The Henry Morris Lecture in International & Comparative Law

Which People? Whose Constitution? A Comparative Look at Constitutional Founding in Korea and Japan

Tuesday, October 22, 2013 | 12 noon
1.0 hour of IL MCLE credit

IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law
ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Continuing Legal Education

Lecturer

Dr. Chaihark Hahm
Professor, Yonsei University School of Law

Dr. Chaihark Hahm teaches constitutional theory at Yonsei University School of Law in Seoul, Korea. He obtained his LL.B. from Seoul National University, a J.D. from Columbia Law School, an LL.M. from Yale, and an S.J.D. from Harvard. During 2009-2010, he was in residence at the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Studies (NIAS) as the Henry G. Schermers Fellow, which is jointly administered by NIAS and the Hague Institute for the Internationalization of Law. Prior to joining Yonsei University, he was a Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow at the National Endowment for Democracy in Washington, D.C. His S.J.D. dissertation at Harvard is widely considered a path-breaking work on East Asian legal theory and political tradition. Dr. Hahm has since written on a wide range of topics from the Confucian theory of constitutionalism, to comparative constitutional adjudication, to Korean legal culture and history, to civic ideals and citizenship education, and human rights. He is a member of the editorial board of I•CON: International Journal of Constitutional Law. He is currently co-authoring a book on constitutional founding of Korea and Japan, with Prof. Sung Ho Kim of the Political Science Department at Yonsei University, which will be published by Cambridge University Press. He and Prof. Kim are also editing a volume on constitutional founding of other Asian countries. Prof. Hahm's works in English have appeared in Journal of Democracy, American Journal of Comparative Law, and I•CON, among others. He has co-edited, with Daniel A. Bell, Politics of Affective Relations: East Asia and Beyond (Lexington Books, 2004). In addition to his interests in law, Prof. Hahm maintains a deep interest in theology and biblical interpretation, and holds an M.A. in Religion from Yale Divinity School.

Which People? Whose Constitution? A Comparative Look at Constitutional Founding in Korea and Japan

Prof. Hahm's lecture will examine the process of constitutional founding in South Korea and Japan after World War II. By revisiting a number of legal and political issues that were hotly contested by the drafters at the time, it will seek to highlight a more general theoretical problem confronting efforts to establish a democratic constitutional order for the first time. It will raise questions about our received understanding regarding a number of issues including: our ideas about the legitimacy of a constitution, our assumptions regarding the identity of the sovereign people, and the role of the past in the creation of a new constitutional order.

Henry Morris Endowment

This program is funded through the Henry Morris Endowment. An 1889 graduate of the Chicago-Kent College of Law, Henry Crittendon Morris (1863-1948) enjoyed a distinguished career as an international lawyer and diplomat. During 25 years of foreign service prior to World War I, Mr. Morris served as the United States Consul in Ghent, Belgium, and as secretary to Chief Justice Fuller at the Permanent International Court at the Hague. When the war broke out, he returned to Chicago to coordinate Red Cross and Liberty Loan campaigns on behalf of the American war effort.

Mr. Morris was a member of the American Society of International Law and a number of other organizations devoted to improving international relations. He was the author of The History of Colonization from the Earliest Times to the Present Day (1906). The French government made him a chevalier of the French Legion of Honor in 1937.

Program Details

The lecture is free and open to the public. No registration is required. For further information call 312.906.5090, or visit our website at cle.kentlaw.edu