



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Duke Science & Society hires Deputy Director

Durham, NC - February 12, 2015 - Duke University Science & Society is pleased to announce that Michael "Buz" Waitzkin, JD, LL.M. has joined us as Deputy Director.

Waitzkin brings to the job a wealth of experience, not only in academia, but also in both the private sector and government. He co-founded a genomic diagnostic startup, practiced law in the District of Columbia for 35 years, has extensive experience in advising the biomedical research community, and served as Special Counsel to the President in the White House Counsel's Office. For the past fifteen years, he has taught as an adjunct at Duke, and has been a frequent lecturer at other universities, on issues of science law, policy, ethics and politics, with a focus on developing biomedical technologies.

"We are delighted that someone with Buz's breadth of experience and perspective is joining Science & Society," said Prof. Nita Farahany, Director of Science & Society, who met Waitzkin when he hired her as a summer clerk after her first year in law school.

Duke Science & Society is an interdisciplinary initiative that examines the wide-ranging and integral role of science in social institutions and culture. Science & Society integrates and fosters innovation in related research, education, and engagement at Duke with a specific focus on ethical, legal, and social implications for science.

Waitzkin will oversee and manage many of Science & Society's programs, design and implement new science-related legislative tracking and amicus brief programs, teach graduate level courses in science policy, law and ethics, mentor students in the MA in bioethics and science policy, and undertake outreach to the corporate and non-profit communities. In addition, he will continue to teach the ethics seminar in the masters program in clinical informatics.

"Having the opportunity to 'go back to college' at this stage of my career is a wonderful and special privilege," said Waitzkin.

Waitzkin attended the University of Virginia (BA 1971; Phi Beta Kappa, Echols Scholar), Stanford Law School (JD 1974), and Yale Law School (LLM 1975, Commonwealth Fellow in Law, Science and Medicine).

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