The Fordham Comparative Urban Law Conference

June 30, 2014
8:30 a.m.–6:30 p.m.

Fordham University London Centre
Heythrop College
23 Kensington Square

Sponsored by the Fordham Urban Law Center

Materials for the conference can be found at the shared Dropbox to which participants have been invited.
About the Conference

The Comparative Urban Law Conference, sponsored by the Fordham Urban Law Center, is gathering scholars at Fordham’s London campus for a conversation about the field of “urban law” from an international, comparative, and interdisciplinary perspective. Interrogating the intersection of law and urbanism in the twenty-first century raises pressing questions about the structure of local authority and autonomy and the role of law in urban policy areas such as environmental sustainability, land use, housing, consumer protection, public health, and criminal justice.

THE URBAN LAW CENTER THANKS the planning committee for their valuable work on organizing the conference: Susan Block-Lieb, Nestor Davidson, and Annie Decker. The Center also thanks Shannon Azzaro of the Urban Law Center for her invaluable assistance with conference logistics.
The Fordham Comparative Urban Law Conference

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SUNDAY, JUNE 29

6:30–8:30 p.m. Informal Gathering
Devonshire Arms, 37 Marloes Road, London

MONDAY, JUNE 30

8:30–9:00 a.m. Welcome & Gathering

9:00–10:20 a.m. Opening Plenary Panel:
Local Government Law in a Global Context
Moderator: Annie Decker, Fordham Law School

Richard Briffault, Columbia Law School, Federalism and Localism

Mathew Idiculla, School of Policy and Governance, Azim Premji University, Bangalore, India, The State in the City

Nadav Shoked, Northwestern Law School, Global Bike Sharing: What Can Bike Rentals Do For Comparative Urban Law (co-authored with Daniel Rodriguez)


10:20–10:30 a.m. Break
10:30–11:30 a.m.  **Morning Breakout Sessions**

**SESSION 1. PUBLIC SPACE**  
**Moderator: Nestor Davidson**, Fordham Law School

**Merris Amos**, Queen Mary University of London School of Law, *Sanitising London: Protest and Human Rights Law in the Nation’s Capital*

**Helen Carr**, Kent Law School, *A Question of Health and Safety: Socio-Legal Reflections on the Contemporary Politics of Housing Space*

**Priya Gupta**, Southwestern Law School, *Legitimate Property and “Modernity” in Urban Spaces in India*

**Antonia Layard**, University of Bristol Law School, *Protecting (Urban) Public Spaces in England*

**SESSION 2. GOVERNING AND GOVERNANCE IN THE CITY**  
**Moderator: Jimena Suarez Ibarrola**, U.C. Berkeley School of Law

**Joseph Mead**, Cleveland State University, Levin College of Urban Affairs, *Nonprofit Organizations and Urban Governance*

**Edward Mitchell**, School of Law at the University of Sheffield, *Developing Agreements? Private and Public Sector Development Agreements and Urban Regeneration*

**Julie Steiner**, Western New England School of Law, *Municipal Marijuana Regulation*

11:30–11:45 a.m.  **Break**

11:45 a.m.–12:45 p.m.  **Plenary Panel:**  
**Cities, Rights, and Financial Protection**  
**Moderator: Kenneth Stahl**, Chapman Law School

**Susan Block-Lieb**, Fordham Law School, *Cities and Consumer Financial Protection*

**Juliet Moringiello**, Widener Law School, *The Urban Law of Municipal Finance and Insolvency*

12:45–2:00 p.m.  
**Lunch & Keynote Discussion**

*Saskia Sassen*, Columbia University, Department of Sociology/London School of Economics, *Law and Expulsions*

2:00–3:00 p.m.  
**Plenary Panel: Urban Inequality**

**Moderator:** *Susan Block-Lieb*, Fordham Law School

*Caroline Hunter*, University of York Law School, *Mobilizing Citizenship and Care in the Legal Encounter over Westminster’s Soup Kitchens*

