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FACULTY OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

*Seminar*

# Property Law and the City

**Dr. Douglas Harris**

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Associate Dean Graduate Studies & Research  
The University of British Columbia*

**Tuesday, 26 April 2011**

**1:00 – 2:00 pm**

**Room LG102, LG1 Floor, KK Leung Building, University of Hong Kong**

Cities are built spaces that create particular physical environments. They are also social spaces that organize people in myriad relationships. Law, and property law in particular, provides much of the architecture that constructs and sustains these social and physical spaces. Using two different forms of private property—the condominium and the Indian reserve—and one area of property law which balances private and public interests—the doctrine of regulatory takings—this paper considers the role of property law in the making of a city. It focuses on one city, the City of Vancouver, and on the capacity of these legal forms to shape its urban landscapes.

**Douglas Harris** joined the Faculty of Law in 2001. He writes and teaches in the areas of property law, legal history, fisheries law, and Aboriginal rights. His written work includes numerous articles and two books: *Fish, Law, and Colonialism: The Legal Capture of Salmon in British Columbia* (U of T Press, 2001) and *Landing Native Fisheries: Indian Reserves and Fishing Rights in British Columbia, 1849-1925* (UBC Press, 2008). Harris is currently working on a study of the idea of property and of the role of property law in the transformations of urban centres. His particular focus is the City of Vancouver and on forms of property, such as condominium and Indian reserve, and property law doctrine, including regulatory takings. He has an article, forthcoming in 2011 in *Law & Social Inquiry*, titled “Condominium and the City: The Rise of Property in Vancouver”.

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