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The Endangered Center in American Politics (Program)

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**THE
JAMES GOOLD CUTLER
LECTURE 2003/04**

William & Mary Law School

February 19, 2004

3:00 p.m.

Room 127

Samuel Issacharoff

Samuel Issacharoff is the Harold R. Medina Professor in Procedural Jurisprudence at Columbia Law School. Prior to coming to Columbia, he spent ten years at the University of Texas Law School, where he held the Joseph D. Jamail Centennial Chair. He is a leading scholar on the law of the political process. His major articles include *Politics as Markets* in *STANFORD LAW REVIEW*, *Gerrymandering and Political Cartels* in *HARVARD LAW REVIEW*, and *The Hydraulics of Campaign Finance* in *TEXAS LAW REVIEW*. He is one of the authors of the leading book in the field, *THE LAW OF DEMOCRACY*.

Other areas of expertise include civil procedure and complex litigation, employment law, and law and economics. He serves as the Reporter for the newly-created Project on Aggregate Litigation of the American Law Institute and has been named a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

The last round of congressional elections presents a paradox. The electorate seems evenly divided, with most voters clustered around the center. Yet elections are increasingly uncompetitive and candidates are increasingly drawn from the extremes of the parties. Government seems more fractious and unable to generate legislative compromises. At the same time, when voters can by-pass normal electoral processes, as in California, preferences move strikingly back to the center.

In this lecture, Professor Issacharoff will explore forces moving American politics toward the extremes, with particular focus on the role that law has played in driving the median voter from center stage in the electoral arena.

The 2003/04 Cutler Lecture

“The Endangered Center in American Politics”

Professor Samuel Issacharoff

Thursday, February 19, 2004

3:00 p.m.

Room 127, Law School

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*.