

# SETON HALL | LAW

Seton Hall Legislative Journal Symposium  
Lessons in Leadership on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Watergate  
Friday, October 20, 2023

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## **Thomas Healy**

*Board of Visitors Distinguished Professor of Law*  
Seton Hall University School of Law

**Panel: 2**

Professor Thomas Healy researches and writes in the fields of constitutional law, freedom of speech, legal history, civil rights, and federal courts. His book "The Great Dissent: How Oliver Wendell Holmes Changed His Mind – and Changed the History of Free Speech in America" won the Robert F. Kennedy Book Award, was selected as a *New York Times* Book Review editor's choice, and was named one of the fifteen best non-fiction books of 2013 by the *Christian Science Monitor*. His latest book, "Soul City: Race, Equality, and the Lost Dream of American Utopia," chronicles the 1970s attempt to build a city dedicated to racial equality in rural North Carolina. It won the Hooks National Book Award, was selected as a *New York Times* Book Review editor's choice, and was named one of the best books of the year by Library Journal.

Professor Healy has received a Guggenheim Fellowship and a Public Scholar Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. He has also been a Sheila Biddle Ford Foundation Fellow at the Hutchins Center for African and African American Research at Harvard University and a visiting fellow at the Center for the Study of Law and Culture at Columbia Law School. His scholarship has appeared in the *Michigan Law Review*, the *Notre Dame Law Review*, the *North Carolina Law Review*, the *Iowa Law Review*, and other journals. He has written essays and book reviews for *The Atlantic*, *The New York Times*, *The Nation*, and *The L.A. Review of Books*, and his work has been featured in *The New Yorker* and on NPR's Code Switch and Radiolab.

Professor Healy received his B.A. in Journalism from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and his J.D. from Columbia Law School, where he was Book Review and Essay Editor of the *Columbia Law Review*. Prior to joining Seton Hall Law, he clerked for Judge Michael Daly Hawkins on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit and was an associate at Sidley Austin Brown and Wood in Washington D.C., where he practiced appellate litigation and worked on several cases before the United States Supreme Court. He also worked for many years as a newspaper reporter, first in North Carolina and later as Supreme Court Correspondent for the *Baltimore Sun*.

His work as both as constitutional scholar and journalist makes him an ideal candidate to serve as moderator of the second panel.