

Searle Center Conference on Government Unions in the United States

Thursday, October 13th, 2011—Friday, October 14th, 2011

Northwestern University School of Law

Agenda as of 10/5/2011

Thursday, October 13th

- 12:00 p.m. **Registration Check-in** (WB 112)
- 12:00-1:00 **Lunch** (WB 540)
- 1:00 **Welcome and Introduction** (WB 147)
Max Schanzenbach, Director, Searle Center on Law, Regulation, and Economic Growth and Professor of Law, Northwestern University School of Law
John O. McGinnis, George C. Dix Professor of Law, Northwestern University School of Law
- 1:00-3:00 **Session One—The Evolution of Public Sector Unions in the United States** (WB 147)
Session Chair: **Zev Eigen**, Assistant Professor of Law, Northwestern University School of Law
- “Causes and Consequences of the War Against Public Sector Unions”
Richard B. Freeman, Herbert Ascherman Chair in Economics, Harvard University and Director of the Labor and Worklife Program at Harvard Law School
- “The Political Origins of Public Employee Unionism in the American States, 1959-1984”
Daniel DiSalvo, Assistant Professor of Political Science, The City College of New York
- “An Anatomy of Public Sector Unions in the United States”
Barry Hirsch, W.J. Usery Chair of the American Workplace, Department of Economics and Andrew Young School of Policy Studies, Georgia State University
- 3:00-3:15 **Break**
- 3:15-5:15 **Session Two—Estimating the Costs of Public Unions**
Session Chair: **Thomas J. Brennan**, Assistant Professor of Law, Northwestern University School of Law and Assistant Professor of Finance, Kellogg School of Management (Courtesy)
- “Measuring Pension Liabilities”
Robert Novy-Marx, Assistant Professor of Finance, Simon Graduate School of Business, University of Rochester
- “The Costs and Revenue Demands of Public Employee Pensions”
Joshua Rauh, Associate Professor, Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University
- “Return Assumptions on Pension Fund Assets and their Implications”
Dean Baker, Co-Director, Center for Economic and Policy Research
- “The Effect of Pension Accounting on Public/Private Sector Pay Comparisons”
Andrew Biggs, Resident Scholar, The American Enterprise Institute
- 5:15 **Cocktail Reception** (WB 440)
- 6:15 **Dinner** (WB 540)
- 7:15 **Keynote Address: Through the Looking-Glass: Seven Years in Sacramento**
David Crane, Lecturer, Stanford University Regent, University of California and Former Special Advisor for Jobs and Economic Growth, Office of the Governor, State of California

Friday, October 14th

- 8:00 a.m. **Continental Breakfast** (WB 112)
- 8:30-10:30 **Session Three—The Law and Economics of State and Municipal Obligations to Employees**
Session Chair: **Kenneth Ayotte**, Professor of Law, Northwestern University School of Law
- “States, Bankruptcy, and the Contracts Clause”
Richard Hynes, Professor of Law and Director, John M. Olin Program in Law and Economics, University of Virginia School of Law
- “The Legacy of New York City's Brush with Bankruptcy”
E.J. McMahon, Senior Fellow, Manhattan Institute for Policy Research, Empire Center for NYS Policy
- “Statutes as Contracts? The California Rule and its Impact on Public Pension Reform”
Amy B. Monahan, Associate Professor, University of Minnesota Law School
- “State Bankruptcy Lessons for and from the Eurozone”
David Skeel, S. Samuel Arsht Professor of Corporate Law, University of Pennsylvania School of Law
- 10:30 to 10:45 **Break**
- 10:45-12:15 **Session Four—Public Sector Unions and the Democratic Polity**
Session Chair: **Tonja Jacobi**, Professor of Law, Northwestern University School of Law
- “Beaches, Sunshine, and Public-Sector Pay: Theory and Evidence on Amenities and Rent Extraction by Government Workers”
David Neumark, Professor of Economics and Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Economics, University of California-Irvine
- “An Alternative to Wisconsin”
Thomas A. Kochan, George Maverick Bunker Professor of Management, Professor of Engineering Systems and Co-director, Institute for Work and Employment Research, Sloan School of Management, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- “Public Sector Unions and Public Values in a Democratic Society”
Cynthia Estlund, Catherine A. Rein Professor of Law, New York University School of Law
- 12:15- 1:15 **Lunch** (WB 540)
- 1:15-2:45 **Session Five—Public Sector Unions: Is Reform Needed and Proposals for Reform**
Session Chair: **Martin H. Malin**, Chicago-Kent College of Law, Illinois Institute of Technology
- “The Challenge for Public Sector Management”
Samuel Estreicher, Dwight D. Opperman Professor of Law and Director, Center for Labor and Employment Law, New York University School of Law
- “The ‘Enterprise Compact’: A New Approach to Collective Bargaining in the Public Sector”
Barry Bluestone, Russell B. and Andree B. Stearns Trustee Professor of Political Economy; Director, Kitty and Michael Dukakis Center for Urban and Regional Policy; Dean in the School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs, Center for Urban and Regional Policy, Northeastern University
- “Public Unions, Public Goods, and Public Bads”
John O. McGinnis, George C. Dix Professor in Constitutional Law, Northwestern University School of Law
- 2:45 **Adjourn**