



# Responding to Constitutional Imperfections: The Theory and Practice of Constitutional Amendment throughout the United States

Tuesday, September 12, 2017 - 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Canisius College, Grupp Fireside Lounge, Richard E. Winter Student Center  
1.5 CLE credits: Areas of Professional Practice (Appropriate for all attorneys)

## Speakers:

Christopher Bopst, Esq., *Chief Legal and Financial Officer, Sam-Son Logistics*

Lisa Parshall, PhD., *Associate Professor of Political Science and History, Daemen College*

Professor James A. Gardner, *University at Buffalo School of Law*

(Moderator) Robert A. Klump, Esq., *Director, Frank G. Raichle Pre-Law Center*

The Canisius College Raichle Pre-Law Center, along with the Bar Association of Erie County, will commemorate Constitution Day with a panel examining how constitutions in the United States—federal and state—are subject to amendment. The history of amendments to the U.S. Constitution, the infrequency of amendments following the Bill of Rights, and recent efforts by state legislatures to convene a federal constitutional convention will be discussed. We will also present an overview of the various ways that state constitutions can be amended, such as through ballot initiative and legislative amendments. Given that the question of whether to hold a convention to revise the New York State Constitution will be on the ballot this November, there will be a focus on the methods by which the New York Constitution can be revised, and the reasons why voters have rejected calls for a constitutional convention in the past. The political obstacles to constitutional amendments, and the role of the legal community in helping voters navigate the competing narratives attending the process will also be considered.

## Erie Institute of Law Registration Form – Responding to Constitutional Imperfections



\$35 BAEC Member

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**The Erie Institute now provides material via electronic delivery. If you would like a hard copy, check the box above and add \$5 to the registration fee. Please also be sure to add your email address below. Thank you.**

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**Accreditation:** The Erie Institute of Law has been certified by the New York State Continuing Legal Education Board as an accredited provider of continuing legal education in the state of New York.

**Cancellation Policy:** If you are unable to attend a seminar for which you have already registered, call the CLE department at 852-8687. For a full refund, notice of your cancellation must be received 48 hours in advance of a program. **Cancellations received less than 48 hours in advance are subject to a \$5 administrative fee.** Registrants who are pre-registered and fail to attend will receive course materials in lieu of a refund.

**Mail or Fax to:** Erie Institute of Law, 438 Main Street, Sixth Floor, Buffalo, New York 14202, (716) 852-8687, Fax (716) 852-7641. Register online at [www.eriebar.org](http://www.eriebar.org). Tuition assistance available. Please send your request in writing.