**Announcing the 2003 Annual Legal Dimensions Initiative**

The Canadian Association of Law Teachers (CALT), the Canadian Law and Society Association (CLSA), the Canadian Council of Law Deans (CCLD), and the Law Commission of Canada are pleased to announce a fifth annual legal and socio-legal research initiative.

**The Competition:**
The co-sponsors invite legal and socio-legal scholars in Canada to submit proposals for research papers for presentation (in draft form) at the Annual Meetings of the CALT and of the CLSA in Halifax on June 2, 2003.

The theme for the 2003 Legal Dimensions Initiative is "**Law and Risk**" as more fully elaborated on the following pages.

Selected authors are required to complete drafts of their papers by May 5, 2003 so they may be copied for distribution in Halifax. Final texts are due by August 29, 2003. The Law Commission of Canada will publish these texts in both French and English. Authors may also arrange for additional publication of their papers as they see fit.

**The Award:**
The co-sponsors will select up to six proposals. The award will consist, first, of an honorarium of $3000 to produce the paper. In addition, the award comprises expenses incurred in travelling to Halifax to present the paper as a work in progress; registration fees for the Annual Meetings; two nights hotel accommodation; airfare and ground transportation, as required.

**To Apply:**
Applicants are invited to send a 1-2 page proposal setting out how they intend to address a theme falling under the general research proposal. Applications should be accompanied by a brief curriculum vitae that sets out research, publications, and other contributions to scholarship (whether or not published).

The competition is open to professors and other scholars who are interested in legal and socio-legal research. The co-sponsors do not contemplate any disciplinary limitations on those who may apply. Applications must be received on or before **Friday, December 13, 2002** – by mail or courier at:

Law Commission of Canada
1100-473 Albert Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0H8

or by FAX at (613) 946-8988.

**The Selection Process:**
Applications will be forwarded to a small committee comprising members from each co-sponsoring organization. The committee expects to complete the adjudication and inform successful applicants by January 15, 2003.

## LAW AND RISK

The law can manage, increase or even create risk. Legal frameworks are used in a large number of areas to manage risks, for example, principles of penology, health regulations, creditor protection laws, the duties of corporate directors, and the precautionary principle in international trade, to mention a few. In conflict management, decision-makers often have to identify and assess future risk, for example in child custody disputes or when quantifying damages. The law creates risk when it increases the vulnerability of certain people in dependent relationships, for example, through the requirements for immigration sponsorship or when it changes the balance in social relationships by imposing obligations and responsibilities. How does the law manage, increase or create such risks? Are the concepts used, such as responsibility, rights and duties, still adequately serving us? Are the legal mechanisms relevant and adaptable to new realities?

Risk management requires both preventive and remedial activities. Predicting risk, ascertaining consequences and assigning responsibility are accompanied by mechanisms for redress and reform. In risk management, we also often speak of continuous re-assessment, of information dissemination and of adaptation to change. How does the law enable different actors to manage risk? Does it create the conditions necessary for appropriate management? Is there reason to re-examine the impact on various actors of the law and the law's concept of risk.

The goal of this competition is to provide a multidisciplinary approach to the management of risk through law. The proposals may address the issue in a general way or may focus on one theme, such as the examples provided below:

Risk management and economic transitions
Risk management related to work, the environment, health, or personal relationships within the family
The law's influence on people at risk
The way in which decision-makers, managers, the courts, mediators, public officials or administrators evaluate risk
The measurement of risk
The law's influence on the perception of risk
The legal construction of situations at risk and risky situations.

For more details about the Legal Dimensions Competition for 2003, for additional information about the scope of proposals, or for the French language version of this announcement please feel free to contact the Law Commission of Canada at: info@lcc.gc.ca.

**Past Competitions:**

**2002 Legal Dimensions : What is a Crime?**

**Y a-t-il un noyau dur dans la notion de crime?**
Jean-Paul Brodeur, International Centre for Comparative Criminology, University of Montreal

**Undocumented Migrants and Bill C-11: The criminalization of race**
Wendy Chan, School of Criminology, Simon Fraser University

**What is Fraud?**
Richard V. Ericson and Aaron Doyle, Green College, University of British Columbia

**Crime, Copyright, and the Digital Age.**
Steven Penney, Faculty of Law, University of New Brunswick

**Du mauvais plaisant au délinquant: réflexion sur la notion de «crime»**
Pierre Rainville, Faculty of Law, Laval University

**Zero Tolerance Reversed: Constituting the Non-Culpable Subject in Walkerton**
Laureen Snider, Department of Sociology, Queen's University

**2001 Legal Dimensions: Social Relationships: Refocusing the Public/Private Divide**

**Invasions of Publicity: Digital Networks and the Privatization of the Public Sphere**
Darin Barney, Department of History and Politics, University of New Brunswick

**Private Needs and Public Space: Politics, Poverty and Anti-Panhandling by-laws in Canadian Cities**
Nicholas Blomley and Damian Collins, Department of Geography, Simon Fraser University

**Inequality and the Divisions Between Public and Private**
Nathan Brett, Department of Philosophy, Dalhousie University

**Emergence of 'Identity Associations' in Collective Labour Relations**
Christian Brunelle, Law Faculty, Laval University

**There's Only One Worker: Toward the Legal Integration of Paid Employment and Unpaid Caregiving**
Lisa Philipps, Osgoode Hall Law School, York University

**Green Revolution Greenwash? Voluntary Environmental Standards, Public Law and Private Authority in Canada**
Stepan Wood, Osgoode Hall Law School, York University

**2000 Legal Dimensions: Personal Relationships**

**Personal Relationships in the Year 2000: Me and My ISP**
Ian Kerr, Faculty of Law, University of Western Ontario

**Dependence in Client-Therapist Relationships: A Relational Reading of O'Connor and Mills**
Sue Campbell, Department of Philosophy/Women's Studies, Dalhousie University

**Fiduciary Duties in Commercial Relationships: When does the "Commercial" become the "Personal"**
William F. Flanagan, Faculty of Law, Queen's University

**Dependence and Interdependence in the Relationships between Lawyer and Client**
Lucie Lauzière, Faculty of Law, Laval University

**Law & Intimacy in the Bureaucrat-Citizen Relationship**
Lorne Sossin, Osgoode Hall Law School and Department of Political Science, York University

**1999 Legal Dimensions: Perspectives on Legislation**

**Reform: The Post-*C.C.* Section 43 Scenario**
Mark Carter, School of Criminology, Simon Fraser University

**As Good as Our Word: Reconciling Kahnawake Mohawk and Canadian Legal Culture in the Negotiation and Articulation of Self-Determination**
E. Jane Dickson-Gilmore, Department of Law, Carleton University

**Better Living Through Legislation? *Parens Patriae* Reconsidered**
Anne McGillvray, Faculty of Law, University of Manitoba

**Portalis v. Bentham?: The Objectives Ascribed to Codification of the Civil Law and the Criminal Law in France, England and Canada**
Michel Morin, Faculty of Law, Civil Law, University of Ottawa

**Of Pigeon Holes and Principles: A Reconsideration of Discrimination Law**
Denise Réaume, Faculty of Law, University of Toronto

**Privacy and Electronic Commerce: Legislating Conflicting Interests**
Teresa Scassa, Faculty of Law, Dalhousie University