

CHRISTOPHER J. PETERS

(he/him/his)

[The University of Akron School of Law](#)

C. Blake McDowell Law Center

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PROFESSIONAL

Current Academic Appointment

The University of Akron School of Law, Akron, Ohio. *C. Blake McDowell, Jr.*
Professor of Law, June 2017-present

Courses taught: first-year Civil Procedure (both semesters) / Constitutional Law:
Government Structure / Constitutional Law: Individual Rights / Lawyers as
Leaders seminar

Previous Administrative Appointments

The University of Akron School of Law, Akron, Ohio. *Dean*, June 2017-Feb. 2022
Provided executive oversight of all functions of the School of Law, a public law
school with 430+ students, day and evening divisions, three degree programs, 40
full-time faculty and staff, and an annual budget of \$10 million, which is part of a
diverse urban public university with five degree-granting colleges and nearly
20,000 students. Regularly taught constitutional law, civil procedure, and a
Lawyers as Leaders seminar.

University of Baltimore School of Law, Baltimore. *Associate Dean for Faculty
Scholarship*, 2015-2017; *Coordinator of Faculty Scholarship Development*, 2014-
15

Coordinated faculty workshops and scholarship placement, dissemination, and
publicity efforts. Led revisions of retention/tenure/promotion standards to
recognize contributions to social media and nontraditional scholarly formats.
Conceived, organized, and hosted major conference on future of law school
scholarship.

Wayne State University Law School, Detroit. *Interim Associate Dean for Academic
Affairs*, 2003-2004

Served as the Law School's second-ranking academic officer. Oversaw all
academic programs and assisted the interim Dean in areas including personnel
management, budgeting, alumni relations, fundraising, interactions with the
University (including budget negotiations), annual reporting, and the transition to
a new decanal administration.

Previous Faculty Appointments

University of Baltimore School of Law, Baltimore. *Professor of Law (tenured)*, 2009-2017

Courses taught: Constitutional Law / first-year Civil Procedure (both semesters)

Wayne State University Law School, Detroit. *Associate Professor of Law (tenured)*, 2002-2009; *Assistant Professor of Law*, 1998-2002; *Visiting Assistant Professor of Law*, 1997-1998

Courses taught: Constitutional Law / first-year Civil Procedure (both semesters); / Constitutional Theory seminar / Legal Process

Loyola Law School, Los Angeles. *Visiting Professor of Law*, Fall 2008

Course taught: Constitutional Law

University of Michigan Law School, Ann Arbor. *Visiting Professor of Law*, Fall 2002, Winter 2007

Courses taught: first-year Civil Procedure / Legal Process seminar

University of Toledo College of Law, Toledo, Ohio. *Distinguished Visiting Professor of Law*, Fall 2004

Course taught: Constitutional Law

University of Chicago Law School, Chicago. *Bigelow Teaching Fellow and Lecturer in Law*, 1995-1997

Courses taught: Legal Writing and Research / Courts and the Democratic Ideal seminar

Previous Legal Employment

Latham & Watkins, Chicago. *Associate*, 1992-1995

Practice areas: general commercial litigation and business law

Bar Admission

Illinois, 1992 (currently inactive)

Professional Memberships

American Bar Association

American Section of the International Association for Philosophy of Law and Social Philosophy (AMINTAPHIL)

American Society for Political and Legal Philosophy

Association of American Law Schools (sections on Civil Procedure, Constitutional Law, Evidence, Federal Courts, and Jurisprudence)

EDUCATION

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. J.D., *cum laude*, 1992

Journal: Michigan Law Review. *Associate Editor*, 1990-1991; *Contributing Editor*, 1991-1992

Amherst College, Amherst, Massachusetts. B.A., *summa cum laude*, 1989

Major: History (concentration in medieval Europe)

SCHOLARSHIP

Published Scholarship

Books

[*Precedent in the United States Supreme Court*](#) (Springer 2014) (editor of contributed volume)

[*A Matter of Dispute: Morality, Democracy, and Law*](#) (Oxford Univ. Press 2011)

Reviewed by Brian Bix, 32 LAW & PHILOSOPHY 327 (2013) (“[O]ne cannot help but be impressed. The book consistently offers a careful analysis, grounded on a thorough and sympathetic understanding of a broad range of scholarship.... *A Matter of Dispute* is an indispensable starting point for any theorist who follows, seeking either to defend or to attack the moral obligation to obey the law, judicial review, or majoritarian lawmaking.”)

