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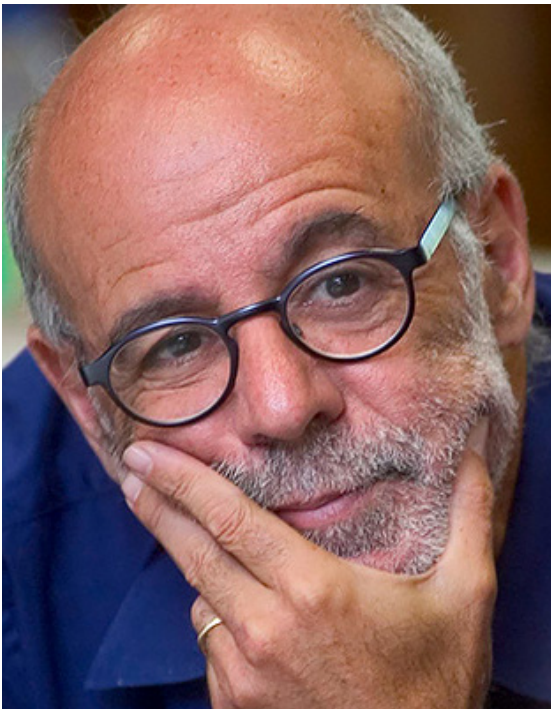
CENTER FOR THE STUDY  
OF LAW AND SOCIETY

PUBLIC LECTURE

# Diaspora and Group Rights The Jewish Constitutional Moment

**Willy Forbath**

Associate Dean for Research; Lloyd M. Bentsen Chair in Law, University of Texas



This talk will explore a titanic clash – a moment of constitutive politics– among Jews in America a century ago. Fundamental questions about group identity and interests were up for grabs: What did it mean to be both an American and a Jew? Was Jewishness solely a private faith or did it impress on claims to group rights? Lawyers played a critical role in the battle over the politics and meaning of Jewishness-- as founders of the first national Jewish organizations, as wordsmiths and public intellectuals, and as authority figures and enthno-cultural heroes. Prof. Forbath will elaborate on lawyers' hammering out of the basic terms of Jewish belonging and apartness in twentieth-century America and will explore the kind of constitutional settlement they reached.

Prof. William Forbath focuses on U.S. and comparative constitutional law, and constitutional history and theory. His books include *Law and the Shaping of the American Labor Movement* and *The Constitution of Opportunity* (co-authored with Joseph Fishkin and forthcoming in 2016). Most recently, Prof. Forbath has written on Jews, law and identity politics in the early twentieth century. Forbath is on the boards of several local and international public interest and human rights organizations.

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9**  
**Reception 5 PM, Lecture 5:30 PM**  
**Goldberg Room, 297 Boalt Hall**

*Please RSVP to [berkeley\\_institute@law.berkeley.edu](mailto:berkeley_institute@law.berkeley.edu)*

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