

Committee on Philosophy and Law, Annual Report 2008-2009

Submitted by Julie C. Van Camp, Chair

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

1. Panels at Divisional Meetings

Eastern Meeting, 2008. The Committee sponsored a session organized by CPL member Thom Brooks (University of Newcastle, UK), "Capabilities and the US Constitution," which included presentations by Frank Michelman (Harvard) and Judge Diane P. Wood (Seventh Circuit of Appeals), and commentary by Martha C. Nussbaum (Chicago). This session was chaired by Candice Chiu (Harvard).

The Committee also sponsored an Author Meets Critics session on Brian Leiter's *Naturalizing Jurisprudence*. Speakers were Kenneth Einar Himma (Seattle Pacific) and Stephen Perry (Pennsylvania), with a response from Brian Leiter (Chicago). Thom Brooks organized and chaired the session

Pacific Meeting, 2009. The Berger Prize for 2009 was awarded at a special session organized by the Committee for "The Structural Diversity of Historical Injustices," by David Reidy (University of Tennessee) and Jeppe von Platz (University of Pennsylvania). The prize is awarded to an outstanding published article in philosophy of law by a member of the Association in 2006 or 2007. Commentary at the session was presented by Rahul Kumar (Queen's University) and Joan McGregor (Arizona State

University), at a session chaired by CPL member Judith Wagner DeCew (Clark University).

A second session at the Pacific meeting was organized by Steve Scalet, Co-editor of the *Newsletter on Philosophy and Law*, in honor of the late John Arthur, who co-edited the *Newsletter* until his untimely death in 2007. Speakers at the session, “Race, Equality, and the Burdens of History,” were Lawrence Blum (University of Massachusetts-Boston), Charles W. Mills (Northwestern University), and Janna Thompson (La Trobe University). The session was chaired by James Montmarquet (Tennessee State University).

The Committee also hosted a reception in honor of both sessions.

2. Panels Planned for Upcoming Divisional Meetings

Eastern Meeting, 2009. The Committee is sponsoring two invited sessions. Committee member David Lefkowitz (University of Richmond) organized and will chair an invited session on “Democratic Authority” with presentations by Samantha Besson (University of Freiburg and Duke University), Thomas Christiano (University of Arizona), and Henry S. Richardson (Georgetown University).

Committee member Melinda Roberts (The College of New Jersey) organized and will chair a session on “Procreation, Abortion, and Harm,” with presentations by Carter J. Dillard (Loyola University New Orleans), Elizabeth Harman (Princeton University), Frances Kamm (Harvard University), Jeff McMahan (Rutgers University), and David Wasserman (Center for Ethics, Yeshiva University).

.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 2008 issue featured the papers by participants in the session on “The Work of Jeffrie G. Murphy” at the Spring 2008 Pacific meeting. Guest editor for this issue was CPL member Judith Wagner DeCew, who also chaired the session and wrote the introduction for the issue. Published papers included “Rehabilitating Resentment and Choosing What We Feel” (Jerome Neu), “Coming Clean on Getting Even: Murphy on Hatred and Criminal Justice” (Benjamin Zipursky), “Murphy on Mercy: A Prudential Reconsideration” (Carol S. Steiker), and “Response to Neu, Zipursky, and Steiker” (Jeffrie G. Murphy). After publication in the *Newsletter*, the journal *Criminal Justice Ethics* reprinted 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 will reach not only philosophers, but also legal scholars who do not routinely see the *Newsletter*.

The Spring 2009 issue featured a symposium on the work of Stephen Munzer. Contributions included “Stephen Munzer’s Pluralist Moral Theory” (J.E. Penner), “A Return to Social Relations: Comments on Recent Work by Stephen Munzer” (John Christman), “An Uneasy Case against Stephen Munzer: Umbilical Cord Blood and Property in the Body” (Donna Dickenson), and “Moral, Political, and Legal Thinking: Property and Bioethics” (Stephen R. Munzer).

4. Berger Prize competition

The Committee selected the winner of the 2009 Berger Prize, “The Structural

Diversity of Historical Injustices,” by David Reidy (University of Tennessee) and Jeppe von Platz (University of Pennsylvania). As noted, a session was held at the 2009 Pacific meetings to present the award.

In response to inquiries, the Committee unanimously adopted clarifying language on eligibility for the Berger Prize, after consultation with the National Office and the Berger family: “Submitted articles may have been published in venues such as philosophy serials, law reviews, political science serials, serials in other related fields, or in regularly published anthologies such as *Nomos* or *AMINTAPHIL* volumes. Articles or chapters that have been published only in non-serial or non-periodical collections or anthologies are excluded.” The clarification will apply to all future Berger Prizes.

5. Committee Membership

The committee members for 2008-2009 were Thom Brooks, Judith Wagner DeCew, Martin Gunderson, Kenneth Himma, David Lefkowitz, Melinda Roberts, and Julie Van Camp (chair), with Steven Scalet, and Christopher Griffin *ex officio* as co-editors of the *Newsletter*. Judith Wagner DeCew, Martin Gunderson, Kenneth Himma, and Julie Van Camp complete their terms on the Committee on June 30, 2009. They have been succeeded by Michael Steven Green, Kevin Toh, and Alec Walen as new members. Thom Brooks will become chair of the committee for a three-year term commencing July 1, 2009. Our thanks to Judith, Martin, and Kenneth for their service, and welcome to Michael, Kevin, and Alec.