

LAW AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT IN CHINA

Jingjing Zhang
Litigation Director, Center for Legal
Assistance to Pollution Victims in China

Thursday, May 21, 2009
7:00pm
110 Kane Hall

Reception Following the Lecture
Lobby, Kane Hall

Free and Open to the Public



Jingjing Zhang is the 2009 Severyns-Ravenholt Lecturer. Committed to justice and strengthening the rule of law, Jingjing Zhang is one of China's leading public interest lawyers. An outspoken environmental advocate, she represents pollution victims in law suits and promotes public participation by helping communities organize public hearings on environmental rights and licensing processes. She has won milestone cases in the Chinese courts, including the first successful environmental class action suit in China, against a chemical company that discharged toxic substances in Fujian Province. Zhang participated in a landmark suit against the Beijing Municipal Commission of Urban Planning and the Beijing Environmental Protection Bureau; after the first-ever public hearing related to environment issues, she represented the community to sue the two government agencies. She has been featured frequently in the international media for her pioneering work in public interest law.

The Severyns-Ravenholt Lectureship honors the late Marjorie Severyns Ravenholt. Born in Sunnyside, Washington, Mrs. Ravenholt graduated from the University of Washington in 1941 with a degree in political science, specializing in Far East and Slavic Studies. Her lifelong commitment to Asian affairs began during her senior year, when she traveled to Japan, China and Korea as an exchange student. After graduation, she further pursued this interest as a reporter in China for *Life Magazine*, through her service with the U.S. Joint Commission on Rural Reconstruction in China, and in her work over the course of three decades with the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation. She and her husband, Mr. Albert Ravenholt, lived and worked together for much of their lives as foreign correspondents in Asia, where they chronicled and participated in the development of the Asian countries that are now home to more than two thirds of humanity.

Inspired by the life and work of Mrs. Ravenholt, the goal of the lectureship is to promote awareness of contemporary Asian politics, economies, and cultures among the citizens of the State of Washington. The lectureship offers a unique opportunity to present the perspectives of speakers from a range of occupations, classes, nationalities, religions, genders, and statuses throughout Asia.