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FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact: Sandra Graeff
Phone: 717-541-3965
E-mail: slgraeff@widener.edu

This event will be held in the Administration Building, Room A180. On-campus parking will be available.

This symposium has been approved for a total of 4.5 CLE credits in Delaware and Pennsylvania (no ethics credit).



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Crimtorts

A symposium sponsored by
Widener Law Journal

February 25, 2008



Widener University
School of Law
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ABOUT THE SYMPOSIUM

“Crimtorts” is a word coined by Professors Thomas Koenig and Michael Rustad to describe the expanding middle ground between criminal and tort law. Crimtorts is not a new body of law per se or even a new cause of action. Rather, crimtorts is an explicit recognition that criminal law principles of punishment and deterrence have been assimilated into tort law. The extent of that assimilation and its effects on the tort system are issues that merit robust consideration.

This symposium, the first national conference to focus on crimtorts, begins with an exploration, by Professor Kenneth Simons, of the traditional understanding of the distinction between criminal and tort law. Professors Koenig and Rustad will present and define the alternative paradigm of crimtorts. The concept of crimtorts can be applied to many areas of law. Our panelists, Professors Martha Chamallas, Jeffrey O’Connell, Byron Stier, and Frank Vandall will discuss four applications: civil rights concepts in tort law, the reform of tort liability, class actions, and products liability. Finally, the focus turns to the quintessential crimtorts remedy, punitive damages. Punitive damages, a tort doctrine explicitly based on the twin criminal law rationales of punishment and deterrence, have recently been the subject of an intense national debate. Our panelists, Professors Mark Geistfeld, Keith Hylton, Sheila Scheuerman, Anthony Sebok, and Catherine Sharkey consider the functions and effects of this quasi-criminal cause of action.

“Crimtorts” features a distinguished group of legal academics that have gathered to discuss the meaning and applications of an important legal concept. Please plan to join us for this unique event.

AGENDA

8–8:30 am

Registration

8:30–8:45 am

Welcome

Linda L. Ammons, Associate Provost and Dean,
Widener University School of Law

8:45–10:00 am

Introductory Panel

Thomas H. Koenig, Professor and Chairperson,
Department of Sociology & Anthropology,
Northeastern University

Michael L. Rustad, Thomas F. Lambert, Jr.
Professor of Law and Co-Director of
Intellectual Property Concentration,
Suffolk University School of Law

Kenneth W. Simons, Associate Dean for
Research and Professor of Law, Boston
University School of Law

Moderator: Christopher J. Robinette,
Associate Professor of Law,
Widener University School of Law

10:00–10:15 am

Break

10:15–11:45 am

Applications Panel

Martha Chamallas, Robert J. Lynn Chair in Law,
The Ohio State University,
Michael E. Moritz College of Law

Jeffrey O’Connell, Samuel H. McCoy II Professor
of Law, University of Virginia School of Law

Byron G. Stier, Associate Professor of Law,
Southwestern Law School

Frank J. Vandall, Professor of Law,
Emory University School of Law

Moderator: Michael R. Dimino, Sr.,
Associate Professor of Law,
Widener University School of Law

11:45 am–12:45 pm

Lunch (*provided for paying registrants*)

12:45–2:30 pm

Punitive Damages Panel

Mark Geistfeld, Crystal Eastman Professor of
Law, New York University School of Law

Keith N. Hylton, Professor of Law,
Paul J. Liacos Scholar in Law,
Boston University School of Law

Sheila B. Scheuerman, Associate Professor of
Law, Charleston School of Law

Anthony J. Sebok, Professor of Law, Benjamin
N. Cardozo School of Law, Yeshiva University

Catherine M. Sharkey, Professor of Law,
New York University School of Law

Moderator: Susan Raeker-Jordan,
Professor of Law and Associate Dean for
Faculty Research & Development,
Widener University School of Law

Crimtorts

February 25, 2008

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