Michael Olivas, PhD, JD

William B. Bates Distinguished Chair of Law and Director of the University of Houston’s Institute of Higher Education Law & Governance

Presents

“God, Grades and Sex: The Developing Law of the College Classroom”

Academic freedom is being tested in many law school classrooms nationwide, a situation ripening into legal challenges, says University of Houston legal scholar, Michael Olivas. “While these challenges are almost always won by the faculty member, there are ways available to reduce the likelihood of such disputes being taken to court. The faculty needs to be more vigilant and be aware that some students hold certain beliefs, and some are not willing to render unto Caesar.” Because there are conservative religious purposive organizations willing to take up litigation, an increasing number of college cases have arisen, challenging accrediting and licensing requirements, questioning professional standards of non-discrimination, and encouraging students to incorporate religious beliefs and convictions as part of class assignments. In a real sense, college classrooms have become the contested site for larger cultural wars.

Tuesday, February 4th at 4:00 PM
The Faculty Lounge, 109 Dickey Hall