



Thursday, January 23, 2020

Pending Cases Will Have Major Impact on Future of Congressional Oversight

Levin Center at Wayne Law Panel to Discuss Possible Outcomes

A panel of legal experts, hosted by the Levin Center at Wayne Law, will discuss the impact of the pending court cases challenging Congress' right to information on **Friday, January 24, 2020, from 9 AM – 12:00 PM at the National Press Club in the First Amendment Room.**

The panel will delve into four key cases addressing the following issues: whether the House Oversight and Reform Committee and Financial Services Committee can subpoena banks and an accounting firm for President Trump's tax and financial records; whether former White House Counsel Donald McGahn has absolute immunity from a Congressional subpoena seeking his testimony; whether the House Judiciary Committee can secure grand jury materials from the Mueller investigation; and whether Members of Congress can obtain information related to enforcing the Constitution's emoluments clause.

"There are more cases in federal courts related to congressional oversight powers than ever before," Levin Center Chair and former Senator, Carl Levin said. "The consequences of these cases are enormous in determining the balance of power between the legislative and executive branches as well as the outcome of pending investigations. To date, federal courts have generally upheld Congress' authority to obtain information, but whether that will continue on appeal is unknown."

To understand the significance and status of these cases the Levin Center has assembled the following experts: Jonathan Adler, Johan Verheij Memorial Professor of Law, Case Western Reserve University School of Law; Kirsten Matoy Carlson, associate professor, Wayne State University Law School; Victoria Nourse, Ralph V. Whitworth Professor in Law, Georgetown University Law Center; and Andrew Wright, partner, K&L Gates LLP. Elise Bean, Co-Director of the Levin Center's Washington Office and former Staff Director of the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, will serve as moderator.

Professor Kirsten Carlson noted: "These cases raise critical and novel constitutional questions about Congress's ability to fulfill its responsibility to ensure governmental accountability and transparency through its oversight of the Executive Branch. The Levin Center continues to promote honest and open government by educating the public and promoting public discourse on them."

The symposium is open to the public free of charge and will be uploaded to the Levin Center website and YouTube channel following the event. Registration for the panel is available here: <https://rsvp.wayne.edu/emerging-case-law>.

Earlier this week, the Levin Center also launched a new website, oversightcases.org, that provides information on the key cases involving Congressional oversight over the past three years. The website will be regularly updated to stay current with recent developments. It is the only centralized location for comprehensive information on the emerging case law related to Congressional oversight and is intended to be a cost-free resource for the media, attorneys, academics, and the public.

The [Levin Center at Wayne Law](#) was established in 2015 in honor of Carl Levin's 36 years of public service in the U.S. Senate, in particular his commitment to fact-based, bipartisan oversight investigations. A major effort of the Center is promoting effective, bipartisan, fact-based oversight by legislatures at the federal, state, local and international levels. The Center is overseen by a bipartisan board of national and Michigan political, legal, and business leaders, including former U.S. Sens. Tom A. Coburn, M.D.; Tom Daschle; Jay Rockefeller; and Olympia J. Snowe. The center is located in Levin's hometown of Detroit at Wayne State University Law School. In addition to its focus on oversight, the center sponsors other activities to promote good governance and civil discourse, and to ensure public and private institutions operate with integrity, transparency and accountability.