



## CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF LAW AND SOCIETY BERKELEY LAW

### **CSLS SPEAKER SERIES**

Monday, September 25, 2017

### **CHARLES REICHMANN**

Attorney and Lecturer, UC Berkeley School of Law

## **“Anti-Chinese Racism at Berkeley: The Case for Renaming Boalt Hall”**

Those familiar with UC Berkeley School of Law know its traditional name and the name of its primary classroom building - Boalt Hall. Yet few know much about the man who gave the law school its name. A close look at John Boalt's legacy, however, calls out for a reexamination of the law school's continued association with Boalt, given the contrast between UC Berkeley's stated values and Boalt's influential views that the Chinese were an unassimilable race that ought to be excluded from the United States. Through his widely-circulated and virulently racist 1877 address "The Chinese Question" and his proposal for a plebiscite on further immigration, Boalt was instrumental in catalyzing support for the Chinese Exclusion Act. Boalt's racial theories are similar to those of other nineteenth century racists whose images and names have recently been removed from or re-contextualized within public forums.

The speaker's *SF Chronicle* op-ed (May 18, 2017) and the draft of an article to be published in the *Asian American Law Journal* Vol 25 (2018) are available online and in hard copy format at the Center.

**PLACE** Selznick Seminar Room, 2240 Piedmont Avenue  
**TIME** 12:45 – 2:00pm  
**INFO** <https://www.law.berkeley.edu/centers/center-for-the-study-of-law-society/>  
**EMAIL** [csls@law.berkeley.edu](mailto:csls@law.berkeley.edu)

**Jonathan Simon**, FACULTY DIRECTOR | **Rosann Greenspan**, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR