

Law in the History of Capitalism: A Conference
June 27-28, 2016

JUNE 27, 2016

1:30 Check-in and pick up packets, ABF lobby, 4th floor

1:45 Introductory remarks, Ajay Mehrotra, Director, American Bar Foundation

2-3:30pm

I. Corporations, Personhood, and Privacy

Evelyn Atkinson, University of Chicago, “When Will the Mischief End?’ Corporation as Person and Citizen in 19th Century American Law.”

Judge Glock, Rutgers University, “Private Business Records and the Origins of the Administrative Subpoena.”

Elizabeth Harmon, University of Michigan, “A New Species of Corporation’: What the Legal Creation of Philanthropic Foundations can tell us about the Development of American Capitalism.”

Commentator: Sarah Barringer Gordon, University of Pennsylvania

3:30-4pm Coffee Break

4-5:30pm

II. Plenary Speaker

Prof. Christine Desan, Harvard University, “Making the Modern Market: Capitalism and Legal Design.”

TUESDAY, JUNE 28

7:30am Continental breakfast

8:00-9:30am

III. Currency and National Debt in Comparative Perspective

Mandy Cooper, Duke University, “A House of Cards: Familial Economic Networks and the State in Antebellum North Carolina.”

Michael Caires, University of Virginia, “What We Owe: Negotiating the Law of American Money in the Civil War and Reconstruction.”

Felipe Cole, Northwestern University, “Latin American Debt and the Rise of Sovereign Receivership.”

Commentator: Ajay Mehrotra, American Bar Foundation

9:30-10:00am Coffee break

10:00-11:30am

IV. The Capitalist Transition: Trade, Technology, and Slavery

Elbra David, University of California, Irvine, “Atlantic Cotton Merchants, Legal-Pluralism, and the Creation of the Lower Mississippi Valley, 1790-1820.”

Alicia Maggard, Brown University, “Law, Technology, and the Specter of Steam.”

Aaron Hall, University of California, Berkeley, “Seeing the State’s Slaves: ‘Public Hands,’ Internal Improvements, and the Developmental Practices of State Slavery.”

Commentator: Barbara Welke, University of Minnesota

Noon _____ Lunch, ABF Library

1:30-3:00pm

V. Workers’ compensation and the historicization of labor

Scott McDowell, University of Minnesota, “The Arithmetic of Sovereignty: Law, Ambiguous Citizenship, and Policing for Capitalism in the Lattimer Massacre of 1897.”

Nate Holdren, Drake University, “Economizing Workers: Employee Injury Law and the Rhetorical Construction of Commodification in the Early 20th Century United States.”

Gabrielle Clark, Harvard University, “Coercion and Contract at the Margins: Deportable Labor and the Laws of Employment Termination under American Capitalism, 1917-2015.”

Commentator: Laura Edwards, Duke University

3-3:30pm _____ Coffee Break

3:30-5pm

VI. Credit, Markets, and Regulation in the Postwar Era

Daniel Platt, Brown University, “Borrowers’ Rights in the Age of Jim Crow.”

Sean Vanatta, Princeton University, “Prices Are Political: Credit Card Interest in the Age of Inflation, 1968-1980.”

Erik Erlandson, University of Virginia, “Redesigning the American State: The Struggle to Manage ‘Big Government’ and the Legacy of the 1970s.”

Commentator: Jane Dailey, University of Chicago

5-6pm _____ Closing Reception, Woods Room