*Jimena Suarez Ibarrola*, UC Berkeley School of Law, *Living in the Shadow of the Law: Peripheral Exclusion and Poverty in Mexico City*

*Diego Gil McCawley*, Stanford Law School, *Class-Based Segregation and the Institutional Logic of Social Housing Provision in Chile*

3:00–3:15 p.m.  
**Break**

3:15–4:15 p.m.  
**Afternoon Breakout Sessions**

**SESSION 1. LAW AND THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT**

**Moderator:** *Josephine van Zeben*, Harvard Law School

*Susan Bright*, Oxford University, *“Hot” Challenges: Law and Social Practice Frames for Addressing the Environmental Problems of Tenanted Commercial Property*


*Patrick Thieffry*, Sorbonne School of Law, *The Relationships between Environmental Protection, Energy Policy, and State Aid Control*
SESSION 2. HOUSING AND LEGAL ENTITLEMENTS
Moderator: Diego Gil McCawley, Stanford Law School

Nick Hopkins & Emma Laurie, University of Reading School of Law, Housing, the State and the Urban Environment

Shitong Qiao, Yale Law School/University of Hong Kong: China Small Property, Adverse Possession and Legal Entitlements: An Optional Law Solution to a Chinese Conundrum”

Justin Steil, NYU Furman Center for Real Estate and Urban Policy, Spatial and Social Mobility: Recent Research and Housing Policy Implications

4:15–4:30 p.m. Break

4:30–5:30 p.m. Closing Plenary Panel and Group Discussion: Cities, the Law, and Urbanism
Moderator: Juliet Moringiello, Widener Law School

Darrell Miller, Duke Law School, The City as a Self-Defense Institution

Nestor Davidson, Fordham Law School, The Nature of “Urban” in Law

Julian Sidoli del Ceno, Birmingham School of the Built Environment, Informal Law in an Urban Environment

5:30–6:30 p.m. Closing Reception at Conference Site
Biographies

Merris Amos is a Senior Lecturer in Law at Queen Mary, University of London where she teaches UK Human Rights Law and European Human Rights Law. Prior to this position she was a Lecturer in Law at the University of Essex and Deputy Director of the Human Rights Centre. Her research primarily concerns the protection of human rights at the national level, in particular the United Kingdom’s Human Rights Act 1998. She is the author of a major book on this subject, Human Rights Law Second Edition (2014) and with Harrison and Woods edited Freedom of Expression and the Media (2012). She was the Editor of Human Rights Law Reports UK Cases from 2006–2013. She has written a number of chapters and articles concerning national human rights law including “The Impact of the Human Rights Act on the UK’s Performance Before the European Court of Human Rights” (2007); “Problems with the Human Rights Act and How to Remedy Them: Is a Bill of Rights the Answer?” (2009); “The Dialogue between United Kingdom Courts and the European Court of Human Rights” (2012); and “Transplanting Human Rights Norms: The Case of the United Kingdom’s Human Rights Act” (2013). She is working on a new book concerning the effective implementation of human rights law at the national level.

Susan Block-Lieb is the Cooper Family Chair of Urban Legal Studies at Fordham University School of Law. Professor Block-Lieb teaches bankruptcy, secured transactions, consumer protection, and other commercial law courses, including advanced courses on Corporate Reorganization in Bankruptcy and International Insolvency Law. She is General Counsel and a member of the Board of Directors for the Coalition for Debtor Education, a member of the Board of Directors for Fordham University’s Center on International Policy Studies, and an inducted member of the International Academy of Commercial and Consumer Law, the American College of Bankruptcy and the International Insolvency Institute. She chairs the ABA’s subcommittee on International Insolvency Law and is a delegate from the American Bar Association to UNCITRAL’s Insolvency Working Group. Professor Block-Lieb is the recipient of a 2002 New York State Bar Association President’s Pro Bono Service Attorney Award.

Sue Bright is Professor of Land Law at the University of Oxford. In recent years she has conducted interdisciplinary research on the challenges involved with improving the environmental performance of commercial property, with her particular focus being upon landlord-tenant relationships and the development of green leases. The other focus of her current research is on housing possession and the considerations that come into play during the legal process when a home is lost.

