

# BU Law Congratulates Professor Robert G. Bone

*Robert Kent Professor in Civil Procedure*

In recognition of distinguished contributions to legal scholarship, Dean Maureen A. O'Rourke has announced the appointment of Professor Robert G. Bone to a chaired professorship at Boston University School of Law. Professor Bone was named the Robert Kent Professor in Civil Procedure to acknowledge his important work in this area.



# Robert Kent Professorship in Civil Procedure

The Robert Kent Professorship in Civil Procedure was established by Richard C. Godfrey ('79) to honor a distinguished former faculty member, Professor Robert Kent. Professor Kent taught at Boston University School of Law for 31 years, focusing on the law of civil procedure.

“It is an honor and an inspiration to occupy a chair named after a civil procedure teacher of such distinction and accomplishment.”

-Robert Bone

“My scholarship in civil procedure (and intellectual property) is interdisciplinary. I like to engage procedural issues, such as case aggregation, settlement and case management, from historical, economic and philosophical perspectives,” says Professor Bone. Professor Bone’s historical work includes major articles and essays on the intellectual history of joinder rules, the legal and political history of Federal Rule reception in Massachusetts and the intellectual and doctrinal history of adjudicative representation and the class action. His law and economics publications include a book, *The Economics of Civil Procedure*, and a major article on game theoretic modeling of frivolous litigation. His philosophical writing focuses on normative approaches to justifying procedural rules.

“Much of my work brings all three perspectives — historical, economic and philosophical — to bear on specific issues of current interest,” Professor Bone notes. These issues include aggregate modes of

resolving related lawsuits — for example, large-scale adjudication, class action aggregation, expanded nonparty preclusion and judicial settlement promotion — as well as more specific topics, including supplemental jurisdiction, pleading and the offer of judgment rule (Rule 68 of the Federal Rules).

Professor Bone says he looks forward to continuing his work as the holder of the Robert Kent Professorship in Civil Procedure: “I am currently writing a civil procedure casebook, an article on pleading and a theoretical piece on the nature of procedural rights. In the future, I plan to finish a book on the history of procedural reform movements in the United States and the future of litigation reform. I’m excited about exploring in greater depth the fascinating developments in representation, case aggregation, alternative dispute resolution and settlement that are transforming the landscape of civil adjudication today.”



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