

MICHELE BENEDETTO NEITZ

Email: mneitz@usfca.edu

LinkedIn: [michele-neitz](#)

UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO SCHOOL OF LAW
2130 FULTON ST., SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94117

TEACHING/LEGAL EXPERIENCE:

UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO SCHOOL OF LAW, San Francisco, California

Visiting Professor of Law, 01/23-present

Designing and teaching upper-division courses on Corporations and Blockchain Technology and the Law. Serving as faculty adviser to the IP & Technology Law Journal, 1L Blockchain Law Scholars, and 1L Advisory Group. Serving on multiple faculty committees, including Admissions. Offering on-campus and online trainings through the Blockchain Law for Social Good Center.

UNIVERSITY OF PARIS X NANTERRE, Paris, France

Summer Lecturer, 05/23-06/23

Designed and co-taught unique Comparative Corporate Law class to American and European law students.

GOLDEN GATE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, San Francisco, California

Professor of Law, 06/06-12/22.

Voted Most Outstanding Professor by graduating classes of 2009, 2013, 2014, 2016, 2020 and 2022. Elected Faculty Chair, 2019-2022. Served as Chair of numerous law school and university committees.

Courses taught include:

- Professional Responsibility
- Business Associations
- Blockchain Law
- Property
- Corporate Compliance
- Poverty Law

BLOCKCHAIN LAW FOR SOCIAL GOOD CENTER, USF SCHOOL OF LAW, San Francisco, California

Founder and Academic Director, 02/22-present

Launched the first-in-the-country academic [center](#) focused on blockchain law and social good. Secured \$1.3 million in grants in first five months (02/22-07/22). Hired and supervising three team members, including Director and Teaching Fellow. Delivering ongoing blockchain trainings to National Association of Attorneys General and nearly 700 California government policymakers and staff in multiple offices. Advised Senator Kirsten Gillibrand's office on the Responsible Financial Innovation Act (2022).

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, HASTINGS COLLEGE OF THE LAW, San Francisco, California

Affiliated Scholar, LexLab, 02/20-06/2022

Visiting Professor of Law, Fall 2020 and Spring 2021.

Designed and taught upper-division Professional Responsibility course. Served as advisor to upper-division independent study project on law and cryptocurrency.

CALIFORNIA BLOCKCHAIN WORKING GROUP, Sacramento, California

Member, 08/19-07/20. Appointed to 20-member legislative advisory group as one of three appointees with a background in law. Drafted reports for the legislature evaluating blockchain uses, risks, benefits, legal implications, and best practices. Led California's first-in-the-nation discussion of ethical considerations for blockchain regulations. <https://www.govops.ca.gov/blockchain/>.

MORRISON & FOERSTER, LLP, San Diego, California

Associate, 11/04-3/06. Developed legal strategies for all areas of litigation of corporate Labor & Employment cases. Performed extensive legal research and writing, including preparation of discovery documents, court declarations, legal briefs, and motions. Drafted corporate contracts and conducted witness interviews.

LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF SAN DIEGO, San Diego, California

Equal Justice Works Fellow, 9/02-10/04. Designed and implemented cutting-edge legal project focusing on the legal needs of emancipated youth and youth aging out of foster care in San Diego. Represented youth in court in a variety of civil legal matters. Advocated for larger policy issues on behalf of youth. Supervised attorney volunteers.

THE HON. NAPOLEON A. JONES, JR., U.S. DISTRICT COURT, S.D.C.A., San Diego, California

Judicial Clerk, 8/01- 8/02. Worked closely with the judge in the consideration of a variety of civil and criminal cases. Prepared draft opinions and orders on motions involving complex substantive and procedural issues. Conducted extensive research and prepared bench memoranda in preparation for trials.

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS:

Law Review Articles (available for download on [SSRN](#)):

Unraveling the Legal Maze: USF Law's Blockchain Law for Social Good Center Explores the Intersection of Law and Emerging Technologies, co-authored with Professor Charles Belle, USF LAW REVIEW [FORUM](#), May 20, 2024.

