

# SINGAPORE SYMPOSIUM IN LEGAL THEORY

## THE NATURE OF LEGAL OBLIGATION

BY Professor Brian Bix

*Frederick W. Thomas Professor of Law and Philosophy, University of Minnesota*

20 MARCH 2015, FRIDAY

4.00PM – 6.00PM (TEA RECEPTION STARTS AT 3.30PM)

LEE SHERIDAN CONFERENCE ROOM, LEVEL 1, EU TONG SEN BUILDING

FACULTY OF LAW, NUS (BUKIT TIMAH CAMPUS)

### ABSTRACT

I will offer controversial positions on two central questions of legal theory: First, that the normativity of law depends on the choices of citizens; and second, that legal normativity is sui generis and not merely a form or subset of morality. In the course of the discussion, the works of Hans Kelsen, H. L. A. Hart, and Mark Greenberg will be explored. Ultimately what is at stake in these topics is the nature of law, the connection between law and morality, and the nature and grounding of obligation.

### ABOUT THE SPEAKER



**Brian H. Bix** is the Frederick W. Thomas Professor of Law and Philosophy at the University of Minnesota. He received his law (J.D.) degree from Harvard University and his doctorate (D. Phil.) from Balliol College, Oxford University. He is the author of 16 books – including *Jurisprudence: Theory and Context* (7th ed., Sweet & Maxwell, forthcoming, 2015), *Family Law* (Oxford, 2013), *Contract Law: Rules, Theory, and Context* (Cambridge, 2012), and *A Dictionary of Legal Theory* (Oxford, 2004) -- and 120 articles, and his work has been translated into many languages.

### Participation is By Invitation Only

Registration commences at 3.30pm and light refreshments will be served. For more information, please contact Ms Yvonne Lim at [lawylh@nus.edu.sg](mailto:lawylh@nus.edu.sg)