

## SEC Taps Jones for Directorship

Professor to serve in corporate finance division.

**Boston College Law School** Professor Renee Jones, a respected scholar on matters of corporate governance, ethics, and regulation, began work last month as the director of the Securities and Exchange Commission's Division of Corporation Finance.

She remains on the BC Law faculty, on a leave of absence during her service at the commission.

BC Law Interim Dean Diane Ring described the Princeton and Harvard Law-educated Jones as "an incredibly insightful and critical thinker" and said, "I have no doubt that she will excel in her new role."

According to the SEC website, the division works "in support of the commission's mission to protect investors, maintain fair, orderly, and efficient markets, and facilitate capital formation" by providing investors "with material information in order to make informed investment decisions, both when a company initially offers its securities to the public and on an ongoing basis as it continues to give information to the marketplace." The division also provides interpretive assistance to companies with respect to SEC rules and forms and makes recommendations to the commission regarding new rules and revisions to existing rules.

Jones is a member of the American Law Institute and former co-chair of the Securities Law Committee of the American Bar Association. At BC Law, where she most recently served as Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, Jones has taught courses



Renee Jones

in corporations, securities regulation, startup company governance, and financial regulation.

Her recent article, "The Unicorn Governance Trap," published in the *University of Pennsylvania Law Review Online*, highlights the risks posed by the increasing number of unicorns (private companies valued at \$1 billion or more) to investors, employees, consumers, and society. A related story, "It's Time Unicorns Grew Up," appeared in *BC Law Magazine*.

"Robust public disclosure has been a hallmark of effective securities regulation since the 1930s," SEC Chair Gary Gensler said in a statement. "Renee brings deep expertise in corporate governance and securities law to the Division of Corporation Finance. Her leadership will be invaluable as the division facilitates disclosure under our current rules and undertakes rule modernization."

"I am honored and humbled to be joining the Securities and Exchange Commission," said Jones. "I am looking forward to the challenging and exciting work ahead."

## FACULTY MILESTONES

### World Views

Frank Garcia offered testimony to the European Union Commission on international investment law reform. Joan Blum presented at Tashkent State University of Law in Uzbekistan on joining theory and practice in the US legal education.

### Goodbyes

Kari Hong, who founded BC Law's Ninth Circuit Appellate Program in which her students prevailed in 10 of the 14 decided cases, has moved to Montana. Business professor Tinu Adediran has departed for Fordham Law. Frederick M. Hart, an expert in the Uniform Commercial Code who taught at BC 1961-1968, passed away in June.

### New Leadership

Following Vincent Rougeau's assumption of the presidency at Holy Cross, Associate Dean Heather Hayes joined him there as Vice President. Jennifer Perrigo, assistant dean for career services, replaced Hayes as Interim Associate Dean of Strategic and Student Affairs. Douglas Sapphire assumed Perrigo's previous role on an interim basis. Katharine Young succeeded Diane Ring (see page 7) as Associate Dean for Faculty and Daniel Lyons succeeded Renee Jones (see story at left) as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. Mary Holper '03 succeeded Judith Morrow as Associate Dean for Experiential Learning.

### Kudos

Sharon Beckman, associate clinical professor and director of the Boston College Innocence Program, was named a 2020 Lawyer of the Year by *Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly*. She was honored for her work to free Frances Choy, a young Massachusetts woman who served seventeen years for a double murder she did not commit. Thomas Carey '65 was honored May 25 with the Massachusetts Bar Association's President's Award.

### Scholars in Action

Steven Koh, who was recently elected co-chair of the Junior International Law Scholars Association, presented "The Criminalization of Foreign Relations," at a Georgetown Law Center Colloquium. Daniel Lyons gave testimony before Connecticut and Rhode Island legislators on the effect of proposed state reforms at the Federal Trade Commission.

### NOTABLE FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

**Katharine Young**, in "The Idea of a Human Rights-Based Economic Recovery after Covid-19," which was published in the *International Journal of Public Law and Policy* in 2020, provides a visionary take on a post-pandemic world. The associate dean of faculty argues that people's rights to economic and social rights are as essential as civil and political protections.

**Paolo Barrozo** writes, in the *Yale Journal of Law and Humanities*, that "in the ongoing institutionalization of normativity and adaptability, social stability as constant normative change is as much a sociological as it is an ethical achievement of legal systems." The article, "Law in Time: Legal Theory and Legal History," was published in 2021.

**R. Michael Cassidy** co-authored two books, *Professional Responsibility in Focus*, (Second Edition) and the *Massachusetts Guide to Evidence*, 2021 Edition. Also, his article, "Character, Credibility and Rape Shield Rules" in the *Georgetown Journal of Law and Public Policy* proposes a "next wave" of reform for rape shield rules to balance the interests of the parties involved.

**Brian JM Quinn**, writing in the *University of Richmond Law Review*, contests conventional wisdom that MACS in merger agreements provide an opportunity for buyers to renegotiate the agreements in the event of intervening adverse events. His post-pandemic analysis of modern MACS in merger agreements is titled "MACS, Mergers, and Covid-19."