

CENTER FOR LAW, ECONOMICS & FINANCE *at GW Law*



Center for Law, Economics & Finance

GW Law's Center for Law, Economics & Finance (C-LEAF) is a research center within the law school that provides a focal point for the analysis and discussion of legal and public policy issues affecting business and finance in the United States and around the world. C-LEAF brings together diverse perspectives from the academic community, Main Street, Wall Street, and Capitol Hill to address important issues affecting the economy and financial markets.

Special Programs

New York Summer Workshop Series

CLEAF launched a New York City summer program that will take place from late May through mid-July. The workshops will provide GW students interning in NY with exposure to the practical skills they will need to succeed in business and finance law, as well as networking opportunities with GW alumni at law firms, investment banks, and private equity firms. This summer GW alumni are hosting evening discussion sessions at investment bank Goldman Sachs, private equity firm KKR, hedge fund advisor firm William Jones, and leading law firms Sullivan & Cromwell, Kirkland & Ellis, and DLA Piper. Alumni interested in taking part in this important new program should contact Deané Fenstermaker at dfenstermaker@law.gwu.edu for more information.

Junior Faculty Workshops

C-LEAF hosts an annual Junior Faculty Business and Financial Law Workshop and grants Junior Faculty Scholarship Prizes each spring. Organized and chaired by Professor Lisa Fairfax, this event supports and recognizes the work of promising young scholars in business and finance law. The workshops attract submissions from junior faculty from U.S. and international law schools and bring together junior and senior faculty to discuss pathbreaking scholarship. Thanks to the personal sponsorship of Advisory Board member John M. Pollack, JD '98, the workshops are sponsored by the law firm Schulte Roth & Zabel LLP.

Conferences

C-LEAF leverages GW Law's strategic location in the heart of Washington, D.C., to bring together government officials, practitioners, and academics for conferences, roundtables, and lectures. Because of the law school's close proximity to Congress, financial regulators, and international financial institutions, C-LEAF has unparalleled access to decision makers who have shaped reforms in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis. C-LEAF has been at the center of debates about the implementation of the Dodd-Frank Act and routinely hosts events in Washington, D.C., and New York City on corporate governance, finance, and securities regulation issues.

C-LEAF's recent conference speakers have included the Honorable Gary Gensler, Chairman, U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission; the Honorable Sheila C. Bair, former Chairman, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation; the Honorable Mary L. Schapiro, JD '80, 29th Chairman, Securities and Exchange Commission; and the Honorable Elizabeth Warren, U.S. Senator for Massachusetts.

Academic Resources

Business and Finance Law Program

GW Law's academic program in business and finance law, which includes an LLM degree program in the field, is greatly enhanced by C-LEAF's resources and activities. The law school's expert faculty and comprehensive curriculum provide LLM and JD students with opportunities for intensive, interdisciplinary study of laws and regulations governing economic and financial markets and institutions. A diverse range of courses in the field enables students to master and apply the tools of legal analysis and policy formation related to economic and financial regulation. Equally important, GW Law's strategic location, coupled with a strong business and finance law network, provides students with abundant opportunities for practical experience through internships at a wide range of government agencies, law firms, trade associations, and other nonprofit organizations.

Curriculum

GW Law offers an integrated and intensive program for the study of the laws governing economic and financial markets and institutions. The curriculum includes everything necessary to master the basics and beyond.

JD and LLM students may choose from more than 60 courses supporting concentrations in the following areas:

- Bankruptcy and Commercial Law
- Banking and Finance Law
- Corporate Law
- Securities Regulation
- International Business and Trade Law

These concentrations cover each of the major fields of business and finance law and are designed to equip students with both the analytical and practical skills they will need in practice.

TO GET INVOLVED WITH THE CENTER, PLEASE CONTACT:

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Business and Finance Law Faculty

The Business and Finance Law Program features an experienced and diverse faculty. The program's full-time faculty members have published books and articles in the areas of business and finance that number well into the hundreds. In addition, they are well respected by both practitioners and scholars.



