“Social Law, the Environment and Development – Considerations of a Success Story”

By

Professor Ronaldo Macedo

Chairperson: Mr Eduardo Ramós Gomez

DATE & TIME : 24 JANUARY 2013, THURSDAY, 6.00PM to 8.00PM
VENUE: MOOT COURT, NEXT TO THE SUMMIT CAFETERIA, NUS FACULTY OF LAW

ABSTRACT OF THE LECTURE

Enforcement of new social rights strongly affects public policy and development strategies in countries like Brazil. How can applying and effectively implementing social rights contribute to development? What are the best ways to apply law using the logic of social rights? Using class actions as an instrument to impose or implement public policy constitutes one of the most interesting and troubling issues related to protecting diffuse or collective rights. When can the Judiciary branch simply determine that the State must implement public policy? How and how much can (that is, if it can) a legal decision determine that works should be carried out or public policy should assure diffuse or collective rights? To what extent can a legal order “invade” or “encroach” on the discretionary environment of the government’s political acts? This lecture seeks to provide some provisional answers to some assumptions within these numerous questions. It also seeks to argue that there is an essential elective affinity between expanding the use of general legal principles, the collective protection of trans-individual interests and the invention of Social Rights. For this, it first develops a more general and theoretical presentation of the Social Law concept. In the second part, a concrete case is presented and analyzed (Toritama – Laundries and the environmental issue in Brazil) which clearly illustrates the workings of the normative rationale, characterizing it within a local context. With this, it seeks to highlight the usefulness of the method for case studies that articulate directly between law and development, as well as the importance of theoretically understanding the logic that regulates it.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Professor Ronaldo Macedo holds a PhD in Philosophy and Legal Theory from the Faculdade de Direito da Universidade de São Paulo, a Masters of Philosophy and Bachelor’s degrees in Law and Social Sciences from the University of São Paulo. He was a Visiting Scholar at Harvard Law School, a Visiting Researcher at Yale Law School, and a Post-Doctorate Fellow at King’s College School of Law. He has also been Professor at the Center for Transnational Legal Studies in London and Comissioner at the Brazilian Administrative Counsel of Economic Defense (CADE). He is currently a Professor of Political Philosophy and Legal Theory at São Paulo Law School of Fundação Getulio Vargas, a Professor of Legal Philosophy and Legal Theory at the Faculdade de Direito da Universidade de São Paulo, and a State Prosecutor in São Paulo.

His books include Contratos Relacionais e Defesa do Consumidor (“Relational Contracts and Consumer Protection”), Carl Schmitt e a Fundamentação do Direito (“Carl Schmitt and the Foundation of Law”), Curso de Filosofia Política (“Course on Political Philosophy”), Direito e Interpretación. Racionalidades e Instituições (“Law, Interpretation: Rationalities and Institutions”).

PROGRAMME

Registration
Dean’s welcome
Introduction by Mr Eduardo Ramos Gómez
Lecture by Professor Ronaldo Macedo
Reception

REGISTRATION

There is no registration fee for this seminar but seats are limited. Please register by 14 January 2013
To register, please click here
For enquiries, please contact Ms Trina Gan at lawlink@nus.edu.sg

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