

Ryan C. Williams

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CURRENT POSITION

Boston College Law School,

Associate Professor (with tenure), 2022–Present

Assistant Professor, 2016–2022

Courses: Constitutional Law; Federal Courts; Conflict of Laws; Constitutional Law II;
Constitutional Law: Rights & Equality; Originalism & Its Alternatives (seminar)

EDITED VOLUME

AMENDING AMERICA'S UNWRITTEN CONSTITUTION

(Cambridge University Press 2022) (with Richard Albert and Yaniv Roznai, coeditors)

LAW REVIEW ARTICLES AND ESSAYS

Unconstitutional Conditions and the Constitutional Text

172 *University of Pennsylvania Law Review* 747 (2024)

Jurisdiction as Power

89 *University of Chicago Law Review* 1719 (2022)

Lower Court Originalism

45 *Harvard Journal of Law & Public Policy* 258 (2022)

Plurality Decisions and the Ambiguity of Precedential Authority

74 *Florida Law Review* 1 (2022)

The “Guarantee” Clause

132 *Harvard Law Review* 602 (2018)

Questioning Marks: Plurality Decisions and Precedential Constraint

69 *Stanford Law Review* 795 (2017)

Due Process, Class Action Opt Outs, and the Right Not to Sue

115 *Columbia Law Review* 599 (2015)

Originalism and the Other Desegregation Decision

99 *Virginia Law Review* 493 (2013)

The Ninth Amendment as a Rule of Construction

111 *Columbia Law Review* 498 (2011)

The One and Only Substantive Due Process Clause

120 *Yale Law Journal* 408 (2010)

SYMPOSIUM CONTRIBUTIONS, RESPONSES, AND ONLINE ESSAYS

Historical Fact

99 *Notre Dame Law Review* 1585 (2024)

(symposium: *History, Tradition, and Analogical Reasoning*)

Federalism, the Law of Nations, and the Excluded Middle

1 *Journal of American Constitutional History* 721 (2023)

(responding to: Anthony J. Bellia, Jr. & Bradford R. Clark, *The International Law Origins of American Federalism*, 120 *Columbia Law Review* 835 (2020) & David S. Schwartz, *The International Law Origins of Compact Theory: A Critique of Bellia & Clark on Federalism*, 1 *Journal of American Constitutional History* 629 (2023))

Plurality Decisions and Prior Precedent

14 *Federal Courts Law Review* 76 (2022)

“Judicial Role” and Judicial Duty in Foreign Affairs

43 *Fordham International Law Journal* 1235 (2020)

(symposium: *The Judicial Power and U.S. Foreign Affairs*)

The Paths to Griswold

89 *Notre Dame Law Review* 2155 (2014)

(symposium: *The Evolution of Theory: Discerning the Catalysts of Constitutional Change*)

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Primary: Constitutional law; conflict of laws; federal courts; civil procedure; complex litigation; legal history

Additional: Legislation and statutory interpretation; remedies; torts; antitrust; foreign relations

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

Brooklyn Law School,

Adjunct Professor (Federal Courts), Fall 2024

Columbia Law School,

Associate in Law, 2014–2016

Careers in Teaching Fellow, 2013–2014

University of Pennsylvania Law School,

Sharswood Fellow, 2011–2013

Sullivan & Cromwell LLP,

Litigation associate, 2002–2011

EDUCATION

Columbia Law School, J.D., 2002

Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar

Olin Fellow in Law, Economics and Public Policy

University of Kansas, B.S. in Economics & B.A. in History, 1998

Phi Beta Kappa

OTHER WRITING AND COMMENTARY

[Brief for Amicus Curiae Professors of Law in Support of Certiorari,](#)

Cuker Interactive, LLC v. Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman, No. 22-18 (2022) (signed)

[Brief of Citizenship Scholars as Amici Curiae in Support of Certiorari,](#)

