

CFRED's 39th Corporate and Finance Law Seminar:

INNOVATION, THE STATE AND PRIVATE ENTERPRISE: A CORPORATE LAWYER'S PERSPECTIVE

by

Prof. Charles Yablon

*Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law
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Chaired by: **Mr. Elliot Fung**, *Faculty of Law, CUHK*

1 February 2018, Thursday, 12:30 – 2:00p.m.

The CUHK Graduate Law Centre, 2/F Bank of America Tower, 12 Harcourt Road, Central

This presentation looks at the relationship between the regulation of corporate governance and finance and the economics of innovation. It presents the recent work of economists of innovation, like Mariana Mazzucato, who argue for the importance of the state in providing the initial incentives and funds necessary for the most significant technological innovations. However, they also point out the inadequacy of venture capitalists and managers of private enterprise in failing to maximize the returns on such innovation by not investing sufficiently in risky but potentially transformative new products and technology. This presentation expands and develops this critique with regard to innovation risk, and relate it to current debates on similar issues within corporate law. It argues that “dynamic” economic models that focus on innovation and economic growth pose a challenge to traditional “static” models of corporate law which emphasize efficient use of existing resources. Accordingly, the greatest danger current corporate law and corporate finance pose to the innovation process is neither investor activism nor managerial inefficiency, but rather conformity of viewpoint within the financial community. The question then becomes whether existing corporate law rules are too rigid, and should be with a more nuanced approach that reflects different levels of deference to managerial discretion in different settings.

**All are welcome!
Admission is free of charge!**

To join us, please register your interest [here](#) by 31 January 2018.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER:



Charles M. Yablon is Professor of Law and Academic Director of the Samuel and Ronnie Heyman Center on Corporate Governance at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, Yeshiva University in New York City. A graduate of Columbia University and Yale Law School, he has practiced business law at a number of major firms, including Cravath, Swaine & Moore, Skadden Arps, and (a predecessor of) Dentons. He has written and lectured extensively on many topics in corporate and securities law, including mergers and acquisitions, securities litigation and comparative corporate governance.