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Supremacy of Law or Supremacy of Politics? The Position of the U.S. Supreme Court in the 21st Century American Reality

ABSTRACT

The clash of law and politics seems to be a significant feature of American governmental system, but when politics influences actions undertaken by the federal judiciary (whose members serve for life tenures), a question should be posed about the legitimization of such process. The U.S. Supreme Court is responsible for final interpretation of the constitution and reshaping the scope and meaning of various legal, social and economic issues concerning everyday life of Americans. Therefore many political institutions and lobbying groups influence functioning of the tribunal in the 21st century: the appointment of its Justices, its procedures, as well as the process of Justices' decision-making. As a result, the weakest (in theory) and the "the least democratic" branch of government becomes in many respects the leading actor in American contemporary politics. The purpose of the presentation is to address the most crucial issues regarding the clash of law and politics in the U.S. Supreme Court, taking into consideration its growing impact on American democracy.

BIO

Habilitated Doctor of Political Sciences (Jagiellonian University, Faculty of International and Political Studies, 2012, degree with distinction); PhD in political science (UJ, WSMiP, 2003), Master's degree: law (Jagiellonian University, Faculty of Law and Administration, 1995-2000). Scholarship holder of Sasakawa Young Leaders' Fellowship Fund (SYLFF, 2001, Catholic University of America). Visiting Professor at JFK Institute for North America Studies, Freie Universitaet in Berlin (March-September 2015). He conducted research and gave lectures in the United States, Germany, Great Britain, Ireland, Italy, Japan and Australia. Winner of the first JU Student Laudation Award for the best rated didactic at the University based on student surveys (2013). Eight-times-laureate of the Jagiellonian University Rector's awards for high grade didactic classes and for scientific achievements. In the years 2008-2016, Deputy Director of the Institute of American Studies and Polish Diaspora for Teaching, currently Vice-Dean of the University of Jagiellonian University for Teaching (2016-2020)