



# Constitution Day

Monday, Sept. 18, 2017 12:15pm

Law School, Brennan Courtroom

## *The Constitution of Mothers: Gender Equality & Social Reproduction*



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One of the largest mobilizations in recent American history was the **Women's March of 2017** with millions of participants in US cities and throughout the world. Despite diverse backgrounds and agendas, the marchers unified around the general theme of equality for women. It was a constitutional moment: The unity principles included a call for a new Equal Rights Amendment to the US Constitution.

This lecture will argue that an **ERA** is needed in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, but for reasons different from those that motivated the 1972 adopters. Most constitutions around the world explicitly guarantee sex equality, and many of these constitutions also guarantee special protections for mothers. Drawing on global constitutionalism, this lecture argues that constitutional equality for women must go beyond prohibiting sex distinctions in the law, and reach the disadvantages faced largely by women due to the burdens of raising the next generation of citizens.

*Free and open to the public. Pizza will be served!*