



First Mini-Conference on Coronavirus and Law

University of Oklahoma College of Law

Organized by:
Prof. Eric E. Johnson
Associate Professor of Law
Univ. of Oklahoma College of Law
E-mail: eric.e.johnson@ou.edu
Web: ericejohnson.com
Blog: lawgarithmic.com

CFP: Call for *Participants* (with ideas, no “paper” required)

What:

The first (of potentially a series) of informal gatherings to issue-spot legal impediments to, and opportunities for, ending the pandemic.

When:

Friday, April 10, 2020, 2:00 to 3:45 p.m. Central Daylight Time

Where:

“At” OU Law, via Zoom (for invitation/logon info, e-mail eric.e.johnson@ou.edu)

Why:

The pandemic isn’t just a function of biology, it’s also a function of society, including our laws and legal institutions. To fight the virus, it may prove easier to change the law than to push back against the biology. Thus, we should be thinking creatively about the role of the law in stopping the spread of COVID-19 and in saving lives.

Some questions to consider:

- How does the law frustrate or support the scientific search for effective treatments?
- How might law support or thwart good decision-making about public health measures?
- How might liability and regulatory concerns incentivize desirable or undesirable conduct of citizens, researchers, firms, and government agencies?
- How might speech-affecting law (copyright, constitutional free speech guarantees, defamation) affect the flow of accurate and useful information about the pandemic?

Who:

Legal scholars, academics from other disciplines, and professionals with relevant perspectives (research scientists, public-health professionals, healthcare clinicians, etc.) who have ideas about how the law is either getting in the way or could be used to lend a hand in combatting the pandemic.

How it will work:

I’m aiming for four to six participants/attendees.

Participants will have up to 10 minutes to share their ideas, plus five minutes for questions and feedback. We’ll have an open discussion with any remaining time.

In addition, participants will be invited, but not required, to write a short post regarding their presentation for Lawgarithmic.com, a blog focusing on law and COVID-19.

How to participate:

Send a brief e-mail regarding what you want to talk about to eric.e.johnson@ou.edu, preferably by Thursday, April 9 at noon, but the earlier the better.