

THE CLASSICAL LIBERAL CONSTITUTION AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY



Wednesday September 30, 2015, 5:00pm

Center for the Arts (1P), Williamson Theatre

Reception to follow

The past few years have marked a huge assault on religious liberty, as embodied in the Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment, and the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993. The modern progressive view narrowly confines free exercise to religious worship and ritual, but it also insists that free exercise should be overridden to prevent discrimination on the grounds, most notably, of race and sexual orientation, even in competitive markets. The classical liberal approach rejects the new wave of human rights laws that forces religious people either abandon their trade or engage in actions that violate their religious conscience.



Richard A. Epstein is the Laurence A. Tisch Professor of Law and Director of the Classical Liberal Institute at the New York University School of Law. Considered one of the most influential thinkers in legal academia, Epstein is known for his research and writings on a broad range of constitutional, economic, historical, and philosophical subjects. His many books include *Takings: Private Property and the Power of Eminent Domain* (1985), *Simple Rules for a Complex World* (1995), and most recently, *The Classical Liberal Constitution: The Uncertain Quest for Limited Government* (2013). Epstein has been the Peter and Kirsten Bedford Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution since 2000 and a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences since 1985. From 1972 to 2011, he taught at the University of Chicago Law School, where he remains a Senior Lecturer. This past year, he became director of the Classical Liberal Institute, newly formed at NYU Law. Epstein received a BA from Columbia College in 1964 summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa, a BA (Juris.) first class from Oxford University in 1966, and his LLB cum laude in 1968 from Yale Law School, where he was elected to the Order of the Coif. He was awarded the Bradley Prize in 2011, and received the Norman MacLean Prize for Teaching Excellence from the University of Chicago in 2014.

Sponsored by the Office of the Provost, the Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences, the Student Government Association, and the Legal Studies Institute. Funded in part by the Campus Activities Board with Student Activities Fees. This is a CC CLUE event.