March 3, 2020

The Owen J. Roberts Lecture in Constitutional Law

Time: 4:30pm  
Location: Golkin 100, Michael A. Fitts Auditorium

"Abolition Constitutionalism"

The 2020 Distinguished Owen J. Roberts Lecture will be given by Dorothy E. Roberts, the George A. Weiss University Professor of Law and Sociology and the Raymond Pace and Sadie Tanner Mossell Alexander Professor of Civil Rights.

This Lecture, based on the Foreword to the Harvard Law Review Supreme Court 2018 Term issue, makes the case for reinvigorating abolition constitutionalism by attending to the theorizing of prison abolitionists. Today's abolitionists trace the prison industrial complex back to slavery and view their movement as a continuation of the anti-slavery struggle, which animated the passage of the Reconstruction Amendments. But should prison abolitionists engage with the U.S. Constitution as an abolitionist document? Professor Roberts will argue that, despite the ascendance of pro-slavery and anti-abolition constitutionalism, scholars and activists should consider the abolitionist history of the Reconstruction Amendments as a usable past to help move toward a radical future. Abolitionists can deploy the Reconstruction Amendments instrumentally to further their aims and, in the process, imagine a new abolition-or freedom-constitutionalism on the path to building a society without prisons.

A reception will follow the talk in the Haaga Lounge.

This program has been approved for 1.0 substantive CLE credits for Pennsylvania lawyers. CLE credit may be available in other jurisdictions as well. Attendees seeking CLE credit should bring separate payment in the amount of $40.00 ($20.00 public interest/non-profit attorneys) cash or check made payable to The Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania.

Contact Info:
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Register for this event

# Attendees*
First name*
Last name*
E-mail address*
Phone
Penn Affiliation (e.g. L 78, C 97)