Helen Carr is a Reader at Kent Law School, University of Kent. She has published widely in housing and social welfare law. She also sits as a part-time judge with the First Tier Tribunal (property chamber). With Professor Dave Cowan at Bristol she is undertaking research into shared ownership funded by Leverhulme, and with Professor Caroline Hunter she is writing a book on the governance of homelessness.

Nestor M. Davidson is the newly appointed Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at Fordham University School of Law and the director of the Fordham Urban Law Center. Professor Davidson’s teaching and scholarship focus on property, land use, local government law, transactional lawyering in the public-private context, and affordable housing law and policy. Professor Davidson practiced with the firm of Latham & Watkins, focusing on commercial real estate and affordable housing, and served as Special Counsel and Principal Deputy General Counsel at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Prior to joining Fordham, he was an Associate Professor of Law at Colorado Law School from 2004 to 2011. Professor Davidson earned his A.B. from Harvard College and his J.D. from Columbia Law School. After law school, he clerked for Judge David S. Tatel of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit and Justice David H. Souter of the Supreme Court of the United States.
Annie Decker served as the inaugural Urban Law Fellow with the Fordham Urban Law Center and as a visiting and adjunct professor of law at Fordham University School of Law, teaching Property, Civil Procedure, and Law of the City of New York. Decker previously taught at Cardozo Law School from 2010–2012. From 2008–10, Professor Decker served as an impact litigation fellow, and then an attorney, in the Santa Clara County Counsel’s Office in San Jose, California. While there, she co-taught courses in local government at Stanford Law School and Santa Clara University Law School and supervised work conducted by students in Harvard Law School’s local government clinic. From 2007–08, she clerked for Judge William Fletcher of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Professor Decker graduated summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa from Harvard College and received her J.D. from Yale Law School. Her research interests include local government, federalism, and legislation and she writes the bi-monthly Property Legislation updates for the American Bar Association’s Probate & Property magazine.

Priya S. Gupta is Associate Professor at Southwestern Law School, where she teaches Property, International Law, Race & the Law, and Law & Development. Prior to Southwestern, she was Assistant Professor and (founding) Co-Director of the Centre for Women, Law & Social Change at the Jindal Law School in Delhi NCR, India. Her research is in property and economic development from critical and postcolonial perspectives. In particular, her recent scholarship explores how gender and racial privilege is written into the laws and spatial structures of suburban United States and the conceptions of legitimate property, modernity, and citizenship that construct urban areas in India.

Stephen W. Homewood is a Principal Lecturer in Law (Associate) and Research Fellow at the Flood Hazard Research Centre at Middlesex University. After five years as a senior civil servant in London, Homewood took a joint degree in Law and Sociology and then qualified as a Barrister. During pupillage and practice in Cloisters Chambers, The Temple in London, he started to teach part-time at Middlesex University. He became a full-time academic at Middlesex University and remained for over twenty years, in that time becoming LLB programme leader, Head of Department, and principal lecturer (Associate Professor) among other positions. Homewood also qualified as an arbitrator and a fellow of the Higher Education Academy of the UK. Homewood’s main teaching and research interests have been in constitutional and administrative law, including human rights and environmental law, with current work focussing on aspects of the Aarhus Convention and the legal aspects of flood management in the UK. Homewood is the legal advisor to the Flood Hazard Research Centre at Middlesex and a participant in the large six million euros EC-funded Starflood project involving five other European Universities. He has been a visiting academic at a number of universities in the U.S., Hong Kong, Spain, and Belgium. He is a longstanding member of the UK Society of Legal Scholars and member of the Executive Council. He had a similar role at the UK Environmental Law Association.

