

John D. Bessler

Professor of Law, University of Baltimore School of Law

1420 N. Charles St., Baltimore, MD 21201 • jbessler@ubalt.edu • 410-837-4690 (office)

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

Professor of Law, University of Baltimore School of Law (Aug. 2020-present)

- Courses: Administrative Law, Antitrust, Capital Punishment and the Constitution Seminar, Civil Procedure I & II, Contracts II, Introduction to Lawyering Skills, International Human Rights Law Seminar, Torts

- Member – Admissions Committee (2020-2021), Career Services Committee (2020-), Dean's Advisory Committee (2022-2023), Fannie Angelos Program for Academic Excellence (2020-), Faculty Research & Development Committee (2022-), Post-Tenure Review Committee (2022-2023), and Promotion and Tenure Committee (2020-); Reporter, Post-Tenure Review Committee (2022-2023); Faculty Advisor, Moot Court Board/Board of Advocates (2020-); Subcommittee Chair, Promotion and Tenure Committee (2020-2021)

Of Counsel, Stinson LLP (Jan. 2025-present)

- Attorney at national law firm with 13 offices, including in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and Washington, DC

Adjunct Professor, The Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, DC (2010-present)

- Capital Punishment Seminar

Visiting Scholar/Research Fellow, Human Rights Center - University of Minnesota Law School, Walter F. Mondale Hall (Minneapolis, MN) (July 2024-May 2025)

PRIOR ACADEMIC AFFILIATIONS

Associate Professor, University of Baltimore School of Law (2011-2020; tenured 2014)

- University System of Maryland Board of Regents' Faculty Award – Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity (2018)

- Courses: Civil Procedure I & II, Contracts II, Introduction to Lawyering Skills, Capital Punishment and the Constitution Seminar, International Human Rights Law Seminar, Moot Court Board

- Chair, Excellence in Teaching Committee (2018-2019); Chair, Career Services Committee (2013-2017); Faculty Advisor, Moot Court Board (2015-2020); Director, Region III – National Moot Court Competition (2015-2017); Member – Faculty Research and Development Committee (2012-2015), Promotion and Tenure Committee (2014-2020), Dean's Advisory Committee (2016-2017), Career Services Committee (2019-2020), and Excellence in Teaching Committee (2019-2020); Subcommittee Chair, Promotion and Tenure Committee (2016-2017); and Member/Mentor, Fannie Angelos Program for Academic Excellence (2013-2020)

Visiting Professor, University of Trento, Trento, Italy (April 2023-May 2023, May 2024)

- Taught comparative civil procedure classes, gave lectures to Ph.D. students, and taught Translation Workshop and Legal English class

Visiting Scholar/Research Fellow, Human Rights Center - University of Minnesota Law School, Walter F. Mondale Hall (Minneapolis, MN) (Spring 2018 semester)

Summer Instructor - University of Aberdeen School of Law, Aberdeen, Scotland (2017) (taught Comparative Crime and Punishment course in ABA-approved study abroad program sponsored by University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, University of Baltimore School of Law, and University of Aberdeen); **Rutgers School of Law**, Camden, NJ (2015) (taught Capital Punishment Seminar); **University of Baltimore School of Law**, Baltimore, MD (2013-2015) (taught Capital Punishment and the Constitution Seminar)

Visiting Associate Professor, University of Baltimore School of Law (2009-2011)

- Courses: Civil Procedure I, Contracts II, Introduction to Lawyering Skills

Visiting Associate Professor (2007-2009)

The George Washington University Law School, Washington, DC

- Courses: Civil Procedure I & II, Death Penalty Seminar, Writing Fellows
- Writing Center Director, Legal Research and Writing Program (2008-2009)

Adjunct Professor, University of Minnesota Law School, Minneapolis, MN

- Taught Death Penalty Seminar (1998-2006)

LAW FIRM EXPERIENCE

Of Counsel, Berens & Miller, P.A., Minneapolis, MN (2016-2019)

- Law firm practice handling principally complex, commercial litigation

Partner, Kelly & Berens, P.A., Minneapolis, MN

- Attorney at law firm (1998-2007) handling a variety of complex civil litigation matters
- Represented broker in action against insurer to recover under fidelity bond.

