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# Current Issues in Securities Enforcement

**Professor Renee Jones**

*Boston College Law School*

**Thursday, 18 June 2015, 6:30 - 7:30 pm**

**Room 824, 8/F Cheng Yu Tung Tower, The University of Hong Kong**

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has broad and far reaching powers to enforce the federal securities laws in the United States. The SEC thus plays a leading role in protecting investors from corporate mismanagement and fraud. A series of scandals ranging from Bernard Madoff's Ponzi scheme to the 2008 financial crisis have raised questions as to SEC's competence in this fundamental task. This seminar focuses on the challenges the SEC faces in enforcing the securities laws. It highlights current controversies facing the agency, including its traditional policy of settling cases without admissions of liability and its failure to hold individual corporate executives responsible for massive frauds. It will also explore external factors that limit the agency's effectiveness, including budgetary constraints imposed by Congress, and aggressive judicial oversight of agency rulemaking.

**Professor Renee Jones** teaches and writes in the areas of corporate and securities law. Her courses at BC Law include Corporations, Securities Regulation, Corporate Governance and a Financial Regulation Seminar. She received her AB from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs and her J.D. (cum laude) from Harvard Law School. In 2005-2006, she was the Eugene P. Beard Faculty Fellow in Ethics at Harvard University's Edmund J. Safra Foundation Center for Ethics. Professor Jones is a member of the American Law Institute and a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation. She has also served as the Co-Chair of the Securities Law Committee of the Boston Bar Association. She received the Faculty Award for Inspirational Achievement from the Boston College Law Business & Law Society in 2010. Professor Jones's scholarship focuses on corporate governance and the federal-state relationship in corporate regulation. She also writes about the impact of enforcement practices on corporate ethics and integrity. Her most recent article, *Toward a Public Enforcement Model for Directors' Oversight Duties* (with Michelle Welsh) (*Vanderbilt Journal of Transnational Law*) draws lessons from the Australian model of corporate law enforcement. It recommends implementation of a system of public enforcement for fiduciary duties of corporate directors in the United States. Professor Jones has also written several articles on corporate federalism. Her article "Rethinking Corporate Federalism in the Era of Corporate Reform" (*Iowa Journal of Corporate Law*) was reprinted in *Corporate Practice Commentator* as one of the top corporate law articles of the year. Professor Jones is a frequent commentator on corporate law, securities law and the recent financial crisis. She has appeared at conferences at law schools across the country to address corporate and securities law issues. Professor Jones has been selected to present her work at the Annual Meeting of the American Association of Law Schools in 2004, 2007 and 2010. Among her many professional and community activities, Professor Jones has served as Co-Chair of the Securities Law Committee of the Boston Bar Association. She has also served as a member of the American Bar Association House of Delegates, the editorial board of *Human Rights Magazine*, and the New England Committee of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. Before joining BC Law in 2002, Professor Jones practiced for eight years at the Boston law firm Hill & Barlow where she represented private and public companies on corporate and securities matters.

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