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Public Lecture Offerings

Are Corporations People?

The Supreme Court's landmark decision in *Citizens United* sent shockwaves through American politics. The Court struck down election spending limits on corporations as a violation of the First Amendment, prompting widespread protests and a movement to amend the Constitution. How did corporations become people, with the same fundamental rights as individuals? Adam Winkler uncovers the history of one of the least known but most successful civil rights movements in American history: the struggle for corporate rights. For over two centuries, corporations have fought to win Supreme Court rulings extending the protections of the Constitution to them—rights they use to thwart efforts by the public to regulate business and the economy.

Winkler can discuss: the concept of legal personhood; the influence of corporations on the founding of America; the debate between Jefferson and Hamilton over corporate power; the innovative role of corporations in the constitutional law; and the future of corporate rights and how they are likely to limit LGBTQ equality.

The Second Amendment at the Crossroads

The right to bear arms is at a crossroads. Since the Newtown massacre in 2012, the gun safety reform movement has been reinvigorated and now even outspends the NRA in some elections. The Biden Administration is determined to enact meaningful reforms, yet a Supreme Court with three new justices is likely to expand Second Amendment protections and call into question gun restrictions.

Adam Winkler will discuss how we came to this point, examining how the battle over

guns has shaped America since the earliest days. He can also discuss: the overlooked history of gun control in the Founding era and the Wild West; how race shaped America's gun laws; how the Black Panthers influenced the modern gun rights movement; the NRA's recent financial troubles; and what the future of the Second Amendment holds.