What impact are the twin challenges of globalization and technology having on the ways in which legal services are delivered and regulated? What are the threats? What are the ethical implications, and how is the market for legal services being transformed in the United States and internationally? This Symposium brings together experts in the academy, regulatory and practice environments for a half-day dialogue on issues such as the role of technology and the rise of the “virtual law office”; the competitive challenges to lawyers of alternative providers and client self-help; the constitutional and ethical implications of passive and corporate investment in law firms; and the market for law in the new global economy.

FRIDAY – APRIL 8

8:30 a.m. – Continental Breakfast and Program Registration

9:00 a.m. – Introductory Remarks and Welcome
Elizabeth Rindskopf Parker, Dean, University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law

Keynote Address: “Law for a Flat World: Legal Infrastructure and the New Economy”

Speaker: Gillian Hadfield, Richard L. and Antoinette S. Kirtland Professor of Law and Professor of Economics, USC Gould School of Law

The economy has undergone fundamental transformation as a result of the increased size of global markets and the internet-driven development of a platform for global exchange. These changes have transformed the economic demand for law across firms and borders. High velocity and global competition are putting pressure on fees, while at the same time clients demand integration of business and legal expertise. Has legal infrastructure kept pace? Does the market need to be opened? How?

Discussants:
Patrick Hanlon, Lecturer in Residence, Boalt Hall Law School, UC Berkeley
Professor Paul D. Paton, Director, Ethics Across the Professions Initiative, University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law
10:00 a.m. – “Democratizing the Delivery of Legal Services: On Corporate Ownership of Law Firms”

Speaker: Renee Newman Knake, Assistant Professor, Michigan State University College of Law

Professional conduct rules in all fifty states ban corporations from owning or investing in law firms. Is passive investment by corporate owners the way to democratize access to the law through the expansion of efficient and affordable delivery of legal services? Is Wal-Mart Law the answer? Should it be? And given recent First Amendment jurisprudence recognizing the protection of free speech rights for corporations, can blanket bans on corporate ownership of and investment in law firms survive?

Discussant: Professor Leslie Jacobs, Director, Capital Center for Public Law and Policy, University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law

10:45 a.m. – Coffee Break

11:00 a.m. – The Promise of Technology: New Challenges and Opportunities for Delivering Legal Services

How has technology changed the practice of law? What implications do new technologies have for the ways in which clients access legal services? How well are traditional regulatory structures and rules responding to protect the public interest? And what is the way forward?

Panelists:
Stephanie Kimbro, Kimbro Legal Services -- Virtual Law Office
Chas Rampenthal, Vice President and General Counsel, LegalZoom
Dave Bilinsky, Practice Management Advisor and Staff Lawyer, Law Society of British Columbia (Canada), and Chair, Pacific Legal Technology Conference
Michael P. Downey, Partner, Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP and former Chair, Ethics & Technology Committee, ABA Center for Professional Responsibility

12:30 p.m. – Closing Remarks

12:45 p.m. – Luncheon