



The Program on Law and Government
Presents

The Voting Rights Act after *NAMUDNO*

The program will bring together officials from the Department of Justice and Congress with leading practitioners and academics to discuss the meaning of the Supreme Court's decision in *NAMUDNO v. Holder*. Many thought the Court might strike down the recently renewed Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, which requires covered jurisdictions to preclear changes with the Department of Justice or a federal court before they can go into effect. Instead, eight Justices joined an opinion that raised serious questions regarding the authority of Congress to enact the legislation, but ultimately turned on an interpretation of the statute to allow more jurisdictions to "bailout" from its coverage. Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act has been the nation's most powerful tool over the past 40 years in ensuring equal opportunity at the ballot box. Our distinguished panel will explore whether the Act's enforcement by the Department of Justice will be affected, whether more jurisdictions can be expected to escape coverage, whether the Act is in jeopardy, and ultimately, whether civil rights advocates need to think about new remedies for ensuring meaningful access to the ballot.

Please Save the Date

Wednesday, December 2, 2009

5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Room 603