

Berkeley Center for Law, Business and the Economy

## November Update

### November 2009

http://www.law.berkeley.edu/centers/bclbe

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### **Curriculum and Research Update**

Spring 2010 registration is underway. The term offers Berkeley Law students several new courses to enhance their understanding of the business world in which their future clients operate. Introduction to Finance of Businesses provides a practical overview of the types of investments, the players and the techniques involved in modern financial management. In New Venture Finance (taught by alum and Adjunct Professor Mario Rosati), Berkeley Law students will join Haas business students to learn about financing new entrepreneurial ventures from the perspectives of the entrepreneur and of the investor. Lawyers and Entrepreneurs: Investment Process and Methodology explores this terrain in greater depth by giving students hands on training in developing an investment screen, methodology and process.

BCLBE's **Cleantech Program** has several projects underway, including working with a team at Haas Business School and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory to develop an innovative financing structure for large scale energy saving retrofits for existing office and other buildings. We will also be serving as a law and finance resource to student teams in the **Cleantech to Market** course that trains students to commercialize innovative technology.

Visit our new Financial Markets: Regaining Stability/Promoting Innovation webpage for a look at BCLBE's efforts, in the wake of the global economic meltdown, to develop research informed recommendations to protect and enhance capital markets in the U.S. and worldwide.

#### **News and Events**

**Professor Nancy Wallace** of Haas, an authority on real estate investment analysis, strategy, finance, and asset-backed securitizations, has joined BCLBE as Faculty Co-Director. Professor Wallace has assisted BCLBE researchers on several projects, such as our study of the impact of securitization on the ability to restructure subprime mortgages to reduce foreclosures. She has spoken about the financial crisis at several BCLBE sponsored events for the UC Berkeley community and the law school alumni. She also was instrumental in developing a popular course on Real Estate Development and Finance that gives law and business students an opportunity to work together. Professor Wallace is Chair of the Real Estate Group at Haas and is Co-Chair of the Fisher Center for Real Estate & Urban Economics. More information about Professor Wallace is available here.

Our Global Financial & Economic Crisis panel series continues with "Business & Ethics: Lessons from the Global Economic Crisis" on Tuesday, December 1st at 12:30 in Boalt Hall Room 105. A clear lesson from the global economic meltdown is that corporate governance and ethics matter. Less clear are the steps to improve how financial firms operate. Join a panel of UC Berkeley professors to explore and respond to questions such as: How should executives incorporate potential global and long term impacts into their business decisions? Can corporate governance structures and rules be improved to provide meaningful oversight and socially favorable incentives to financial firm leaders? Are the recent announcements of bonuses to financial executives a sign of economic recovery or continued ethical lapses? This event is open to the public and will be webcast. Check the BCLBE website for details and to view videos of past programs in the series.

BCLBE Research Fellow Braden Penhoet moderated a panel on Cleantech law practice at the ABA Law Student Division's **Fall Leadership Summit** held at Boalt Hall on October 9-11.