

# Stanford Law School | Stanford Center for Law and History

—Please RSVP—

## Law and History Colloquium

Dear Colleagues,

We are looking forward to an upcoming law and history colloquium on **May 8 from 4:00-5:30PM (Pacific) in Room 272, Stanford Law School.**

[Thomas Olechowski](#), Professor of Austrian and European Legal History at the University of Vienna, will present, "Kelsen and the Problem of Democratisation of the Administration." A wine and cheese reception will follow the event.

### **Abstract:**

Hans Kelsen (1881-1973) was a professor in Vienna from 1918 to 1930 and at UC Berkeley from 1945 to 1952. He is well known as a legal theorist, but he also wrote on the theory of democracy and drafted the democratic constitution of Austria. The article shows, by way of an example, how much all three areas are interwoven and that Kelsen's influential theoretical ideas can only be understood against the background of legal history. Above all, it shows why Kelsen viewed the theory of the separation of powers with great skepticism and initially rejected it as undemocratic – and what later prompted him to change his mind.

**Please RSVP by May 2.**

To RSVP, [click here](#). Those who confirm their attendance will receive a separate email containing the paper.

Best,

Amalia and Doris



Photo Credit:  
Agnes Stadlmann

Stanford Center for Law & History presents:

**Kelsen & the Problem of Democratisation of  
the Administration**

*with Thomas Olechowski*

*Stanford Europe Center & University of Vienna*

*Wine & cheese reception to follow*

May 8, 2025  
4:00-5:30 pm  
Stanford Law School  
Crown Building 272

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