



WESTERN NEW ENGLAND COLLEGE

SCHOOL of LAW

Current Students



PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

CURRENT STUDENTS

FACULTY

LAW LIBRARY

CAREER SERVICES

ALUMNI

THIS MONTH AT
WNEC

NEWS

ACADEMIC
CALENDAR

BOOK LISTS

STUDENT RECORDS
OFFICE

ASSIGNMENTS

CLINICAL PROGRAMS

LEGAL RESEARCH
AND WRITING

LAW REVIEW

MOOT COURT
COMPETITIONSLAW STUDENT
WRITING
COMPETITIONSTHE CLASON
SPEAKER SERIESSTUDENT
ORGANIZATIONSHONOR CODE &
ACADEMIC
STANDARDSBAR EXAMINATION
INFORMATIONSTUDENT
ADMINISTRATIVE
SERVICES-
FINANCIAL AIDMULTIMEDIA
ARCHIVES

The Clason Speaker Series

Since 1988 the Clason Speaker Series has provided a venue for legal experts to present works-in-progress on current legal topics through lectures to the Western New England College School of Law community. Insightful, thought provoking, and a source of lively discussion, the Clason Speaker Series provides a valuable forum for the discussion of current topics in the legal academy.

Founder Charles R. Clason



The series is named after Charles R. Clason, a prominent local attorney and member of the U.S. House of Representatives who held the position of Dean of the School of Law from 1954 to 1970. At that time, Western New England College provided part-time legal education only. During Clason's tenure all classroom instruction was provided by adjunct faculty who were eminent practitioners of the law. Clason worked to ensure that the faculty developed as academicians, while not forsaking their mission to provide practical legal education.

A resident of Springfield, Clason spent most of the 1920's in the Western Massachusetts District Attorney's office, first as Assistant, then as District Attorney. A Republican, Clason represented the Second Congressional District of Massachusetts from 1936 to 1948. He was awarded an honorary doctor of letters degree in 1970 in recognition of his many years of educational service to Western New England College. Charles Clason passed away in 1985 at the age of 94.

Today, as an ABA-accredited, AALS member law school, Western New England College School of Law uses the Charles and Emma Clason Endowment Fund to provide funding to host speakers who enhance the academic environment of the faculty and student body of the School of Law.

Over the years, the series has broached topics pertaining to contemporary legal issues; i.e., Decision-making in Capital Cases, Mothers and Crime, Beyond the Privacy Principle, and Lawyering for Poor Communities in the 21st Century. In addition, historic perspectives on the law have included: legal ethics and fugitive slaves, the debate over the central meaning of the Fourth Amendment, emblems of federalism, and reflections on mistake and the law.

Noted speakers have represented educational institutions from across the United States including: Boston College Law School, Columbia University School of Law, Cornell Law School, Georgetown University Law Center, Harvard University Law School, University of Southern California Law Center, and Yale Law School.

[Clason Speaker Series 2006/2007](#)

Upcoming Clason Speakers 2006-2007



Andrew Beckerman-Rodau, Professor of Law and Co-Director Intellectual Property Law Concentration at Suffolk University Law School

When: September 27, 2007
Where: Noon School of Law Lobby

"The Attack on Intellectual Property Law—Is it Justified?"

Critics of intellectual property law argue that information and ideas should be free for everyone to use. It is argued that patent law stifles innovation at the expense of the U.S. economy. Likewise, it is argued that copyright law hinders the free speech rights that are enshrined in the First Amendment. Supporters of intellectual property rights contend that it promotes innovation and creativity by rewarding authors and inventors for their efforts. Professor Beckerman-Rodau will address these issues and attempt to answer the question of "Are such attacks justified?"

Professor Beckerman-Rodau is a Professor of Law and Co-director of the Intellectual Property Law Concentration at Suffolk University Law

[Clason Speaker Series 2005/2006](#)

[Clason Speaker Series 2004/2005](#)

[Clason Speakers 1988-2005](#)

School in Boston. He is also an engineer and registered patent attorney and is admitted to practice in both Ohio and Massachusetts. An expert in property, intellectual property, and patent law, Professor Beckerman-Rodau has been published on a variety of subjects including business associations, computer software and intellectual property. He authored a student guide entitled A Concise Guide To The Nuts & Bolts Of Estates And Future Interests (2004).

Prior to joining the Suffolk University faculty, he served as a tenured professor at Ohio Northern University Pettit College of Law and practiced patent and intellectual property law with law firms and corporations in Massachusetts, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. He was also a Lecturer in Law and Research Fellow at Temple University in Philadelphia. He is a member of the American Intellectual Property Law Association, the American Bar Association, the Boston Patent Law Association, and the Massachusetts Bar Association.

Professor Beckerman-Rodau is a member of the Class of 1981 of Western New England College School of Law and also has degrees from Hofstra University and Temple.

Open to students, alumni, the College community, and the general public

For more information, call 413-782-1439 or email jcolburn@law.wnec.edu.