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Event Invitations 2020

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3-20-2020

Fault Lines in the Constitution: The Reemerging Debate Over Affirmative Constitutional Rights

Cardozo Law Review

Floersheimer Center for Constitutional Democracy

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CARDOZO LAW

YESHIVA UNIVERSITY

**The Cardozo Law Review and
the Floersheimer Center for
Constitutional Democracy
invite you to:**

**Fault Lines in the Constitution:
The Reemerging Debate over Affirmative
Constitutional Rights**

**Friday, March 20, 2020
8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

**Jacob Burns Moot Court Room
Cardozo School of Law
55 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10003**

[Register here](#)

Inspired by Cynthia and Sanford Levinson's recent book, *Fault Lines in the Constitution*, this conference will examine a particular aspect of American exceptionalism: the absence of affirmative social and economic rights in the U.S. Constitution.

In the early 1970s, the Supreme Court closed the door on reading "quasi-affirmative rights" such as welfare, education, and housing into the 14th Amendment. Now, almost 50 years later, political rhetoric increasingly uses the language of rights, particularly with regard to housing and health care. In the courts, plaintiffs are relying on affirmative rights theories in an effort to compel government action against climate change. And scholars, many drawing on provisions in state and foreign constitutions, are articulating new visions for such rights.

6.0 New York State transitional/non-transitional CLE credits in "Areas of Professional Practice" available.

Symposium Schedule

8:00 - 9:00 a.m. | Breakfast and Registration

9:00 - 9:15 a.m. | Introduction

9:15 -10:45 a.m. | Panel 1: *Sources of Affirmative Rights*

- Moderator: **Alex Reinert**, Cardozo School of Law
- **Smita Narula**, Pace University School of Law
- **Cynthia Soohoo**, CUNY Law School
- **Eric Tars**, National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty
- **Joshua Weishart**, West Virginia University College of Law

10:45 - 11:00 a.m. | Morning Coffee Break

11:00 - 12:30 p.m. | Panel 2: *Environmental Affirmative Rights in the 21st Century*

- Moderator: **Michael Herz**, Cardozo School of Law
- **Martha Davis**, Northeastern School of Law
- **James May**, Widener University Delaware Law School
- **Erin Ryan**, Florida State University College of Law

- **Christopher Serkin**, Vanderbilt Law School

12:30 - 1:50 p.m. | Lunch and Keynote

- **Sanford Levinson**, University of Texas Law School

2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. | Panel 3: *Understanding and Interpreting Affirmative Rights: The U.S. Constitution and Beyond*

- Moderator: **Michael Pollack**, Cardozo School of Law
- **Susan Bandes**, DePaul College of Law
- **Tracy Higgins**, Fordham School of Law
- **Michel Rosenfeld**, Cardozo School of Law
- **Emily Zackin**, Johns Hopkins University

Please direct all questions about the event to the Cardozo Law Review staff.

**Floersheimer Center for
Constitutional Democracy**

at Cardozo School of Law

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