Nick Hopkins is Professor of Law at Reading University. His research explores the law as it applies to land, adopting a holistic approach which views the interaction of land with a broad range of private and public law principles including land law, housing law and policy, and human rights. His methodology combines traditional doctrinal analysis with theoretical and socio-legal approaches. Nick has a particular research interest in the regulation of the home, including the use of regulation to achieve social policy objectives (and its impact on property rights) and the legal and policy implications of low-cost home ownership schemes, including shared ownership and shared equity. He is the case notes editor of The Conveyancer and Property Lawyer, a member of the Editorial Board of Modern Studies in Property Law, and co-author of OUP’s Land Law: Text, Cases and Materials.

Mathew Idiculla is a graduate fellow at the School of Policy and Governance at Azim Premji University, Bangalore. He is also a researcher at the Major Collaborative Research Initiative “Global Suburbanisms: Governance, Land, and Infrastructure in the 21st Century,” funded by Social Science and Humanities Research Council, Canada, housed at the CITY
Institute, York University, Toronto. He graduated with a B.A., LL.B. from Christ College, Bangalore University and has worked with the Centre for Public Policy at Indian Institute of Management Bangalore and the Centre for Budget and Policy Studies as an intern. He is broadly interested in the areas where public law, politics, and public policy converge and is keen on studying the fields of constitutionalism and democracy, federalism and decentralization in India and urban governance systems in developing societies. He has widely researched on the changing urban governance regimes of post-liberalized India, particularly the local governance systems in Bangalore.

Emma Laurie is Senior Lecturer in Law at the University of Southampton. Her research interests are principally in residential tenancies, social security, and, more broadly, administrative justice. She is particularly interested in researching the interaction between law and policy, both the initial creation of the law and subsequently when the courts adjudicate areas of law (such as social housing) that have a highly political context. She is the Digest editor for The Journal of Social Security Law.

Antonia Layard’s research is in law and geography where she explores how law, legality, and maps construct space, place, and “the local.” She has particular interests in the “urban law,” and the legal provisions and practices involved in large-scale regeneration and infrastructure projects. She teaches courses on property, planning, and environmental law and is PGR Director at Bristol Law School. Her book Law, Place & Maps will be published by Glasshouse Press, Routledge in 2015. She is on the Editorial Board of the Journal of Law and Society and an academic member of the AHRC and the ESRC Peer Review Colleges. She is an ESRC Fellow researching Localism, Law and Governance until September 2014.

Diego Gil McCawley is a J.S.D. (Doctor of the Science of Law) candidate at Stanford Law School, where he is the Co-President of the Stanford Program in Law and Society. Diego’s academic interests include topics related to administrative law and governance, housing and urban policy, property, and law and society. In his doctoral dissertation, he is exploring the role of housing laws and policies in promoting social integration, using Chile’s social housing provision regime as a case study. Before coming to Stanford, he worked as a legal advisor for the “General Government Internal Audit Council” of the Government of Chile and as an Adjunct Lecturer at Universidad Alberto Hurtado School of Law. Diego also worked as a researcher for the “Social Observatory,” a research center at Universidad Alberto Hurtado, and as an Area Director of “Techo,” a nonprofit organization working with slum dwellers in Latin America. Diego holds a J.S.M. (Master of the Science of Law) from Stanford Law School, which he completed as a Fulbright Scholar, and an LL.B. summa cum laude from Universidad de Chile School of Law.

Joseph Mead is an Assistant Professor at the Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs at Cleveland State University. His research interests include U.S. nonprofit law and administrative law, with a particular focus on the interactions between governmental entities, nonprofit organizations, and the courts. His scholarship has appeared or is forthcoming in the Journal of Empirical Legal Studies, the Georgia Law Review, the Administrative Law Review, the Michigan Law Review, and elsewhere. Prior to joining the faculty at Cleveland State, Mr. Mead was a Trial Attorney for the United States Department of Justice, Civil Division, Federal Programs Branch, where he represented the United States in litigation challenging the constitutionality of federal statutes, agency regulations, and other governmental policies. Before that, he was a law clerk for Judge Cornelia Kennedy, United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, and Judge David Lawson, United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan. He received his law degree from the University of Michigan Law School.

