

SEMINAR

**The Current Constitutional
Crisis in Egypt****John B. Attanasio***Judge Noel Dean & Judge Atwell Chair of Constitutional Law
SMU Dedman School of Law***Monday, 11 March 2013, 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm
Room 724, 7/F Cheng Yu Tung Tower
The University of Hong Kong**

The key to a successful constitution lies in its enforcement mechanisms. Typically, states interested in the rule of law and democracy have relied on a strong and independent constitutional court as the prime guarantor and enforcer of the constitution. Paradoxically, the role of the constitutional court can be subverted and derailed by the constitution itself. This has happened in Egypt over the past two years. In the aftermath of the Arab Spring, the Supreme Constitutional Court of Egypt has found itself under continual attack, particularly from the Muslim Brotherhood as they try to cement their power. This talk unpacks the Egyptian transition and looks at the continued attacks on the Constitutional Court in an effort to show how a constitution itself can be used to subvert the rule of law.

John B. Attanasio received a J.D. from NYU, a Dipl. in Law from Oxford, and an LL.M. from Yale. With professors from NYU and SLU, he has co-authored four editions of both a constitutional law casebook and a treatise. He has co-edited two collections of essays published by the British Institute. The author of more than fifty articles and essays, he has lectured in over 28 countries. In 1990, he was the first Fulbright lecturer to teach courses on American Constitutional Law in the Soviet Union. Attanasio has advised parliaments, judiciaries and governments around the world. He has organized seven summits between justices of the U.S. Supreme Court and the highest courts of Europe, Russia and Germany. With the U.S. State Department, he directed the Rule of Law Forum which brought to the United States twelve high-ranking delegations from ten countries who met with U.S. Supreme Court Justices, Senators and Attorney Generals, among others.

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