1998

Reconstructing Liberalism Conference (Program)

Institute of Bill of Rights Law at The College of William & Mary School of Law

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What Remains of “Liberal Legalism”? 

In the wake of sustained attacks by feminists, scholars of race, communitarians, and postmodern theorists, what remains of “liberal legalism”? You are cordially invited to attend a conference being held at the College of William & Mary to debate the virtues of “Reconstructing Liberalism.”

The conference is being co-sponsored by the Institute for the Bill of Rights at the College of William and Mary School of Law, and by the William and Mary Department of Philosophy. Its animating idea draws upon two emerging intuitions in legal theory. The first is that some recent attacks on liberal legalism contain important truths. As a result of such critiques, liberal theorists are rethinking, and in many cases reformulating, such central liberal ideas as the nature of state neutrality, the effect of societal constraints on the possibility of individual autonomy, the proper function of reason and rationality, and the potential for community within a liberal framework that takes the protection of individual rights as its core premise.

But this acknowledgment of the value of radical critiques has given birth to a second, equally powerful intuition: That something precious, and perhaps irreplaceable, would be lost by expunging liberal visions from law and legal theory.

We very much hope that you will be able to attend this event. If you are interested and would like more information, please contact us at 757-221-1476, or online at cvward@facstaff.wm.edu
Speakers

Professor Kathryn Abrams
Cornell University School of Law

Professor Anita Allen
Georgetown University School of Law

Professor Gerald Dworkin
University of California - Davis
Department of Philosophy

Professor William Galston
University of Maryland
Director, Institute for Philosophy and Public Policy

Commentators

Professor Larry Becker
The College of William and Mary
Department of Philosophy

Professor Neil Devins
The College of William and Mary School of Law

Professor Amy Gutmann
Princeton University
Department of Government

Professor Thomas Hill
University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill
Department of Philosophy

Professor Linda McClain
 Hofstra University School of Law

Professor Jeffrie Murphy
Arizona State University College of Law

Professor Judy Scales-Trent
University of Buffalo School of Law

Session Chairs

Professor Katherine Franke
Fordham University School of Law

Professor Alan Fuchs
The College of William and Mary
Department of Philosophy

Professor Linda Malone
The College of William and Mary School of Law

Professor Fernando Teson
Arizona State University College of Law
Friday, April 3, 1998

10:00-10:30 a.m.

Welcome and Introduction
Davison Douglas, Director,
Institute for the Bill of Rights
George Harris, Chair,
The College of William and Mary
Department of Philosophy
Cynthia Ward, Professor of Law,
The College of William and Mary

10:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Reconstructing Privacy
Session Chair: Professor Linda Malone
Major Speaker: Professor Anita Allen
Commentators: Professor Linda McClain
Professor Neil Devins

12:15-2:00 p.m. Lunch

2:00-3:45 p.m.

Reconstructing Agency
Session Chair: Professor Katherine Franke
Major Speaker: Professor Kathryn Abrams
Commentators: Professor Thomas Hill
Professor Judy Scales-Trent

3:45-4:00 p.m. Break

4:00-5:45 p.m.

Reconstructing Neutrality
Session Chair: Professor Alan Fuchs
Major Speaker: Professor William Galston
Commentators: Professor Amy Gutmann
Professor George Harris

Saturday, April 4, 1998

10:00-11:45 a.m.

Revisiting the Hart-Devlin Debate
Session Chair: Professor Fernando Tepson
Major Speaker: Professor Gerald Dworkin
Commentators: Professor Larry Becker
Professor Jeffrie Murphy
Registration

Name ________________________________

Phone ________________________________

Institution ________________________________

Address ________________________________

City ________________________________

State/ZIP ________________________________

$50 Dollar Registration Fee:
Please make check or money order payable to
Institute of Bill of Rights Law

Send to:
Professor Cynthia Ward
The College of William and Mary School of Law
P.O. Box 8795
Williamsburg, Virginia 23187

Hotel Registration:

A block of hotel rooms reserved for conference attendees is being held at the Williamsburg Hospitality House. The hotel is offering a special rate to conference attendees of $99.00 per night, single or double. Please call 1-800-932-9192, or fax 757-220-1560 to make hotel reservations. Be sure to refer to the Institute for Bill of Rights Law conference on Reconstructing Liberalism to receive the special rate. Please note that these rooms are being held for conference attendees until March 2, 1998 and are limited in number. After that date, rooms are on an "as available" basis.