Loyola creates professorships; six get positions

Former student’s bequest made posts possible; scholarship in various legal areas school’s goal

by Sarah Mansur

Loyola University Chicago School of Law has created six new professorships.

The new positions will be supported by a bequest to the school by the late Georgia Reithal, an Illinois School of Law staff writer

BY SARAH MANSUR

Loyola University Chicago School of Law has created six new professorships, Loyola Law School Dean Michael J. Kaufman said.

The inaugural Georgia Reithal Professors of Law that were announced this week are: John M. Breen, Jordan K. Paradise, Samuel Bronsteen, John K. Paradise, Matthew J. Sag and Nadia Sawicki.

Reithal attended Loyola’s part-time evening law degree program and worked for most of her career as a labor attorney with Ameritech. She also provided pro bono services to immigrants.

Reithal, a Glen Ellyn resident, died in June 2016. She was 65. She was admitted to the bar in November 1976.

Loyola Law School Dean Michael J. Kaufman said the school received the bequest last year. Kaufman, however, declined to disclose the total amount of the gift.

“In the area of scholarship, what the law school is trying to do is make sure our faculty continue to have a tremendous impact on our communities around the law school both near and far,” Kaufman said.

“That impact is measured not just in footnotes but also in people’s lives who are transformed,” he said.

“In the context of what [Reithal’s] life was about, which was pro bono work and human relations work, we thought it would be wonderful to create a collaborative team of faculty scholars whose work has in common a couple of things,” Kaufman said. The other similarity among the Georgia Reithal Professors of Law is that their scholarship examines how law and policy and regulation affect everyone’s everyday lives.

“All of them have in common the fact that their scholarship really does focus on the ways in which law and policy and regulation impact health, wellness and well being,” Kaufman said.

Breen, whose research involves jurisprudence in the Catholic social tradition, said that the professorships at Loyola reflect the generosity of the donor as well as the continuing commitment of the law school to support legal scholarship at the highest level.

“I am delighted to be named to this position and it is an honor to share this distinction with five of my colleagues,” Breen said.

“There has been a movement in legal education over the last several years to make the law school experience more practical for students, to get them ready for their work as practicing members of the bar. That’s entirely appropriate, but it need not and should not come at the expense of law schools being places where new ideas are generated and new lines of inquiry pursued,” he said.

“With the Reithal professorships Loyola has demonstrated that it intends to be a leader in the field of innovative legal scholarship,” he said.

Kaufman said each of the professors will have latitude and discretion in deciding how best to use their funding and resources that this professorship provides.

“The point of view of the law school, the Georgia Reithal Professor of Law position is really a wonderful way to recognize and celebrate but also to encourage the continued productivity of our faculty,” he said.

Paradise, who focuses on health law and technology and law and economics, said the professorship is an honor and “a means to be recognized for my own research and scholarship, as well as a lasting legacy to the work of Georgia Reithal in the Chicago area legal community.”

Bronsteen, whose research involves hedonic psychology and the law, said he’s grateful for Reithal’s generosity, and for the value Kaufman and Loyola place on scholarship.

“It’s a privilege to share this title with wonderful colleagues who care deeply about the search for truth.”

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THE NEW PROFESSORS

The following is a list of the Loyola University Chicago School of Law professors who were recently appointed as Georgia Reithal Professors of Law, along with their areas of research:

- John M. Breen focuses his research on jurisprudence, law and religion and the Catholic social tradition. He also explores perspectives of law and justice.
- John Bronsteen applies the findings of hedonic psychology to civil settlement, criminal punishment and regulatory decision-making.
- Samuel Brunson writes about the ways the federal income tax affects discrete groups of taxpayers as well as issues with the administration of the tax law.
- Jordan K. Paradise researches and publishes on the intersection of law, science and technology with a primary focus on the life science realm, examining legal and policy issues in the development and regulation of pharmaceuticals, medical devices and innovations in medicine.
- Matthew J. Sag focuses his research on law and technology and law and economics.
- Nadia Sawicki focuses her research on health law and bioethics with particular emphasis on the accommodation of personal and professional beliefs in a pluralistic society, tort law’s role in protecting patients from physical and dignitary harm and state actions that interfere with health care providers’ best medical judgment.

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