

RESNICK PROGRAM FOR FOOD LAW AND POLICY



UCLA | SCHOOL OF LAW

NEWSLETTER



Letter from the Executive Director

Dear colleagues and friends,

It has been an honor to join the UCLA School of Law as the Resnick Program for Food Law and Policy's Executive Director. The last year has been exciting as the program has developed and advanced immensely. During the spring, the program organized and hosted two lunch series events as well as an evening food forum, and proudly presented our first conference, focusing on food litigation. We plan to continue with our public programs this year, highlighting the POM v. Coke decision at a lunch series event on October 6th, and hosting the first annual UCLA-Harvard Law School Food Law and Policy Conference, on October 24th and 25th. This joint conference will focus on transparency in the food system.

In addition, the Resnick Program is pleased to introduce three new courses to UCLA Law, including: 1) Introduction to Food Law and Policy, 2) Sustainable Agriculture Law, and 3) City Food Policy: Legislative and Policy Advocacy. Our staff has also been diligently accumulating externship opportunities for our students as well as working towards developing a pro bono network and clinic.

We are extremely grateful to the UCLA School of Law and UCLA campus communities for welcoming our program with great interest to collaborate. It has been encouraging and inspiring to meet UCLA faculty, staff, and students and discuss how our program can take a more active role in advancing food law and policy advocacy and research, and affecting change in our community. Not only have we partnered with individuals on the UCLA campus, but we've also connected with those outside of UCLA and Los Angeles. During our first year of establishment, the program has become involved in a multitude of projects and conversations with institutions such as UCLA School of Public Health, UCLA Luskin School of Public Policy, Renmin University Law School in Beijing, European Food Law Center at University of Tuscia Law School in Italy, East China University of Science and Technology in Shanghai, and many more. I look forward to the future of the program as we continue making strides in encouraging our students to pursue career paths in food law and policy.

Interest in food is universal, and issues and concerns surrounding our food system affect everyone. The Resnick Program aims to facilitate and encourage conversations about food, and develop future leaders who will strive to improve food issues related to health, diet, accessibility, and sustainability.

Sincerely,

Michael Roberts
Executive Director
Resnick Program for Food Law and Policy

Upcoming Conference October 24-25, 2014 "Transparency in the Global Food System: What Information and to What Ends?"

The Resnick Program for Food Law and Policy, along with The Food Law Lab at Harvard Law School, is pleased to introduce the UCLA-Harvard Law School Food Law and Policy joint annual conference. The conference will alternate each year between Los Angeles and Cambridge, and will focus on issues in the food system from a legal perspective.

The first conference will take place on October 24 and 25, 2014 in Los Angeles and is titled "Transparency in the Global Food System: What Information and to What Ends?" The conference will examine issues such as: the meaning of transparency in food law and policy, how consumers use and misuse information about the food system, and the limits of information as a policy tool.

Dr. David A. Kessler, former United States FDA Commissioner and current professor at UC San Francisco School of Medicine, will deliver the keynote address on October 24th. As part of the UCLA Food Day Events, a special screening and panel discussion of the documentary *Food Chains* will be held at UCLA School of Law immediately following the conference. The conference will close with an academic workshop on Saturday, October 25th at UCLA School of Law to discuss the future of food law teaching and scholarship.

To register, please visit: www.law.ucla.edu/foodlawconference



Spring 2014 Food Litigation Conference

The Resnick Program held its first conference, titled "Food Fight: An Examination of Recent Trends in Food Litigation and Where We Go From Here," on April 11, 2014 at the UCLA Faculty Center. The conference drew great interest and registration sold out. The conference was co-sponsored with the Litigation Section of The State Bar of California and brought together many practitioners, academics, and students to examine litigation trends, recent rulings, legal theories, and legal risks and solutions presented. Speakers from the Center for Science in the Public Interest, Perkins Coie, Reese Richman LLP, Jenner & Block, Marler Clark, Olsson Frank

Weeda Terman Matz PC, Eat Drink Politics, Burnham Brown, Public Justice, and the Natural Resources Defense Council spoke alongside academics from UCLA School of Law, Florida State University College of Law, Indiana University-Robert H. McKinney School of Law, Michigan State University College of Law, and Seattle University School of Law.

Mr. Paul Miller, president of the Australian Olive Association, delivered the lunch presentation on Olive Oil and Fraud. Video recordings and the conference program can be found on our website: www.law.ucla.edu/Resnick.



