



GUEST LECTURE

Emerging Technology's Language Wars: Interrogating Whether Interdisciplinary Language Impacts the Creation, Harmonization, and Unification of Law Related to Emerging Technology

PROF. CARLA L. REYES

June 28th, 2022

12:00 - 13:30

Room 278

Synopsis

Lawyers are word smiths, and law uses terms of art to create legal ideas, legal doctrine and advocate for clients. But law is not the only discipline that adopts and uses terms of art. Scholars increasingly recognize the limits of law to account for, understand, and accommodate terms of art used in technology-related disciplines. Professor Carla Reyes interrogates the impact of dueling terms of art at the intersection of law and emerging technologies on the creation, harmonization, and unification of law. Through a series of four studies, Professor Reyes uses corpus linguistics to gain insight into which technology-terms have undisclosed contested definitions, resulting in communication difficulties during legal reform efforts. The studies consider overlapping terms of art at the intersection of: (1) AI and criminal justice, (2) cryptocurrency, (3) smart contracts, and (4) emerging technology in the private international harmonization context.

About Professor Carla R. Reyes

Professor Carla L. Reyes is an Assistant Professor of Law at SMU Dedman School of Law in Dallas, Texas. Her research focuses on the intersection of business law (commercial and corporate) and emerging technologies, and as a former blockchain lawyer at Perkins Coie in Seattle, Washington, her particular area of expertise is blockchain technology. Professor Reyes currently serves in various legal reform efforts in the United States and internationally. She is the Research Director for the Uniform Law Commission's Technology Committee, the Associate Research Director for the Permanent Editorial Board of the Uniform Commercial Code (a co-appointment with Professor Andrea Tostato, U. Penn), a participant in the Drafting Committee of the joint American Law Institute/Uniform Law Commission's reform effort relating to the Uniform Commercial Code and emerging technologies, and was appointed by the Governor of Texas to be the Chair of the Texas Work Group on Blockchain Matters (charged with recommending legal reform to the state of Texas related to blockchain technology). Professor Reyes also serves as an Expert Member of two UNIDROIT Work Groups related to emerging technology: the UNIDROIT Work Group on Digital Assets and Private Law, and the UNIDROIT Work Group on Best Practices for Effective Enforcement.