

Bigger Details: A Lecture on Equal Protection & Fundamental Rights

by Ragen Moss Esq.

Please join practicing attorney, Ragen Moss on the final day of her exhibition, *Gray Mandates*, for a timely primer on two facets of Constitutional Law:

(1) the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and (2) the fundamental rights that radiate from the Constitution.

Saturday, December 3, 2016
11:30 am

“Let’s begin by using every space, every box that is given, to show detail so that there is no room for manipulation, dimness... or *sour creativity*.” - Ragen Moss

We think of creativity as exclusively generative; as a system of complex thoughts used to manifest positive change. Over the past months, we’ve experienced the rise of a different type of creativity, one that trades in glossy abstraction and slippery rhetoric without deference to truth or established law. This is *sour creativity*. It is narcissistic, it is intentionally confusing,

and it is constructed to exploit the soft spots in our understanding of how civilization builds itself.

Where there is lack of detail, there is space for *sour creativity*.

The format of this lecture therefore will be one of displacement: How to make the details bigger so that sour creativity has no foothold. *Bigger Details: An Open Lecture on Equal Protection & Fundamental Rights* will consider United States Supreme Court cases spanning from 1869–2013, and provide understandable categories for what is legally inscribed as discrimination and what is actually protected as a fundamental right.

There is urgency to the fight against the spread of sour creativity and in order to battle the manipulation of our laws, we must have a greater understanding of the legal concepts of discrimination and their history, as well as the penumbra of fundamental rights we are each granted by law. Moss's lecture will provide necessary detail on Supreme Court opinions that have shaped our basic protections and rights. Moss will also cover how Supreme Court cases are structured and how they may be read. Finally, the discussion will touch on the dialectic between law and morality, between codification and cultural norm, to help us think about how our laws both reflect and determine moral imperatives.

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