

Call for Papers: The Fifth Annual Law & Corpus Linguistics Conference

Deadline: October 1, 2019

Event Date: February 6-7, 2020

Location: Brigham Young University, Provo, UT

Organization: Brigham Young University

Brigham Young University Law School will host the Fifth Annual Law & Corpus Linguistics Conference in Provo, UT on February 6-7, 2020. The conference will feature a series of panels, with paper presentations in several fields of application for corpus linguistic analysis of law.

One of the panels will focus on so-called “linguistic” or “semantic” canons of construction. These canons—such as *expressio unius, ejusdem generis*, the presumption of consistent meaning, and the presumption against surplusage—are often justified on the ground that they accurately describe common conventions of language usage. At the same time, no one thinks that the premises of these canons always hold; they are viewed as presumptions, which thus raise the question of when the presumptions stand, and in what circumstances they are rebutted.

For a panel that will address these canons, we are seeking co-authored papers from inter-disciplinary teams comprised of legal scholars and linguists. Each team should identify one or more canons that they propose to analyze, with a linguistic framework for evaluating the viability of the canon and for identifying criteria in which the canon will hold and circumstances in which it may not.

The proposal deadline is October 1, 2019. Proposals should include an abstract of 500-750 words, a full outline, and complete contact information. Please send materials to Tom Lee at leet@law.byu.edu.