**Synchronous Session #1**

**Discussion Questions**

**(Module 1)**

**Requirements:**

* Complete Module 01 Lectures
* Read Federalist #51, 78

Consider the following questions:

1. What does the author of Federalist 51 mean by "Ambition must be made to counteract ambition?" What does this observation say about human nature?
2. Given Federalist 51’s understanding of human nature, what are their concerns about the ways that leaders will wield power? How did the authors of Federalist 51 design the Constitution to address these concerns?
3. According to Federalist 78, why is judicial review important?
4. What is judicial independence? What makes a judiciary independent?
5. According to Federalist 78, why should judges hold life tenure? Do you agree with Federalist 78?
6. According to Federalist 78, why does Congress lack the power to change the Constitution on its own?
7. According to Brutus XV, what are the dangers of judicial independence? What makes the US Constitution's judiciary especially dangerous?
8. In your opinion, does Federalist 78 or Brutus XV represent more accurate or relevant assessment of the US judiciary today?
9. What are the Constitutional limits on court's powers?
10. Where does standing come from in the Constitution? Why is standing an important concept for judicial power?