Fifteenth International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Law (ICAIL 2015)

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■ *The 15th International Conference on AI and Law (ICAIL 2015) was held in San Diego, California, USA, June 8–12, 2015, at the University of San Diego, at the Kroc Institute, under the auspices of the International Association for Artificial Intelligence and Law (IAAIL), an organization devoted to promoting research and development in the field of AI and law with members throughout the world. The conference is held in cooperation with the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI) and with ACM SIGAI (the Special Interest Group on Artificial Intelligence of the Association for Computing Machinery).*

The 15th International Conference on AI and Law (ICAIL 2015) was held in San Diego, California, on June 8–12, 2015 and broke all prior attendance records. The conference has been held every two years since 1987, alternating between North America and (usually) Europe. The program for ICAIL 2015 included three days of plenary sessions and two days of workshops, tutorials, and related events. Attendance reached a total of 179 participants from 23 countries. Of the total, 95 were registered for the full conference and 84 for one or two days.

The work reported at the ICAIL conferences has always had two thrusts: using law as a rich domain for AI research, and using AI techniques to develop legal applications. That duality continued this year, with an increased emphasis on the applications side. Workshop topics included (1) discovery of electronically stored information, (2) law and big data, (3) automated semantic analysis of legal texts, and (4) evidence in the law. There were also two sessions for which attorneys could obtain Continuing Legal Education credit, one on AI techniques for intellectual property analytics and the other on trends in legal search and software.

The program also contained events intended to reach out to a variety of communities and audiences. There was a mul-

tilingual workshop for AI and Law researchers from non-English-speaking countries, and a successful doctoral consortium was held to welcome and encourage student researchers. Two well-attended tutorials were offered for those new to the field, an introduction to AI and law and an examination of legal ontologies.

The talks given by the invited speakers of the conference each had a different focal point: Jan Becker (Robert Bosch LLC) reported on progress in self-driving vehicles and how these vehicles obey traffic rules; Jack Conrad (Thomson Reuters), in his IAAIL Presidential Address, reflected upon past developments within AI and law and commented on current and upcoming challenges facing researchers in the field and the means to address them; Jerry Kaplan (Stanford University) explored the attribution of rights and responsibilities to AI systems under the law; Michael Luck (King's College London) discussed electronic contracts in agent-based systems and the emergence of norms within these systems.

For this 15th edition of ICAIL, 58 contributions were submitted. Of these submissions, 15 were accepted as full papers (10 pages) and 15 were accepted as research abstracts (5 pages). Four additional submissions were accepted as abstracts of system demonstrations, and these systems were showcased in a lively demo session.

In addition to the long-standing award for the best student paper, three new awards were presented at ICAIL 2015. The awards and their winners follow.

The Donald Berman best student paper prize was awarded to Sjoerd Timmer (Utrecht University), for A Structure-Guided Approach to Capturing Bayesian Reasoning about Legal Evidence in Argumentation. The paper was coauthored by John-Jules Ch. Meyer, Henry Prakken, Silja Renooij, and Bart Verheij. The Peter Jackson best innovative application paper prize was awarded to Erik Hemberg (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), Jacob Rosen (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), Geoff Warner (MITRE Corporation), Sanith Wijesinghe (MITRE Corporation), and Una-May O'Reilly (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), for their paper Tax Non-Compliance Detection Using Co-Evolution of Tax Evasion Risk and Audit Likelihood. The Carole Hafner best paper prize, memorializing an ICAIL founder who passed away in 2015, was awarded to Floris Bex (Utrecht University), for An Integrated Theory of Causal Stories and Evidential Arguments. Finally, the award for the best doctoral consortium student paper was presented to Jyothi Vinjumur (University of Maryland), for Methodology for Constructing Test Collections using Collaborative Annotation.

The conference was held at the University of San Diego, at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice. Conference sponsors were the International Association for Artificial Intelligence and Law, Thomson Reuters, the University of San Diego Center for IP Law & Markets, Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP, TrademarkNow, and Legal Robot. Both AAAI and ACM SIGAI were in cooperation. Conference officials were Katie Atkinson (program chair), Ted Sichelman (conference chair), and Anne Gardner (secretary/treasurer).

Further information about the conference is available at icail2015.org. The proceedings were published by the Association for Computing Machinery and are available in the ACM Digital Library.

Katie Atkinson is a professor and head of the Department of Computer Science at the University of Liverpool. She gained her Ph.D. in computer science from the University of Liverpool, and her research interests concern computational models of argument, with a particular focus on how these can be applied in the legal domain.

Jack G. Conrad is a lead research scientist with Thomson Reuters Corporate Research and Development group. He applies his expertise in information retrieval, natural language processing, data mining, and machine learning to meet the technology needs of the company's businesses, including coverage of the legal domain, to develop capabilities for products such as WestlawNext.

Anne Gardner is an independent scholar with a longstanding interest in artificial intelligence and law. Her law degree and her Ph.D. in computer science are both from Stanford University.

Ted Sichelman is a professor of law at the University of San Diego. He teaches and writes in the areas of intellectual property, law and entrepreneurship, empirical legal studies, law and economics, computational legal studies, and tax law.