



# Judging in Israel Balancing Contradictions

Monday 2nd November, 2009

Justice Eliezer Rivlin,  
Vice-President of the Supreme Court of Israel



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# Judging in Israel

## Balancing Contradictions

**Presenter:** Justice Eliezer Rivlin,  
Vice-President of the Supreme Court of Israel

The state of Israel is characterized by many conflicts: contradiction of ideas, differences of beliefs, divergence of opinions as to the national identity and clashes regarding the nature of the state. These conflicts are a result of the many ethnic groups in the country, the various religions observed in Israel, the extreme socio-economical differences and of the complex reality in which the state is constantly required to handle complicated security challenges.

This complex reality is naturally reflected in the legal issues that are brought before the Supreme Court. Furthermore, besides all these conflicts in the Israeli reality, the legal system itself was born into contradicting legal traditions, which echo the unique history of the state.

Therefore, a justice of the Supreme Court has the difficult, almost impossible task, of constantly balancing between all these contradictions. Not only must he balance between the different traditions, religions and beliefs but also between activism and "formalism", democracy and religion, human rights versus security needs and constitutional strive in a reality of a constitutional lacuna.

**Date:** Monday 2nd November, 2009

**Venue:** Monash University Law Chambers,  
472 Bourke Street, Melbourne

**Time:** 6 – 7 pm, followed by refreshments

**RSVP:** Tuesday 27th October, 2009  
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