

THE CENTER FOR CONSTITUTIONAL LAW AT AKRON

# Constitution Day Lecture

Thursday, Sept. 15, 2022 @ 12:15pm

The University of Akron School of Law (Virtual)

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## *America's Other Original Sin: Indians & the Constitution in the Shadow of Empire* *Prof. Maggie Blackhawk (NYU)*



Maggie Blackhawk (Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe) has been recognized as one of the most influential constitutional law scholars in the country. She specializes in the areas of Legislation, Federal Indian Law, and First Amendment

In this talk, Blackhawk will explore how centering American colonialism and Native peoples within the origin story of the United States turns the simple stories we tell about the Constitution on their head. We often presume, for example, that the best protection for minorities within American democracy

lies in the liberal framework of rights, judicial solicitude, and federal oversight. Centering *America's Other Original Sin*, reveals that many of our presumptions about how to protect minorities are incomplete and even incorrect—federal oversight has been behind the most egregious and subordinating policies within Indian Country, rights have done more to would than shield Native peoples, and it was local control and empowerment of Native people that helped mitigate the original sin of American colonialism.