The Wisconsin Journal of Law, Gender & Society

Announces our 2015 Symposium:

Civil Rights in the Digital Age: Developing Effective Legal Responses to Cyber Sexual Harassment

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University of Wisconsin Law School
Madison, Wisconsin

In the digital age, sexual harassment and assault can be perpetrated on, or compounded by, the Internet. The rise of “revenge porn,” and the recent rash of sexual assault cases in which the crime was taped and distributed via the Internet, highlight the need for an effective response to a new form of cyber crime. We are seeking original scholarship, from both scholars and practitioners, addressing the current state of online sexual harassment/assault and what has and can be done to protect those who are victimized.

Ideally, proposals would highlight:
- The current issues with developing an effective legal response to cyber sexual harassment including the Communications Decency Act, experience prosecuting “revenge porn” cases, etc.
- An analysis of the current legislative responses.
- Conflict between state and federal privacy laws.
- A discussion of privacy and consent in the digital age.
- Recommendations on how to effectively deal with cyber sexual harassment including using existing precedent in non-traditional areas of law.

Topics could include: cyber civil rights; the nature of the Internet and how online culture contributes to harassment; current responses to the problem; a focus on distribution of images depicting felony crimes, e.g. the Steubenville rape case, the recent “viral rape case,” etc.; the recent hacking and the posting of celebrity nudes; how efficacy of current legislative solutions; strategies for effective prosecution; strategies for stopping distribution of the image; the limits of consent in a “revenge porn” case; an analysis of the Communications Decency Act and internet service provider immunity; First Amendment concerns in drafting effective legislation, etc.

Interested parties should send an abstract, plus a 3-5 page outline to WJLGS.Symposium@gmail.com by November 15, 2014 at 5pm. Those selected for the Symposium will be notified by December 2015. The Journal’s Symposium issue will be published in Fall 2015.