

**Subject: Appointment of Professor Joshua Cohen as Distinguished Senior Fellow**

M E M O R A N D U M

To: Berkeley Law Community  
From: Dean Sujit Choudhry  
Date: 5 January 2015  
Re: Appointment of Professor Joshua Cohen as Distinguished Senior Fellow

---

I am absolutely delighted to announce that Joshua Cohen will be joining Berkeley as a Distinguished Senior Fellow at the School of Law, the Department of Philosophy, and the Department of Political Science in the College of Letters and Science, commencing on July 1, 2015. Cohen is on the faculty at Apple University. He was previously Marta Sutton Weeks Professor of Ethics in Society and Professor of Philosophy and of Law at Stanford University, and Leon and Anne Goldberg Professor of the Humanities and Professor of Philosophy and Political Science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Cohen will spend one day a week at Berkeley.

Cohen is one of the leading political theorists in the Anglophone world, with a breadth that ranges from regulating sweatshop labor to the proper interpretation of Rousseau's political philosophy. One is hard-pressed to think of another Anglo-American political philosopher working today who combines analytical rigor with close attention to institutional design and practice in the way that Cohen does. He has written extensively on issues of democratic theory, particularly deliberative democracy and its implications for personal liberty, freedom of expression, religious freedom, and political equality. He has also written on issues of global justice, including the foundations of human rights, distributive fairness, supranational democratic governance, and labor standards in supply chains.

Cohen's recent books include *Philosophy, Politics, Democracy* (Harvard University Press, 2009); *Rousseau: A Free Community of Equals* (Oxford University Press, 2010); and *The Arc of the Moral Universe and Other Essays* (Harvard University Press, 2011). He is co-editor of *The Norton Introduction to Philosophy* (forthcoming 2015). And he has co-authored four books with Joel Rogers: *On Democracy* (Penguin Books, 1983), *Inequity and Intervention: The Federal Budget and Central America* (South End Press, 1986), *Rules of the Game* (South End Press, 1986), and *Associations and Democracy* (Verso, 1995).

Since 1991, Cohen has also served as Editor-in-Chief and later Co-Editor-in-Chief of *Boston Review*, a bimonthly magazine of political, cultural, and literary ideas. In this capacity, he has invited academic scholars from a wide range of disciplines to contribute essays addressing some of the most pressing social, political, and legal issues of our day.

Cohen has given numerous named lectures, including the 1996 Wesson Lectures at Stanford, the 1999 Carlyle classes at Oxford, the 2002 Romanell-Phi Beta Kappa Lectures at MIT, the 2007 Tanner Lectures at Berkeley, the 2011 Dewey Lecture at the University of Chicago Law School,

and the 2012 Comte Lectures at the London School of Economics.

The centerpiece of Cohen's engagement with Berkeley will be a workshop that will bring in outside speakers to present works-in-progress in legal, moral and political philosophy. The workshop will alternate between the School of Law's Kadish Center and the Social Sciences Matrix in the College of Letters and Science. In addition, Cohen will serve as a member of dissertation committees in our Jurisprudence and Social Policy program, and in Philosophy and Political Science.

Cohen's appointment has been a community-building moment for Berkeley across disciplines and has generated enormous excitement. I wish to thank the many colleagues who have worked exceptionally hard to persuade Cohen to join our intellectual community. Please join me in welcoming him when he arrives on campus this summer.