

Objectivity in the Law

**An Interdisciplinary Conference at the
University of Texas at Austin
April 4-5, 2008**

**Sponsored by the Anthem Foundation Fellowship
for the Study of Objectivism**

LOCATION: All sessions will be held in the Campus Club
405 West 25th Street, Room 203

Friday April 4th

8:45-9:00 – Welcome

9:00-10:30 – “The Objectivity of Morality, Rules, and Law: A Conceptual Map”

Speaker: Larry Alexander, Law, University of San Diego

Commentator: Peter de Marneffe, Philosophy, Arizona State University

Chair: David Sosa, Philosophy, University of Texas

10:45-12:15 – “The Revolutionary Origins of American Constitutionalism”

Speaker: Brad Thompson, Political Science & Institute for the Study of
Capitalism, Clemson University

Commentator: Kit Wellman, Philosophy, Washington University

Chair: John Deigh, Law & Philosophy, University of Texas

12:15-2:00 – Lunch Break

2:00-3:30 – “‘God or Some Human’: On the Source of Law in Plato’s *Laws*”

Speaker: Robert Mayhew, Philosophy, Seton Hall University

Commentator: Michael Gagarin, Classics, University of Texas

Chair: Daniel Rodriguez, Law, University of Texas

3:45-5:15 – “Rediscovering the Objective Foundations of Property Rights:
A Case Study in Patents”

Speaker: Adam Mossoff, Law, Washington & Lee University

Commentator: Scott Hershovitz, Law, University of Michigan

Chair: Gary Jacobsohn, Government, University of Texas

Saturday April 5th

8:45-10:15 – “Semantics, Metaphysics, & Objectivity in the Law”

Speaker: Michael Moore, Law, University of Illinois

Commentator: Onkar Ghate, Philosophy, Ayn Rand Institute

Chair: Al Martinich, Philosophy, University of Texas

10:30 -12:00 – “Objectivity and the Possibility of Global Error in Law”

Speaker: Brian Bix, Law & Philosophy, University of Minnesota

Commentator: Dana Berliner, Institute for Justice

Chair: Mitch Berman, Law, University of Texas

NB: all paper titles tentative

NOTE TO THOSE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING:

A limited number of rooms at a discounted rate have been set aside at the Doubletree Guest Suites, 303 W. 15th Street, Austin, 512-478-7000. *Austinsuites.doubletree.com*
To book one of these, you must call reservations (1-800-222-8733) before March 13th and refer to the special conference code "UPD."

For the conference itself, no fee or advance registration required.

Conference organizer: Tara Smith, Professor & Anthem Foundation Fellow,
Philosophy Department, University of Texas

Conference assistant: Michael Sevel, J.D./Ph.D. Candidate, Law & Philosophy,
University of Texas

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