RECAP OF PAST EVENTS

Spring 2014 Food Forum + Lunch Series

Since the start of 2014, the Resnick Program has hosted two lunch series events and one food forum panel. Though this programming, the Resnick Program is increasingly capturing the attention not only of UCLA School of Law, but the greater Los Angeles community. Individuals from UCLA undergraduate programs, UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, USC Gould School of Law, and outside groups such as Westside Food Bank attended these events and both lunch series talks were at maximum attendee capacity.

In January, Dr. Neal Baer, a pediatrician and television writer by trade, kicked off the year's first lunch series event as he combined his passion for medicine and storytelling with a dialogue on "Health, Food, and the Role of Storytelling in Creating a Healthier Future."

In February, Dr. Paul Simon with the Los Angeles County Department of Health served as moderator for the food forum panel on sugary drinks and public health. The forum sparked lively discussions among panelists Susan Babey, Harold Goldstein, and Kim Kessler who work respectively with the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, the California Center for Public Health Advocacy, and the Resnick Program for Food Law and Policy.

The March lunch series event, entitled "The Right to be Healthy" featured Manel Kappagoda's discussion of policies to address childhood obesity. Kappagoda is a program director and senior staff attorney at ChangeLab Solutions, where she helps fight the obesity epidemic through policy research and analysis.

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Upcoming Lunch Series October 6, 2014

The Supreme Court's Decision in *POM v. Coke*

For the next installment in the lunch series, the Resnick Program has invited UCLA School of Law Professor Seana Shiffrin to moderate a panel discussing the recent Supreme Court decision on the *POM v. Coke* case and its future implications. The panelists, Andrew Pincus and Tom Goldstein, are two leading Supreme Court advocates.

Tom Goldstein is one of the nation's most experienced Supreme Court practitioners, having served as counsel to the petitioner or respondent in roughly 10% of all of the Court's merits cases for the past 15 years (approximately 100 in total), personally arguing 31. He is also the co-founder and publisher of SCOTUSblog – a web-site devoted to comprehensive coverage of the Court –the only weblog ever to receive the Peabody Award.

Andrew Pincus has argued 23 cases in the Supreme Court, including *AT&T Mobility v. Concepcion*, 131 S. Ct. 1740 (2011). A former Assistant to the Solicitor General in the United States Department of Justice and General Counsel of the United States Department of Commerce, Andy also co-founded and serves as co-director of the Yale Law School's Supreme Court Advocacy Clinic.



Food Law Society

The Food Law Society at UCLA (FLS) is a student organization that brings awareness to current topics in food and agriculture law and policy, supports students who are developing careers in this area, and provides an inclusive forum for law students to engage in and debate these issues. FLS's first year, 2013-2014, included several highlights, including establishing a community-supported agriculture program at the law school, and facilitating a volunteer workday at UCLA's sustainable urban garden project, DigUCLA! A "Dinner Discussion" series introduced students to a range of topics: food sovereignty and the debate over raw milk, aquaculture as an alternative to mass meat production, city policies on urban agriculture, and the problems of food justice and limited access in food deserts.

In the spring semester, FLS also successfully gathered signatures from students, faculty, and staff in support of a petition to improve food offerings at a university-operated dining facility near the law school. UCLA's first environmental film festival, Green Screens, also featured two FLS events: a panel discussion on genetically engineered crops and a screening and producer Q&A for the feature film documentary *GMO OMG*.

In the upcoming school year, FLS will continue its community-supported agriculture program, work with the Resnick Program to develop and sponsor student-focused programming, and host community-building events. FLS will also continue to work with the university to support sustainable food initiatives and introduce healthier alternatives at campus dining establishments.



Visiting Scholar Francesco Bruno



Francesco Bruno, professor of Food and Environmental Law at the Campus Bio-Medico University and University of Molise in Italy, visited the Resnick Program for Food Law and Policy to further his research on environmental issues in food law.

Professor Bruno's work is shaped by his belief that food producers can be analyzed both as a threat to the environment and also a stakeholder in its preservation. The food industry, like any other, has the potential to produce negative externalities;

it can deplete natural resources, pollute, and upset the balance of delicate ecosystems. But, at the same time and in contrast to many other industries, food and agriculture are also deeply tied to the environment.

In this paradoxical context, Professor Bruno's research with the Resnick Program analyzed the regulations on food, particularly those which limit climate change or protect biodiversity, in the context of both European and US law.