



**University
of Basel**

Faculty of
Business and Economics



Products Liability in the Digital Age: Online Marketplaces

Thursday
July 20, 2023
18:15 - 19:30
WWZ- Auditorium



Speaker:
Prof. Catherine M. Sharkey
New York University

Products Liability in the Digital Age:

Online Marketplaces

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WWZ- Auditorium, Peter Merian-Weg 6, 4052 Basel

Programme

18.15 Welcome and Introduction
Prof. Rolf Weder

18.20 Speaker
Prof. Catherine M. Sharkey

19.00 Panel Discussion
Prof. Catherine M. Sharkey
Prof. Rolf Weder
and Audience

19.30 Apéro

Products liability in the digital age entails reckoning with the transformative shift away from in-person purchases at brick-and-mortar stores to digital purchases from e-commerce platforms. The epochal rise of the online storefront has vastly expanded the prevalence of direct-to-consumer sales, implicating complex questions of how liability rules should respond when those consumers are harmed by the products they buy, especially in this age of international e-commerce and cross-border sales.

Prof. Sharkey will develop her thoughts on the theoretical and conceptual basis for holding online platforms liable. Thereby, she will emphasize the role of tort law (“Deliktsrecht”) as a “transitional” mechanism to regulate in areas of great uncertainty. She will then distinguish between different stages of the development of products liability over time and discuss the notion of platforms as “cheapest cost avoiders”.

Public Events der Summer School in Law, Business and Economic Policy

This is the 2023 Public Event of the Summer School in Law, Business and Economic Policy of the Faculty of Business and Economics of the University of Basel. The public events are designed to present insights from recent research of our colleagues at the partner universities of the Summer School and to discuss their implications for business, policy making and the society with a broad audience.

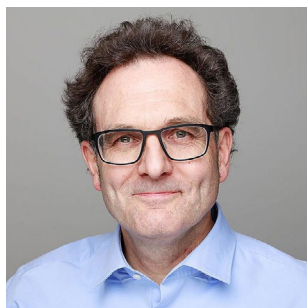


Prof. Catherine M. Sharkey / Speaker

Segal Family Professor of Regulatory Law and Policy, New York University School of Law. Professor Sharkey is a leading authority on economic loss rule, punitive damages, and federal preemption. She studied law as well as economics and has published more than fifty articles, essays, and book chapters in the fields of torts, products liability, administrative law, remedies, and class actions.

Prof. Sharkey is co-author with Richard Epstein of *Cases and Materials on Torts* (12th ed., 2020) and an appointed public member of the Administrative Conference of the United States and a principal adviser on *Administering by Algorithm: Artificial Intelligence in the Regulatory State*, a project for the Office of the Chairman. One of her most recent publications is “Products Liability in the Digital Age: Online Platforms as “Cheapest Cost Avoiders”, *Hastings Law Journal*, 73-5, 1327-1351, 2022.

Professor Sharkey currently teaches the course “The Law and Economics of Regulating Medical Products” in the Summer School at the Faculty of Business and Economics of the University of Basel.



Prof. Rolf Weder / Host

Professor of International Trade and European Integration at the Faculty of Business and Economics of the University of Basel and Dean of the faculty.

Registration Form

Please register for the event using the QR-code
or this Link: <https://forms.gle/7k2qXiXr2fbVMJnVA>



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