

GLOBAL CONVERSATIONS IN
INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS
DISCUSSION SERIES



FALL 2025

~ Welcome Message from the Organizer ~

Greetings! This year's international business transactions seminar series explores international contracting through the lens of the theory of the firm. From M&A and supply chain agreements to venture capital, deep sea mining, and third-party contracts, we will consider how diverse contractual forms structure business activity across borders.

Grounding our discussion in primary contracts and their design choices, we aim to identify patterns that respond to pressing challenges such as supply chain resilience, sustainability, national security regulation, and geopolitical risks. Our goal is to generate insights of interest not only to business lawyers but also to scholars of international law, management, economics, and global affairs. I look forward to building a lively, cross-disciplinary community of inquiry in this virtual space. Thank you for joining us!



Kish Parella

Working Group on International Contracting & Theory of the Firm

Afra Afsharipour

*John D. Ayer Professor of Law and
Director of the Center for Business Law and Society
UC Davis School of Law*

Lisa Bernstein

*Wilson-Dickinson Professor of Law
The University of Chicago | The Law School*

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Carla Reyes

*Associate Professor of Law
SMU Dedman School of Law*

Isabelle (Xu) Zhang

*Doctor of Juridical Science candidate
University of Virginia School of Law*



2025-2026

Fall Schedule 2025

SEPTEMBER 19 *Bitcoin Mining Supply Chain Contracts: Hardware v. Software*

Professor Kish Parella

Professor Carla Reyes

OCTOBER 17 *Managerial Contracting*

Professor Lisa Bernstein

NOVEMBER 7 *Venture Capital Contracts in China and Southeast Asia*

Professor Isabelle (Xu) Zhang



Bitcoin Mining Supply Chain Contracts: Hardware v. Software



PRESENTER

Professor Kish Parella, Washington and Lee University School of Law

Bio: Professor Kish Parella's teaching and research interests are in international business transactions. She teaches business associations, contracts, corporate compliance, international business transactions, and corporate social responsibility. In 2024, the W&L Law Student Bar Association awarded her "Faculty Member of the Year." Her scholarship explores the intersection between corporate governance and international law, including board governance of human rights and the contract design of supply chain contracts. Her current research focuses on geopolitics, national security and corporate law and examines international contracting and global supply chain resilience in emerging technologies, such as Bitcoin mining.

Bitcoin Mining Supply Chain Contracts: Hardware v. Software



PRESENTER

Professor Carla Reyes, SMU Dedman School of Law

Bio: Professor Carla Reyes is an Associate Professor of Law at SMU Dedman School of Law. Professor Reyes is a nationally and internationally recognized leader on issues raised by the intersection of business law and technology. Professor Reyes is a Faculty Fellow at the SMU Hunt Institute for Engineering and Humanity at the SMU Lyle School of Engineering, and serves as a faculty affiliate with the Initiative for CryptoCurrencies and Contracts (IC₃) and the University College London Centre for Blockchain Research. Professor Reyes also currently serves as the Research Director for the Uniform Law Commission's Technology Committee, an Associate Research Director of the Permanent Editorial Board of the Uniform Commercial Code, and an Expert Member of the UNIDROIT Work Group on Best Practices for Effective Enforcement.

Managerial Contracting



PRESENTER

Professor Lisa Bernstein, The University of Chicago | The Law School

Bio: Professor Lisa Bernstein received a BA in economics from the University of Chicago in 1986 and a JD from Harvard Law School in 1990. She was a visiting research fellow in law and economics at Harvard Law School and began teaching at Boston University in 1991. After she visited at the University of Pennsylvania and the Georgetown Law Center, she joined the Georgetown faculty in 1995. After visiting the Law School in the fall of 1997 and Columbia Law School in the spring of 1998, Bernstein joined the Law School faculty. She has also been a visiting professor of law at Hebrew University, Tel Aviv University, The College of Law and Business in Ramat Gan, the Interdisciplinary Center in Israel, University of Paris West Nanterre, and Bar Ilan University. Bernstein is also an International Research Fellow, Center For Corporate Reputation, Said School of Business, the University of Oxford, and a fellow at World Commerce and Contracting.

Venture Capital Contracts in China and Southeast Asia



PRESENTER

Isabelle (Xu) Zhang - Doctor of Juridical Science candidate
University of Virginia School of Law

Isabelle (Xu) Zhang's research interests focus on capital markets, including comparative securities regulation (particularly in the U.S. and China), venture capital and private equity, and law and economic development.

After graduating from Peking University Law School with the China national scholarship, Zhang worked in Beijing with a major U.S. law firm and also gained experience in a judicial clerkship. Prior to her study at UVA Law School, she graduated from the Stanford Program in International Legal Studies with her thesis on venture capital and private equity exit in stock markets.
