



16th James S. Palmer Lecture Speaker Biography

Richard H. Pildes

Sudler Family Professor of Constitutional Law
NYU School of Law

Richard H. Pildes is an internationally recognized expert on legal and political issues concerning democracy, with both a strong American and comparative focus. He is the Sudler Family Professor of Constitutional Law at New York University School of Law, an elected member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Law Institute, and a Guggenheim and Carnegie fellow. He served as a law clerk to Justice Thurgood Marshall of the United States Supreme Court and has successfully argued voting-rights cases before the Court and numerous federal courts of appeals. President Biden recently appointed Professor Pildes to the President's Commission on the Supreme Court of the United States.

His casebook, *THE LAW OF DEMOCRACY: LEGAL REGULATION OF THE POLITICAL PROCESS*, helped create the study of democracy as an academic field in law schools. Professor Pildes has authored close to 100 academic articles on subjects such as the decline of effective government; the rise of hyperpolarized politics; the new age of political fragmentation and how that affects democracies throughout the West; the U.S. Supreme Court; the Voting Rights Act; issues of redistricting and campaign finance; the powers of the Presidency; and a range of political reform topics. He is a frequent contributor to the *New York Times* and served as an election analyst for CNN in the 2020 election and for NBC in the 2000 election.