

Contact: Rachel Boon

PRESENTATION ON FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AT PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES

Action Requested: Receive the presentation.

Executive Summary: Professor Todd Pettys will present on freedom of expression issues that frequently arise on public university campuses. Professor Pettys will identify reasons why freedom of expression on public university campuses remains as important today as at any prior point in history. He will discuss some of the challenges leaders face when trying to maintain a robust commitment to free expression while also preserving the confidence of those universities' essential—but widely varying—constituencies. Professor Pettys will discuss some of the First Amendment principles that feature prominently when courts evaluate the handling of free-speech disputes on college and university campuses.

Presenter: Professor Pettys holds the H. Blair and Joan V. White Chair in Civil Litigation at the University of Iowa College of Law. After receiving an undergraduate degree at Seattle Pacific University, he served as assistant director of the Capital Campaign for the Arts and Sciences at Duke University. He earned his law degree at the University of North Carolina School of Law. He served as a law clerk for the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit Judge Francis Murnaghan Jr. Following this clerkship, after which he joined the general litigation department of Perkins Coie, LLP in Seattle, Washington.

Professor Pettys became a member of the Iowa faculty in 1999. He teaches the College of Law's required courses in constitutional law, as well as a course on the powers of the federal courts and a seminar on cases currently pending before the United State Supreme Court and the Iowa Supreme Court. He is a past recipient of the President and Provost Teaching Award and the Collegiate Teaching Award. He is currently writing a book on the Iowa Constitution. He writes an annual review of the United States Supreme Court's civil cases for the American Judges Association. He has written numerous articles on a broad range of subjects, including freedom of expression, campaign finance and habeas corpus.