Book Chapters

[*Legal Formalism, Procedural Principles, and Judicial Constraint in American Adjudication*](#), in GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF LAW: THE ROLE OF THE JUDICIARY (Laura Pineschi, ed., Springer 2015)

[*Introduction*](#), in [PRECEDENT IN THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT](#) (Springer 2014)

[*Originalism, Stare Decisis, and Constitutional Authority*](#), in [PRECEDENT IN THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT](#) (Springer 2014)

[*Alexander Bickel and the New Judicial Minimalism*](#) (with Neal Devins), in [THE JUDICIARY AND AMERICAN DEMOCRACY: ALEXANDER BICKEL, THE COUNTERMAJORITARIAN DIFFICULTY, AND CONTEMPORARY CONSTITUTIONAL THEORY](#) (Kenneth D. Ward & Cecilia R. Castillo, eds., SUNY Press 2005)

Law Review Articles

[*What Are Constitutional Rights for? The Case of the Second Amendment*](#), 68 OKLAHOMA LAW REVIEW 433 (2016)

[*What Lies Beneath: Interpretive Methodology, Constitutional Authority, and the Case of Originalism*](#), 2013 BYU LAW REVIEW 1251 (2014)

[*Under-the-Table Overruling*](#), 54 WAYNE LAW REVIEW 1067 (2009) (symposium contribution)

- [*Adjudicative Speech and the First Amendment*](#), 51 UCLA LAW REVIEW 705 (2004)
- Participation, Representation, and Principled Adjudication*, 8 LEGAL THEORY 185 (2002) (peer-reviewed)
- [*Persuasion: A Model of Majoritarianism as Adjudication*](#), 96 NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY LAW REVIEW 1 (2001)
- Federalism and Two Conceptions of Rights*, 47 WAYNE LAW REVIEW 945 (2001) (symposium contribution)
- [*Assessing the New Judicial Minimalism*](#), 100 COLUMBIA LAW REVIEW 1454 (2000)
- [*Outcomes, Reasons, and Equality*](#), 80 BOSTON UNIVERSITY LAW REVIEW 1095 (2000)
- [*Slouching Towards Equality*](#), 84 IOWA LAW REVIEW 801 (1999)
- [*Equality Revisited*](#), 110 HARVARD LAW REVIEW 1210 (1997)
- [*Adjudication as Representation*](#), 97 COLUMBIA LAW REVIEW 312 (1997)
- [*Foolish Consistency: On Equality, Integrity, and Justice in Stare Decisis*](#), 105 YALE LAW JOURNAL 2031 (1996)
- Sounding the Floating Lien Creditor's Safe Harbor: "Value" and "Prejudice" Under Section 547(c)(5) of the Bankruptcy Code*, 5 JOURNAL OF BANKRUPTCY LAW & PRACTICE 29 (1995) (Part I), 5 JOURNAL OF BANKRUPTCY LAW & PRACTICE 169 (1996) (Part II) (with J. Douglas Bacon)

Reviews

- [*Book review of James Allan, The Vantage of Law: Its Role in Thinking about Law, Judging and Bills of Rights*](#) (Ashgate 2011), 32 LAW & PHILOSOPHY 339 (2013)
- Book note, reviewing Joseph Vining, *From Newton's Sleep* (1995), 108 ETHICS 642 (1998)
- Book notice, reviewing Hadley Arkes, *Beyond the Constitution* (1990), 89 MICHIGAN LAW REVIEW 1395 (1991)

TEACHING

Subjects Taught

Past Five Years

- Federal civil procedure (pleadings, motions, discovery, trial, appeals, personal jurisdiction, subject-matter jurisdiction, quasi-judicial doctrines, *Erie*, joinder, res judicata)
- Federal constitutional law (equal protection, due process, First Amendment, takings, Contracts Clause, federalism, separation of powers, justiciability, basic constitutional theory and methodology)

Lawyers as Leaders (seminar)

Other

First Amendment
Constitutional theory
Legal process

Potential

Jurisprudence
Federal courts
First-year courses

International Programs

University of Aberdeen School of Law, Aberdeen, Scotland (Summer 2015). With Aberdeen faculty, I co-taught a three-credit course in comparative constitutionalism to American law students.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Black Law Students Association John W. Goodwin Jr. Big Heart Award, The University of Akron School of Law (2019) (awarded by BLSA for support of the organization)

Award for Outstanding Teaching by a Full-Time Faculty Member, University of Baltimore School of Law (2014) (awarded annually by the Dean to one faculty member)

Humanities Center Faculty Fellowship, Wayne State University (2007) (competitive grant of monetary support)

Humanities Center Resident Scholarship, Wayne State University (2006) (one-year residency at Center to support scholarship; awarded by Center's Advisory Board in competitive process)

Career Development Chair, Wayne State University (2005-06) (competitive grant including monetary support and teaching release time)

President's Award for Excellence in Teaching, Wayne State University (2005) (one of six awards made annually pursuant to a university-wide competition)

Wayne State Academy of Scholars Outstanding Junior Faculty Lecturer in the Humanities, Wayne State University (2002) (awarded annually by Academy to one untenured scholar in humanities and sciences, respectively)

Donald H. Gordon Award for Teaching Excellence, Wayne State University Law School (2001) (awarded annually by the Dean to one faculty member)

Teacher of the Year for First-Year Courses 2000-2001, Wayne State University Law School (awarded by the Student Board of Governors)

Teacher of the Year for Upper-Class Courses 1999-2000, Wayne State University Law School (awarded by the Student Board of Governors)

Teacher of the Year for First-Year Courses 1997-1998, Wayne State University Law School (awarded by the Student Board of Governors)

Clarence Darrow Scholarship, University of Michigan Law School (1989-1992) (full-tuition merit scholarship)

Fisher Book Award, University of Michigan Law School (1989-1990) (for excellence in first-year legal writing course)

