

2009

# Originalism in the American Mind: Public Opinion and Judicial Decisionmaking (Program)

Nathaniel Persily

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**2009/10**

**JAMES GOOLD CUTLER LECTURE**

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William & Mary Law School

Constitution Day Program, September 17, 2009

3:30 p.m.

Room 127

## **NATHANIEL PERSILY**

Professor Persily received a B.A. and M.A. in political science from Yale in 1992. He earned his J.D. from Stanford in 1998, where he was president of the Stanford Law Review, and received his Ph.D. in political science from U.C. Berkeley in 2002.

Professor Persily, a nationally recognized expert on election law and a frequent practitioner and media commentator in the area, joined the Columbia Law School faculty on July 1, 2007 with a secondary appointment in the Department of Political Science. He also is the founder and director of the Center for Law and Politics at Columbia Law School.

Professor Persily's scholarship focuses on American election law or what is sometimes called the "law of democracy," which addresses issues such as voting rights, political parties, campaign finance, and redistricting. In the last area, his outside activities include service as a court-appointed expert to draw up legislative districting plans for Georgia, Maryland, and New York. He also has served the California State Senate as an expert in its redistricting litigation. Most recently, he wrote and filed two Supreme Court amicus briefs for himself and other political scientists in cases concerning the constitutionality and proper interpretation of the Voting Rights Act.

Professor Persily has published dozens of articles on the legal regulation of political parties, on issues surrounding the 2000 census and redistricting process, on voting rights, and on campaign finance reform. In May 2008, the Harvard Law Review published his coauthored article "Vote Fraud in the Eye of the Beholder", an empirical analysis of American's perceptions of vote fraud and their relationship to voter identification and voter turnout.

2009/10 CUTLER LECTURE

*“Originalism in the American Mind:  
Public Opinion and Judicial Decisionmaking”*

NATHANIEL PERSILY

CHARLES KELLER BEEKMAN PROFESSOR OF LAW

AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

## **The Cutler Lecture**

The Cutler Lecture series was established in 1927 by James Goold Cutler of Rochester, New York, to provide an annual lecture at William & Mary by “an outstanding authority on the Constitution of the United States.” The original series of 16 lectures ran from 1928 to 1944. After a period of dormancy, the Cutler lectures were revived in 1980/81 under the auspices of the Law School, with each lecture published in the *WILLIAM AND MARY LAW REVIEW*.