

FOULSTON SIEFKIN LECTURE

William N. Eskridge, Jr.: "Political Powerlessness as a Requirement for Suspect Classifications?"

Washburn University School of Law
Friday, March 26, 2010
12 to 1 p.m., Room 114



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Washburn University School of Law
and the *Washburn Law Journal*
proudly present the:

33rd Annual FOULSTON SIEFKIN LECTURE



William N. Eskridge, Jr.

John A. Garver Professor of Jurisprudence

Yale Law School

“Political Powerlessness as
a Requirement for Suspect
Classifications?”

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About the LECTURER

Professor William N. Eskridge, Jr.

received his B.A., *summa cum laude*, from Davidson College in 1973 and his Master's in History from Harvard University in 1974. Professor Eskridge earned his J.D. from Yale Law School, where he was the Note and Topics Editor of *The Yale Law Journal* (1977-78). After clerking for U.S. District Judge Edward Weinfeld in the Southern District of New



York and practicing law at Shea & Gardner, he entered academia. His primary academic homes have been the Georgetown University Law Center (1987-98) and the Yale Law School (1998-present). He has also taught at NYU, Stanford, Toronto, Harvard, Columbia, Virginia, and Vanderbilt. His primary legal academic interest has been statutory interpretation. Together, Professor Eskridge and Professor Philip Frickey (a friend from Shea & Gardner) developed an innovative casebook on

Legislation. Professor Eskridge has also published a monograph and several dozen law review articles (many with Frickey) on statutory interpretation theory and practice. Professors Eskridge and Frickey's project has been to understand the dynamics of statutory evolution, and the proper methodology judges should apply when construing statutes. In 1990-95, Professor Eskridge represented a gay couple suing for recognition of their same-sex marriage. Since then, he has published a field-establishing casebook, three monographs, and dozens of law review articles articulating a legal and political framework for proper state treatment of sexual and gender minorities. The historical materials in his book on *Gaylaw* formed the basis for an *amicus* brief he drafted for the Cato Institute and for much of the Court's (and the dissenting opinion's) analysis in *Lawrence v. Texas* (2003), which invalidated consensual sodomy laws. Professor Eskridge has been cited by the U.S. Supreme Court more than a dozen times.

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