Lawsuits with Impact:
How Will the Friedrichs & Bain Cases Affect Teachers, Parents, and Taxpayers?

Join us for a lively panel discussion on how these monumental lawsuits could fundamentally alter the state of education nationwide, affect teacher freedom, and change the political landscape in California.

Sunday, September 27, 2015, 3-5pm
Long Beach Marriott
4700 Airport Plaza Drive
Long Beach, California 90815

Refreshments provided. Space is limited.
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Bhavini Bhakta, a teacher for twelve years, has won awards for her work, and has been a leading voice in the effort to change the education system to better serve students. In 2014, she delivered powerful testimony in the landmark Vergara v. California case, and in 2013, she spoke in front of the California Senate Education Committee urging them to pass legislation enacting a new teacher evaluation system. She has become increasingly troubled by the problems facing California schools and her union’s opposition to change. She has learned that state level teachers unions are the biggest financial supporters of the very legislators who block the reforms for which she has fought. With this case, she hopes that the court will protect her First Amendment rights and ensure that neither she, nor any teacher, be forced to support educational policy that negatively impacts student learning.

Rebecca Friedrichs has been an elementary school educator for 28 years. Since the first day of her career in 1988, she’s been concerned about the policies and politics of the teachers’ union she’s forced to financially support. She served on her local union board for three years with hopes that union representatives would listen to common sense and reason but discovered that while many reps agreed with her concerns, she was unable to make any positive impact because even they were afraid to speak up to union bosses. Today she’s lead plaintiff in a seminal federal lawsuit attempting to restore the First Amendment rights of free speech and free association to millions of public sector workers in the United States.

Joshua S. Lipshutz is a partner in the San Francisco office of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher. He currently practices in the firm’s Litigation Department and its Appellate and Constitutional Law Practice Group. In 2015, Law360 selected him as one of six “Rising Star” appellate attorneys under 40 to watch nationwide. His practice focuses primarily on constitutional, class action, and securities-related trial and appellate matters. He has represented clients before the Supreme Court of the United States, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, the California Supreme Court, and other state and federal appellate courts. He served as a judicial clerk to Antonin Scalia of the Supreme Court of the United States and Alex Kozinski of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. He graduated Order of the Coif from Stanford Law School, where he was Senior Articles Editor of the Stanford Law Review.

Terence J. Pell is President of the Center for Individual Rights, a public interest law firm that is helping to represent Rebecca Friedrichs and the other plaintiffs in Friedrichs v. CTA. He received his Ph.D. from Notre Dame in 1996, his J.D. from Cornell Law School in 1981, and his B.A. from Haverford College in 1976. Prior to working for CIR, he worked as an attorney with the firm of Arent, Fox. From 1985-1988, he was a Deputy Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights in the U.S. Department of Education. He later served as General Counsel and Chief of Staff at the Office of National Drug Control Policy. He joined CIR in 1997.

Larry Sand began his teaching career in New York in 1971. Beginning in 1985, he taught elementary school as well as English, math, history and ESL in Los Angeles, where he also served as a Title 1 Coordinator. Retired in 2009, he is the president of the non-profit California Teachers Empowerment Network—a non-partisan, non-political group dedicated to providing teachers with reliable and balanced information about professional affiliations and positions on educational issues—information teachers will often not get from their school districts or unions. In 2011, realizing that parents, taxpayers and others frequently receive faulty information from the mainstream media, CTEN expanded its mission to help the general public understand the array of educational issues facing our country today.