Alfred F. Havighurst Prize, Amherst College (1989) (for outstanding senior honors thesis in History)

PRESENTATIONS

Public, CLE, and Similar Presentations

“Presidential Powers, Civil Liberties, and Guns: The Supreme Court & the Trump Agenda,” co-panelist with JCU Journalist-in-Residence Pete Williams, John Carroll University (forthcoming April 10, 2025)

“Some Free Speech Basics,” presenter (virtual), The Lady Liberty League (Mar. 16, 2025)

“The Current Status of the Equal Rights Amendment,” panelist, University of Akron Chapter, American Constitution Society (Mar. 11, 2025)

“The Presidential Pardon Power,” commenter on remarks by Zack Smith (Heritage Foundation), University of Akron Federalist Society (Feb. 5, 2025)

“Fireside Chat” on Birthright Citizenship, panelist, University of Akron Center for Constitutional Law (Jan. 29, 2025)

“Supreme Court Roundup,” panelist, University of Akron Federalist Society (Oct. 29, 2024)

“*Trump v. United States*: The Supreme Court’s Expansive View of Presidential Immunity,” CLE presenter, Akron Bar Association (Sep. 25, 2024)

“Constitution Day Supreme Court Review,” panelist, University of Akron Center for Constitutional Law (Sep. 17, 2024)

“Big Pharma vs. Big Government,” panelist, University of Akron Health Law Society (Feb. 13, 2024)

“Roundtable: Trump and the Remaking of the Federal Judiciary,” panelist, University of Mt. Union and University of Akron Bliss Institute (Apr. 7, 2023)

“The Judicial Protection of Unenumerated Rights Post-*Dobbs*,” commentator on remarks by Dr. Roger Pilon of the Cato Institute, University of Akron Federalist Society (Feb. 15, 2023)

- “A Constitutional Game-Changer? Religious Freedom & a Football Coach’s Right to Pray at the Fifty-Yard Line in *Kennedy v. Bremerton School District*,” panelist (virtual), Kent State University (Oct. 11, 2022)
- “Women’s Right to Choose or an Unborn Fetus’ Right to Life? The Past, Present & Future of Abortion Rights in America,” panelist (virtual), Kent State University (Sep. 13, 2022)
- “U.S. Supreme Court Blockbuster Term Review,” panelist, Federal Bar Association, Northern District of Ohio Chapter (July 25, 2022)
- “Toward a More Perfect Union: The Constitution in Times of Change,” Keynote Address, Medina County Bar Association Law Day Luncheon, Medina, OH (May 6, 2022)
- “The U.S. Supreme Court: Constitutional Issues in the October 2021 Term (with a Review of the 2020 Term),” 15th Annual Akron Law Winter Institute, Naples, FL (Feb. 3, 2022)
- “The U.S. Supreme Court: Constitutional Issues in the October 2019 Term (with a Review of the 2018 Term),” 14th Annual Akron Law Winter Institute, Naples, FL (Feb. 6, 2020)
- Moderator, “Amending the Constitution,” Conference on the 19th Amendment at 100: From the Vote to Gender Equality, The Center for Constitutional Law at Akron, The University of Akron School of Law, Akron, OH (Sep. 20, 2019)
- “Recent Developments in Federal Civil Procedure,” 13th Annual Akron Law Winter Institute, Naples, FL (Feb. 8, 2019)
- “The U.S. Supreme Court: Constitutional Issues in the 2018 Term,” 13th Annual Akron Law Winter Institute, Naples, FL (Feb. 7, 2019)
- “Having Your Cake and Eating It Too: The Supreme Court’s *Masterpiece Cakeshop* Decision,” Walsh University Pre-law Society, North Canton, OH (Nov. 15, 2018)
- Interviewer, “A Conversation with The Hon. Solomon J. Oliver, U.S. District Court, Northern District of Ohio,” Akron, OH (Oct. 18, 2018)
- Moderator, Federalist Society and American Constitutional Society Supreme Court 2018 Term Preview, The University of Akron School of Law, Akron, OH (Sep. 18, 2018) (with Prof. Jonathan Entin (Case Western) and Prof. Chris Walker (Ohio State))
- Moderator, “Understanding *Erie*” panel, Center for Constitutional Law and *Akron Law Review* Conference, *Erie at Eighty: Choice of Law Across the Disciplines*, The University of Akron School of Law, Akron, OH (Sep. 14, 2018)
- Federal Bar Association, Northern District of Ohio Chapter, “The Supreme Court in Review: The First Amendment, Elections, and Wedding Cakes” seminar, panelist, Cleveland, OH (Aug. 21, 2018)