Darrell Miller focuses his scholarship and teaching on issues of civil rights, constitutional law, civil procedure, state and local government law, and legal history. He joined the Duke Law faculty as a professor of law in 2013 after visiting in the spring 2012 semester. He previously was a professor of law
at the University of Cincinnati College of Law. Among Miller’s works are “Text, History, and Tradition: What the Seventh Amendment Can Teach Us About the Second” (2013) and “The Thirteenth Amendment and the Regulation of Custom” (2012). Miller is a cum laude graduate of Harvard Law School where he served as notes editor for the Harvard Law Review. In addition to his J.D., Miller holds degrees from Oxford University, where he studied as a British Marshall Scholar, and from Anderson University, in Anderson, Indiana.

**Juliet M. Moringiello** is a Professor at Widener University School of Law in Harrisburg, PA, where she teaches Bankruptcy, Secured Transactions, Property and Sales and has taught seminars on Cities in Crisis, the Mortgage Crisis, and Electronic Commerce. She has held several leadership positions in the Business Law Section of the American Bar Association Section of Business Law, is the co-chair of the Uniform Commercial Code Committee of the Pennsylvania Bar Association Business Law Section and Treasurer of that Section, and is a member of the American Law Institute. In the Spring Semester of 2010, she was the Robert M. Zinman Resident Scholar at the American Bankruptcy Institute. Professor Moringiello has been a frequent commentator in the local and media on municipal bankruptcy issues and has testified before the Pennsylvania legislature about the impact on cities of Chapter 9 of the Bankruptcy Code. Her recent articles include “Goals and Governance in Municipal Bankruptcy” (forthcoming), “Specific Authorization to File Under Chapter 9: Lessons from Harrisburg” (2012), “(Mis)use of State Law in Bankruptcy: The Hanging Paragraph Story” (2012), and “Mortgage Modification, Equitable Subordination, and the Honest But Unfortunate Creditor” (2011). Professor Moringiello received her B.S.F.S. from Georgetown University, her J.D. from Fordham University, and her LL.M. from Temple University.

Shitong Qiao is completing his J.S.D. at Yale Law School and will start teaching at the University of Hong Kong Faculty of Law in the fall of 2014. He is also a research fellow at New York University School of Law, where he is co-teaching a seminar called “Property Rights in Development” with Professor Frank Upham. Mr. Qiao received his LL.B. degree from Wuhan University in 2007 and his LL.M. degrees from Peking University in 2009 and from Yale University in 2010. His research focuses on property and social norms, with broad academic interests in law and development, law and economics, and law and globalization. He was the winner of the top academic prize at Peking University School of Law and the Oscar M. Ruebhausen Fund fellowship of Yale Law School. Mr. Qiao has published widely in both Chinese and English. His recent publications include an article accepted by the American Journal of Comparative Law and two book chapters accepted by Columbia and Cambridge University Presses.

**Saskia Sassen** is the Robert S. Lynd Professor of Sociology and co-chair of the Committee on Global Thought at Columbia University. Sassen’s research and writing focus on globalization (including social, economic and political dimensions), immigration, global cities (including cities and terrorism), the new technologies, and changes within the liberal state that result from current transnational conditions. Additionally, Sassen serves on several editorial boards and is an advisor to several international bodies. She is a Member of the Council on Foreign Relations, and a member of the National Academy of Sciences Panel on Cities. She has received a variety of awards and prizes. She has written for the Guardian, New York Times, Le Monde Diplomatique, International Herald Tribune, Newsweek International, Vanguardia, Clarin, and Financial Times, among others. Her recent books are Territory, Authority, Rights: From Medieval to Global Assemblages (2008), A Sociology of Globalization (2007), and the fourth fully updated edition of Cities in a World Economy (2011). The Global City came out in a new fully updated edition in 2001. Her books are translated into twenty-one languages. She is working on When Territory Exits Existing Frameworks (under contract with Harvard University Press). She contributes regularly to www.OpenDemocracy.net and www.HuffingtonPost.com.

