

THE CENTRE FOR COMPARATIVE AND PUBLIC LAW
AND
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICS AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Public Lecture on Interdisciplinarity and Law

The Politics of Judicial Review

Professor Barry Friedman

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New York University School of Law*

Friday, 22 May 2009

6:30 – 7:30 pm

Convocation Room (Room 218), 2/F Main Building, HKU

According to common wisdom, a key aspect of judicial review by High Courts is judicial independence: that the judges are free from outside influences so they can reach their decisions according to law alone. In truth, though, politics – interpreted broadly – necessarily influences the work even of constitutional courts. The proper questions ultimately are which political influences are legitimate, and which are not, and how we can structure judicial institutions to function in a political environment. This lecture will examine these questions, with particular (but not sole) attention to the work of the United States Supreme Court. The focus will be on what are the political influences that judges face.

Barry Friedman is the Jacob D. Fuchsberg Professor of Law and Vice Dean at New York University School of Law. He has written and taught on constitutional and jurisdictional topics for over twenty-five years. His work draws heavily from history and political science; he has spoken at many interdisciplinary gatherings and published numerous articles in top journals in several fields. Friedman also is a constitutional lawyer who has litigated issues as diverse as abortion rights, death penalty and prisoner cases, federalism and commerce disputes. Friedman is co-author with Stephen Burbank of the edited volume *Judicial Independence at the Crossroads: An Interdisciplinary Approach*, and is author of the forthcoming book *The Will of the People: How Public Opinion Has Influenced the Supreme Court and Shaped the Meaning of the Constitution* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux; September 2009).

ALL ARE WELCOME!

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email Flora Leung at fkleung@hku.hk to reserve a place.**