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## Constitutional Law Speaker Series: Michael Gerhardt

Time: 12:00pm - 1:15pm

Location: Faculty Lounge

Professor [Michael Gerhardt](#), the Samuel Ashe Distinguished Professor of Constitutional Law at UNC School of Law will be presenting. The workshop will be based on the introduction and two chapters of his book, "The Forgotten Presidents." He expects to talk about how the excerpts fit together both in "The Forgotten Presidents" and lay the groundwork (particularly in the Taylor chapter) for a forthcoming book as well.

This workshop is open to invited guests only.

Michael Gerhardt is Samuel Ashe Distinguished Professor of Constitutional Law. He specializes in constitutional conflicts and has been active as a scholar, advisor, special counsel, expert witness, and public commentator on all the major conflicts between presidents and Congress over the past quarter century.

Professor Gerhardt's extensive public service has included advising congressional leaders and White House officials on numerous constitutional issues, including judicial nominations, recess appointments, impeachment, health care reform, the filibuster, and the debt ceiling crises. In 1992-93, he served as one of eight members of the Justice Department transition team for President Clinton and wrote the judicial selection policy for the incoming administration. In 1998, he was the only expert invited to speak behind closed doors to the House of Representatives about the possible impeachment of President Clinton, and he was the only joint witness in the House Judiciary Committee's principal hearing on the impeachment of President Clinton. The House Judiciary Committee selected him as the principal reporter for three distinguished legal scholars whom it asked to draft a censure resolution for the committee to consider in lieu of impeaching the president. In 2003 and 2005, he advised Senate Majority leaders and the Democratic Policy Committee on the constitutionality of the filibuster and the so-called nuclear option.

Professor Gerhardt is the only legal scholar to participate in Supreme Court confirmation hearings for five of the nine justices currently sitting on the Supreme Court. He served as Special Counsel assisting the Clinton White House on Justice Stephen Breyer's confirmation hearings. In 2005, he advised several senators on President Bush's nomination of John Roberts as Chief Justice of the United States, and he testified as an expert witness in the confirmation hearings for Justice Samuel Alito, Jr. In 2009-2010, Professor Gerhardt served as Special Counsel to Chairman Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) and the Senate Judiciary Committee for the nominations of Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan to the the U.S. Supreme Court.



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