- “The 2015 FRCP Discovery Amendments: Emerging Issues,” 12th Annual Akron Law Winter Institute, Naples, FL (Feb. 9, 2018)
- “The U.S. Supreme Court: Constitutional Issues in the 2017 Term,” 12th Annual Akron Law Winter Institute, Naples, FL (Feb. 8, 2018)
- Participant, Federalist Society Debate on the Second Amendment, The University of Akron School of Law, Akron, OH (Oct. 4, 2017) (with Prof. George Moscarly (Sthn. Ill.))
- Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence Second Amendment Litigation and Jurisprudence Conference, panelist, “As-Applied Challenges,” Washington, DC (Dec. 7, 2016)
- Commentator, Federalist Society Presentation, “The Curse of Voting? How the Seventeenth Amendment Has Changed America,” University of Baltimore School of Law (Nov. 10, 2016)
- Moderator, “The Law According to Trump: The Executive Branch and Executive Power,” University of Baltimore School of Law (Jan. 19, 2016)
- Moderator, Federalist Society Debate, “Rationalize-a-Basis: A Constitutional Shell Game,” University of Baltimore School of Law (Sep. 10, 2015)
- “*Citizens United v. FEC*,” Odyssey Continuing Education Program “Mini Law School,” Johns Hopkins University (April 18, 2015)
- ABA Washington Health Law Summit, panelist, “‘Once More Unto the Breach’: The Supreme Court Revisits the Affordable Care Act,” ABA Health Law Section, Washington, DC (Dec. 9, 2014)
- “*District of Columbia v. Heller*,” Odyssey Continuing Education Program “Mini Law School,” Johns Hopkins University (March 24, 2014)
- “Common Law Adjudication,” Clarewood Institute, Baltimore (March 1, 2011) (lecture to visiting judges from People’s Republic of China)
- “Highlights of the 2009 Supreme Court Term,” Iowa Federal Bar Association Federal Practice Seminar (Dec. 17, 2010) (remote video presentation)
- Presenter, “Student Speech in Public Schools,” Symposium, “Civil Rights in Education,” *George Mason University Civil Rights Law Journal*, George Mason University School of Law (Oct. 21, 2009)
- Panelist, Constitution Day Symposium, “Judicial Selection and the Supreme Court,” University of Baltimore School of Law (Sep. 17, 2009)
- Moderator, Book Club, Federal Bar Association, E.D. Mich. Chapter, Detroit (Jan. 28, 2009) (discussion of Kevin Boyle, *Arc of Justice*)
- Presenter, “The Supreme Court,” Presidential Inauguration Program, “Legal Perspectives on the Obama Administration,” Wayne State University Law School (Jan. 20, 2009)

- Moderator, Book Club, Federal Bar Association, E.D. Mich. Chapter, Detroit (Apr. 28, 2008) (discussion of Antonin Scalia, *A Matter of Interpretation*)
- Moderator, Book Club, Federal Bar Association, E.D. Mich. Chapter, Detroit (Jan. 22, 2008) (discussion of Jeffrey Toobin, *The Nine: Inside the Secret World of the Supreme Court*)
- Panelist, Constitution Day Symposium, “The Supreme Court’s 2006 Term in Review,” Wayne State University Law School (Sep. 17, 2007)
- Debate participant, “What Is Judicial Activism in Constitutional Law?,” ACLU of Michigan, West Michigan Branch, Kalamazoo, MI (March 15, 2006)
- Panelist, “The NSA Warrantless Surveillance Program: Is It Legal?,” Wayne State University Law School/ACLU of Michigan, Detroit (Feb. 13, 2006)
- Presenter, “The Qualifications of a Supreme Court Nominee,” Federalist Society Brown-Bag Lunch Series, Wayne State University Law School (Nov. 30, 2005)
- Presenter, “Free Speech and the Right of Privacy in Public High Schools,” Oakland County Bar Association Youth Law Conference, Troy, MI (Apr. 2005)
- Panelist, “The Crosswhite Case: A Judge’s Dilemma over the Rule of Law,” Wayne State University Law School (Nov. 17, 2004)
- Presenter, “Free Speech and the Right of Privacy in Public High Schools,” Oakland County Bar Association Youth Law Conference, Troy, MI (Apr. 2004)
- Moderator, Debate, “Gay Marriage and the Constitution,” Wayne State University Law School (Apr. 1, 2004)
- Presenter, Symposium, “Perspectives on Michigan Judicial Elections,” Wayne State University Law School/Michigan Campaign Finance Network et al. (Jan. 12, 2004)
- Presenter, Symposium, “Blame Canada? Trash in Michigan,” Wayne State University Law School (Oct. 29, 2003)
- Presenter, “The First and Fourth Amendments,” Oakland County Bar Association Youth Law Conference, Troy, MI (Apr. 2003)
- Presenter, “The First and Fourth Amendments,” Oakland County Bar Association Youth Law Conference, Troy, MI (Apr. 2002) (with Robert Sedler)
- Moderator, Faculty Fellows Conference, Session III, Humanities Center, Wayne State University (February 23, 2002)
- Presenter, “The First and Fourth Amendments,” Oakland County Bar Association Youth Law Conference, Troy, MI (Apr. 2001) (with Robert Sedler)
- Symposium on Federalism, Sovereignty, and Individual Rights, Wayne State University Law School (March 29, 2001)

Presenter, Symposium, “Darwinism and Public Education,” Wayne State University (Jul. 21, 1999)

Academic Presentations

“Shot Full of Holes: The Second Amendment, As-Applied Challenges, and the Rule of Law,” Conference on The Constitution and Remedies: Remediating Harms and Circumscribing Relief, The Center for Constitutional Law at Akron, The University of Akron School of Law, Akron, OH (Nov. 10, 2017)

