

The Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar Program Presents **Pamela S. Karlan**

THE GAY AND THE ANGRY: The Supreme Court, Gay Rights, and the Cultural Rearguard

**Thursday, February 9th, 2012
at 5:00 p.m. — Room 352 Law School**

Reception to follow



The social scientific evidence regarding changes in popular opinion and demography suggests that marriage equality for same-sex couples is coming, and coming more quickly than anyone might have hoped or feared. The question whether the Constitution requires such recognition will, at some point in the foreseeable future, arrive at the Supreme Court. When the issue does arrive at the Court, the Justices will have to choose sides on an issue about which many Americans care passionately. The Court's recent decisions in several cases skirting the edges of this issue are not only cases about gay rights but are also cases about technological and social change and First Amendment values. The rights to communicate about political issues, to associate with like-minded people, and to retain one's privacy involve core

First Amendment protections. The Internet has transformed the nature of information, simultaneously enhancing and threatening these values and posing new problems for constitutional interpretation. Ironically, the interaction of rapid social and technological change meant that in each of the cases before the Court, the group invoking claims of constitutional protection was not gay people, but defenders of traditional sexual mores. How the Court deals with the losing side in the culture wars will be part of the focus of this lecture.

The Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar Program contributes to the intellectual life of the campus by facilitating an exchange of ideas among visiting scholars, students, and faculty members. Professor Karlan's visit is made possible through the generous support of the Phi Beta Visiting Scholar Program and is sponsored by the University of Miami Delta of Florida Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, the Departments of Political Science and Religious Studies, the School of Law, the School of Business Administration, and the College of Arts and Sciences.

Kindly RSVP by Tuesday, February 7, 2012
to events@law.miami.edu



PAMELA S. KARLAN

is the Montgomery Professor of Public Interest Law at Stanford University and codirector of the university's Supreme Court Litigation Clinic. Her primary scholarly interests lie in the areas of constitutional law and constitutional litigation, with an emphasis on voting rights and antidiscrimination law.

Author of *Keeping Faith with the Constitution*, she is a member of the American Law Institute, a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and of the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers, and recipient of three awards for excellence in teaching.