All Rise for the Honorable Judge: the Increasing Power of United States Courts in Crypto Asset Regulation, 3 REVUE INTERNATIONALE DES SERVICES FINANCIERS / INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL FOR FINANCIAL SERVICES 160 (October 2023), co-authored with USF Law student Katherine Stromin; *reprinted in* PLI COURSE HANDBOOK, "[Blockchain and Digital Assets 2023: Key Issues for the Digital Future](#)," December 2023.

How to Regulate Blockchain's Real-Life Applications: Lessons from the California Blockchain Working Group, 61 JURIMETRICS J. 185–217 (2021) (peer-reviewed); SSRN Top Ten Download List for Computational, Emerging Legal Issues, Legislative & Political Process, Statutory Creation (2/23/21); Other Regulation: Emerging Legal Issues, Legislative & Political Process, Statutory Creation (4/10/21).

The Influencers: Facebook's Libra, Public Blockchains, and the Ethical Considerations of Centralization, 21 N.C.J.L. & TECH 1 (2019); SSRN Top Ten Download List for Legal Ethics & Professional Responsibility (9/10/19); Innovation Areas (10/18/19); Cyberspace Law (10/30/19).

Pulling Back the Curtain: Implicit Bias in the Law School Dean Search Process, 49 SETON HALL LAW REVIEW 629 (2019); SSRN Top Ten Download List for Sexuality and the Law (9/19/18); Women, Gender and Law (9/19/18); Anti-Discrimination Law (9/20/18); Legal Education (10/19/18 and 10/27/18).

Hobby Lobby and Social Justice: How the Supreme Court Opened the Door for Socially Conscious Investors, 68 SMU LAW REVIEW 243 (2015); SSRN Top Ten download list for Corporate Law: LLCs, Close Corporations, Partnerships, & Other Private Enterprises (9/9/14); Corporations (9/12/14); Social Justice and Human Rights (9/17/14 and 9/20/14); Applied and Practicing Anthropology (9/23/14).

Socioeconomic Bias in the Judiciary, 61 CLEVELAND STATE LAW REVIEW 137 (2013); *republished*: ASHGATE LIBRARY OF ESSAYS ON LEGAL ETHICS AND THE ENFORCEMENT OF LAW, Ashgate Press (2016); SSRN's Top Ten download list for Judicial Decisionmaking (10/12/12, 10/16/12); Law and Courts & Law and Society (10/26/12); Law and Courts (11/13/12).

A Unique Bench, A Common Code: Judicial Ethics in Juvenile Court, 24 GEORGETOWN JOURNAL OF LEGAL ETHICS 97 (2011); *republished in revised form*: 62 JUVENILE AND FAMILY COURT JOURNAL 32 (2011); SSRN's Top Ten download list for Judges (Criminal Procedure) (08/20/2010).

Crisis on the Immigration Bench: An Ethical Perspective, 73 BROOKLYN LAW REVIEW 467 (2008); *republished*: 28 JOURNAL OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDICIARY 471 (Fall 2008); SSRN's Top Ten download list for LC: Judicial Decisionmaking (2/21/08, 2/28/08).

The Key to Successful Independence: State-Funded Post-Secondary Educational Assistance for Former Foster Youth, 23 ST. JOHN'S JOURNAL OF LEGAL COMMENTARY 383 (2008); SSRN's Top Ten download list for Education Law: College & Graduate Education (8/21/09, 8/29/09, 9/20/09).

An Ounce of Prevention: A Foster Youth's Substantive Due Process Right to Proper Preparation for Emancipation, 9 UC DAVIS JOURNAL OF JUVENILE LAW AND POLICY 381 (2005).

Book Chapters/ Edited Book:

"When Myths Become Beliefs: Implicit Socioeconomic Bias in American Courtrooms," book chapter in ENHANCING JUSTICE BY REDUCING BIAS, ABA Book Publishing (2017).

Editor, VULNERABLE POPULATIONS AND TRANSFORMATIVE LAW TEACHING, Carolina Academic Press (2011).

