



Wednesday,
APRIL 4
Allen Theatre
5:30-7:00 p.m.

46 YEARS OF TITLE IX

**PROMOTING INCLUSION, EQUITY,
AND SAFETY IN THE POLITICS OF
GENDER AND HIGHER EDUCATION**

Introduction by
Jamie Bologna Pavlik,

Research Fellow, Free Market Institute and Assistant Professor,
College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources

Host

Jorge Ramírez,

Walter and Anne Huffman Professor of Law

Invited Guests:

Ari Cohn

*Director, Individual Rights Defense
Program, Foundation for Individual
Rights in Education (FIRE)*

Jody Randall

Lead Administrator, Office of LGBTQIA

Kimberly Simón

Title IX Coordinator, Texas Tech

Wendy-Adele Humphrey

Associate Dean, School of Law

Title IX will celebrate its 46th anniversary this year. If one has heard about Title IX before, it was most likely in the context of women's sports and athletics. And yet, neither the word "sports" nor the word "athletics" is mentioned in the statute. Specifically, Title IX provides that, "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance." In 2011, Title IX coverage was expanded when the Office for Civil Rights released a "Dear Colleague" letter, a policy guidance memo that officially established sexual violence on college campuses as a Title IX issue. The OCR provided further clarification of the "Dear Colleague" letter in 2014 providing that "Title IX's sex discrimination prohibition extends to claims of discrimination based on gender identity or failure to conform to stereotypical notions of masculinity or femininity." In 2017, the Department of Education withdrew the "Dear Colleague" letter, reigniting the difficult and complicated conversation about campus safety and sexual assault while challenging the overreach of Title IX in endangering a "fair and impartial" process. In the midst of the #MeToo movement and only three years after Rolling Stone magazine was forced to retract a story of rape on the UVA campus when the report was discovered to be fabricated, where do we take the discussion on Title IX? How do we continue to have civil and productive conversations about guaranteeing a more equitable and accessible education for students of all genders, sexualities, identities, and experiences?

In addition to Professors Ramírez and Bologna, faculty organizers include Profs. Erik Bucy (Media & Comm), Sean Cunningham (History), Michael Sanfrancisco (Honors), Kent Wilkinson (Media & Comm), and Aliza Wong (Honors).

The School of Law, the Department of History, Office of the President and Student Union & Activities provided support for this evening's program.

Reception to follow in the courtyard west of the Allen Theater after the program.