



CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Transnational Conference on the Future of Legal Education, the Practice of Law, and the Judiciary

with a focus on

Disruption in the Legal Sector: How Technology Can Enable Educators, Students, Lawyers, and Judges Around the Globe to Stabilize the Sector and Provide Access to Justice

February 9-10, 16-17, 2021
Held on Zoom

Proposal Submission Deadline: November 1, 2020
Notification of Proposal Acceptance: November 12, 2020
Draft of Article/Presentation Due: January 15, 2021 Final
Article Due: March 1, 2021

The Institute for Global Understanding of Rule of Law at Bahçeşehir Üniversitesi (IGUL), in partnership with Atlanta's John Marshall Law School and Mitchell Hamline School of Law, is hosting an international conference of legal educators, law students, lawyers, and judges. This conference is intended to bring together law students, law faculty, lawyers, and judges from around the world to discuss the future of legal education, the practice of law, and the judicial system. The Conference will be conducted virtually via Zoom.

Slightly more than a decade ago, Bahçeşehir Üniversitesi hosted the *Law 2001: A Global Legal Odyssey* conference which focused on "assuring quality legal education in the face of similarities, differences and rapid change." Most recently IGUL hosted *Legal Education and Lawyering in the Age of the "New Normal"*. *Disruption in the Legal Sector* is a continuation of the dialogue begun in 2001 and a deeper exploration of the "New Normal". It is envisioned that *Disruption in the Legal Sector* will bring together law faculty and law students from around the globe to explore the best pedagogies, curricula, and technology for preparing lawyers to practice in both global and domestic legal markets; lawyers from around the globe to explore how technology is impacting the practice of law; and judges from around the globe to explore how technology is impacting court systems, judges and access to justice.

For several decades technology has been impacting the legal sector. The changes technology brought to the legal sector had been slow and methodical with individuals opting in to the use of technology. But, the impact of the global pandemic has changed the world we live in, including the legal sector from law school classroom to the courtroom. The global pandemic has forced the legal sector to embrace technologies that in the past would never have been considered, creating disruptions that are both positive and negative. This conference will explore those disruptions and the future they bring.

Guiding Questions:

Topics for the conference may include, but are not confined to, the following:

- Instructional design: How to design courses (and classes) for synchronous instruction, both online and in-person, and asynchronous instruction. How or why to design hybrid courses that combine the best of synchronous and asynchronous instruction.

- How have judicial systems adapted to the global pandemic? What are best practices for conducting trials and other judicial proceedings during the pandemic? What longer-term impact will the COVID experience have on judicial systems?
- How is technology changing alternative dispute resolution? Mediation, arbitration, negotiation.
- Has the use of technology increased the access to justice in courts or through alternative dispute resolution mechanisms?
- How is technology changing the practice of law?
- Comparative efficacy: How should we be assessing the efficacy of technology-assisted teaching methods? What data do we have about comparative efficacy?
- How to develop community when legal education or the law firm has moved to an online platform.
- Best practices for engaging students in the online classroom.
- Teaching professionalism and ethics. Does online instruction pose special problems or entail specific disadvantages (or advantages) for effective inculcation of professional and ethical roles and rules? What is the role of netiquette in legal education?
- Does minimum competency to practice law include minimum skill levels in the use of technology? What technology must students have mastered or should students have been trained on prior to graduation? How should legal education incorporate technology training into the law school curriculum?
- How to teach skills courses, clinics, and other experiential courses online. What do we know about the effectiveness of online, versus in person, experiential instruction?
- Faculty Development: What is the responsibility of the law school to train its law faculty in the use of technology? What is the responsibility of law faculty to maintain a minimum competency in the use of technology?
- Technology and the underserved: What is the impact of the use of technology on training law students from underserved communities or who are non-traditional students, on training lawyers to serve underserved communities, and on the access to legal education and to justice? What is the impact of technology, and online teaching methodologies, on the creation of equitable and inclusive learning environments?
- What special problems or opportunities do online technologies present regarding individuals with disabilities, both in the educational setting (students and teachers) and in the practice context (lawyers and clients)?
- Admission to the Practice of Law: How should competency to practice be measured? Does a diploma privilege protect the public? Can a bar exam be administered remotely online? Do traditional bar exam practices impose inappropriate barriers on traditionally underrepresented groups?
- Security of systems: Best practices in the fight against hackers in legal education, legal practice, and judicial proceedings. Are current practices and technologies adequately protecting confidentiality and lawyer-client communications?
- What impact does the adoption of online technologies in court proceedings have on vulnerable and underrepresented groups?
- What new or different opportunities does the current disruption provide for building and sustaining communities of academics and scholars in the global setting?
- What impact has Artificial Intelligence had on the legal profession, the practice of law, and access to justice?
- What is the future of the foreign student studying law? What is the future of LLM programs designed to prepare foreign lawyers for admission to a state bar in the US? What is the future of foreign students who seek to earn their PhD at an institution outside of their home country?
- What is the future of teaching U.S. law courses in foreign institutions? And, the future of teaching foreign law in U.S. law schools?

**Target Audience:**

The target audience for this conference includes: legal scholars, legal educators, lawyers, judges, the legal community, law students, others interested in legal education and the law, and the international legal community.

Languages:

The conference will be held in English and Turkish with simultaneous translation.

Submission Procedure:

Email proposals as a Word or PDF document to the Conference Committee via Professor Kathleen Burch at kburch@johnmarshall.edu by midnight on November 1, 2020.

Proposals must include:

1. Presenter(s) name, contact information, and university affiliation.
2. Title of the proposed presentation.
3. A brief (one or two paragraph) description of the presentation.
4. A short summary (3-5 sentences) of the presentation for the conference program.
5. A brief statement of the presenter's expertise on the topic.

An individual may submit more than one proposal. Proposals can be for an individual presentation or a panel presentation. Individual proposals on similar topics may be combined into a panel.

Notification:

All individuals who submit a proposal will be notified by November 12, 2020, if their proposal has been accepted.

Draft of Article/Presentation:

In order to insure that our moderators, commentators, and translators are prepared, all presenters are required to submit a draft of their article or a summary of their presentation no later than January 15, 2021.

Publication Opportunity:

Presenters will have an opportunity to publish their article in *The John Marshall Law Journal*. Articles must be finalized and submitted by midnight March 1, 2021.

Proposals not accepted for presentation at the Conference and responses to presenters may be considered for publication. Acceptance for publication of any paper, proposal, or response to a presenter is at the sole discretion of *The John Marshall Law Journal*, its Faculty Advisor, and the Conference Committee. Articles will be peer reviewed. Articles and Responses must be submitted by midnight March 1, 2021.