"The Plight of the Derivative Shareholder: Justice Carter's Dissent in *Hogan v. Ingold*," book chapter in THE GREAT DISSENTS OF THE LONE DISSENTER: THE DISSENTING OPINIONS OF JESSE CARTER (2010).

SELECTED OTHER PUBLICATIONS:

Additional publications available upon request

"[Power Shift: The Effects of Congressional Inaction on Emerging Technology Law](#)," COINDESK (October 17, 2023).

Original and ongoing contributor of blog posts for the [Blockchain Law for Social Good Center blog](#), 2/22-present.

Co-Author, California Blockchain Working Group, [BLOCKCHAIN IN CALIFORNIA: A ROADMAP](#) (July 1, 2020).

[“Ethical Considerations of Blockchain: Do We Need a Blockchain Code of Conduct?”](#) THE FINREG BLOG (January 21, 2020).

"Blockchains and the Ethical Considerations of Centralization," MACHINE LAWYERING (an international blog published by the Centre for Financial Regulation and Economic Development at the Chinese Univ. of Hong Kong) (January 12, 2020).

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS (Last Two Years):

Additional presentations available upon request

Moderator, “Copyright in the Age of AI,” USF Law Intellectual Property and Technology Law Journal Symposium, March 23, 2023.

Presenter, “Blockchain/Digital Asset Technology and the Law: What City Leaders Should Know,” BL4SG Center Webinar Training for the League of California Cities, October 17, 2023.

Keynote Speaker, “Technology for Trust, Transparency, and Productivity,” SHINE Summit at Harvard University, October 4, 2023.

Presenter, “Blockchain/Digital Asset Technology and the Law: What State AG Offices Should Know,” BL4SG Center Webinar Training for the National Association of Attorneys General, September 21, 2023.

Presenter, “Blockchain Technology and the Law,” BL4SG Center Webinar Training for the Federal Defenders of the Ninth Circuit, May 12, 2023.

Presenter, “Blockchain for Executives,” BL4SG Center Webinar Training for the Executive Staff of the California Department of Motor Vehicles, April 5, 2023.

Presenter, “Blockchain Technology and the Law: The Basics and Latest Updates,” BL4SG Center Webinar Training for the National Association of Attorneys General, March 9, 2023.

Introductory Speaker, “Presenting Athena Award for Executive Leadership,” Edge in Tech Symposium: Smarter Tech for a Resilient Future, UC Berkeley CITRIS Research Exchange, March 2, 2023.

Presenter, “Blockchain Law 101,” Lunch and Learn Presentation to the USF Law Community, February 8, 2023.

Panelist, “Blockchain, the Law, and the Future,” Blockchain and Beyond: The interaction between distributed ledger technology and the law, Chapman Law School Law Review Symposium, January 27, 2023.

Presenter, “Technology Overview – Fundamentals and Current Blockchain Uses,” [Blockchain and Digital Assets 2022: Key Issues for the Digital Future](#), Practising Law Institute (presentation to record number of PLI attendees nationwide), December 14, 2022.

Organizer, Moderator, and Panelist on numerous panels, Algorand Foundation Blockchain Law for Social Good Conference (over 100 registrants), Golden Gate University School of Law, October 20-21, 2022.

Presentation, “Blockchain & the Law: Past, Present and Future,” webinar hosted by the Algorand Foundation & the Blockchain Law for Social Good Center (over 300 registrants worldwide), August 30, 2022.

Presentation, “Snapshot of Crypto Regulatory Developments,” Financial Services Industry Privacy Compliance Series (hosted by Mayer Brown), August 25, 2022.

Panelist, “A Holistic View of Blockchain: Understanding the Non-Financial Applications and the Latest Developments in Cryptocurrency,” National Association of Attorneys General Presidential Summit, Des Moines, Iowa, August 9, 2022.

Panelist, “What Should Legal Professionals and Law Students Know About Blockchain and How Should it Be Taught?” Innovation in Law Studies Alliance International Webinar, June 8, 2022.