“*A Matter of Dispute: A Brief History of a Theory*,” Faculty Workshop, The Center for Constitutional Law at Akron, The University of Akron School of Law, Akron, OH (Nov. 1, 2017)

“Corruption/Inequality,” Constitutional Law Colloquium, Loyola University Chicago School of Law (Nov. 6-7, 2015)

“Constitutional Authority and the Second Amendment,” Constitutional Law Colloquium, Georgetown University Law Center (Nov. 3, 2014)

“Constitutional Authority and the Second Amendment,” Maryland-UB Junior Faculty Workshop, University of Maryland School of Law (Oct. 14, 2014)

“Legal Formalism, General Principles, and Judicial Discretion,” Conference of the European-American Consortium on Legal Education, Parma, Italy (May 20, 2014)

“Process, Substance, and Constitutional Rights: The Case of the Second Amendment,” Constitutional Law Colloquium, Loyola University Chicago School of Law (Nov. 1-2, 2013)

“Federalism and Individual Rights in the United States,” Conference of the European-American Consortium on Legal Education, Baltimore (May 22, 2013)

“Originalism, Stare Decisis, and Constitutional Authority,” Faculty Research and Development Presentation, University of Baltimore School of Law (Feb. 12, 2013)

“Originalism, Stare Decisis, and Constitutional Authority,” Constitutional Law Colloquium, Loyola University Chicago School of Law (Nov. 2-3, 2012)

“Constitutional *Stare Decisis* as Dispute Resolution,” Symposium, Precedent on the U.S. Supreme Court: Theory and Practice, University of Baltimore School of Law (Mar. 28, 2012)

“What Are Constitutional Rights For?,” Constitutional Law Colloquium, Loyola University Chicago School of Law (Oct. 21, 2011)

“A Matter of Dispute; or, Law as a Wrench,” Faculty Research and Development Presentation, University of Baltimore School of Law (Oct. 4, 2011)

“A Matter of Dispute: An Account of Democracy under Law,” Legal Theory Workshop, University of Oregon School of Law (Oct. 27, 2008)

- “A Matter of Dispute: In Defense of Democracy under Law,” Faculty Workshop, Loyola Law School Los Angeles (Oct. 2, 2008)
- “Popular Sovereignty and Legality,” Humanities Center Faculty Fellows Conference, Wayne State University (Apr. 11, 2008)
- “Aristotle’s Challenge: Outcomes, Process, and Legal Authority,” Open Workshop Presentation, Central States Law School Association/*Journal of Law in Society* Joint Conference, Wayne State University Law School (Oct. 27, 2007)
- “A Matter of Dispute: Law, Democracy, and Disagreement in America,” Resident Scholars’ Roundtable, Humanities Center, Wayne State University (Nov. 14, 2006)
- “Constitutional Law as Dispute Resolution,” Work-in-Progress Luncheon, University of Minnesota Law School (Apr. 27, 2006)
- “A Matter of Dispute: Law, Disagreement, and Democracy in America,” Resident Scholars’ Roundtable, Humanities Center, Wayne State University (Apr. 21, 2006)
- “Constitutional Rights and Reasonable Disagreement,” Faculty Forum, Wayne State University Law School (Feb. 1, 2006)
- “Constitutional Rights and Disagreement,” Humanities Center Brown-Bag Workshop Series, Wayne State University (Dec. 6, 2005)
- “Free Speech and Evidentiary Rules,” First Annual Constitutional Theory Conference, Vanderbilt University Law School (Apr. 11-12, 2003)
- “Free Speech and Evidentiary Rules,” Brown-Bag Workshop Luncheon, Wayne State University Law School (Apr. 1, 2003)
- “Legal Interpretation and Political Legitimacy,” Humanities Center Brown-Bag Workshop Series, Wayne State University (Jan. 21, 2003)
- “Free Speech and Evidentiary Rules,” Fawley Luncheon Series, University of Michigan Law School (Jan. 8, 2003)
- “The Problematic Political Case for Originalism,” Legal Theory Workshop, University of Michigan Law School (Nov. 4, 2002)
- “Adjudication and Political Legitimacy,” Wayne State Academy of Scholars Annual Outstanding Junior Faculty Lecture, Wayne State University (Feb. 20, 2002)
- “Persuasion: A Model of Majoritarianism as Adjudication,” Faculty Workshop, Florida State University College of Law (Sep. 5, 2001)
- “Federalism and Two Conceptions of Rights,” Symposium on Federalism, Sovereignty, and Individual Rights, Wayne State University Law School (Mar. 29, 2001)

“Statutory Interpretation: A Conceptual Framework,” Faculty Workshop, Wayne State University Law School (Oct. 24, 2000)

“‘A Double Security ... to the Rights of the People’: The Supreme Court as Referee in the Ongoing Federal-State Conflict,” University Forum, Wayne State University Academy of Scholars, Wayne State University (Mar. 8, 2000)

Invited Panels, Conferences, Symposia, Etc.

