APA Committee on Philosophy and Law, Annual Report 2007-2008

Submitted by Julie C. Van Camp, Chair

During the 2007-2008 academic year, the committee published two issues of the APA Newsletter on Philosophy and Law, edited by Steven Scalet and Christopher Griffin. We also commenced the selection process for the Berger Prize for 2009, sponsored two invited sessions at the Eastern 2007 meeting and one at the Pacific 2008 meeting, and planned several divisional panels for the coming year.

1. Panels at Divisional Meetings

**Eastern Meeting, 2007.** The Committee sponsored a joint session with the Committee on the Status of Women on “Women and Terrorism,” organized by Julie Van Camp. Presenters were Bat-Ami Barn On (SUNY Binghamton), Marilyn Friedman (Washington University and the Australian National University), and Kelly Oliver (Vanderbilt University). The session was chaired by Virginia Held (CUNY-Graduate School).

   The Committee also sponsored a session “Are Psychopaths Responsible?” organized by Walter Sinnott-Armstrong (Dartmouth College), with presentations by James Blair (NIH), Walter Glannon (University of Calgary), Heidi Maibom (Carleton University), and Steven Morse (University of Pennsylvania Law School). The session was chaired by Gary Watson (UC Riverside).

**Pacific Meeting, 2008.** A panel on “The Work of Jeffrie G. Murphy” was organized by
Julie Van Camp. Presenters included Jerome Neu (UC Santa Cruz), Carol Steiker (Harvard Law School), and Benjamin Zipursky (Fordham School of Law). The session was chaired by Judith Wagner DeCew (Clark University). The papers will be published in the *APA Newsletter on Philosophy and Law* in the fall issue 2008, with Professor DeCew serving as guest editor. After first publication in the *Newsletter*, the papers will then appear in the journal *Criminal Justice Ethics*, published by the Institute for Criminal Justice Ethics, John Jay College of Criminal Justice and the Centre for Applied Philosophy and Public Ethics, Charles Sturt University.

### 2. Panels Planned for Upcoming Divisional Meetings

**Eastern Meeting, 2008.** The Committee is sponsoring two invited sessions, organized by CPL member Thom Brooks. "Capabilities and the US Constitution" will include presentations by Frank Michelman (Harvard) and Judge Diane P. Wood (Seventh Circuit of Appeals), with commentary by Martha C. Nussbaum (Chicago). This session will be chaired by Candice Chiu (Harvard).

The second session is an Author Meets Critics session on Brian Leiter's *Naturalizing Jurisprudence*. Speakers will be Kenneth Einar Himma (Seattle Pacific) and Stephen Perry (Pennslyvania), with a response from Brian Leiter (Chicago). Thom Brooks (University of Newcastle, UK) will chair the session.

**Pacific Meeting, 2009.** The Berger Prize for 2009 will be awarded at a special session organized by the Committee. The prize is awarded to an outstanding published article in philosophy of law by a member of the Association. Articles published in 2006 or 2007 were eligible for consideration for the 2009 prize. Nominations were due June 15, 2008,
and blind review of the nominations is now underway by the Committee. An announcement of the winning article is planned for September 2008.

In addition, the Committee is sponsoring an invited session on the work of the late John Arthur, organized by Steve Scalet. Professor Arthur had served as co-editor of the Newsletter with Professor Scalet, until his untimely death in January 2007.

Committee member David Lefkowitz is organizing an invited session on “Democracy and Political Obligation” for a future meeting of one of the Divisions in 2009 or 2010.

3. Newsletter on Philosophy and Law

Steven Scalet and Christopher Griffin, as co-editors of the APA Newsletter on Philosophy and Law, edited two issues.

The Fall 2007 issue featured a symposium on the writings of legal and political philosopher A. John Simmons, with essays by George Klosko, David Lefkowitz, Chris Naticchia, and Simmons.

The Spring 2008 issue featured a symposium on the work of Peter A. French, with essays by Ishtiyaque H. Haji, Michael McKenna, Deborah Tollefsen, and French.

As noted above, the Fall 2008 issue, now in-press, will publish the papers from the invited session organized by the Committee for the Pacific 2008 meeting on “The Work of Jeffrie G. Murphy.” Guest editor for this issue is CPL member Judith Wagner DeCew, who also chaired the session and wrote the introduction for the issue. After publication in the Newsletter, the journal Criminal Justice Ethics will reprint the collection in its late fall issue. The Committee has been particularly interested in disseminating the
results of invited sessions to broader audiences and is pleased that this publication schedule which will reach not only philosophers, but also legal scholars who do not routinely see the *Newsletter*.

4. Committee Membership

The committee members for 2007-2008 were Michael Baur, Francis J. Beckwith, Thom Brooks, Judith Wagner DeCew, Martin Gunderson, Kenneth Himma, and Julie Van Camp (chair), with Steven Scalet, and Christopher Griffin *ex officio* as co-editors of the *Newsletter*. This summer Michael Baur and Francis J. Beckwith completed their terms of office. They have been succeeded by David Lefkowitz and Melinda Roberts. Our thanks to Michael and Frank for their service, and welcome to David and Melinda.

Two more members of the committee, and the chair, will complete their terms in 2009. The committee nominated several candidates for new membership for consideration by the APA Committee on Committees.