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Symposium on Internet Privacy

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SYMPOSIUM ON INTERNET PRIVACY

“That the individual shall have full protection in person and in property is a principle as old as the common law; but it has been found necessary from time to time to define anew the exact nature and extent of such protection. Political, social, and economic changes entail the recognition of new rights, and the common law, in its eternal youth, grows to meet the demands of society.”
Samuel D. Warren & Louis D. Brandeis, The Right to Privacy, 4 Harv. L. Rev. 193 (1890)

Few disagree that the Internet is revolutionizing the way people communicate, conduct business, engage in commerce and express their opinions and feelings. However, the extent of this revolution is limited by Internet users’ growing concern for privacy. The Computer and High Technology Law Journal’s annual symposium this year addressed the practical implications of the Internet on privacy in a world driven by high technology.

At this well attended event, privacy advocates and leading business representatives explored current privacy expectations and discussed the ways Internet related technology pose threats and present solutions to privacy concerns. Featured speakers included General Counsel of the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) Debra Valentine and California State Senator Debra Bowen as well as industry representatives from eBay, Inc., Fujitsu, and Intel Corporation, and law firm representation from Cooley Godward LLP, Duane Morris & Heckscher LLP, Fenwick & West LLP, Morrison & Foerster LLP, and Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati. Panel topics included individuals’ expectations of privacy, technological threats to privacy and technical solutions, European and U.S. legal solutions, the impact of privacy on ecommerce, and cyber crimes.

We are pleased to present papers authored by three of the symposium speakers, as well as comments authored by one of the speakers. Santa Clara University Professor of Law Dorothy Glancy’s essay entitled “Thinking About United States Privacy Law and the Internet” discusses the application of privacy law to Internet activities. In “ Privacy on the Internet: The Evolving Legal

Landscape,” FTC General Counsel Debra Valentine discusses the FTC’s efforts in protecting consumers’ privacy on the Internet. Fenwick & West LLP Associate Laurel Jamtgaard discusses the Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act in “Big Bird Meets Big Brother: A Look at the Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act.” Privacy Rights Clearinghouse Director Beth Givens provided her comments on consumers’ expectations of privacy protection on the Internet.

We would like to thank our sponsors for their generous contributions to this event: Lexis Publishing, Blakely Sokoloff Taylor & Zafman LLP, Brobeck Phleger & Harrison LLP, Cooley Godward LLP, eBay, Inc., Morrison & Foerster LLP, Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, Hoge Fenton Jones & Appel Inc., Finnegan Henderson Farabow Garrett & Dunner LLP, webvan.com, and the American Electronics Association. We would also like to thank all of the Editors and Candidates of the Journal for all of their help, encouragement, and support. Finally, we would like to recognize Assistant Dean of High Technology Ruth Edman, Program Coordinator Cynthia Murphy, and the High Technology Law Program for their co-sponsorship and support to produce this very successful event.

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Symposium Editors