Institute of Bill of Rights Law 1998-1999 Schedule of Events

Institute of Bill of Rights Law at the William & Mary Law School

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The Institute of Bill of Rights Law
1998-1999 Schedule of Events

September 25-26
Supreme Court Preview Conference.
The Institute of Bill of Rights Law hosted its 11th annual Supreme Court Preview conference which examined in depth the Supreme Court's upcoming term. The proceedings of which were broadcast in their entirety by C-Span. Speakers included leading journalists who cover the Supreme Court—Charles Bierbauer (CNN), Joan Biskupic (Washington Post), Richard Carelli (Associated Press), Lyle Denniston (Baltimore Sun), Aaron Epstein (Knight-Ridder), Tony Mauro (USA Today), David Savage (Los Angeles Times)—and nationally-recognized law professors David Cole (Georgetown), Dan Kahan (Yale), Tracey Maclin (Boston University), Steve Wermiel (American), and various William and Mary law faculty.

October 19
Public Debate: “Should President Clinton Be Impeached?”
With the news dominated by the impeachment proceedings against President Clinton, the Institute sponsored a public debate on the impeachment question. Professor Alan Meese of the William and Mary School of Law argued in favor of impeachment, while Professor Larry Evans of the Department of Government at William and Mary argued against impeachment. Professor Michael Gerhardt of the law school moderated the debate.

November 3
Public Lecture: Michael Gerhardt, William & Mary School of Law
Professor Gerhardt, an expert on the law of impeachment, delivered a public lecture entitled “The Impeachment Process.”

January 14
Public Lecture: Congressman Bobby Scott.
Congressman Scott, a Democrat from Virginia and member of the House Judiciary Committee, delivered a lecture entitled “The Impeachment of President Clinton.”
Scholar-in-Residence: Professor Akhil Amar, Yale Law School.
Professor Amar, one of the nation’s leading constitutional theorists, met with students and faculty in small groups throughout his two-day visit and on January 22 delivered a lecture to the faculty on constitutional interpretation entitled “Intratextualism.”

Scholarly Symposium: “Rethinking the Bill of Rights.”
This symposium examined recent reinterpretations of the history of the Bill of Rights, focusing on Professor Akhil Amar’s recently published book, The Bill of Rights: Creation and Reconstruction, which has been described by one leading constitutional scholar as “the most important book ever written on the Bill of Rights.” Speakers included Akhil Amar (Yale Law School); Michael Curtis (Wake Forest Law School); Michael Klarman (University of Virginia School of Law); and Melvin Urofsky (Virginia Commonwealth University). The proceedings of this program will be published in the William and Mary Bill of Rights Journal.

Professor Blume, Director of the Cornell Death Penalty Project and one of the leading death penalty lawyers in the nation, met with students and faculty in small groups during his two-day visit to the law school.

Public Lecture: John Blume, Cornell Law School.
John Blume, Director of the Cornell Law School Death Penalty Project, gave a public lecture, “The Death Penalty at the End of the 20th Century.”

Public Debate: “Should the Death Penalty Be Abolished?”
Legal theorists and ethicists have for many years debated the wisdom of using the death penalty to punish criminal defendants accused of murder. John Blume, Director of the Cornell Law School Death Penalty Project, argued that the death penalty should be abolished, while Michael McGinty, Commonwealth’s Attorney for Williamsburg/James City County argued against abolition. Professor Paul Marcus of William and Mary Law School moderated the debate.

Scholarly Symposium: “Fidelity, Economic Liberty, and 1937.”
This symposium examined the recent resurgence of the doctrine of substantive due process to protect a range of economic liberties such as the right to abortion and the right to refuse medical treatment. The symposium questioned whether substantive due process should be used to also protect economic liberties, such as liberty of contract. Legal scholars presented original papers on the conference theme. Speakers included: Alan Meese (William & Mary); David Bernstein (George Mason Law School); Rebecca Brown (Vanderbilt Law School); Barry...
Cushman (Virginia Law School); James Fleming (Fordham School of Law); John Harrison (Virginia Law School); Lawrence Lessig (Harvard Law School); John McGinnis (Cardozo School of Law). Professor Alan Meese is coordinating this program. The proceedings of this program will be published in the William and Mary Law Review.

March 19


This was the 10th annual student symposium sponsored by the Institute of Bill of Rights Law. The symposium examined the problem of pornography on the internet and the constitutionality of legal efforts to restrict access of minors to such pornography. Speakers included: Bruce Watson (“Enough is Enough”), Bruce Taylor (National Center for Children and Families), Dierdre Mulligan (The Center for Democracy and Technology), Ann Beezon (American Civil Liberties Union), Jonathan Zitrain (Berkman Center for Internet and Society, Harvard Law School).

March 22-23


Evan Wolfson, Director of the Marriage Project at Lambda Legal Defense Fund in New York, is one of the nation’s leading gay rights lawyers. He met with students and faculty in small groups during his two-day visit to the law school.

March 22


Evan Wolfson, who is Director of the Marriage Project at Lambda Legal Defense Fund, gave a public lecture, “Efforts to Legalize Gay Marriage.”

April 8-10

Scholarly Symposium: “Bosnia and the Balkans: Conflict and Reconstruction.”

This major conference, co-sponsored with the Reves Center for International Studies at the College of William and Mary, examined the problem of how a nation beset by years of internal strife, engages in social, political, and legal reconstruction. An array of speakers from around the world presented papers and discussed a variety of issues related to reconstruction, including the prosecution of human rights violations and the protection of religious and political rights. A group of students from the Balkans region came to William and Mary to attend the conference. Portions of the proceedings of this conference will be published in the William and Mary Law Review. The entire proceedings will be published as a book.