



United States Mission to the OSCE

PRESS RELEASE

May 14, 2010

Prof. Laurence Tribe to Discuss “Access to Justice” with NGO Representatives

Laurence Tribe, the distinguished American legal scholar and Senior Counselor for Access to Justice at the U.S. Department of Justice, will be speaking on “Access to Justice within Different Legal Systems” at a side-event during the OSCE Human Dimension Seminar on May 19. The event, which will be hosted by the United States Mission to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, will be held in Meeting Room One at the Hotel Novotel Centrum (Marszałkowska 94/98). It begins at 1300.

Professor Tribe is one of America’s most distinguished constitutional scholars. Currently on a leave of absence from Harvard University Law School, Professor Tribe is responsible for the U.S. Department of Justice’s new program to help disadvantaged people receive legal help. Called the Access to Justice Initiative, Professor Tribe works with judges and lawyers across the country to find ways to help people who cannot afford or otherwise have access to a lawyer.

Born in Shanghai, China, in 1941 of Russian Jewish parents, Tribe came to the United States in 1947, attended public schools in San Francisco, entered college at 16, and graduated from Harvard *summa cum laude* in Mathematics (1962) and *magna cum laude* in Law (1966). He then clerked for the California and U.S. Supreme Courts (1966-68) and spent a year at the National Academy of Sciences before joining Harvard’s faculty, where he received tenure at 29. He was 35 when TIME magazine named him one of the nation’s ten most outstanding law professors and 38 when he was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. While teaching at Harvard, Tribe helped write constitutions for South Africa, the Czech Republic and the Marshall Islands.

Tribe has written 115 books and articles, including his treatise, *American Constitutional Law*, cited more often than any other legal text since 1950. Tribe’s most recent book, *The Invisible Constitution*, published in 2008 by the Oxford University Press, was described as a “masterpiece” by Chief Justice Aharon Barak of Israel, and as “breathtaking in its originality and wide-ranging in its scope” by Doris Kearns Goodwin. President Nixon’s Solicitor General Erwin Griswold wrote: “[N]o lawyer not on the [Supreme] Court has ever had a greater influence on the development of American constitutional law” than Laurence Tribe. The Northwestern Law Review opined that no-one else “in American history has... simultaneously achieved Tribe’s preeminence... as a practitioner and... scholar of constitutional law.”

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