
INTRODUCTION TO THE THIRD ANNUAL IP/GENDER: THE UNMAPPED CONNECTIONS SYMPOSIUM

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Good morning. Thank you for coming and helping us kick off our third annual IP/Gender: The Unmapped Connections Symposium. This is a spring tradition we started three years ago. Many of you in attendance today participated in our initial workshop. It worked so well that we thought we would continue the tradition.

Washington in the spring is a great place. As you see, the daffodils and the cherry blossoms have come out on cue for the Symposium this morning. I want to begin with a couple of “thank you’s.” First, to Steve Roberts, our administrative assistant who does all those things that make an event like this possible. Thanks also to the WCL programs on Women and the Law, the Program on Intellectual Property in the Public Interest and to the Journal of Gender, Social Policy and the Law. Krista Sirola, the journal’s Editor-in-Chief is here. Thank you, Krista.

And I also want to take the opportunity to say a personal thanks to my colleagues Peter Jaszi, Ann Shalleck, and Christine Farley. Nearly six years ago, Josh Sarnoff and I were lucky enough to come to WCL and help them launch one of the nation’s first intellectual property student law clinics. One of the natural and wonderful byproducts of getting these great scholars and their expertise in intellectual property and gender issues into one room for days on end was the idea for this very symposium series focusing on the largely unexplored intersection of intellectual property and gender. We hope we have succeeded in creating a welcoming space for its exploration. So, here we are again at our third annual Unmapped Connections conference. Welcome. I am privileged to introduce the founding father of it all, Peter Jaszi.