

Land and Power: The Impact of Eminent Domain in Urban Communities

**November 9th, 2007
Princeton University
9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

**Hosted by
Policy Research Institute for the Region at Princeton University (PRIOR)
and University of Pennsylvania's Institute for Urban Research (Penn IUR)**

Background

Experts from around the region will convene to take a new and innovative look at the impact of eminent domain in urban communities across New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania. In 2005, the *Kelo v. City of New London* decision received tremendous attention, shining a spotlight on what some consider a highly controversial tool of economic development. On November 9th we will address the after-effect of the *Kelo v. City of New London* decision in the areas of legislation, advocacy and public affairs. Three panels will focus on various aspects of the debate, including ways that government policy, media images and advocacy initiatives have translated the decision and the future of eminent domain as an urban revitalization tool in the three states.

Program

9:00 a.m. *Registration and Breakfast*

9:30 a.m. *Welcome and Opening Remarks*
Eugenie Birch and Susan Wachter, Co-Directors, Penn IUR
Richard F. Keevey, Director, PRIOR

9:45 a.m. *Panel 1: Kelo's Impact on Urban Redevelopment in the Tri-State Area*

This panel will provide an overview of legislation, passed and proposed in the tri-state area that attempt to restrain a municipality's eminent domain powers in reaction to the Kelo decision. Key topics for this panel include the questionable need for legislation, impact on current and future economic development activity, and impact on property valuation.

Presenter: Patricia Salkin, Associate Dean and Director, Government Law Center of Albany Law School

Respondents: Jamison Colburn, Associate Professor of Law, Western New England College

Robert S. Goldsmith, Chair, Redevelopment Practice Group, Greenbaum, Rowe, Smith and Davis

11:15 a.m. *Panel 2: The Use of Eminent Domain to Advance the Anti-Government Agenda*

This panel will address how perceptions of eminent domain are impacting the political arena. Are advocacy groups and political actors using the Kelo decision to divide voters and advance special interest agendas?

Presenter: Doug Kendall, Executive Director and Founder, Community Rights Counsel

Respondents: Kate Rube, Policy Director, Smart Growth America

Peter Salins, University Professor, Department of Political Science, SUNY at Stony Brook

12:45 p.m. *Lunch and Keynote Address*
Ronald K. Chen, New Jersey Public Advocate

1:45 p.m. *Panel 3: The Role of Media in Shaping the Debate*

This panel will examine how media images have translated the Kelo decision to the public. The author will focus on the role of the media in shaping public opinion, and what if any impact this has had on subsequent actions by local communities in the Tri-State area.

Presenter: Lynne Sagalyn, Professor of Real Estate Development and Planning, University of Pennsylvania

Respondents: Jason Jordan, Principal, Advocacy Associates

Denise Barrlickow, Communications Director, Plan Smart New Jersey

3:15 p.m. *Closing Remarks*
Richard F. Keevey, Director, PRIOR