“Climate Change, Courts, and the Rule of Law”

By

Professor Douglas Kysar

Chairperson: Emeritus Professor Koh Kheng-Lian

DATE & TIME: 15 JANUARY 2014, WEDNESDAY, 6.00PM to 8.00PM
VENUE: MOOT COURT, NEXT TO THE SUMMIT CAFETERIA, NUS FACULTY OF LAW

ABSTRACT OF THE LECTURE

Frustrated with the pace of ongoing climate change policy negotiations, commentators and activists have increasingly called for resort to the courts to establish baseline principles of responsibility for harms caused or exacerbated by manmade climate change. Such calls have targeted domestic courts and the common law of torts as well as international tribunals and the customary international law of transboundary harm. In both cases advocates seek to position climate change as a problem best addressed through principles of law and justice, rather than merely politics and power. They hope to begin a process whereby reducing the threat of climate change comes to be seen as a legal responsibility of dominant actors, rather than merely a gesture of charity toward weak and distant neighbors. This lecture will provide an overview of these legal efforts and an assessment of whether, and how far, they might succeed.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Professor Douglas Kysar is the Joseph M. Field ’55 Professor of Law at Yale Law School. His teaching and research areas include torts, environmental law, and risk regulation. He received his B.A. summa cum laude from Indiana University in 1995 and his J.D. magna cum laude from Harvard Law School in 1998 where he served on the student board of advisors. He has published articles on a wide array of environmental law and tort law topics, and is co-author of a leading casebook, The Torts Process, with James A. Henderson, Jr., Richard N. Pearson & John A. Siliciano. His recent book, Regulating from Nowhere: Environmental Law and the Search for Objectivity (YUP 2010), seeks to reinvigorate environmental law and policy by offering novel theoretical insights on cost-benefit analysis, the precautionary principle, and sustainable development.

PROGRAMME

Registration
Dean’s welcome
Introduction by Emeritus Professor Koh Kheng-Lian
Lecture by Professor Douglas Kysar
Reception

REGISTRATION

There is no registration fee for this seminar but seats are limited. Please register by 8 January 2014.

To register, please click here or scan this QR code

For enquiries, please contact Ms Zafira Yusoff at lawlink@nus.edu.sg