

# SCOTUS, Polarization, and the Rule of Law

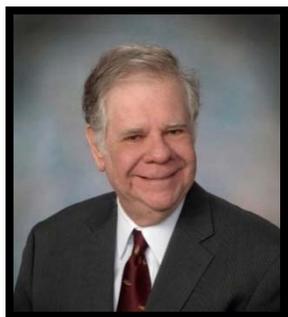


The federal courts, and particularly the Supreme Court, usually reliable institutions embodying the nation's commitment to the rule of law, have come to the foreground of our polarized political environment. The increasingly vicious tone of battles over judicial nominations is a symptom of deeper dysfunctions in the structure of American government. Our two speakers see a common thread running through problems regarding judicial appointments, anti-democratic gerrymandering, voter suppression, and the conduct of the decennial census. That common thread is our national inability to maintain strong institutions and processes that serve as a buffer against destructive partisanship. These issues existed long before Donald Trump's Presidency. Our speakers will discuss judicial appointment and tenure, drawing on international and state level comparisons, the drawing of electoral boundaries, the controversy surrounding inclusion of a citizenship question on the 2020 census, threats to the independence of the FBI and the Department of Justice, the importance of the civil service system, and the Speaker's dominance of the House of Representatives. Meet our experts Professors Perry Dane and Bernard Bell for a dynamic evening.



**Bernard W. Bell** is Professor of Law, and Herbert Hanooh Scholar at Rutgers Law School (Newark Campus). Professor Bell received a B.A. cum laude from Harvard College and a J.D. from Stanford Law School, clerked for Judge Amalya L. Kearse of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and for United States Supreme

Court Justice Byron R. White. From 1984 to 1994, he served as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Civil Division of the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York



**Perry Dane** is a Professor of Law at the Rutgers Law School. He was previously on the faculty of the Yale Law School and served as a law clerk to William J. Brennan, Jr., Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court.

Professor Dane is a graduate of Yale College (1978) and the Yale Law School (1981). His research and teaching

interests include religion and the law, conflict of laws, the jurisprudence of Jewish law, legal pluralism, the debate on same-sex marriage, constitutional law, comparative constitutionalism, jurisdiction, the law of charities, education law, and the Canadian legal system.

**Thursday, September 27, 2018**

**7:30 pm to 9:30 pm**  
**Doors open at 7 pm**

**Fairleigh Dickinson University**  
Dickinson Hall  
Wilson Auditorium  
140 University Plaza Drive  
Hackensack, NJ 07601

**RSVP in advance at [www.nfrpp.org](http://www.nfrpp.org)**

Free and Open to the Public

Suggested Donation is \$10  
Donations are tax deductible

*Thanks to our co-sponsors:*

**League of Women Voters of Northern Valley**

**League of Women Voters of Fair Lawn, NJ**

**Northern NJ Chapter, National  
Organization for Women**