

American & Australian Federal Constitutions:

Where is the Bill of Rights (and does it matter)?

William G. Buss
monday
OCTOBER

12

12:00 to 1:00

Iowa City Public Library . Meeting Room A



The late Sir Owen Dixon, Australian's most eminent High Court Chief Justice, once said that the framers of the Australian Constitution were so fascinated by the "incomparable model" of the American Constitution that "its contemplation damped the smoldering fires of their originality." Dixon was talking about the American Constitution written at the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia in 1787. With one huge exception, that Constitution was the model for the Australian Constitution of 1900. The exception was the part of the Australian Constitution that was based on the unwritten British Constitution requiring its Prime Minister to be an elected member of Parliament. Neither the 1787 American Constitution nor the 1900 Australian Constitution had a Bill of Rights. How did all this happen and where has it ended up in 2009?

William G. Buss is the O. K. Patton Professor of Law, University of Iowa College of Law. His teaching and scholarship interests include Education Law, Constitutional Law, and Comparative Constitutional Law, particularly as it relates to Australia. He is currently examining American's influence on the formation and interpretation of the Australian Constitution.



Free and Open to the Public. Refreshments will be served!

This event is sponsored by University of Iowa International Programs, Iowa City Public Library and the Stanley-UI Foundation Support Organization.



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