Presenter, “Blockchain for Government and Social Good,” BL4SG Center Training for Executive Staff of California State Controller’s Office, May 17, 2022.

Panelist, “Regulating or Not Regulating Blockchain,” Law, Innovation and Vulnerability Conference, University of Copenhagen, April 28, 2022.

Presenter, “Introduction to Blockchain and Blockchain Regulation,” BL4SG Center Training for California’s Office Of Financial Tech Innovation, March 9, 2022.

Panelist, “Why You Should Care About Decentralized Technology,” Social Impact Summit, Filecoin Foundation for the Decentralized Web, March 2, 2022.

Presenter, “Blockchain Regulation and Social Good,” Blockchain and Distributed Ledger Technologies Symposium, Golden Gate University, February 3, 2022.

Presenter, “Smart Contracts,” Data-Driven Economy Lab, Istanbul Bilgi University, January 11, 2022.

Presenter, “Introduction to Blockchain Technology,” [The Future of Blockchain and Digital Assets: The View of Silicon Valley](#), Practicing Law Institute (presentation to 550+ attorneys nationwide), October 27, 2021.

Panel Chair, “Blockchain Development in Local Communities,” Blockchain Governance Initiative Network, Block #3 Conference, July 1, 2021.

Panelist, “Past and Future Influence of Deborah Rhode,” Law & Society Annual Meeting, May 28, 2021.

Presenter, “Implicit Socioeconomic Bias,” Children’s Law Center MCLE Training (to 400 employees), Los Angeles, CA, April 28, 2021.

Introductory Speaker, “Presenting Athena Award for Executive Leadership,” Women in Tech Symposium: The New Era in Human-Computer Interaction, UC Berkeley CITRIS Research Exchange, March 12, 2021.

PODCASTS/ MEDIA COVERAGE (Last Year):

Grace Cathedral Forum Podcast, [Blockchain for Social Good](#), June 2, 2024.

Quoted in Bloomberg Law, [Crypto Case Tests SEC's Ability to Police Blockchain Technology](#), May 17, 2024.

Quoted in ALM/Law.com, '[Tough Decisions Ahead': After Grayscale Ruling, Lawyers Eye SEC's Next Move](#), August 31, 2023.

DW News (German Broadcast Television Interview), [Worldcoin woes as cryptocurrency faces tighter US scrutiny](#), August 28, 2023.

Blockchain Value Podcast, ["How Can Blockchain and Law be Used for Social Good?"](#), July 7, 2022.

Barron's Live, ["The Darker Side of Money - Crypto and The Law,"](#) July 1, 2022.

Legal Tech Lab Podcast, University of Copenhagen, ["Regulating or Not Regulating Blockchain?"](#), May 18, 2022.

Tech Intersect Podcast, [Educating Regulators, Lawmakers and Stakeholders about Blockchain & Social Good](#), April 5, 2022.

AWARDS:

GGU Law Gorfinkel/Calhoun Award for Outstanding Professor (voted by graduating class), 2009, 2013, 2014, 2016, 2020, 2022.

GGU Law Student Bar Association Law Professor of the Year (voted by student organizations), 2018.

GGU Law Justice Jesse W. Carter Faculty Scholarship Award, 2010.

GGU Law Multicultural Graduation Diversity Award, 2009.

PRO BONO/MEMBERSHIPS (Last Three Years):

March 2021- June 2022, AALS Section on Technology, Law & Legal Education Committee, Executive Member.

May 2021-July 2021, Program Committee Member, BGIN Block #3 (conference held July 1, 2021).

October 2020-March 2021, Program Committee member, BGIN 2nd Workshop on Coordination of Decentralized Finance (conference held March 5, 2021).

October 2020-Jan 2020, Member, Blockchain Governance Initiative Network ("BGIN").

EDUCATION:

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, New York, New York

J.D., May 2001

Honors: Root-Tilden-Kern Public Service Scholar

SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY, Santa Clara, California

B.A. Degree in English with an Emphasis in Creative Writing, *cum laude*, June 1997

Honors: Santa Clara University Valedictorian Finalist

Santa Clara University Honors Program