



Center for Philippine Studies

School of Pacific and Asian Studies, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Presents

Restoring Separation of Powers and Constitutional Accountability: Dismantling the Pork Barrel System through the Philippine Supreme Court

By

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ABOUT THE LECTURE: This lecture discusses the November 2013 decision of the Philippine Supreme Court in *Belgica et al. v. Executive Secretary et al.*, which dismantled most of the Executive Branch's pork barrel distributions to individual Members of Congress, largely administered through the Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF). The lecture also discusses developments from the ongoing oral arguments at the Court involving petitions challenging the constitutionality of the remainder of the pork barrel system administered under the Office of the President's Disbursement Acceleration Program (DAP). I discuss several implications of the *Belgica* decision and the pending DAP petitions: 1) changing the landscape of institutionalized corruption; 2) weakening the patronage system and encouraging the rise of more competitive and cohesive political parties in the Philippines; 3) restoring the Legislature to its actual constitutional mandate of legislation; and 4) fulfilling the 1987 Constitution's social justice and development mandate by ensuring accountable governmental fiscal decision-making.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER: Dr. Diane A. Desierto is Assistant Professor of Law at University of Hawai'i Richardson School of Law. Her teaching and publication interests are in international economic law (international investment, trade, finance, law and development), international human rights law, international humanitarian law, ASEAN Law, and international dispute settlement. She holds a J.S.D. (Doctor of the Science of Law) degree and L.L.M. (Master of Laws) degree from Yale Law School. Prior to joining UH Richardson School of Law, Dr. Desierto previously taught international law at Peking (Beijing) University School of Transnational Law, Shenzhen, China; the University of the Philippines College of Law; the Lyceum of the Philippines College of Law; and the Foreign Service Institute of the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs. She also advises on ASEAN law and Philippine appellate litigation as a Partner (on leave) at DAPD Law, Metro Manila, Philippines.

February 5, 2014, Wednesday

1:30–3:00 p.m. – Tokioka Room (Moore Hall 319)

Free and open to the public.

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