

# Are Federal Judges Political?

## Views from the Academy, the Bench, and the Press

Although the United States Supreme Court attracts the lion's share of public attention and political criticism, the fact is that only a tiny fraction of federal cases make it onto the high court's docket each year. On a large number of pressing disputes, it is the lower federal courts that have the final word.

What role does politics play in determining who sits on the lower federal courts and how decisions on these courts are made? Should we be more concerned about the partisan preferences that shape those legal issues the U.S. Supreme Court does not consider?



INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF THE  
JUDICIARY, POLITICS,  
AND THE MEDIA AT  
SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

March 27, 2007, 4:00 p.m.  
100 MacNaughton Hall  
College of Law

Join us for a discussion featuring,  
**Judge Carolyn Dineen King**, first female  
Chief Judge of the U. S. Court of Appeals,  
Fifth Circuit; Professor **Nancy Scherer** of  
Wellesley College, author of *Scoring Points:  
Politicians, Political Activists and the Lower  
Federal Court Appointment Process*; and  
**Charlotte Grimes**, Knight Chair at S.I  
Newhouse School of Public Communications.

This discussion will be moderated by  
Keith J. Bybee

This event is co-sponsored by  
Syracuse University College of Law