**Nadav Shoked** is Assistant Professor of Law at Northwestern University School of Law. His teaching and research work focuses on the law and theory of property, on local government, on land use, and on America legal history. His most recent publications include “The Duty To Maintain” (forthcoming), “The New Local” (forthcoming), and “Quasi-Cities” (2013). Prior to joining the Northwestern faculty in 2012, he was a
Julian Sidoli del Ceno is Reader in Property Law and Dispute Resolution at Birmingham City University. He has studied at University College London, Cardiff University, and the University of Birmingham. Julian is a Barrister of the Inner Temple and is a Door Tenant at Pendragon Chambers, Swansea. He is the co-chair of the Property, Housing Law and Rights working group at the European Network on Housing Research. Current projects include a monograph entitled “A Jurisprudence of Mediation” and papers on dispute resolution in an environmental context, legal geography, and informal law and literature.

Kenneth Stahl is an Associate Professor of Law and Director of the Environmental, Land Use and Real Estate Law program at Chapman University Fowler School of Law in Orange, California. He writes and teaches in the areas of land use, local government law, and real property. His works have been published in journals including The University of Pennsylvania Law Review, BYU Law Review, Cardozo Law Review, and Harvard Civil Rights–Civil Liberties Law Review. For his teaching, Professor Stahl has been named Professor of the Year at Fowler School of Law. Before joining Fowler, Professor Stahl spent four years as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Eastern District of New York. Prior to that, he worked as a Trial Attorney for the United States Department of Justice, Office of Constitutional Torts, and as an Associate at the Washington, D.C. law firm of Arnold & Porter. Professor Stahl earned a B.A. with Highest Honors and Highest Distinction from the University of Michigan, and a J.D. from Yale Law School. At Yale, he served as a Notes Editor of the Yale Law Journal and an editor of the Yale Journal of Law and The Humanities.

Julie E. Steiner is an Associate Professor of Law at Western New England University School of Law. Professor Steiner’s scholarship focuses on environmental and land use enforcement, policy, and reform. Her previous work has examined the desirability of “substitute” environmental enforcement arrangements between contingency-fee paid private attorneys and governments to enforce public environmental actions. More recently, she has focused on the desirability of using interim economic damage payments to compensate private-party victims of hazardous spills. Her current research undertakes a comparative study of urban municipal land use approaches to marijuana regulation, viewed through the lens of how well those regulatory approaches meet land use goals. In addition to her research, Professor Steiner teaches Environmental Law, Advanced Environmental Law, Land Use Planning, Sustainability Law, and Torts. Before joining Western New England University, Professor Steiner was a member of the full-time faculty at St. John’s University School of Law. Professor Steiner has been named Professor of the Year three times—once at St. John’s University and twice at Western New England University. She was previously the recipient of the St. John’s University Dean’s Teaching Award. Prior to entering academia, Professor Steiner practiced environmental, land use, and natural resource law for thirteen years at two large New York law firms (K&L Gates, LLP and

Justin Steil is a Legal Research Fellow at the Furman Center for Real Estate and Urban Policy at New York University. His current research focuses primarily on urban inequality, residential segregation, and local government responses to immigration. Recent publications include “The New Immigration Contestation: Social Movements and Local Immigration Policymaking in the United States, 2000-2011” (2014) (with Bogdan Vasi); “Innovative Responses to Foreclosures: Paths to Neighborhood Stability and Housing Opportunity” (2011); and Searching for the Just City: Debates in Urban Theory and Practice (2009, with Marcuse et al.). Prior to joining the Furman Center, he clerked for the Hon. M. Margaret McKeown, United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and the Hon. Kimba M. Wood, United States District Court for the Southern District of New York. Before law school, he worked as advocacy director for a nonprofit fighting predatory lending practices, urban planner for an environmental justice organization focusing on brownfield redevelopment, program manager for a project bringing youth and prisoners into critical dialogues about justice, and trainer with a domestic violence crisis center instructing police in Ciudad Juárez in the support of survivors of sexual assault. He received a B.A. from Harvard College in African-American Studies, an M.Sc. from the London School of Economics in City Design and Social Science, and a J.D from Columbia Law School. He is completing a Ph.D. in Urban Planning at Columbia.
Dewey Ballantine LLP). She graduated from Boston University School of Law, where she was an Edward F. Hennessey Distinguished Scholar and a Paul J. Liacos Scholar and she was a Visiting Student of International and Comparative Law at Oxford University, St. Catherine’s College. Upon graduation, she clerked for the Honorable Peter W. Kilborn of the Massachusetts Land Court.

