



A GOVERNMENT FOR OUR TIME? BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS AND URBAN GOVERNANCE*

The emergence and rapid spread of business improvement districts (“BIDs”) is one of the most important recent developments in American cities. BIDs are not without controversy, viewed as part of a trend toward the privatization of the public sector. Professor Briffault will examine and discuss the legal and political structures that determine BID formation, functions, finances and governance. Join us for what will assuredly be a fascinating examination of business improvement districts by a pre-eminent authority on the subject.

Professor Richard Briffault, is the Vice Dean and Joseph P. Chamberlain Professor of Legislation at the Columbia University School of Law. A 1977 graduate of the Harvard Law School, Professor Briffault has been a member of the Columbia faculty since 1983. Among the many articles that he has written are: “Our Localism,” 90 *Columbia Law Review* 1 (1990); “Who Rules at Home? One Person, One Vote and Local Governments,” 60 *University of Chicago Law Review* 339 (1993); “Facing the Urban Future After September 11, 2001,” 34 *Urban Lawyer* 563 (2002); “The Disfavored Constitution: State Fiscal Limits And State Constitutional Law,” 34 *Rutgers Law Journal* 907 (2003) .

Place: Mitchell Courthouse – 100 North Calvert Street – Room 504, entrance on Lexington Street between St. Paul and Calvert Streets, followed by a wine and cheese reception in the Bar Library (Room 618, Mitchell Courthouse).

Time: 12:30 p.m., Thursday, March 8, 2012.

Invitees: Members of the Library Company of the Baltimore Bar, judges, employees of Baltimore City and its courts, courthouse employees, government lawyers, public interest lawyers, law librarians, law and college faculty and students. Others may attend on payment of a \$20 admission charge or upon application for Bar Library membership.

R.S.V.P.: If you would like to attend telephone the Library at 410-727-0280 or reply by e-mail to jwbennett@barlib.org.

* 99 *Columbia Law Review* 365