February 18, 2016

“Wholly Foreign to the First Amendment”? Political Inequality Forty Years After Buckley v. Valeo

Time: 4:30pm - 5:30pm
Location: Silverman 240A

Forty years after the Supreme Court in Buckley v. Valeo explicitly rejected political equality as a compelling government interest for limiting money in politics, we have a campaign finance system that is ostensibly grossly unequal. Super PAC megadonors have tremendous influence over which candidates can run viable campaigns, meanwhile everyday citizens feel their voices are not being heard in the halls of power. Our panelists will address the effects of the big money system on grassroots battles for racial and economic justice and the viability of reviving the political equality rationale in first amendment jurisprudence.

Featuring:
Rick Hasen, Chancellor’s Professor of Law and Political Science, University of California, Irvine
Tabatha Abu El-Haj, Associate Professor, Thomas R. Kline School of Law at Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA
Jesus Gonzalez, Co-Director, Churches United for Fair Housing, Brooklyn, NY
Adam Lacz, Counsel, Demos, Washington, DC

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