

# Ryan C. Williams

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## CURRENT POSITION

### **Boston College Law School,**

Associate Professor, 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)

## 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

## EDITED VOLUME

### ***Amending America's Unwritten Constitution***

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

## LAW REVIEW ARTICLES AND ESSAYS

### *Jurisdiction as Power*

89 *University of Chicago Law Review* \_\_ (2022) (forthcoming)

### *Lower Court Originalism*

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

### *Plurality Decisions and the Ambiguity of Precedential Authority*

74 *Florida Law Review* 1 (2022)

*Plurality Decisions and Prior Precedent*

14 *Federal Courts Law Review* 76 (2022)

*“Judicial Role” and Judicial Duty in Foreign Affairs*

43 *Fordham Int’l L.J.* 1235 (2020) (invited symposium contribution)

*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)

*The Paths to Griswold*

89 *Notre Dame Law Review* 2155 (2014) (invited symposium contribution)

*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)

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

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

**Additional:** Legislation and statutory interpretation; legal history; foreign relations; remedies; torts

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

**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

## ADDITIONAL 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)

[Brief of Citizenship Scholars as Amici Curiae in Support of Certiorari,](#)  
*Fitisemanu v. United States*, Nos. 20-4017 AND 20-4019 (2022)

[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

### CONFERENCES ORGANIZED

#### **Amending the Unwritten Constitution of the United States**

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

### PAPER PRESENTATIONS AND SYMPOSIA

#### **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

### **OTHER PRESENTATIONS AND PARTICIPATIONS**

#### **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:**

- Admissions Committee (2022-Present)
- Drinan Scholars Program Committee (2021-present)
- Judicial Clerkship Committee (2017-2022)
- Education Policy Committee (2020-2022)

**Other Boston College Service:**

- 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 (Co-Chair 2022 to Present)
- Executive Committee: Section on Scholarship, AALS
- 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*
- Presenter: Fifteenth Annual MCLE Municipal Law Conference 2017, Recent Developments in Constitutional Law, March 2017