Donald C. Clarke, David Weaver Research Professor of Law, is one of the country's foremost Chinese law specialists. Fluent in Mandarin, he has published extensively in both Mandarin and English. His publications, which include more than 50 articles, focus on Chinese legal and political institutions, Chinese corporate governance and legal issues presented by China's economic reforms.



Lawrence A. Cunningham, Henry St. George Tucker III Research Professor of Law, is the author of a dozen books, including *The Essays of Warren Buffett: Lessons for Corporate America*, *the AIG Story* (with former AIG Chairman Maurice R. Greenburg), and *Contracts in the Real World: Stories of Popular Contracts and Why They Matter*, as well as more than 50 articles and book chapters. He teaches courses in contracts, corporations, and law and accounting.



Lisa M. Fairfax, Leroy Sorenson Merrifield Research Professor of Law and C-LEAF's Director of Conference Programs, teaches courses in corporations, securities law, and contracts. She is co-director of the DirectWomen Board Institute, which promotes board diversity by identifying and supporting qualified women attorneys to serve as board candidates. She has published two books and more than 30 articles in the fields of corporate governance and securities regulation.



Theresa A. Gabaldon, Lyle T. Alverson Professor of Law and C-LEAF's Director of Academic Programs and Administration, directs the Business and Finance Law LLM Program. Professor Gabaldon specializes in corporate and securities law, contract law, and professional responsibility. A member of the Hispanic National Bar Association, she has published two books and more than 25 articles in the fields of corporate law and securities regulation.



Arthur E. Wilmarth Jr., Professor of Law, is the author of more than 30 articles and book chapters in the fields of banking law and American constitutional history. A former partner at the international law firm Jones Day, Professor Wilmarth served as a consultant to the Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission—which reported to Congress on the causes of the financial crisis—is on the editorial board of the *Journal of Banking Regulation*, and serves on the American Antitrust Institute's Advisory Board.

These noted faculty members, along with other full-time faculty colleagues and numerous part-time faculty members who are distinguished practitioners in government agencies and private firms, enable GW Law to offer a dynamic, diverse, and wide-ranging business and finance law program.

Timeline of Select C-LEAF Events

October 21, 2011

C-LEAF Presents "Dodd-Frank's Future Direction: On Course or Off Track?"
Third Annual Regulatory Reform Symposium with keynote by Sheila C. Bair, former Chair, FDIC.



April 3, 2012

A Discussion with Paul Basta, JD '92
Kirkland & Ellis partner Paul Basta shared his insights on practicing business bankruptcy and restructuring law.



Nov. 28, 2012

Navigating Dodd-Frank: Are We Avoiding Another Financial Crisis?
Fourth Annual Regulatory Reform. Keynote by Mary L. Schapiro, JD '80, former SEC chairman



April 8, 2013

Lawrence A. Cunningham on *The Essays of Warren Buffett: Lessons for Corporate America*
Lawrence A. Cunningham, Henry St. George Tucker III Research Professor of Law; Director, talked about the 3rd edition of his bestselling book on the investment philosophy of Warren Buffett.



May 22, 2013

Interview with Paul A. Volcker, former Chair of the Federal Reserve; announcement of the Volcker Scholarship
Questions from Donald L. Kohn, Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution & Former Vice Chairman, The Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve



September 12, 2013

Five Years On, Learning Lehman's Lessons from the Panic of 2008:
Senator Elizabeth Warren and a panel of experts discussed the degree to which the United States is prepared for the next financial crisis



October 31, 2013

The Road Traveled: Assessing Dodd-Frank Five Years After the Crisis
Keynotes by Gary S. Gensler, CFTC Chairman, Thomas M. Hoenig, FDIC Vice Chairman, and Eugene A Ludwig, Founder and CEO of Promontory Financial Group and 27th Comptroller of the Currency.



December 13, 2013

The Past, Present, and Future of the Federal Reserve System
One of a series of events marking the centennial of the nation's central bank featuring Donald L. Kohn, former Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, and David Wessel, Economic Editor of The Wall Street Journal.