See RBC Dain Rauscher, Inc. v. Federal Ins. Co., 370 F. Supp.2d 886 (D. Minn. 2005)

- Co-counsel for plaintiff in high-profile case over television broadcast rights for Major League Baseball team. *See Fox Sports Net North, L.L.C. v. Minnesota Twins Partnership*, 319 F.3d 329 (8th Cir. 2003)

- Co-counsel for plaintiff in multi-million-dollar reinsurance dispute. *See Allianz Life Ins. Co. of North America v. American Phoenix Life and Reassurance Co.*, No. Civ. 99-802 (DWF/AJB), 2000 WL 34333013 (D. Minn., Mar. 28, 2000)

- Named “Rising Star” by *Minnesota Law & Politics*

Attorney, Leonard, Street & Deinard, P.A., Minneapolis, MN (1996)

- Worked on securities cases and other litigation matters

Associate, Faegre & Benson, LLP, Minneapolis, MN (1991-1996)

- Member of labor and employment and construction law groups

Summer Associate, Faegre & Benson, LLP, Minneapolis, MN (1990)

Summer Associate, Meagher, Geer, Markham, Anderson, Adamson, Flaskamp & Brennan, Minneapolis, MN (1989)

JUDICIAL CLERKSHIP

Law Clerk, U.S. Magistrate Judge John M. Mason, St. Paul, MN (1996-1998)

- United States District Court, District of Minnesota

EDUCATION

Oxford University, Oxford, United Kingdom, M. St. 2008

- Master of Studies, International Human Rights Law (High Pass)

Hamline University, St. Paul, MN

- Master of Fine Arts in Writing, 2005

Indiana University Maurer School of Law - Bloomington, J.D. 1991, *cum laude*

- Senior Managing Editor, *Indiana Law Journal*
- Intern, Indiana University Student Legal Services

University of Minnesota, College of Liberal Arts, Minneapolis, MN

- B.A. 1988 (political science; history minor). Graduated in three years.

BOOKS

THE DEATH PENALTY’S DENIAL OF FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS: INTERNATIONAL LAW, STATE PRACTICE, AND THE EMERGING ABOLITIONIST NORM (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2023)

- Bronze, 2024 *Independent Publisher Book Award* (True Crime - Legal category)

PRIVATE PROSECUTION IN AMERICA: ITS ORIGINS, HISTORY, AND UNCONSTITUTIONALITY IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY (Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press, 2022)

- Bronze, 2023 *Independent Publisher Book Award* (U.S. History category)

THE BARON AND THE MARQUIS: LIBERTY, TYRANNY, AND THE ENLIGHTENMENT MAXIM THAT CAN REMAKE AMERICAN CRIMINAL JUSTICE (Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press, 2019)

THE CELEBRATED MARQUIS: AN ITALIAN NOBLE AND THE MAKING OF THE MODERN WORLD (Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press, 2018)

- Winner, 2018 Next Generation Indie Book Award (Autobiography/Biography)
- Grand Prize Finalist, Eric Hoffer Book Awards
- Finalist, 1st Runner-Up (Reference), Eric Hoffer Book Awards

- Finalist, National Indie Excellence Awards (Biography General)
- Finalist, 2018 Best Book Awards – American Book Fest (Biography General)
- Finalist, 2018 *Foreword* INDIES Book of the Year Awards (Biography)

THE DEATH PENALTY AS TORTURE: FROM THE DARK AGES TO ABOLITION

(Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press, 2017)

- Bronze, 2017 *Independent Publisher* Book Award (World History category)
- Finalist, 2018 Eric Hoffer Book Awards

JUSTICE STEPHEN BREYER, AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY (Washington, DC: Brookings Institution Press, John Bessler, ed. 2016)

- contextualizes, reprints, and annotates Justice Breyer’s dissent in *Glossip v. Gross*, 576 U.S. 863 (2015)
- paperback issued by Rowman & Littlefield Publishers / Brookings Institution Press, 2023

THE BIRTH OF AMERICAN LAW: AN ITALIAN PHILOSOPHER AND THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

(Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press, 2014)

- First Prize, 2015 Scribes Book Award, The American Society of Legal Writers (annual award given out since 1961 for “the best work of legal scholarship published during the previous year”)
- First Prize, 2015 American Association for Italian Studies Book Award (18th/19th century)
- Gold Winner, 2014 IndieFab Book of the Year Award (history)

CRUEL AND UNUSUAL: THE AMERICAN DEATH PENALTY AND THE FOUNDERS’

EIGHTH AMENDMENT (Boston: Northeastern University Press, 2012)

- Silver, 2012 *Independent Publisher* Book Award (U.S. History category)
- Finalist, 2012 *Foreword Reviews* Book of the Year Award (History category)

WRITING FOR LIFE: THE CRAFT OF WRITING FOR EVERYDAY LIVING

(Minneapolis: Bottlecap Books, 2007)

