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Syllabus / Outline for course on

The Economics of Judicial Systems

“Learning by doing” often facilitates study – and can be even outright fun. Based on this idea, we will study the economics of judicial systems by analyzing two aspects of the Indian judiciary ourselves, namely various aspects of judicial independence as well as the efficiency of Indian courts. This implies that participants will have to search some data on their own but it promises an exciting course.

October 3, 2011

- Introduction to and Overview of class
- The Economic Effects of Judicial Independence

Required Reading:

Feld, Lars and Stefan Voigt (2003). Economic Growth and Judicial Independence: Cross Country Evidence Using a New Set of Indicators, *European Journal of Political Economy* 19(3):497-527.

Additional Reading:

Hayo, B. und S. Voigt (2007); “Explaining de facto judicial independence”, *International Review of Law and Economics* 27(3):269-90 (2007). (online available at: http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=386085)

Landes, W. and Posner, R. (1975); The Independent Judiciary in an Interest-Group Perspective, *The Journal of Law and Economics*, 18(3):875-911.

Ramseyer, M. (1994); The Puzzling (In)dependence of Courts: A Comparative Approach, *Journal of Legal Studies*, 23(2): 721-47.

October 4, 2011

Judicial Efficiency: Explaining differences in judges' productivity

Required Reading:

Micevska, M. and A. Hazra (2004). The Problem of Court Congestion: Evidence from Indian Lower Courts. Available at: http://www.zef.de/fileadmin/webfiles/downloads/zef_dp/zef_dp88.pdf

Additional Reading:

October 5, 2011

The Effects of Prosecutorial Independence

Required Reading:

Aaken, A. v., L. Feld and S. Voigt (2010). Do Independent Prosecutors Deter Political Corruption? – An Empirical Evaluation Across 78 Countries, *American Law and Economics Review* 12:204-244

Additional Reading:

The Effects of Judicial Accountability

Voigt, S. (2008). “The Economic Effects of Judicial Accountability – Cross-Country Evidence”, *European Journal of Law and Economics* 2008 (im Netz: http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=732723)

October 6, 2011

The Economics of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)

Required Reading:

Voigt, S. and S. M. Park (2011); Does ADR Blossom When State Courts Are Bad? Mimeo, Institute of Law & Economics, University of Hamburg.

The Effects of Procedural Law

Required Reading:

Djankov, S., R. La Porta, F. Lopez-de-Silanes and A. Shleifer (2003); Courts: The Lex Mundi Project, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 118(2):453-517.

Hayo, B. and S. Voigt (2008); The Relevance of Judicial Procedure for Economic Growth, mimeo, University of Marburg.

October 7, 2011

Possibilities for and Pitfalls of Judicial Reform

Required Reading:

Additional topics (inclusion depending on the specific interests of students)

- The Economic Effects of Lay Participation

- The Optimal Number of Courts

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