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Centre for Comparative
Corporate Finance Law

BOARDS INC.

LEGAL PERSONS AS DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

Thursday, 11 December 2025

Faculty of Law, Top Floor (Dachgeschoß Juridicum)



Agenda

09:00 am

Registration

09:15 am

Welcome Addresses

Brigitta Zöchling-Jud

University of Vienna, Dean

Chris Thomale

University of Vienna, Co-Director of the C³FL

09:30 am

Keynote Address

M. Todd Henderson

University of Chicago Law School

10:00 am

Session I: The Nature of Legal Persons in the Digital Era: Quo vadis, Corporate Law?

Chair: *Christiane Wendehorst*

University of Vienna

De-mystifying Corporate Law: the Person, the Group, the Franchise, and the Problem of Enterprise Administration

Erich Schanze

Philipps University Marburg

Artificial Intelligence as Directors and Officers – From Boards Inc. to Self-Driving Companies?

Tobias Ponßen

Hengeler Mueller Rechtsanwälte

Discussion

11:00 am

Coffee Break

11:30 am

Session II: Negating the Concept of 'Legal Persons as Directors and Officers' in German-speaking Jurisdictions

Chair: *Walter Doralt*

University of Graz

The Human Factor: Insights and Classifications from the History of Corporate Law

Johannes W. Flume

University of Salzburg

Critical Assessment of the Concept 'Legal Persons as Directors and Officers' under Austrian and German Corporate Law

Sebastian Mock

Vienna University of Economics and Business

Legal Persons as Directors and Officers in Switzerland and Liechtenstein

Rolf Sethe

University of Zurich

Discussion

1:00 pm

Lunch Break (catering will be provided at the conference venue)

2:00 pm

Session III: Admitting Legal Persons to Corporate Boards in South-Western European Legal Systems

Chair: *Giovanni Strampelli*
Bocconi University

Legal Persons as Directors and Officers in the Netherlands

Loes Lennarts
University of Groningen

Legal Persons as Directors and Officers in France and Luxembourg

Pierre-Henri Conac
University of Luxembourg

Legal Persons as Directors and Officers in Spain and Italy

Paula del Val Talens
University of Valencia

Discussion

3:30 pm

Coffee Break

4:00 pm

Session IV: Between Negation and Admission – Regulatory Switches in Common Law Countries and Beyond

Chair: *Jason Harris*
University of Sydney

Legal Persons as Directors and Officers in the United Kingdom

Eva Micheler
London School of Economics

Legal Persons as Directors and Officers in Cyprus

Antigoni Alexandropoulou
European University Cyprus

Legal Persons as Directors and Officers in Turkey

Kerem Çelikboya
Istanbul Bilgi University

Discussion

5:30 pm

Concluding Remarks

Chris Thomale
University of Vienna, Co-Director of the C³FL

End of the Conference

Closing Reception (catering will be provided at the conference venue)