

Twelfth Annual Clifford Symposium on Civil Justice, Tort Law and Social Policy

Is the Rule of Law Waning in America?

Thursday, April 20, & Friday, April 21, 2006

Is the rule of law waning in America?

The rule of law is on the wane in the United States. This question will be considered by an array of scholars, including many with an empirical orientation in such diverse disciplines as psychology, political science and sociology as well as law. Each will be challenged to consider her or his conception of the rule of law and whether its reach is growing or contracting. It is our hope that out of the discussion of these topics will grow a series of insights about how we Americans feel about the rule of law, what pressures are driving toward alteration of its role in society, what alternatives have grown up to replace legal regimes and where we are likely to be headed over the long run.

The rule of law is a much discussed concept today. Its meaning is contested. Its reach is debated. And its worth is pondered. The 12th Annual Clifford Symposium will be devoted to exploring whether the

The Clifford Symposium on Tort Law and Social Policy

In 1994, Robert A. Clifford gave a generous grant to DePaul University College of Law to endow a faculty chair in tort law and social policy. The chair gives meaningful expression to his belief that the civil justice system serves a number of vital interests in American society. The Clifford Chair at DePaul provides a vehicle for exploration of the civil justice system in an intellectually rigorous fashion. Professor Stephan Landsman is the current holder of the Clifford Chair.

In addition to providing support for faculty research and teaching, the endowment makes possible an annual symposium addressing a timely issue in the civil justice area. The purpose of the symposium is to bring the latest scholarship and advances in legal practice to lawyers and scholars who specialize in tort law, civil justice and related fields. Conference topics have included:

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| 2005 Who Feels Their Pain? The Challenge of Non-Economic Damages in Civil Litigation | 2000 Civil Litigation and Popular Culture |
| 2004 Starting Over? Redesigning the Medical Malpractice System | 1999 Judges as Tort Lawmakers |
| 2003 After Disaster: The September 11th Compensation Fund and the Future of Civil Justice | 1998 The American Civil Jury: Illusion and Reality |
| 2002 Export/Import: American Civil Justice in a Global Context | 1997 Contingent Fee Financing of Litigation in America |
| 2001 Smoke Signals: Civil Justice in the Wake of the Tobacco Wars | 1996 Tort Law and the Science of the Twenty-First Century |
| | 1995 ADR and Torts': Implications for Practice and Reform |

The 2007 symposium topic will be: **The Client's Changing Role in Civil Litigation**

DePaul University
College of Law

The Symposium is free and open to the public upon registration. Reservations are accepted by phone at 312-362-5292, by fax at 312-362-5826, or on the web at <http://www.law.depaul.edu/clifford>. The symposium will be held at the DePaul University, DePaul Center, Room 8005, One East Jackson Blvd., Chicago, Illinois.

Symposium Faculty

Stephen Burbank
University of Pennsylvania School of Law

Robert Burns
Northwestern University School of Law

Theodore Eisenberg
Cornell Law School

Marc Galanter
University of Wisconsin Law School

James Gibson
Washington University
Department of Political Science

Gillian Haadfield
University of Southern California
School of Law

Deborah Hensler
Stanford Law School

Samuel Issacharoff
New York University School of Law

Nancy King
Vanderbilt University Law School

Herbert Kritzer
University of Wisconsin
Department of Political Science

Richard Lempert
National Science Foundation and
University of Michigan Law School

Robert MacCoun
University of California
Berkeley School of Law

Karen Mathis, President
American Bar Association

Bernadette Meyler
Cornell Law School

Robert Rabin
Stanford Law School

Michael Saks
Arizona State University College of Law

Kim Lane Scheppele
University of Pennsylvania Law School

Catherine Sharkey
Columbia University School of Law

Susan Silbey
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Department of Sociology and Anthropology

Charles Silver*
University of Texas School of Law

Jean Sternlight
University of Nevada Las Vegas School of Law

Douglas Sylvester
Arizona State University College of Law

Brian Tamanaha
St. John's University School of Law

Tom Tyler
New York University
Department of Psychology

John Witt
Columbia University School of Law

*Tentative