Repeating History’s Errors: The Relevance of the Japanese American Incarceration Today

Film screening of And Then They Came for Us and panel discussion with Karen Korematsu (Founder and Director of Fred T. Korematsu Institute) and Donald K. Tamaki (Partner at Minami Tamaki LLP, Korematsu)

Over 75 years ago, a U.S. president signed an executive order that led to the forced incarceration of 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry, two-thirds of whom were American citizens. The constitutional considerations that gave tremendous deference to the executive branch on national security issues in 1942 are reverberating today with the Supreme Court travel ban decision and current immigration policies.

And Then They Came for Us won the American Bar Association 2018 Silver Gavel Award as an exemplary work which fosters the American public’s understanding of law and the legal system. Featuring George Takei and other incarcerees, this film sets the stage for a discussion about the striking and disturbing parallels between the Japanese American World War II experience and today’s rhetoric, regulations, and court decisions affecting Muslims, immigrants, and other racial groups. Should courts continue to step aside and accept the government’s actions whenever it claims that they are “plausibly related” to national security?

Light Refreshments will be served | RSVP on our website Dornsife.USC.EDU/CJRC

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