

August 10, 2010

Dear Colleague,

Law and Society scholars affiliated with West Coast US and Canadian institutions are invited to attend the Fourth West Coast Law and Society Retreat at Southwestern Law School in Los Angeles, February 11 and 12, 2011.



Building on the success of retreats at Berkeley (2005), Hawaii (2008), and Stanford (2009), the fourth retreat will continue our community's effort to cultivate research, conversation, and engagement on a range of issues that affect our scholarship, teaching, and service.

The purpose of the retreat will be threefold: (1) to discuss substantive questions emerging at the leading edges of the law and society field; (2) to discuss the state of the field as an academic discipline; and (3) to discuss the role of law and society scholarship in identifying and shaping dialogue around new legal challenges. We will be especially concerned with emerging challenges to our profession in a time of significant change in public and academic life. A latent -- but very important -- purpose is to get to know each other, find out what people are doing, and form new social networks. Even though we are all in the same geographic area, more or less, the distances are great. Social distances can also be a problem. The Retreat is designed to break down barriers.

Since the main aim of the retreat is to develop thinking in new areas, the panel sessions will be led by scholars who will offer brief, informal comments in order to prompt discussion among session attendees. All attendees are encouraged to participate in the conversations generated within each session. To the same end, we encourage established members of the community to extend this invitation to colleagues and students who are doing related research but who have not yet attended a Law & Society function. We will have a Graduate Student Session during an extended lunch period on Saturday, building on the successful model of the Stanford retreat. Scholarships will be available on a competitive basis to help cover the expenses of graduate-student participants.

The Retreat will begin on Friday afternoon, February 11, 2011, at 3:30 PM with registration followed by a plenary panel discussion, then dinner. We will hold concurrent panel sessions Saturday morning and afternoon, with the graduate student sessions at mid-day. The Retreat will conclude with a plenary discussion Saturday afternoon, followed by a late afternoon final reception.

Sessions will be held in the historic Bullocks Wilshire building at Southwestern Law School in downtown Los Angeles. We have blocked rooms at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel (506 South Grand Avenue, Los Angeles) for the discounted rate of \$139/night. Participants may reserve rooms by calling the hotel at 213-624-1011 and mentioning either "Southwestern Law School" or "Law & Society Retreat." *Please reserve your*

room before January 12 in order to secure the discounted rate. Both Los Angeles International Airport and Bob Hope Airport in Burbank are convenient to Retreat locations. Convenient transportation between the Biltmore and Southwestern may be had by cab or by Metro rail.

We are very excited about the West Coast Law and Society Retreat and hope that you can join us. Please share the opportunity with your students and colleagues. To facilitate planning, we ask that you let us know by December 1, 2010, if you plan to attend the Retreat. Please respond to Arthur McEvoy (amcevoy@swlaw.edu)

Sincerely,

Arthur McEvoy, Southwestern Law School,

With the planning committee:

Lawrence Friedman
Bryant Garth
Rosann Greenspan
Mona Lynch