Fitisemanu v. United States, Nos. 20-4017 AND 20-4019 (2022) (signed)

[Supreme Court Draft Leak is Indefensible, Whatever Side of Roe You're On](#)

NBC NEWS THINK, May 8, 2022

[Supreme Court Justices Say the Institution Must be Nonpartisan—But They Make It Political,](#)

NBC NEWS THINK, Sept. 19, 2021

[The Framers' Coup and the Merely Human Constitution,](#)

Balkanization, April 2017 (invited commentary on Professor Michael Klarman's book, *THE FRAMERS' COUP: THE MAKING OF THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION* (Oxford University Press 2016))

The Ninth Amendment,

The Heritage Guide to the Constitution (2d ed. 2014)

A Theory of Law's Incompleteness,

16 **Green Bag 2d** 223 (2013) (A micro-contribution to the Green Bag/Journal of Law micro-symposium on Orin Kerr's A Theory of Law, 16 **Green Bag 2d** 111 (2012))

Substantive Due Process in Historical Context,

Cato Unbound, February 2012 (Invited comment on lead essay: "Why Substantive Due Process Makes Sense," by Timothy Sandefur)

SELECTED CONFERENCES, PRESENTATIONS, AND PARTICIPATIONS

PAPER PRESENTATIONS AND SYMPOSIA

Unconstitutional Conditions and the Constitutional Text

- Fifteenth Annual Originalism Works-in-Progress Conference, Center for the Study of Constitutional Originalism, University of San Diego Law School, February 2024
- Cardozo Law School, October 2023

Historical Fact

- Boston University Law School Legal History Symposium, April 2024
- History, Tradition, and Analogical Reasoning, *Notre Dame Law Review* (co-sponsored by the Duke Center for Firearms Law), October 2023

Jurisdiction as Power

- Seventh Annual Civil Procedure Workshop, Cardozo Law School, May 2022
- Boston College Law School, March 2022

"Judicial Role" and Judicial Duty in Foreign Affairs

- The Judicial Power in U.S. Foreign Affairs, *Fordham International Law Journal* Symposium, February 2020

Lower Court Originalism

- Twenty-Second Annual Federalist Society Faculty Conference, Association of American Law Schools Annual Conference, January 2020
- Antonin Scalia Law School, George Mason University, November 2019
- Boston College Law School, July 2019
- University of Houston Law Center, February 2019

The “Guarantee” Clause

- Boston College Law School, June 2018
- Notre Dame Law School, October 2017

Questioning *Marks*: Plurality Decisions and Precedential Constraint

- Eighth Annual Junior Federal Courts Workshop, University of California, Irvine School of Law, September 2015
- Boston College Law School, November 2015
- University of Richmond Law School, November 2015
- St. John’s University Law School, November 2015
- Columbia Law School Associates & Fellows Workshop, May 2015

Due Process, Class Action Opt Outs, and the Right Not to Sue

- Seventh Annual Junior Federal Courts Workshop, University of Georgia Law School, October 2014
- Columbia Law School Associates & Fellows Workshop, April 2014

The Paths to *Griswold*

- The Evolution of Theory: Discerning the Catalysts of Constitutional Change, *Notre Dame Law Review* Symposium, November 2013

Originalism and the Other Desegregation Decision

- University of Georgia Law School, December 2012
- University of Houston Law School, November 2012
- University of Pennsylvania Law School Faculty Workshop, May 2012

The One and Only Substantive Due Process Clause

- University of San Diego Law School Faculty Workshop, September 2011

CONFERENCES AND PANELS ORGANIZED

Amending the Unwritten Constitution of the United States

- Boston College Institute for Liberal Arts, May 2019 (with Richard Albert and Yaniv Roznai)

Conflicts of Law and Corporate Governance

- AALS Annual Conference, Conflict of Laws Section, Washington, D.C., January 2024 (with Roger Michalski, co-chair)

