**Welcome to Boalt Hall & Property Law!**

**Information for OUR First Class (Wed, Aug 22)**

*Required Text:* Freyermuth, Organ & Noble-Allgire, Property and Lawyering 3rd ed. (West 2011). This should be for sale at the Boalt bookstore.

*Topic: Concept of Property & its parameterS, Part I*

1. Write a brief response (a paragraph or two) to each of the questions below. The whole paper should be 2 – 3 pages. Do this part of the assignment before your read anything in the casebook. Relax. This is not a test of any kind; it is an exercise to provoke reflection on your part and to give me a sense of what you think at the start of the course. **Please submit your essays to the Assignments section of the course bSpace by 2:00 pm on August 22nd before our first class**.
   1. What is “property”?
   2. What is not “property”?
   3. What does it mean to “own” property?
   4. How do we know who is the “owner” of property?
   5. What is a “property right”?
   6. Do property owners have any “duties” or obligations by virtue of their property ownership? If so, what duties and to whom?
   7. Why do we (society and courts) recognize and enforce “property rights”?
2. In Freyermuth, Organ & Noble-Allgire, Property and Lawyering 3rd ed. (West 2011), read the Preface (pp. v – vii only) and pp. 1 – 11; read “Radin Property and Personhood” (bSpace);“Sax Ecological View of Property” (bSpace); read “Chief Seattle Land is Sacred” (bSpace).
3. Prepare any questions you have about the assigned material.

 Focus:

1.      The first writing assignment is due before our first class meeting. (See “First Assignment” on bSpace for details.)

2.      Read the Preface carefully to understand what the casebook editors are trying to accomplish with this text. It may be different from your other classes.

3.      As you can imagine, property law is heavily debated. *The Concept of Property & Its Parameters* section provides a very brief overview of some different approaches to property law. I’ve added a few additional ones. Consider which approach most closely aligns with your current view. During the course we will consider the cases in light of these policy perspectives.