



JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY SYMPOSIUM

NOVEMBER 20 – 21, 1998

PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING some of our nation's leading jurists, lawyers, social commentators and scholars to address an issue of paramount importance: the proper balance of judicial independence and judicial accountability.

The last decade has seen intense criticism of some federal judges' rulings with threats of impeachment and proposals to amend the Constitution to eliminate life tenure for the federal judiciary. At the state level, many incumbents have been defeated in retention elections and overall, the costs of judicial campaigns have increased enormously. These events raise serious concerns about the independence of the judiciary. At the same time, these events raise legitimate questions about judges' responsibility to their limited roles in our democratic systems and of their accountability when, arguably, they exceed the limits of their authority.

Our investigation of the crucial balance between legitimate independence and appropriate accountability will take form as an historic symposium and bring together speakers such as U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Anthony Kennedy; Anthony Lewis, *New York Times* columnist; leading scholars; and distinguished state and federal court judges.

The Program will focus on these key issues:

What Is Judicial Independence and Does It Matter?

- *What is Judicial Independence and How is it Defined and Assessed?*
- *What has been the History of Judicial Independence?*
- *What are the Perspectives of Critical Theory on the Issue of Judicial Independence?*

What are the Contemporary Threats to Judicial Independence?

- *Does Electoral Review Affect Judges' Independence in Deciding Death Penalty Cases?*
- *Is the Financing of Judicial Elections a Threat to Judicial Independence?*
- *Are there Structural Threats to Judicial Independence?*

What are the Alternative Models for Judicial Independence?

- *What Lessons can be Learned from Other Countries?*
- *What can be Learned from Political Theory?*

How Is the Need for Judicial Accountability to be Balanced with the Need for Judicial Independence?

What Is a Research Agenda for Judicial Independence Issues in the Future?

If this early registration form came by mail, you will receive additional information shortly.

If you did not receive this form by mail and would like to be added to our mailing list, please call (213) 740-2582, fax (213) 740-9442 and/or e-mail to symposia@law.usc.edu

You can also obtain complete program information by visiting our website at <http://www.usc.edu/dept/law/symposia/judicial>

*Registration has been underwritten for all members of the judiciary.
Registration fee for academics and government and public interest attorneys, \$130;
and for private attorneys, \$195. Registration deadline is November 10, 1998.
Early registration is encouraged as space availability may be limited.*

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