

CFLS 2016 SPRING LECTURE SERIES

SECTION 7 AND HOUSING JUSTICE

Activist litigation seeking to establish protection of socio-economic rights in the *Charter* increasingly focuses on section 7 as entry point for such arguments. The struggle for the "soul" of section 7 is, however, an uphill one, requiring that standard shibboleths of liberal legalism—the distinction between positive and negative rights and concerns around justifiability—be faced down. Case law is ambiguous but ideological lines are clear. Challenges articulating a right to adequate housing present these issues starkly, allowing insights into law as an instrument that both reflects and shapes our social and physical environments.

MARGOT YOUNG

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Margot Young is Professor in the Allard School of Law at the University of British Columbia. After studying at the University of British Columbia, the University of Toronto, and the University of California, Berkeley, Professor Young began her teaching career at the Faculty of Law at the University of Victoria. In 1992, she moved to the University of British Columbia.

Professor Young teaches in the areas of constitutional and social justice law. She is faculty advisor for the Social Justice Specialization at the law school and has organized the Law and Society Speakers Series for close to a decade. Professor Young is in her third term as Chair of the university-wide Faculty Association Status of Women Committee. She is a research associate with Green College, the Peter Wall Institute of Advanced Studies, and the Centre for Gender, Race, Sexuality and Social Justice at UBC.

Professor Young's research interests focus on equality law and theory, women's economic equality, urban theory, and local housing politics and rights. She is also working on the intersections between environmental justice, social justice, feminism, and human rights. Professor Young was co-editor of the collection *Poverty: Rights, Social Citizenship and Legal Activism* and was recently co-Principal Investigator of the Housing Justice Project (HousingJustice.ca). She is widely published in a variety of journals and edited books.



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15

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12:30PM

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