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Symposium

"Bessie Jones Day Symposium – Modern Issues Involving the Law of Self-Defense"

November 5, 2005

Topic:

A group of eminent scholars examined the modern law of self-defense in a symposium sponsored by George Mason University School of Law in Arlington.

The symposium was entitled "Bessie Jones Day Symposium – Modern Issues Involving the Law of Self-Defense" and took place in classroom 221 of Hazel Hall (the law school building). Presentation of papers began at 8:45 a.m. and end at 5 p.m. The program featured presenters who are recognized scholars from the United States and Great Britain.

([Click here](#) for a photos and summary of last year's JLEP companion symposium, entitled "Property Rights on the Frontier: The Economics and Self-Help and Self-Defense in Cyberspace")

Symposium Program

- 8:45 a.m. Is There A Federal Constitutional Right of Self-Defense?**
Presenter: *Professor Nicholas J. Johnson*
Fordham University School of Law
- 10:15 a.m. English vs. American Law and Attitudes Toward Self-Defense**
Presenter: *Professor Peter Squires*
University of Brighton, England
- 11:15 a.m. From a Philosopher's Perspective, Does the Human Right of Self-Defense Imply a Reason to Possess Arms?**
Presenter: *Professor Lance Stell*
Davidson College and Carolinas Medical Center
- 1:30 p.m. Is There an International Law Human Right to Self-Defense or is the Right to Self-Defense a Mere Privilege Which Any State is Free to Dispense With? (Debate Papers)**
Presenters: *Don B. Kates, JD*
Criminologist and Lawyer, Battle Ground, WA
and *Professor John P. Cerone*
New England School of Law
- 2:15 p.m. Status of Controversial Issues in the American Law of Self-Defense**
Presenter: *Professor Renée Lerner*
George Washington University Law School
- 3:15 p.m. The Doctrines: a) That Police Have No Duty to Protect Individuals; but b) That Businesses or Landlords Sometimes Do Have Such a Duty – Can They Be Reconciled?**
Presenter: *Professor Robert Weisberg*
Stanford Law School
- 4:00 p.m. Gender Self-Defense Issues Including Genocide and International Violence Situations**

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Lecture Series
Recap: "The Sarbanes Oxley Act: An Efficient Solution to a Public Problem?"
New! - The Law and Economics Podcast
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Symposium **Recap:** "Anticompetitive Barriers to E-Commerce: A Symposium" featured on The Law and Economics Podcast
[\[more...\]](#)

Presenter: *Professor Mary Stange*
Skidmore College

Additional participants include **Dr. Abigail Kohn**, author; **Professor William Van Alstyne**, College of William & Mary Marshall Wythe School of Law; **Dean and Professor of Law Daniel P. Polsby**, George Mason University School of Law; **Professor Paul Robinson**, University of Pennsylvania Law School; **Professor Robert F. Turner**, University of Virginia School of Law; **Professor James B. Jacobs**, New York University School of Law; **Professor Timothy D. Lytton**, Albany Law School; **Professor Julie Mair**, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

The Journal of Law, Economics & Policy will publish papers presented at the November 5 symposium in a future edition.



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