

The State of Access to Justice in the US Today

Professor Matthew Diller

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Room 825, 8/F Cheng Yu Tung Tower
Centennial Campus, The University of Hong Kong



As wealth inequality grows in the United States and across the globe, so too does the number of people with unmet legal needs.

With many of the problems in the U.S. justice system and in justice systems around the world more painfully visible today, the legal community, and society as a whole, has grown to more fully appreciate the importance of access to justice. It is critical that we understand as completely as possible the vicious characteristics of that gap: the threat it poses to civil society, the indelible harms it causes to people and communities, and the disenfranchisement it breeds among vulnerable populations.

Dean Diller will examine and discuss innovative access to justice initiatives being advanced in the US as well as share his vision and commitment to promoting access to justice globally.

MATTHEW DILLER is Dean at Fordham Law School. He previously served as Dean of the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law from 2009 to 2015. He began his career as a clerk for the Honorable Walter R. Mansfield of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, and then he was a staff attorney at the Legal Aid Society in New York. He entered academia in 1993 as a member of the faculty at Fordham Law School, where he held the Cooper Family Professorship and was co-director of the Louis Stein Center for Law and Ethics.

Currently, Dean Diller is a member of the Task Force to Expand Access to Civil Legal Services in New York and is chair of the Task Force's Committee on Law School Involvement. He also serves on the board of the Legal Aid Society of New York, is a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation, and is a member of the Leaders Council of the Legal Services Corporation.

In 1991, the Association of the Bar of the City of New York honored him with a legal services award. He has received the Louis J. Lefkowitz Award for the Advancement of Urban Law from the Fordham Urban Law Journal (2000), the Eugene J. Keefe Award for outstanding contributions to Fordham Law School (2002), and the Fordham Law Dean's Medal of Achievement (2009). In 2014, the American Association of Law Schools' Section on Pro Bono and Public Service Opportunities awarded Dean Diller the Deborah L. Rhode Award for his leadership in legal education and public service.

He received an AB and a JD, both magna cum laude, from Harvard University, where he was an editor of the Harvard Law Review.

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