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Marriage Symposium: March 13 & 14

Boston College Law School

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3/09/09--Boston College Law School, in partnership with Brigham Young University, is pleased to announce that it will hold a major symposium on the legal implications of marriage and other relationships, whose participants will include leading experts in the subject from around the world. The two-day symposium, entitled "Jurisprudence of Marriage and other Adult Intimate Relationships," will take place on Friday, March 13 from 8:30 am to 3:45 pm in room 120 of the East Wing and Saturday, March 14 from 10:00 am - 11:00 am in room 100 of the East Wing.

"Marriage--the most basic and universal of human institutions--and other intimate relationships are to be discussed, and their eligibility for recognition by the law considered, by distinguished professors from several countries at this unique symposium," said BC Law Professor Scott FitzGibbon, a co-organizer along with Brigham Young University's Bruce C. Hafen Professor Lynn Wardle, a past president of the International Society of Family Law.

The panelists, who include Baroness Ruth Deech of St. Anne's College, Oxford and Professor Shahar Lifshitz from Bar Ilan University in Israel (see full list below), will discuss the conceptual foundations of the institution of marriage and other kinds of adult intimate relationships, and explore the principles determining their eligibility for legal and social recognition. They will review the current status of such relationships in society and law, consider how such relationships may affect one another, consider the foundations for the legal recognition of relationships, and consider various relationship forms in the light of basic legal and ethical principles.

Libby Professor Sanford Katz from BC Law, a past president of the International Society of Family Law, will moderate the session on Doctrinal Implications. Hon. Herbert Wilkins, former Chief Justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court and BC Law's Huber Distinguished Visiting Professor, will moderate the session on Social and Political Attributes.

Click here for the symposium website

The Symposium will include the following sessions:

Session One:  
Basic Goods; Basic Concerns

Session Two:  
Implications for the Law

Session Three:  
Social and Political Attributes

Session Four:  
Doctrinal Implications
Panelists:

Helen Alvaré, George Mason University School of Law
Robert John Araujo, S.J, Boston College Law School
William Binchy, Trinity College, Dublin
Daniel Cere, McGill University
Ruth Deech, St. Annes College, Oxford University
Charles Donahue, Harvard Law School
Dr. Oran Doyle, Trinity College, Dublin
Martha Albertson Fineman, Emory University School of Law
Scott FitzGibbon, Boston College Law School
Dr. Shahar Lifshitz, Bar Ilan University, Israel
Linda C. McClain, Boston University of Law
Susan Shell, Boston College
Richard Stith, Valparaiso University School of Law
Lynn D. Wardle, J. Reuben Clark Law School

Moderators:

Associate Dean R. Michael Cassidy, Boston College Law School
Libby Professor Sanford Katz, Boston College Law School
Bruce C. Hafen Professor Lynn D. Wardle, J. Reuben Clark Law School
Huber Distinguished Visiting Professor Herbert Wilkins, Boston College Law School

A full schedule of the day's events follows. Abstracts are available here [PDF format].

First Day Program: Friday, March 13: East Wing 120

8:00 - 8:30 A.M: Coffee, tea, pastries, registration

8:30 - 8:50

Welcoming remarks by Provost Garza or Dean Garvey
Introductory remarks by Professor FitzGibbon

8:50 - 10:10: Session One: Basic Goods; Basic Concerns

Moderator: Professor Wardle
Panelists: Professors Binchy, Alvaré, and Donahue (20 minutes each)
Discussion (20 minutes)

10:10 - 10:20: Coffee break

10:20 - 12:45: Session Two: Implications for the Law

Moderator: Associate Dean Cassidy
Panelists: Professors FitzGibbon, Stith, Fineman, Lifshitz, Araujo, and Wardle (20 minutes each)
Discussion (25 minutes)

12:45 - 2:00: Lunch
2:00 - 3:15: Session Three: Social and Political Attributes

Moderator: Justice Wilkins

Panelists: Professors McClain, Shell, and Cere (20 minutes each)

Discussion (15 minutes)

Second Day Program: Saturday, March 14, 2009: East Wing 100

10:00 - 10:45am Session Four: Doctrinal Implications

Moderator: Professor Katz

Panelists: Baroness Deech and Professor Doyle (20 minutes each)

Discussion (20 minutes)

10:45 - 11:00 am Concluding remarks: Professor Wardle