

LP² STUDY GROUP PROPOSAL FOR FALL 2022

NOTABLE SUPREME COURT DECISIONS – 2021/22 TERM

Coordinators: Mark Scher and Bill Siegel

This study group will analyze and discuss some of the most important decisions of the 2021/22 Supreme Court term. We consider the upcoming abortion issue, gun rights, elections, gerrymanders and vaccination mandates. Further topics include important court issues such as the recent appointment of Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson and potential reforms such as changes in the Court's size. As we write, most of these cases are still pending. However, by the beginning of the Fall semester, the syllabus below will be updated to facilitate our analysis of and readings about current Supreme Court Opinions.

Mark Scher has been a member of LP2 since 2008. He is a retired immigration attorney, who worked both for the Immigration and Naturalization Service and in private practice for over 30 years. Previously, he was employed as an Administrative Law Judge by the NYS Department of Social Services. He has coordinated or co-coordinated 10 study groups (including 3 on the topic of the Supreme Court). **Bill Siegel** has been an LP2 member since 2019. He is a retired attorney who had argued cases in many NYS appellate courts including the Court of Appeals. He is also a member of the legal committee of the American Jewish Committee. One of his hobbies is reading history with an emphasis on the Supreme Court. Bill and Mark co-coordinated a study group on the Supreme Court in Spring, 2021.

Type of Study Group: Presentation followed by discussion; reports by the participants.

Readings and other Materials/Online Services:

Links to the pertinent Supreme Court Opinion reports and related articles and information will be emailed by coordinators during the week prior to the discussion.

******* SYLLABUS - A WORK IN PROGRESS *******

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WEEK 1

TOPIC: introduction- whose court is it: McConnell's or Roberts'?

READING:

Articles and other materials provided by coordinators

QUESTIONS:

Does the Court now have three sets of Justices? Very conservative? Less conservative? Liberal? Do we have a flawed confirmation process? What does the confirmation process of Judge Jackson mean for the country? Will substitution of Jackson for Breyer change anything? What will be the impact, if any, of four women Justices?

WEEK 2:

TOPIC: Abortion

READING:

Articles and other materials provided by coordinators

QUESTIONS:

How will the Court decision in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization affect Roe v. Wade? Will the Court completely or partially overturn Roe v. Wade and Planned Parenthood v. Casey or leave them intact?

WEEK 3:

TOPIC: Election and gerrymandering

READING:

Articles and other materials provided by coordinators

QUESTIONS:

How will the Court decision affect 2022 midterm and subsequent elections?

WEEK 4: Shadow docket and religious liberty cases

WEEK 5: Gun safety, immigration, vaccination mandates and other important decisions

WEEK 6: Clarence Thomas' conflicts of interest (and what can be done about it) and his growing influence on the Supreme Court; general discussion on changes in Court's size and other possible reforms