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# Announcement of the Stefan A. Riesenfeld Symposium and Memorial Award

By  
Damir Arnaut<sup>1</sup>

The BERKELEY JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL LAW is pleased to announce that the Spring 2000 Symposium, "A Legacy of War: Displaced Masses in the Twenty-First Century," marks the beginning of the Stefan A. Riesenfeld symposium series focusing on notable issues in international law and held at Boalt Hall, the University of California at Berkeley School of Law. Additionally, each year the Board of Editors, with the approval of the Dean of Boalt Hall, will present the Stefan A. Riesenfeld Memorial Award to a distinguished scholar or practitioner who has made outstanding contributions to the field of international law. The purpose of the award is both to honor the memory of Professor Riesenfeld, who devoted much of his life and career to the study and practice of international law, and to recognize an individual who has demonstrated a commitment to the values and ideals that Professor Riesenfeld espoused and advocated.

The Spring 2000 Symposium is the first symposium that the BERKELEY JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL LAW hosted without Professor Riesenfeld's presence among us. By dedicating the symposium and an award in his honor, the Journal has taken a small, but appropriate, step to thank him. This year's symposium focused on refugees and displaced masses, a topic with which Professor Riesenfeld was particularly familiar, both personally and professionally. The Journal is privileged and honored to recognize so great a man and scholar and to continue his legacy and commitment to the study and development of international law at Boalt Hall.

Professor Stefan Albrecht Riesenfeld was born on June 8, 1908 in Breslau, Germany. He studied at the University of Breslau, now University of Wroclaw, Poland, and received a Dr. iur., *summa cum laude*, in 1930 for his dissertation on the law of mutual insurance companies. Professor Riesenfeld then practiced with a Berlin commercial law firm and became a research associate of the Kaiser-Wilhelm Institute, founded by Ernst Rabel, Professor Riesenfeld's mentor,

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1. Symposium Editor, Berkeley Journal of International Law. B.A., University of California at Berkeley, 1997; M.A. University of California at Berkeley, 1998; J.D. Candidate, University of California at Berkeley School of Law (Boalt Hall), 2002.

who later escaped the Nazi regime by coming to teach at the University of Michigan.<sup>2</sup>

Professor Riesenfeld himself escaped Nazi Germany in 1934 at the age of twenty-six and came to Boalt Hall to work as a researcher of comparative law for then-Dean Edwin Dickinson. Speaking little English on his arrival, Professor Riesenfeld nevertheless managed to graduate from Boalt Hall in 1937 with distinction and to earn a J.S.D from Harvard in 1940. Professor Riesenfeld began his academic career at the University of Minnesota, simultaneously teaching law and earning an undergraduate degree in engineering. Soon after starting at Minnesota he voluntarily enlisted in the U.S. Navy during World War II, and served as an LST commander in the South Pacific, returning to his teaching post at Minnesota in 1946.<sup>3</sup>

In 1952, Professor Riesenfeld joined the Boalt faculty, where he remained until 1976 when school regulations required him to retire. Nevertheless, Professor Riesenfeld received continuous annual re-appointments at Boalt Hall until his death on February 17, 1999 at the age of ninety. During his academic career, Professor Riesenfeld wrote numerous books and articles on a wide range of international law topics, including maritime law, trade and development law, the European Economic Community, treaty law, and labor law. He also served as Counselor for Public International Law at the U.S. Department of State, and was twice engaged to argue major cases before the International Court of Justice in the Hague. Professor Riesenfeld's public interests ranged from reform proposals of the German Civil Code during the Weimar Republic through participation in the drafting of Germany's Basic Law during the allied occupation to the United States Bankruptcy Commission's second reform effort.<sup>4</sup>

Professor Riesenfeld had a profound influence on Boalt Hall during his more than fifty years as both a student and a professor here. Generations of Boalt graduates, including several current professors, studied under him and, in the fields of international and comparative law in particular, Professor Riesenfeld helped Boalt achieve worldwide recognition.

One of Professor Riesenfeld's students and then colleague is David D. Caron, the C. William Maxeiner Distinguished Professor of Law at Boalt Hall, and the first recipient of the Stefan A. Riesenfeld Award. During his study of law, Professor Caron began a close relationship with Professor Riesenfeld, serving both as his Research and Teaching Assistant, and becoming his colleague in the fall of 1987 when he joined the Boalt faculty. Given Professor Caron's close personal and professional relationship to Professor Riesenfeld, and his outstanding academic and professional achievements, the Journal was honored to recognize that no person could be more deserving of the first Stefan A. Riesenfeld Award.

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2. See Richard M. Buxbaum and David D. Caron, *Stefan A. Riesenfeld, International Law and the University of California*, 16 BERK. J. INT'L L. 1 (1998).

3. See *id.* at 3.

4. See *id.* at 1.

Professor Caron attended the United States Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut, graduating with High Honors in Physics and Political Science and as Commander of the Corp of Cadets in 1974. He received the Coast Guard's Achievement Medal and left the service with the rank of Lieutenant in 1979. In that year, Professor Caron was named a Fulbright Scholar to the United Kingdom, and attended the University of Wales, where he received a Masters' degree in Marine Law and Policy.

In 1980, Professor Caron embarked upon the study of law at Boalt Hall, graduating Order of the Coif and as co-recipient of the Thelen Marrin Prize for outstanding student scholarship in 1983. Following graduation, Professor Caron served as a legal assistant to Judges Richard M. Mosk and Charles N. Brower at the Iran-United States Claims Tribunal in The Hague. While there, Professor Caron began his association with the Hague Academy of International Law, becoming the twenty-fifth American to receive its prestigious Diploma, and with the University of Leiden, where he received his Doctorandus in law for a dissertation addressing the Iran-United States Claims Tribunal and the evolving structure of international dispute resolution. Professor Caron later served as a Senior Research Fellow with the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public and International Law in Heidelberg, and practiced with the law firm of Pillsbury Madison & Sutro in San Francisco.

Before starting his academic career at Boalt Hall in 1987, Professor Caron was a visiting professor at Cornell Law School and Hastings College of the Law, and he also served as Director of Studies and Director of Research at the Hague Academy of International Law. Professor Caron's scholarship encompasses numerous aspects of international law with a focus on public and private dispute resolution, the United Nations, the law of the sea, international environmental law and general theory of international law. Among his public service commitments, Professor Caron has served as Counsel to the Marshall Islands Nuclear Claims Tribunal, the Governments of Cyprus, Kuwait, Malaysia, Peru, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marinas Islands. He is also a founding director of the Ocean Governance Study Group and the University of California Marine Council. Professor Caron is Chair-elect of the International Law Section of the Association of American Law Schools, and he serves as a Vice President of the Institute of Transnational Arbitration of the Southwestern Legal Foundation.

In addition to all of the above mentioned accomplishments, Professor David Caron is an outstanding teacher, advisor and mentor. His presence at Boalt bolsters the school's reputation in and sparks the enthusiasm of its students for international law. Professor Riesenfeld's legacy at Boalt will continue through this award, and Professor Caron is a most appropriate choice to begin that process.