

# Constitutionalism, The Rule of Law and Democracy: A Retrospective on Jack Balkin's Impact

Friday, April 17, 2026

9:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Lunch will be provided.

New York Law School, W400

185 West Broadway, New York, NY 10013

For more information and to RSVP:

[www.nyls.edu/RJPrsvp](http://www.nyls.edu/RJPrsvp)

Considerable challenges to the rule of law and democracy have surfaced in recent decades. These challenges are local in nature, but also global in scope and globally interconnected. They include threats to electoral integrity, judicial independence, and impartiality. One of the most significant challenges facing the rule of law and democracy is the erosion of trust in institutions. Political polarization has exacerbated these challenges, as well as disinformation campaigns and the rise of authoritarian regimes. Democracies can be quashed by armed conflict or coups, but they can also be lost through a gradual erosion, a term which **Jack Balkin** describes as “constitutional rot.” Are we witnessing a crisis in the United States today? Constitutional rot? Join us for a daylong series of panels exploring these questions.

This event is co-sponsored by the Wilf Impact Center for Public Interest Law.

## SPEAKERS:

**Penelope Andrews**, NYLS

**Chinmayi Arun**, Yale Law School

**Jack Balkin**, Yale Law School

**Mario Barnes**, University of California, Irvine; Law and Society Association

**John O. Barrett**, St. John's University School of Law

**Kirk D. Burkhalter '04**, NYLS

**Hank Chambers**, University of Richmond School of Law

**Laura Dooley**, Touro Law Jacob D. Fuchsberger Law Center

**Torey Dolan**, University of Wisconsin School of Law

**Doni Gewirtzman**, NYLS

**Mark Graber**, University of Maryland Frances King Carey School of Law

**F. Michael Higginbotham**, University of Baltimore School of Law

**Samuel Issacharoff**, NYU School of Law

**Heinz Klug**, University of Wisconsin School of Law

**William P. La Piana**, NYLS

**Sandy Levinson**, University of Texas School of Law

**Suzette Malveaux**, Washington and Lee School of Law

**Richard Marsico**, NYLS

**Gaurav Mukherjee**, University of Connecticut School of Law

**Frank Munger**, NYLS

**David Pozen**, Columbia University School of Law

**Catherine Powell**, Fordham University School of Law

**Kim Lane Scheppele**, Princeton School of Public and International Affairs

**Miguel Schor**, Drake University School of Law

**David Simson**, NYLS

**Jason Stanley**, Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy, University of Toronto

**Ruti G. Teitel**, NYLS

**Rachel Van Cleave**, Pacific University McGeorge School of Law

**Rebecca Zietlow**, University of Toledo School of Law

