The Paris Climate Agreement and Bederman’s Six Myths about International Law

In his seminal work, *International Law Frameworks*, the late David J. Bederman of Emory Law School poses three overarching questions with regard to the existence and essence of international law. Why do so many people believe it does not exist? Why does it seem to be the step-child of legal studies? Why do international lawyers seem to have a chip on their shoulder.

Exploring these questions, Prof. Bederman confronts and debunks the following six myths:

- (1) International law is its own, separate and distinct legal system.
- (2) International law is all theory and no practice.
- (3) International law is not real law.
- (4) No one obeys international law.
- (5) International law is what the United States says it is; and (6) international lawyers are not real lawyers. Using the Paris Climate Agreement as a case study, this paper dispels each myth in the context of the recent developments in global climate change law. As the new international climate law regime will affect the oil-and-gas sector in the United States and abroad, it is an important subject for discussion at the IPEC conference.