

Independent Judiciary and Rent Seeking: Evidence from the Ninth Schedule of the Indian Constitution

BY

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SHRUTI RAJAGOPALAN is an Assistant Professor of Economics at State University of New York, Purchase College. She earned her Ph.D. in economics in 2013 from George Mason University and was most recently a Bradley Visiting Researcher in the Department of Economics at New York University. Shruti's broad area of interest is the economic analysis of comparative legal and political systems. Her research interests specifically include law and economics, public choice theory, and constitutional economics. Shruti is currently working on the economic analysis of amendments to the Indian Constitution. Her research has been published in peer-reviewed journals, law reviews, and books. She also enjoys writing in the popular press and has published opinion editorials on Indian political economy in *The Wall Street Journal*, *Mint*, *The Hindu: Business Line*, and *The Indian Express*.

About the Lecture:

In this lecture, Shruti will provide a general framework to analyze the role of an independent judiciary in rent seeking. Using evidence from Indian legislative and constitutional history, and the legislation in the Ninth Schedule, she will show that it is not the independence of the judiciary in isolation, but the constellation of constitutional rules enforced by an independent judiciary, that determines the amount and durability of rents and wealth transfers at the constitutional level. This discussion relates to the broader theme of constitutional maintenance in India.

LECTURE TIME: 12 noon to 1:30 p.m.

VENUE: CASI – 3600 Market Street, Suite 560 (5th floor) Philadelphia, PA 19104-2653

About CASI

Founded in 1992, the Center for the Advanced Study of India (CASI) at the University of Pennsylvania is the first research institution in the United States dedicated to the study of contemporary India. The Center's key goals are to nurture a new generation of scholars across disciplines and to provide a forum for dialogue among the academic, business, and foreign policy communities.