Journal of Legal Education Conference on the Future of Legal Scholarship, presenter/discussant, Northeastern University School of Law, Boston (April 29, 2016)

Fourteenth Annual Analytical Legal Philosophy Conference, University of San Diego School of Law (Apr. 22-23, 2011)

Thirteenth Annual Analytical Legal Philosophy Conference, NYU Law School (Apr. 16-17, 2010)

Tenth Annual Analytical Legal Philosophy Conference, Boalt Hall School of Law, University of California-Berkeley (Apr. 13-14, 2007)

Ninth Annual Analytical Legal Philosophy Conference, UCLA School of Law (Apr. 7-8, 2006)

Second Annual Roundtable on Conceptual Issues in Constitutional Law, University of San Diego School of Law (Nov. 18-19, 2005)

Second Constitutional Theory Conference, NYU Law School (Oct. 22-23, 2004)

Eighth Annual Analytical Legal Philosophy Conference, NYU Law School (Apr. 16-17, 2004)

First Constitutional Theory Conference, Vanderbilt University Law School (April 11-12, 2003)

Seventh Annual Analytical Legal Philosophy Conference, Yale Law School (April 19-20, 2002)

Sixth Annual Analytical Legal Philosophy Conference, University of Chicago Law School (April 6-7, 2001)

Fifth Annual Analytical Legal Philosophy Conference, Columbia Law School (April 7-8, 2000)

Fourth Annual Analytical Legal Philosophy Conference, University of Pennsylvania Law School (April 8-9, 1999)

Third Annual Analytical Legal Philosophy Conference, University of San Diego Law School (April 2-3, 1998)

Decanal Presentations

Panelist, “Deaning,” 2019 ABA Associate Deans Conference, Chicago, IL (June 26, 2019)

Panelist, “The Role of Universities and Law Schools in Advancing Access to Justice,” 2018 Society of American Law Teachers Teaching Conference, Penn State Law, University Park, PA (Oct. 5, 2018)

Panelist, “Making the Dean’s List,” Hot Talks Series, Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association, Cleveland, OH (Sep. 12, 2017) (with deans of CWRU and CSU law schools)

Dean’s Address at the Ohio Bar Admissions Ceremony, Columbus, Ohio (May 7, 2018)

MEDIA

Print and Online Media

[U.S. Supreme Court: a check or an enabler of second Trump presidency?](#), Agence France-Presse (Nov. 14, 2024) (quoted) (appeared in multiple outlets)

[In wake of the train derailment, lawyers descend on East Palestine](#), WKBN.com (Mar. 7, 2023) (quoted)

[University Of Akron, Cleveland State Considering Law School Merger](#), ideastream.org (Aug. 28, 2020) (taped for public radio segment)

[Northeast Ohio law schools are adapting instruction for the COVID-19 classroom](#), Crain’s Cleveland Business (Aug. 8, 2020) (quoted)

[Why Foreign-Trained Lawyers Should Consider a 2-Year J.D.](#), U.S. News & World Report (Mar. 19, 2020) (quoted)

[University of Akron School of Law introduces partially online J.D. program](#), Cleveland.com (Oct. 29, 2019) (quoted)

[University of Akron School of Law now accepting GRE scores as alternative to LSAT](#), Cleveland.com (Oct. 9, 2019) (quoted)

Longtime Akron law professor receives prestigious award, Akron Legal News (May 9, 2019) (quoted)

[Akron Law continues to make the ratings grade](#), Akron Legal News (May 3, 2019) (quoted)

[Akron Law Professor Jack Sahl honored by Ohio State Bar Association for ethics and professionalism](#), Association of American Law Schools website (April 30, 2019) (quoted)

[Akron Law Student Bar Association holds trivia night “Fun-Raiser.”](#) Akron Legal News (April 16, 2019) (quoted)

- [Registration underway for Akron Law's 21st annual IP symposium](#), Akron Legal News (Feb. 12, 2019) (quoted)
- [Akron Law ramps up efforts to help students pass the bar](#), Akron Legal News (Jan. 30, 2019) (quoted)
- [Father and daughter graduate law school together](#), Akron Legal News (Jan. 25, 2019) (quoted)
- [University of Akron looks to bolster bar exam scores](#), Cleveland.com (Jan. 10, 2019) (quoted)
- [UA hires company to help boost bar exam results](#), Akron Beacon Journal (Jan. 9, 2019) (quoted and interviewed on video)
- [Akron Law's IP program continues to make the grade](#), Akron Legal News (May 11, 2018) (quoted)
- [Northeast Ohio law schools have strong showing in February bar exams](#), Crain's Cleveland Business (May 3, 2018) (quoted)
- [Akron Law expands social justice offerings](#), Akron Legal News (Dec. 14, 2018) (quoted)
- [Akron Law to start new diversity program](#), Akron Legal News (Dec. 29, 2017) (quoted)
- [Meet the new director of Akron Law's IP Center](#), Akron Legal News (Oct. 3, 2017) (quoted)
- [Trump nominates University of Akron prof for judgeship](#), Crain's Cleveland Business (Sep. 29, 2017) (quoted)
- [Trump's List](#), Baltimore Afro-American (May 20, 2016) (op-ed)
- [Kentucky county clerk Kim Davis is no Martin Luther King Jr.](#), Baltimore Afro-American (Sep. 16, 2015) (op-ed)
- Overrule the Supreme Court on campaign finance reform*, Baltimore Sun (Jul. 6, 2011) (op-ed)
- Misusing "marketplace of ideas": The Supreme Court may have damaged that metaphor beyond repair*, National Law Journal (Feb. 22, 2010) (op-ed)
- Silly linguistic games: Let's drop the name-calling and recognize that judges do make law, and their "personal preferences" play a role*, National Law Journal (Jun. 8, 2009) (op-ed)
- Should the president be removed from office? Pro: Clinton deserves firing for violating public trust and constitutional duties*, Detroit News (Jan. 10, 1999) (op-ed)
- Clinton perverts Constitution to save his own political skin*, Detroit News (Dec. 24, 1998) (op-ed)

