Message from the Chairs

Recent technological growth and innovation has drawn the attention of lawyers and policy makers seeking to regulate technical infrastructure, business practices, products, and services that use information to achieve stakeholder goals. New laws and regulations regulate acceptable use of modern, complex, software-intensive systems. Requirements engineers must understand and analyze applicable laws and ensure compliance to them. Failure to do so risks incurring regulatory penalties, including litigation, expensive fines, and other penalties.

The Seventh International Workshop on Requirements Engineering and Law (RELAW'14) is a multi-disciplinary, one-day workshop that brings together practitioners and researchers from two domains: Requirements Engineering and Law, with the objective of fostering discussion related to requirements engineering for systems governed by any legal regulation, policy, or law.

This year, researchers and practitioners were invited to submit contributions, including research/experience papers, problem identification papers, industrial/government problem statements, in the form of both long and short papers. Each submission was reviewed by at least three members of the program committee, leading to a total number of eight accepted papers: four of them accepted as regular papers, and two as short or position papers, in all categories; also, two papers were accepted as extended abstracts. We are grateful for the time and effort the PC members spent during the selection process to ensure a high quality workshop.

We are particularly proud to host Cedric Thomas, CEO of OW2, who will deliver our keynote address, examining policy issues related to open source software and arising from the ever-increasing impact of software systems on people's lives.

RELAW paper presentations are divided into three sessions, focusing on: (i) compliance in practice, (ii) new theoretical directions, and (iii) models and processes. A panel session invites participants to explore and share ideas and experiences about solved and unsolved problems in requirements engineering and law.

Daniel Amyot, Annie Antòn, Travis Breaux, Aaron Massey, Anna Perini, Alberto Siena

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