- Winner, 2007 *Independent Publisher* Book Award (Writing/Publishing category)
- Silver, 2007 *Foreword Magazine* Book of the Year Award (Writing category)
- 2007 Midwest Book Awards finalist (Reference/How-to categories)

LEGACY OF VIOLENCE: LYNCH MOBS AND EXECUTIONS IN MINNESOTA

(Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2003)

- 2004 Minnesota Book Award finalist

KISS OF DEATH: AMERICA’S LOVE AFFAIR WITH THE DEATH PENALTY

(Boston: Northeastern University Press, 2003)

DEATH IN THE DARK: MIDNIGHT EXECUTIONS IN AMERICA

(Boston: Northeastern University Press, 1997)

- 1998 Minnesota Book Award finalist
- Honorable Mention, Outstanding Books – The Gustavus Myers Program for the Study of Bigotry and Human Rights in North America
- Excerpted in Evan J. Mandery, *Capital Punishment in America: A Balanced Examination* (Sudbury, MA: Jones & Bartlett Learning, 2d ed. 2011), pp. 499–501

**CONTRIBUTOR /
RESEARCHER**

AMY KLOBUCHAR, ANTITRUST: TAKING ON MONOPOLY POWER FROM THE GILDED AGE TO THE DIGITAL AGE (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2021)

- *New York Times* bestseller
- “Historic and important.” –*The Washington Post*
- “Highly informative and surprisingly readable. . . . An impressive work of scholarship, deeply researched.” –*The New York Times Book Review*
- “A thorough history of trustbusting in America and an urgent plea for stricter enforcement.” –*Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)
- The Bruce K. Gould Book Award, Touro College Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center
- Vintage Books paperback published in Jan. 2022

AMY KLOBUCHAR, THE SENATOR NEXT DOOR: A MEMOIR FROM THE HEARTLAND

(New York: Henry Holt and Co., 2015)

- Paperback published in 2017 by the University of Minnesota Press

**BOOK
CHAPTERS**

“Conflicted Justices and a Divided Court: The U.S. Supreme Court’s Death Penalty Jurisprudence,” in *The Slow Death of the Death Penalty: Toward a Postmortem* (New York: NYU Press, Todd C. Peppers, Jamie Almellen & Mary Atwell, eds.) (forthcoming in July 2025; preface by Sister Helen Prejean)

“What-Ifs and Missed Opportunities: The U.S. Supreme Court, Death Sentences and Executions, and the Fiftieth Anniversary of *Furman v. Georgia*,” in *Death Penalty in Decline?: The Fight against Capital Punishment in the Decades since Furman v. Georgia* (Philadelphia, PA: Temple University Press, Austin Sarat, ed. 2024)

“The Philosophy of Punishment and the Arc of Penal Reform: From Ancient Lawgivers to the Renaissance and the Enlightenment and through the Nineteenth Century,” in *The Palgrave Handbook on the Philosophy of Punishment* (Cham, Switzerland: Palgrave Macmillan, Matthew Altman, ed. 2023)

“A Tandem Bicycle: The Rule of Law and the Protection of Human Rights,” in Barbara Faedda, ed., *Rule of Law: Cases, Strategies, and Interpretations* (Vicenza: Ronzani Editore Srl, 2021)

“From the Founding to the Present: An Overview of Legal Thought and the Eighth Amendment’s Evolution,” in Meghan Ryan & William W. Berry III, eds., *The Eighth Amendment and Its Future in a New Age of Punishment* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2020)

“The American Death Penalty: A Short (But Long) History,” in Robert M. Bohm & Gavin Lee, eds., *Routledge Handbook on Capital Punishment* (New York: Routledge, 2017)

“Beccaria in America: How the Italian Enlightenment Shaped American Law,” in Lorenzo Picotti, ed., *Alle radici del diritto penale moderno: l’illuminismo giuridico di Cesare Beccaria di fronte al potere di punire* (Napoli: Edizioni Scientifiche Italiane, 2015) & Lorenzo Picotti (Hg.), *An den Wurzeln des modernen Strafrechts: Die juristische Aufklärung Cesare Beccarias und die Strafgewalt* (Zürich: Lit Verlag GmbH & Co., 2017)

“Cesare Beccaria et les débuts de la réforme pénale américaine,” in Michel Porret & Elisabeth Salvi, eds., *Cesare Beccaria, la controverse pénale, XVIIIème-XXIème siècles* (Presses Universitaires de Rennes, 2015) (translated by Pascal Bastien - université du Québec, Montréal)

“The American Enlightenment: Eliminating Capital Punishment in the United States,” in Lill Scherdin, ed., *Capital Punishment: A Hazard to a Sustainable Criminal Justice System?* (Surrey, U.K.: Ashgate, 2014; New York: Routledge, 2016)

