

Redistricting Reform: Mapping Our Future

Co-hosted by Common Cause and The George Washington University Law School
Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Symposium Program

8:45 am. **Registration and breakfast**

9:15 am. **Welcome**

- **Miles Rapoport**, President – Common Cause
- **Spencer Overton**, President and CEO – Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, The George Washington University Law School

9:30 – 10:30 am. **Where do we draw the line on partisan gerrymandering?**

Prof. McGann and Smith present a winning paper of the “Gerrymander Standard” competition: *A Discernible and Manageable Standard for Partisan Gerrymandering*.

- **Anthony McGann**, Professor – University of Strathclyde School of Government and Public Policy
- **Charles Anthony Smith**, Assoc. Professor of Political Science – Univ. of California, Irvine.
- Moderated by **Emmet Bondurant**, Bondurant, Mixon, & Elmore.

10:30 – 11:30 am. **Mountains and Rivers: How do we overcome entrenched interests and adversity in the fight for fair representation?**

- **U.S. Rep. Alan Lowenthal** (D-CA)
- **U.S. Rep. Reid Ribble** (R-WI)
- **Jennifer Bevan-Dangel**, Executive Director – Common Cause Maryland
- **Christie Hefner**, Board member - Illinois Independent Map Amendment
- Moderated by **Chris Carson**, League of Women Voters of United States

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm (lunch panel). **Shifting Sands: How is the Supreme Court re-shaping representation of We the People?**

The Supreme Court has been rapidly re-shaping voting rights and redistricting jurisprudence through a series of recent cases. Legal experts will discuss recent and upcoming redistricting cases, including *Alabama Legislative Black Caucus v. Alabama*, *Shapiro v. McManus*, *Evenwel v. Abbott*, *Arizona State Legislature v. Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission*.

- **Michael Li**, Democracy Program Counsel – Brennan Center
- **Rajeev Muttreja**, Associate – Jones Day
- **Thomas A. Saenz**, President, General Counsel – Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund
- **Paul Wolfson**, Partner and Vice Chair of the Appellate and Supreme Court Litigation Practice Group – WilmerHale
- Moderated by **Alan Morrison**, The George Washington University School of Law and **Kathay Feng**, Common Cause

Special thanks to MacArthur Foundation, WhyNot Foundation, and Emmet Bondurant for making this symposium possible.

1:00 – 2:00 pm. **Cutting through the Thicket: Can we untangle redistricting for the courts?**

Profs. Chen and Rodden will present a winning paper of the “Gerrymander Standard” writing competition: *Cutting through the Thicket: Redistricting Simulations and the Detection of Partisan Gerrymanders*. Hebert will discuss the current Florida litigation and how the court has handled the issue of partisan gerrymandering.

- **Jowei Chen**, Associate Professor of Political Science – University of Michigan
- **Jonathan Rodden**, Professor of Political Science and Hoover Institution Senior Fellow – Stanford University
- **Gerry Hebert**, Exec. Director, Dir. of Litigation – Campaign Legal Center
- Moderated by **Derek Muller**, Pepperdine University

2:00 – 3:00 pm. **Paving New Roads: Can we carve new pathways for redistricting through litigation in the states?**

- **Joanna Cuevas Ingram**, Associate Counsel – LatinoJustice PRLDEF
- **Anita Earls**, Executive Director – Southern Coalition for Social Justice
- **Nicholas Stephanopoulos**, Assistant Professor of Law – University of Chicago
- Moderated by **Dan Vicuna**, Common Cause

3:00 – 4:00 pm. **Building bridges: How do we build strong coalitions to stand together for fair districts?**

- **Melanie McElroy**, Executive Director – Common Cause Michigan
- **Jane Pinsky**, Director – North Carolina Coalition for Government and Lobbying
- **Catherine Turcer**, Policy Analyst – Common Cause Ohio
- **Former Reps. Ellen Tauscher (D-CA), Tom Davis (R-VA)** – Independent Lines (invited)
- Moderated by **Greg Moore**, NAACP National Voter Fund

4:00 – 5:15 pm. **Metes and Measures: How do we measure unfair partisan gerrymandering?**

Professors Best and McDonald will present the winning “Gerrymander Standard” writing competition papers: “Unfair Partisan Gerrymanders in Politics and Law: A Diagnostic Applied to Six Cases.” Nguyen will discuss the current Virginia litigation and the status of the court-directed redistricting process.

- **Robin E. Best** – Assistant Professor of Political Science – SUNY Binghamton
- **Michael D. McDonald**, Professor of Political Science, Director of the Center on Democratic Performance – SUNY Binghamton
- **Tram Nguyen**, Co-Executive Director – New Virginia Majority
- Moderated by **Norm Ornstein**, American Enterprise Institute

5:15 – 6:30 pm. **Reception**

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The George Washington University Law School / Student Conference Center, 2nd floor
2023 G Street NW, Washington, DC 20052