

An Information Economy Project Conference: Friday, October 2, 2009

Tragedies of the Gridlock Economy:

How Mis-Configuring Property Rights Stymies Social Efficiency

George Mason University School of Law, Arlington, VA



Registration **Robert A. Levy Atrium, Hazel Hall**

Public Event **The Debate Over the “Gridlock Economy”**

8:30 a.m. This high-level session will set the stage for the panels that follow.

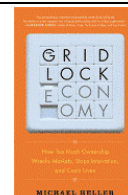
Hazel Hall 121

Live webcast link

<http://iep.gmu.edu>

Michael Heller, Columbia Law School, *The Gridlock Economy* (2008)

Richard Epstein, Chicago/NYU Law Schools



Panel 2 **What is Left of “Patent Reform” after Recent Supreme Court Decisions?**

10:45 a.m. The problem of “patent blocking” has been much noted, but how serious a problem has it been for practitioners of intellectual property? In a series of a half-dozen dozen decisions over the past three years, the Supreme Court has substantially pruned patent property rights, addressing the perceived patent thicket problem. Is this cause for concern or celebration?

Hazel Hall 215

Michael Meurer, Boston Univ. School of Law

F. Scott Kieff, George Washington Univ. Law School

Adam Mossoff, George Mason Univ. School of Law (Moderator)

Lunch **Transaction Cost Tragedies**

12:30 p.m. **Harold Demsetz**, UCLA Dept. of Economics

Levy Atrium

Panel 3 **How to Salvage the TV Band “White Spaces”? License-Exempt Rules v. Exclusive Ownership of Radio Spectrum as Alternative Property Regimes**

1:30 p.m. This panel weighs in the optimal rights regime in wireless, in general and with specific reference to the “mother lode” of productive bandwidth – the broadcast TV band.

Hazel Hall 215

Kevin Werbach, Wharton School, Dept. of Legal Studies

Thomas Hazlett, George Mason Univ. School of Law

Gerald Faulhaber, Wharton School and IEP (Moderator)

Panel 4 **Solutions for “Fair Use:” The Google Books Litigation as a Case Study**

3:15 p.m. This panel considers essential efficiency trade-offs in copyright, with rules that promote socially valuable access to information while incentivizing creative investments. The lawsuit brought by publishers against Google Books, now settled, illustrates how mechanisms now in place may, or may not, provide balanced IP outcomes.

Hazel Hall 215

Doug Lichtman, UCLA School of Law

Robert Merges, UC Berkeley School of Law

Chris Newman, George Mason Univ. School of Law (Moderator)

Social Hour **Robert A. Levy Atrium, Hazel Hall**

For Further Information, Contact:

Thomas W. Hazlett, George Mason Univ. School of Law and Dept. of Economics

Tel: (703) 993-4244 | E-mail: tw hazlett@gmail.com | RSVP: iep.gmu@gmail.com | Web: <http://iep.gmu.edu>