

# Conference Announcement and Call for Papers

## **12th Annual Employee Benefits Symposium: “The Implementation of the Affordable Care Act”**

Announcing a one-day symposium for leading scholars, policy makers, and practitioners with papers to be published in *The John Marshall Law Review*, Spring 2014 edition. Co-sponsored by The Center for Tax Law & Employee Benefits at The John Marshall Law School and The John Marshall Law Review.

When: Friday, April 4, 2014

Where: The John Marshall Law School, Chicago, IL

Keynote Speaker: W. Thomas Reeder, Health Care Counsel, Office of Chief Counsel, IRS

### **Deadlines:**

- Deadline for Paper Proposal: Tuesday, November 5, 2013
- Deadline for Final Papers: Monday, February 17, 2014

### **Topics Included:**

When the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) was signed in to law in 2010, it had staggered effective dates as the changes it was implementing were so substantial. It has been described as the most far-reaching piece of domestic legislation since the passage of Medicare and Medicaid back in 1965. In addition, it is administered by three distinct federal agencies – Health & Human Services, the Department of Labor, and the IRS – requiring a high level of coordination and cooperation involving a complex topic with legal, financial, administrative, computer system, and data ramifications.

In 2014, the ACA is at an implementation midpoint. The law’s constitutionality has been affirmed by the Supreme Court, so that issue can no longer delay practical action. Some important provisions, such as the extension of coverage for certain dependents to age 26 have been effective for several years. Exchanges become operational this Fall 2013, and the individual mandate shortly thereafter. The agencies have just issued a one-year enforcement delay for some of the most controversial provisions, such as the employer mandate, the “pay or play” tax, and related reporting requirements. Finally, some provisions, such as the Cadillac tax, remain in the future.

This is an excellent time to pause and consider the implementation of the ACA: known successes or disappointments, unexpected consequences and surprises, predicted continuing challenges, and proposed revisions. This symposium will be a forum for academics from all specialties

(professors at law schools, business schools, public policy schools) and other relevant concentrations such as attorneys and professionals from the business world to opine on implementation specifics of the ACA's mission to mandate certain health care benefits, expand health insurance coverage, and control health care costs, all within a workable framework. Many professors and practitioners are currently writing on this evolving landscape, and we are certain that through a national call for papers, we can assemble a panel of experts researching and writing on a broad spectrum of legal and legally-related issues involving the implementation of the ACA.

What is particularly exciting about this midpoint is that there is still the ability to shape how the law is framed and interpreted through innovative scholarship. To that end, we are excited to announce that W. Thomas Reeder, now working with Sarah Hall Ingram, the Director of the Affordable Care Act Office, will be the Symposium's Keynote Speaker.

**Call For Papers – Proposal Submission Deadline – November 5, 2013:** Researchers working on topics related to the general theme of the Symposium are encouraged to submit a proposal for inclusion. Proposals should include the paper's title and a brief description of the project, to be submitted to Professors Kathryn Kennedy and Julie Jagla, Director and Associate Director for The Center for Tax Law & Employee Benefits, no later than November 5, 2013. Proposals will be reviewed and researchers will be notified of the decision no later than November 8, 2013. To provide time for participants to review all the papers in advance of the April 4, 2014 Symposium, final papers are due by February 17, 2014.

**Vision for the Symposium:** April 4, 2014 marks the date for the 12th Annual Employee Benefits Symposium. The goal is to have the presenters summarize their papers over a 45-minute session, leaving 15 minutes for the other authors to comment. Papers presented at the Symposium will be published in The John Marshall Law Review's special Symposium edition (subject to its discretion). Up to \$300 per paper will be reimbursable for travel expenses to the Symposium.

**Conference Organizers:**

- Kathryn J. Kennedy, The John Marshall Law School, [kkennedy@jmls.edu](mailto:kkennedy@jmls.edu), 312.987.1418
- Julie Jagla, The John Marshall Law School, [jjagla@jmls.edu](mailto:jjagla@jmls.edu), 312.427.2737 ext. 411

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