).


Jeff Sovern (St. John’s)


Rory Van Loo (Boston University)


The Corporation as Courthouse, 33 YALE J. on REG. 547 (2016) [SSRN].

Jay Lawrence Westbrook (Texas)

The Demystification of Contracts in Bankruptcy, 91 AM. BANK. L.J. 481 (2017) (with Kelsi Stayart White) [SSRN].