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Introduction

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Introduction

By Professor Mimi Rocah

Vigorous prosecution of public officials at the State and Federal level for official misconduct plays a significant role in safeguarding the integrity of our democratic institutions.

The landmark case *McDonnell v. United States* 136 S. Ct. 2355 (2016) – at first blush, at least – altered the legal landscape in which federal and state prosecutors can pursue public corruption prosecutions.

On March 9, 2018, the Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University hosted a symposium that brought together law enforcement, practitioners, academics and media that covers these cases to gain insight and input from these disparate groups. The Symposium convened three panels to discuss how *McDonnell* has affected prosecutors' ability to police public corruption; to offer legislative responses to *McDonnell*; and to examine the inherently unique nature of public corruption prosecutions. A central aim of the day-long event was to simultaneously tackle these challenging issues while distilling complex legal analysis in a manner suitable for lawyer and lay persons alike. What follows are transcripts of each panel.