Shen Jiaben and the Rule of Law in Modern China

The Chinese government in the late Qing Dynasty made important attempts at legal reform from 1902 to 1911, and a key participant in this reform was the politician and jurist Shen Jiaben. Shen held many important positions, including as the first minister of the Department for Revision of Laws, the first president of China’s Supreme Court, the chief counsel of the Constitutional Compilation Bureau, the vice president of the Preparatory Congress (in anticipation of a constitutional convention), the first president of Beijing’s Law Society, the management minister of the Beijing Law College, and the Vice Minister of Justice. He is thus an important witness to the rise of rule of law in modern China. Professor Chen will present his current research on Shen’s distinguished career and evaluate Shen’s contributions.

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Associate Professor Xinyu Chen received his Bachelor (1999) and Master of laws (2002) degrees from China’s University of Political Science and Law. He obtained his Ph.D. from Peking University (2005). He has taught at Tsinghua Law School since 2005 and is currently the Director of the Institute for Law and Modernity. He was a visiting scholar at Meijo University in Japan (2007-2008) and is a visitor at the Center for Asian Legal Studies at UBC in Fall 2018. Professor Chen’s research focuses on Chinese legal history and comparative law.

A light lunch will be served, please RSVP to cals@allard.ubc.ca.