



Information Economy Project

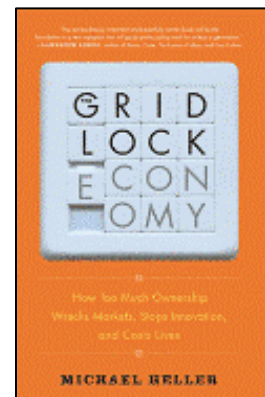
http://iep.gmu.edu
Thomas W. Hazlett, Director

A Conference • Friday, Oct. 2, 2009

Tragedies of the Gridlock Economy: How Mis-Configuring Property Rights Stymies Social Efficiency

Public Event (8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.)

This event will explore a paradox that broadly affects the Information Economy. Property rights are essential to avoid a tragedy of the commons; defined properly, such institutions yield productive incentives for creation, conservation, discovery and cooperation. Applied improperly, however, such rights can produce confusion, wasteful rent-seeking, and a tragedy of the anti-commons.



The Debate Over The “Gridlock Economy”

MICHAEL HELLER (Columbia U. Law)
RICHARD EPSTEIN (U. Chicago / NYU Law)

Conference (10:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.)

Building on Columbia University law professor Michael Heller’s book, *The Gridlock Economy*, scholars will tackle these themes through the lens of three distinct subjects:

“Patent Thicket”

MICHAEL MEURER (Boston U. Law)
F. SCOTT KIEFF (GWU Law)
ADAM MOSSOFF (GMU Law)

Featuring Lunch Keynote Speaker

HAROLD DEMSETZ (UCLA)
Transaction Cost Tragedies

Reallocation of the TV Band

KEVIN WERBACH (Wharton)
THOMAS HAZLETT (GMU Econ. & Law)
GERALD FAULHABER (Wharton)

Google Books Litigation

DOUG LICHTMAN (UCLA Law)
ROBERT MERGES (UC Berkeley Law)
CHRIS NEWMAN (GMU Law)



Admission to the morning session is free, but seating is limited. Admission to the full conference is by invitation only. To reserve your spot, please email iep.gmu@gmail.com. George Mason Univ. School of Law, 3301 Fairfax Drive, Arlington, Va. (Orange Line: Va. Square-GMU Metro).

Gridlock Conference Agenda



Registration **GMUSL Atrium**

Public Event **The Debate Over the “Gridlock Economy”**
Panel 1 This high-level session will set the stage for the panels that follow.
8:30 a.m.

Michael Heller, Columbia Law School
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 year, the Supreme Court has substantially pruned patent property rights, addressing the perceived patent thicket problem. Is this cause for concern or celebration?

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

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.

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.

Doug Lichtman, UCLA School of Law
Robert Merges, UC Berkeley School of Law
Chris Newman, George Mason Univ. School of Law (Moderator)

Social Hour **Reception**
4:45 p.m.

For Further Information, Contact:

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Please send RSVP and questions to: iep.gmu@gmail.com
Visit conference website: <http://iep.gmu.edu/GridlockEconomy.php>