



# UC Center Sacramento

## Election Meltdown: Dirty Tricks, Distrust, and the Threat to American Democracy

**Richard Hasen, UC Irvine**

**Wednesday, April 22nd**

**12:00 - 1:00pm**

**In light of the community concerns regarding COVID-19, this talk will be given as a webinar. The link will be provided on Tuesday, April 21st to those that have registered by 5:00 pm on Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at [uccs.ucdavis.edu](https://uccs.ucdavis.edu).**

*As the 2020 presidential campaign begins to take shape, there is widespread distrust of the fairness and accuracy of American elections. In this talk, Richard L. Hasen will use riveting stories illustrating four factors increasing the mistrust. Voter suppression has escalated as a Republican tool aimed to depress turnout of likely Democratic voters, fueling suspicion. Pockets of incompetence in election administration, often in large cities controlled by Democrats, have created an opening to claims of unfairness. Old-fashioned and new-fangled dirty tricks, including foreign and domestic misinformation campaigns via social media, threaten electoral integrity. Inflammatory rhetoric about “stolen” elections supercharges distrust among hardcore partisans. Taking into account how each of these threats has manifested in recent years—most notably in the 2016 and 2018 elections—Hasen will offer concrete steps that need to be taken to restore trust in American elections before the democratic process is completely undermined.*



**Richard L. Hasen** is Chancellor’s Professor of Law and Political Science at the University of California, Irvine. Hasen is a nationally recognized expert in election law and campaign finance regulation, writing as well in the areas of legislation and statutory interpretation, remedies, and torts. He is co-author of leading casebooks in election law and remedies.

From 2001-2010, he served (with Dan Lowenstein) as founding co-editor of the quarterly peer-reviewed publication, *Election Law Journal*. He is the author of over 100 articles on election law issues, published in numerous journals including the *Harvard Law Review*, *Stanford Law Review* and *Supreme Court Review*. He was elected to The American Law Institute in 2009 and serves as Reporter (with Professor Douglas Laycock) on the ALI’s law reform project: *Restatement (Third) of Torts: Remedies*. He also is an adviser on the *Restatement (Third) of Torts: Concluding Provisions*. Professor Hasen was named one of the 100 most influential lawyers in America by

The *National Law Journal* in 2013, and one of the Top 100 Lawyers in California in 2005 and 2016 by the *Los Angeles* and *San Francisco Daily Journal*. His op-eds and commentaries have appeared in many publications, including *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Politico*, and *Slate*. Hasen also writes the often-quoted *Election Law Blog*, which the *ABA Journal* named to its “Blawg 100 Hall of Fame” in 2015. The *Green Bag* recognized his 2018 book, *The Justice of Contradictions: Antonin Scalia and the Politics of Disruption*, for exemplary legal writing, and his 2016 book, *Plutocrats United*, received a *Scribes Book Award* Honorable Mention. His newest book, *Election Meltdown: Dirty Tricks, Distrust, and the Threat to American Democracy* will be published by Yale University Press in 2020.

Professor Hasen holds a B.A. degree (with highest honors) from UC Berkeley, and a J.D., M.A., and Ph.D. (Political Science) from UCLA. After law school, Hasen clerked for the Honorable David R. Thompson of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and then worked as a civil appellate lawyer at the Encino firm Horvitz and Levy. From 1994-1997, Hasen taught at the Chicago-Kent College of Law and from 1998-2011 he taught at Loyola Law School, Los Angeles, where he was named the William H. Hannon Distinguished Professor of Law in 2005. He joined the UC Irvine School of Law faculty in July 2011, and is a faculty member of the UC Irvine Jack W. Peltason Center for the Study of Democracy.

For questions contact Brooke Miller-Jacobs at (916) 445-5161 or [bmmillerjacobs@ucdavis.edu](mailto:bmmillerjacobs@ucdavis.edu)

The views and opinions expressed during this lecture are those of the speaker and do not necessarily represent the views of UCCS.