

Hosted By: Documentaries & the Law Lecture Series on Media and the First Amendment

Dialogue on Demagoguery and Free Speech

February 20, 2020

6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Reception at 5:00 pm | The Clock

University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School

3501 Sansom Street

Gittis 214

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104

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Demagoguery has been a frequent topic of American documentary films. Demagoguery is also seen as posing a threat to news media around the world today. But what precisely is “demagoguery”? Where does the power of its appeal of populism and irrational prejudice come from?

American demagoguery has a “peculiar” relationship to the First Amendment. Freedom of speech allows demagoguery to develop, yet free speech is generally among its targets. Nonetheless, a democratic society that pursues a political praxis of robust debate and disagreement is best able to fend off and recover from demagoguery’s polarization and factionalism. Can we trust the First Amendment to right the ship of state if it is overtaken by demagoguery and bring about a return to democratic deliberation?

Professor Roberts–Miller, a distant relative of Penn Law’s own Justice Owen J. Roberts, is the author of *Demagoguery and Democracy*, a pocket–size primer from

Experiment Books. Professor Seth Kreimer is a constitutional law scholar who has represented plaintiffs in a range of constitutional litigation.

This program has been approved for 1.5 substantive CLE credits for Pennsylvania lawyers. CLE credit may be available in other jurisdictions as well.

Attendees seeking CLE credit should bring separate payment of \$60.00 (\$30.00 public interest/non-profit attorneys) in cash or check made payable to The Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania.

Documentaries & the Law Lecture Series on Media and the First Amendment, sponsored by Stephanie Abrutyn L'91, considers the impact of the first amendment on documentaries and modern media.

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