



William & Mary Law School to Host Seventh Annual Election Law Symposium

Event to Feature a Bipartisan Panel Discussing Solutions to
Election Day Voting Delays

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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WILLIAMSBURG, VA – The Election Law Society and the Election Law Program at William & Mary Law School announce the Seventh Annual Election Law Symposium to take place on Thursday, February 21st. The event will feature prominent election law attorneys, the Colorado Secretary of State, election law scholars, and Virginia registrars. The symposium centers upon voting delays and is titled “We Have to Fix That: Bipartisan Solutions to Election Day Delays.”

The symposium was inspired by President Obama’s speech following the election when he said, “I want to thank every American who participated in this election, whether you voted for the very first time or waited in line for a very long time.... by the way, we have to fix that.” This event will draw upon various panelists’ expertise in election law in an attempt to formulate concrete ideas and bipartisan solutions for how to manage elections and limit voting delays.

“Since the 2000 presidential election, the public has become more interested in how our elections run. Congress passed significant reforms in 2003, yet problems still persist. In 2012 voters, across several states, experienced long lines, so now the focus is on how to solve this problem” explained Election Law Society Co-President Grant McLoughlin.

Panelists scheduled to participate include Robert Bauer, Partner at Perkins Coie and former White House Counsel, General Counsel to President Obama’s re-election Committee, Obama for America and to the Democratic National Committee; Cleta Mitchell, Partner at Foley & Lardner and legal counsel to the National Republican Senatorial Committee, the National Republican Congressional Committee and co-counsel for the National Rifle Association in the Supreme Court case involving the 2002 federal campaign finance law; the Hon. Scott Gessler, Colorado Secretary of State who has also served on bipartisan election boards and commissions, including the Election Reform Commission that made recommendations to the General Assembly following the 2008 elections; Dr. John Fortier of the Bipartisan Policy Center, a political scientist who focuses on governmental and electoral institutions and was previously a research fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, and Prof. Paul Herrnson of the Center For American Politics and Citizenship at the University of Maryland.

Doug Chapin of the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota will serve as the moderator. Mr. Chapin is working to develop and expand an Election Academy

aimed at delivering high-quality research and learning opportunities to election administrators. Mr. Chapin, one of our nation's preeminent experts in election administration, served as the director of Election Initiatives at Pew Charitable Trust for ten years prior to joining the Humphrey School.

Election Law Society Co-President Kayla McCann stated "Our symposium draws together a panel of experts to discuss solutions to the problem of Election Day Delays. This year students will work with Virginia Voter Registrars to implement reforms in time for the 2013 Gubernatorial Election."

The event is set for February 21 at 3:30 PM at the McGlothlin Courtroom at the William & Mary School of Law. The event is free and open to the public. This annual event is possible with generous assistance from the William & Mary Institute of Bill of Rights Law and the National Center for State Courts.

Created in 2005 as a joint venture of the [National Center for State Courts](#) and the Law School, the [Election Law Program](#) seeks to provide practical assistance to state court judges in the United States who are called upon to resolve difficult election law disputes (see Program materials available at www.electionlawissues.org). The Election Law Society is the student organization created to generate interest in and educate students about this rapidly expanding and extremely important area of practice.

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