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January 16, 2013

Cato Hosts Book Forum Today on Tamanaha's *Failing Law Schools*

The [Cato](#) Institute hosts a Book Forum today at noon EST (free live webcast [here](#)) on Brian Tamanaha (Washington U.), *Failing Law Schools* (University of Chicago Press, 2012):

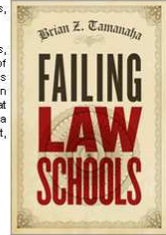
For decades, American law schools enjoyed one of the world's great winning streaks. Amid swelling enrollments and what seemed an insatiable demand for new lawyers, they went on a spree of expansion; even as tuitions soared, the schools basked in an air of public-interest rectitude symbolized by Yale law dean Harold Koh's description of his institution as a "Republic of Conscience." Then came the Great Recession—and a great reckoning. New graduates were unable to find decently paying legal jobs even as they staggered under enormous debt burdens; it became impossible to ignore long-standing complaints from the world of legal practice that the law curriculum does not train students well in much of what lawyers do; and creative efforts to reduce the cost of law school were stymied by an accreditation process that closely constrains the format of legal education. In *Failing Law Schools*, one of the most talked-of books in years about higher education, Brian Tamanaha of Washington University has written a devastating critique of what went wrong with the American law school and what can be done to fix it. None of the key contributors to the problem—faculty self-interest, university administrators' myopia, cartel-like accreditation—escape unscathed in his analysis.

Also appearing with author Brian Tamanaha:

- Paul Campos (Colorado; author, *Don't Go To Law School (Unless)*)
- William Gardiner (Washington U.)
- Neal McCluskey (Cato Institute)
- Walter Olson (Cato Institute; author, *Schools for Hire: Legal Academia and an Overlawyered America*)

Other reviews of *Failing Law Schools*:

- [Jennifer Bard](#) (Texas Tech)
- [Ray Campbell](#) (Peking University School of Transnational Law)
- [Jim Chen](#) (Former Dean, Louisville)
- [Chronicle of Higher Education](#)
- [Ronald Den Otter](#) (California Polytechnic State)
- [Stanley Fish](#) (Florida International)
- [Scott Greenfield](#) ([here](#) and [here](#))
- [Bill Henderson](#) (Indiana)
- [Paul Horwitz](#) (Alabama)
- [Orin Kerr](#) (George Washington)
- [Brian Leiter](#) (Chicago)
- [Deborah Jones Merritt](#) (Ohio State)
- [Andy Morriss](#) (Alabama)
- [National Law Journal](#)
- [Philip Schrag](#) (Georgetown)
- [Robert Steinbuch](#) (Arkansas-Little Rock)
- [Washington Post](#)



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