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FALL 2007 SOCIAL JUSTICE WORKSHOP: Law and Labor in the Global Economy

Chaired by Professor Stephen Diamond

The goal of this year's seminar led by Professor Diamond is to explore the impact of globalization on human beings – the living raw material that is so crucial to the success of modern capitalism. Our working hypothesis – to be tested and challenged throughout the semester – is that globalization advances (perhaps even completes) the centuries long process of expropriating pre-modern peoples from traditional ways of life yet fails to integrate them successfully into the capitalist work place, the site of exploitation. While it might seem an advantage not to be exploited, in modern capitalism the alternative to exploitation is marginalization, desperation and even worse. The failure to understand and confront this process could be disastrous for humanity.

Legal institutions are critical to all stages of this process. Modern law helps break down the barriers that traditional non-capitalist societies place in the way of the onslaught of capital. Law helps to integrate those who can be integrated into the modern productive system where exploitation takes place, while helping to keep others – not so “lucky” – at bay. The result is that law both advances modern capital on its historic mission to accumulate wealth and power for those who control the global system, while interfering with the ability of the majority to meet their own human needs. Yet, as it does this, law works a strange paradox, instilling in many of the victims of globalization a deeper sense of justice and fairness. Even in arenas like China where a rule of law is conspicuously absent, the struggle over legal rights such as they are has evoked a powerful sentiment in the general population.

Lectures are open to members of the university community and the general public.

***All seminars to begin at 4 p.m. on Thursdays in Bannan 137 (with the exception of Professor Stone's presentation on Friday, October 26, 4 p.m. and Mr. Hoffman's presentation on Thursday, November 1, 4 p.m. in Wiegand room, Arts and Sciences Building)**

Receptions will be held at 5:30 p.m. in Strong Common Room

9/20/07 David Smith (Department of Sociology, University of Kansas)

(Thur.) *The Fate of the Expropriated: Lessons from Rwanda*

4:00 p.m. in Bannan 137

Professor Smith is a specialist in sociological theory who studies social inequality and the psychology of inequality. Professor Smith's writings include publications on genocide, the Rwandan genocide, anti-Semitism, irrationalism, authoritarianism, charisma, inequality, classical and critical theory, and political psychology.

10/18/07 Ahmed White (University of Colorado School of Law)

(Thur.) *Capitalism, Social Marginality, and the Rule of Law's Uncertain Fate in Modern Society*

4:00 p.m. in Bannan 137

Professor White's interest in legal scholarship and teaching was first developed during his time as a student at Yale Law School and during a two-year research fellowship that followed. Before entering teaching, he served as a legal analyst at the Louisiana State Senate. His scholarship centers on the intersection of labor and criminal law and on the concept of rule of law.

10/26/07 Katherine V.W. Stone (UCLA School of Law)

(Fri.) *Globalization and Flexibilization: The Re-Invention of Employment Regulation in the 21st Century

4:00 p.m. in Bannan 137

Professor Stone is an internationally recognized labor law scholar who taught at Cornell and Cardozo law schools before coming to UCLA. She is the editor of the Globalization and Labor Standards (GALS) Bibliographic Archive and Database, available at www.laborstandards.org.

11/1/07 Paul Hoffman (Schonbrun DeSimone Seplow Harris & Hoffman LLP, Venice, CA)

(Thur.) *Litigating International Human Rights

4:00 p.m. in Wiegand room, Arts and Sciences Building

Paul Hoffman is a leading human rights lawyer. His practice has been in the areas of constitutional and civil rights litigation, including First Amendment, discrimination and privacy litigation, and general business litigation; including copyright and trademark litigation. He also specializes in civil and criminal appeals.

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