A partner and co-founder of the Paris law firm Thieffry & Associés, Patrick Thieffry is a member of the Paris and New York Bars. A large part of his activities consists of advising the firm’s clients and litigating in Environmental Law and Construction Law. He also teaches at the Sorbonne School of Law and authors one of the major treatises in this ever-changing area, Droit de l’environnement de l’Union européenne (2011). His special knowledge of European institutions was acquired in assisting businesses and administrations for more than three decades in their relationships with the European Commission, especially in Antitrust Law and State Aids. He has a wide experience in negotiating international transactions, notably with the United States, and in the management of major construction disputes in litigation and in arbitration where he has been acting as Counsel, Sole Arbitrator, and Chairman of Arbitral Tribunals since the 1980s. He has experience in mergers and acquisitions, construction, producer liability, and government funding in the context of environmental challenges. Thieffry graduated in economics and in law from Paris 2 Panthéon-Assas University before obtaining a Master of Economics and a Master of Laws. He then practiced in the United States for five years. Upon returning, he successfully presented a Ph.D. thesis on the New Instruments of Environmental Law. Thieffry is an Associate Professor at the Sorbonne School of Law, where he teaches Environmental Law (European, international and litigation practice). He is a member of the Sorbonne’s doctoral school in international and European Law, of its Center for studies and research in environmental, zoning and tourism law (SERDEAUT), and of the Board of Trustees of the Academy of European Law in Trier. He works in French and English.

Dr. Josephine van Zeben completed her Ph.D. at the University of Amsterdam in 2012 (monograph forthcoming with Cambridge University Press). Her research focuses on the allocation of regulatory powers in multi-level governance systems, such as the European Union. For this theoretical debate, van Zeben used the European Union Emissions Trading Scheme, aimed at the mitigation of climate change, as a case study. Before starting her dissertation, she obtained a B.A. in Social Sciences from University College Utrecht (Hons.), an LL.B in Scots Law at the University of Edinburgh, and an LL.M in European Private Law at the University of Amsterdam. Since 2012, van Zeben has been a visiting lecturer at the ETH (the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology) in Zurich, where she teaches science and engineering students about the law and policy aspects of environmental regulation. In January 2013, she embarked on a new yearlong research project funded by the Niels Stensen Foundation, titled "A Polycentric Europe?" She began research at the Vincent and Elinor Ostrom Workshop in Political Theory and Policy Analysis (Bloomington, Indiana), after which she moved to Harvard Law School in order to participate in the LL.M. program. During her LL.M. studies at Harvard, van Zeben broadened her knowledge of American federalism—specifically the role of local government—and her interest into the common good of public and private health. At the same time, she continues her work on European multi-level governance and environmental issues, focusing on law and European cities. Despite the wealth of information on this issue from other disciplines, European legal scholarship has been, at best, reactionary when it comes to city governance. Her research proposal for a three-year project on the “city” level in European multi-level governance is under consideration with the Dutch Research Council.
About the Fordham Urban Law Center

The Fordham Urban Law Center is committed to understanding and shaping the legal system’s place in contemporary urbanism, advancing the scholarship, pedagogy, and practice of urban law, and affecting the most pressing issues facing America’s metropolitan areas. Law is central to almost every aspect of the life of 21st-century cities, influencing critical issues as diverse as the structure of local governance, the regulation of the built environment, and social justice in the urban context. In turn, the complexity, density, and diversity of urban life shape the law.

A majority of the world’s population is living in urban environments for the first time in history. Through its innovative programs and in collaboration with its academic partners, the Urban Law Center aims to be a premier resource for exploring the role of law in the myriad challenges and opportunities that face the global urban commons.