Public opinion should play a role in impeachment process, Detroit Free Press (Sep. 24, 1998) (op-ed)

Cure for Watergate excess has created a new plague, Detroit Free Press (Jan. 27, 1998) (op-ed)

Broadcast Media

Fox 45 News, WBFF TV, Baltimore (Aug. 16, 2013)

Interviewed on-camera regarding Obama plan to impose cell-phone fees

The Nancy Skinner Show, WDTW AM 1310 radio, Detroit (Nov. 16, 2005)

Commentator on constitutional status of “In God We Trust” on currency

The Nancy Skinner Show, WDTW AM 1310 radio, Detroit (Sep. 7, 2005)

Commentator on Rehnquist legacy and John Roberts nomination

The Nancy Skinner Show, WDTW AM 1310 radio, Detroit (Apr. 28, 2005)

Commentator on alleged religious harassment at Air Force Academy

The Nancy Skinner Show, WDTW AM 1310 radio, Detroit (Mar. 24, 2005)

Commentator on Terri Schiavo case

Currently Speaking, WDCQ/WDCP public television, University Center, MI (Jan. 25, 2005)

Commentator on prospects for Supreme Court during second Bush term

The Legal Huddle, i.e. America Radio Network (Feb. 2004)

Commentator on constitutional issues surrounding same-sex marriage

Michigan Public Radio (Nov.-Dec. 2003)

Commentator on dormant Commerce Clause implications of Michigan’s attempts to restrict out-of-state waste

Spotlight on the News, WXYZ Channel 7, Detroit (Oct. 7, 2001)

Commentator on civil liberties issues following Sept. 11 attacks

The Legal Insider, GPWM Channel 5, Grosse Pointe, MI (Apr. 2001)

Commentator on electoral college in wake of 2000 presidential election

Spotlight on the News, WXYZ Channel 7, Detroit (Nov. 19, 2000)

Commentator on constitutional issues implicated by 2000 presidential election

Spotlight on the News, WXYZ Channel 7, Detroit (Feb. 7, 1999)

Commentator on presidential impeachment trial

SERVICE

Boards and Organizations

Supreme Court of Ohio

Commission on Certification of Attorneys as Specialists, Member (2022-present);

Vice Chair (2023-present)

Association of American Law Schools

Member, Planning Committee for the Workshop for Appointments Committees (2021-2022)

Ohio State Bar Association

Member, Deans and Practitioners Advisory Council (2017-2022)

Member, Public Policy Coalition (2020-2022)

Akron Bar Association

Member (*ex officio*), Board of Directors (2019-2022)

Federal Bar Association, Northern District of Ohio Chapter

Member (*ex officio*), Board of Directors (2017-present)

Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence

Volunteer consultant on Second Amendment and other constitutional issues for national gun violence prevention organization (2016-18)

Michigan ACLU

Member, Legal Committee, Oakland County Branch (2004-09)

Member, Board of Directors, Oakland County Branch (2004-05)

Cooperating attorney (2004-09)

Pro Bono Litigation

National Pride at Work, Inc. v. Granholm, No. 133554 (Mich. Sup. Ct. 2007)

Co-author of *amicus* brief arguing against application of Michigan “marriage amendment” to bar provision of health benefits to same-sex domestic partners of state employees

J&J Const. Co. v. Bricklayers and Allied Craftsmen Local 1, No. 119357 (Mich. Sup. Ct. 2002)

Co-author of *amicus* brief defending SLAPP lawsuit against union official who spoke against award of city contract to non-union employer

Sylvester Material Co., Inc. v. Fromhart, No. 04-40125 (E.D. Mich. 2004)

Co-attorney defending SLAPP lawsuit against resident who complained to public officials about nuisance from sand and gravel mine

Legislative Testimony

“Regulation of Disposal of Out-of-State Waste and the Dormant Commerce Clause,”
Joint Committee on Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs, Michigan
State Legislature (May 28, 2003)

Programs (as Organizer)

Organizer, University of Baltimore Legal Scholarship Colloquium (regular faculty workshop series) (2013-present)

Organizer, Conference, “[The Fate of Scholarship in American Law Schools](#),”
University of Baltimore School of Law (March 31-April 1, 2016)