Conflicts of Law in a Post-*Roe* World

- AALS Annual Conference, Conflict of Laws Section, San Francisco, January 2023 (with Pamela Bookman, co-chair)

OTHER PRESENTATIONS AND PARTICIPATIONS

Presenter, *Circuit Court Originalism*

- Judicial Originalism Conference, Center for the Study of Constitutional Originalism, University of San Diego Law School, October 2023

Commenter, *Rights of American Citizenship*, by Jud Campbell

- Thirteenth Annual Originalism Works-in-Progress Conference, Center for the Study of Constitutional Originalism, University of San Diego Law School, February 2022

Panelist, *Narrowing in on Narrowest Grounds*

- Panel discussion organized for the Seventy-Eighth Annual Midwest Political Science Association Conference, April 2021

Panelist, *Who's Afraid of Substantive Due Process?: Original Meaning and the Due Process of Law*

- Panel discussion organized for the 2019 Federalist Society Annual Faculty Conference, New Orleans, January 2019

Commenter, *Black Originalism: Constitutional Citizenship, Constitutional Rights, and the Second Founding*, by James Fox

- Eighth Annual Originalism Works-in-Progress Conference, Center for the Study of Constitutional Originalism, University of San Diego Law School, February 2017

Commenter, *Due Process in the Administrative State*

- Panel discussion organized by the Center for the Study of the Administrative State, Antonin Scalia Law School, George Mason University, January 2017

Commenter, *Interpreting an Unamendable Text*, by Thomas W. Merrill

- Columbia Law School Federalist Society, March 2016

Commenter, *International Law and the Domestic Separation of Powers*, by Jean Galbraith

- Temple Law School International Law Symposium, February 2013

Moderator, Vulnerability to Suit Amid Changing Doctrines

- Mass Torts Litigation in a Shrinking World, *University of Pennsylvania Journal of International Law* Symposium, November 2012

SERVICE

Committee Service:

- Academic Standards (2024–Present)
- Admissions Committee (2022–Present)
- Drinan Scholars Program Committee (2021–Present)
- Clinical Appointments Committee (2023–2024)
- Education Policy Committee (2020–2022)
- Judicial Clerkship Committee (2017–2022)

Boston College Speaking and Moderating Activities:

- Panelist: The SCOTUS 'Students for Fair Admissions' Decision, September 2023
- Discussant: James E. Fleming, The *Dobbs* Decision: The Roar of a Wave that Could Drown the Whole World, Rappaport Center, October 2022
- Commenter: The Impact of *Dobbs*, Boston College Community Webinar, June 2022
- Moderator: Overturning *Roe*?, Boston College Federalist Society, March 2022
- Wendell F. Grimes Moot Court Judge, February 2020
- Panelist: Impeachment Discussion—Trump on Trial, Boston College American Constitution Society, January 2020
- Commenter: Prof. Kurt Lash, A Second Civil War? The Struggle to Ratify the Fourteenth Amendment, Boston College Federalist Society, October 2018
- Moderator: Electoral College: Stay, Go, or Alternatives?, Rappaport Center, October 2018
- Panelist: The *Masterpiece Cakeshop* Decision, Boston College Lambda Law Students Association, September 2018
- Moderator: Fred Korematsu Day, Boston College Asian Pacific Law Students Association, January, 2018
- Commenter: Ilya Shapiro, The Roberts Court Under a Trump Presidency, Boston College Federalist Society, September, 2017

Other Community and Professional Service:

- Executive Committee: Conflict of Laws Section, AALS
 - Chair 2023–2024
 - Chair Elect 2022–2023 (with Pamela Bookman)
- Executive Committee: Section on Scholarship, AALS (2022–2023)

- Supreme Court Moot Participant: *Hernandez v. Mesa*, October 2019 (For Petitioner)
- Outside Reviewer for *Yale Law Journal*, *Harvard Law Review*, *Stanford Law Review*, and *The American Journal of Comparative Law*