- Member of organizing committee, “RED Talks: Research Engagement Day,”
University of Baltimore (Feb. 4, 2016)
- Organizer and moderator, Constitution Day Panel, “U.S. Supreme Court 2014 Term
Preview,” University of Baltimore School of Law (Sep. 17, 2014)
- Organizer and moderator, Panel, “The *Hobby Lobby* Case: Corporations,
Contraception and Religious Freedom,” University of Baltimore School of Law
(April 28, 2014)
- Organizer and moderator, Constitution Day Panel, “U.S. Supreme Court 2013 Term
Preview,” University of Baltimore School of Law (Sep. 17, 2013)
- Organizer, Symposium, “Precedent on the United States Supreme Court: Theory and
Practice,” University of Baltimore School of Law (March 28, 2012)
- Organizer and panelist, “*Citizens United*: Victory for Free Speech or Defeat for
Democracy?,” Constitution Day Program, “The *Citizens United* Case,” University
of Baltimore (Sep. 17, 2010)
- Organizer, Symposium, “Legal Perspectives on the Obama Administration,” Wayne
State University Law School (Jan. 20, 2009)
- Member of organizing committee, Symposium: “Perspectives on Michigan Judicial
Elections,” Wayne State University Law School (Jan. 12, 2004) (public
symposium sponsored by Michigan Campaign Finance Network, Michigan
League of Women Voters, Michigan Bar Association, and others)
- Member of organizing committee, Wayne State Academy of Scholars Conference,
“Responding to September 11” (March 1-2, 2002)

Professional Service

Service as Peer Reviewer

- Springer (academic books)*
Legal Theory (journal)
Law and Philosophy (journal)

Academic Service

Grants Received

- Fund for Excellence Grant, University of Baltimore Foundation (2015-16)
Authored successful proposal for \$25,000 grant to support “[The Fate of
Scholarship in American Law Schools](#),” a national conference at UB in spring
2016

University of Akron School of Law

- Chair, McDowell Professorship Recommendation Committee (2023)
Curriculum Committee (2023-2024)
Standards & Bylaws Committee (2024-present)

Academic & Discipline Committee (2023-present)

University of Akron

UA Leadership Team (2017-2022)

Council of Deans (2017-2022)

Senior Vice President and Provost Search Committee (2025)

Chair, College of Engineering and Polymer Science Dean Search Committee (2021-22)

Chair, Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences Dean Search Committee (2020)

Chair, College of Health Professions Dean Search Committee (2017-18)

Chair, College of Business Administration Dean Review Committee (2018-19)

University Council, Committee on Talent Development and Human Resources (2017-2022)

University of Baltimore Law School

ABA Self-Study Committee: member (2016-present)

Ad hoc task force to review policies on faculty scholarship: chair (2016-present)

Faculty Appointments Committee: chair (2010-12), member (2009-2010), *ex officio* member (2014-present)

Faculty Research and Development Committee: chair (2013-present), member (2010-11)

Post-Tenure Review Committee: member (2012-14), *ex officio* member (2014-present)

Promotion and Tenure Policy Committee: *ex officio* member (2014-present)

Summer Stipends and Sabbaticals Committee: *ex officio* member (2014-present)

Faculty Activities Information Management Working Group: co-chair (2014-15)

Faculty Scholarship Mentor, 2009-2014

Academic Standards Committee: chair (2012-13)

Self-Study Committee: member (2010; drafted faculty scholarship portion of self-study)

Building Committee: member (2009-2010)

Retention Subcommittee (for untenured colleague): chair (2009-2010)

University of Baltimore

University Faculty Senate, Council on Research, Scholarship and Creative Activities (“Research Council”): member (2014-present)

Ad hoc University task force on recognition of faculty scholarship: member (2015-present)

Wayne State University Law School

Budget Advisory Committee: member (1999-2001)

Career Services Advisory Committee: chair (2005-2006), member (2000-2001)

Constitutional Law Chair Committee: member (1998-1999)

Curriculum Committee: member (Winter 2003)

Faculty Appointments Committee: chair (2004-2005), member (Winter 2007)

Faculty Salary Committee: member (2005-2008)
Gibbs Chair Search Committee: member (2001-2002)
Honor Code Committee: member (Winter 2003)
Legal Writing Committee: chair (Winter 2003, Winter 2008), member (1998-2000)
Moot Court Advisor (2005-2006)
Programs and Awards Committee: chair (1998-2001), member (2001-2002)
Readmissions Committee: member (2003-2004, 1999-2000)
Student Discipline Hearing Panel: member (1999-2000)
Student Recruitment Task Force: member (1998-1999)

Wayne State University

Law School Dean Search Committee: member (2007-2008)
President's Award for Excellence in Teaching Selection Committee: member (2005-2006)
WSU Humanities Center: member, advisory board (2000-2002)
University Research Grant Program: member, evaluation committee, Social and Behavioral Sciences and Law (2001-2002)
Richard J. Barber Fund for Interdisciplinary Legal Research: member, award review committee (2001-2002, 1999-2001)

PERSONAL

I was born and raised in western Michigan. I live in Hudson, Ohio with my wife (who works in development for a nonprofit hospital organization) and our mixed-breed dog Dingo. My nonprofessional interests include photography, cycling, tennis, travel, cooking, collecting vintage jazz LPs, and attempting to play the piano.