“Capital Punishment Law and Practices: History, Trends, and Developments,” in James R. Acker, Robert M. Bohm and Charles S. Lanier, eds., *America’s Experiment with Capital Punishment: Reflections on the Past, Present, and Future of the Ultimate Penal Sanction* (Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press, 3d ed. 2014)

**LAW REVIEW
ARTICLES**

International Abolitionist Advocacy: The Rise of Global Networks to Advance Human Rights and the Promise of the Worldwide Campaign to Abolish Capital Punishment (forthcoming in Vol. 34, Issue 2 of *The Minnesota Journal of International Law*)

Mr. Antitrust: A Celebration of Professor Robert Lande’s Career, 53 U. BALT. L. REV. 1 (2024)

The Gross Injustices of Capital Punishment: A Torturous Practice and Justice Thurgood Marshall’s Astute Appraisal of the Death Penalty’s Cruelty, Discriminatory Use, and Unconstitutionality, 29 WASH. & LEE J. CIV. RTS. & SOC. JUST. 65 (2023)

The Rule of Law: A Necessary Pillar of Free and Democratic Societies for Protecting Human Rights, 61 SANTA CLARA L. REV. 467 (2021)

A Century in the Making: The Glorious Revolution, the American Revolution, and the Origins of the U.S. Constitution's Eighth Amendment, 27 WM. & MARY BILL OF RTS L.J. 989 (2019)

The Marquis Beccaria: An Italian Penal Reformer's Meteoric Rise in the British Isles in the Transatlantic Republic of Letters, 4 DICIOTTESIMO SECOLO 107 (2019)

Response, *Bucklew v. Precythe: The Supreme Court's Tortured Death Penalty Jurisprudence*, GEO. WASH. L. REV. ON THE DOCKET (Apr. 17, 2019), <https://www.gwlr.org/bucklew-v-precythe-the-supreme-courts-tortured-death-penalty-jurisprudence/>

Taking Psychological Torture Seriously: The Torturous Nature of Credible Death Threats and the Collateral Consequences for Capital Punishment, 11 NE. U. L. REV. 1 (2019)

Torture and Trauma: Why the Death Penalty Is Wrong and Should Be Strictly Prohibited by American and International Law, 58 WASHBURN L.J. 1 (2019)

The Long March Toward Abolition: From the Enlightenment to the United Nations and the Death Penalty's Slow Demise, 29 U. FLA. J.L. & PUB. POL'Y 1 (2018)

The Abolitionist Movement Comes of Age: From Capital Punishment as a Lawful Sanction to a Peremptory, International Law Norm Barring Executions, 79 MONT. L. REV. 7 (2018)

The Concept of "Unusual Punishments" in Anglo-American Law: The Death Penalty as Arbitrary, Discriminatory, and Cruel and Unusual, 13 NW. J. L. & SOC. POL'Y 307 (2018)

What I Think About When I Think About the Death Penalty, 62 ST. LOUIS U. L.J. 781 (2018)

The Law's Evolution: From Medieval Executions to a Peremptory, International Law Norm Against Capital Punishment, 3 BECCARIA: REVUE D'HISTOIRE DU DROIT DE PUNIR 255 (2017)

The Italian Enlightenment and the American Revolution: Cesare Beccaria's Forgotten Influence on American Law, 37 MITCHELL HAMLINE L.J. OF PUBLIC POL'Y & PRACTICE, Iss. 1, Art. 1 (2016)

The Inequality of America's Death Penalty: A Crossroads for Capital Punishment at the Intersection of the Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments, 73 WASH. & LEE L. REV. ONLINE 487 (2016)

The Economist and the Enlightenment: How Cesare Beccaria Changed Western Civilization, 42 EUR. J. LAW & ECON., No. 2 (Oct. 2016)

The Death Penalty in Decline: From Colonial America to the Present, 50 CRIM. L. BULL. 245 (2014)

The Anomaly of Executions: The Cruel and Unusual Punishments Clause in the 21st Century, 2 BRIT. J. AM. LEG. STUDIES 297 (2013)

Tinkering Around the Edges: The Supreme Court's Death Penalty Jurisprudence, 49 AM. CRIM. L. REV. 1913 (2012)

Revisiting Beccaria's Vision: The Enlightenment, America's Death Penalty and the Abolition Movement, 4 NW. J. L. & SOC. POL'Y 195 (2009)

In the Spirit of Ubuntu: Enforcing the Rights of Orphans and Vulnerable Children Affected by HIV/AIDS in South Africa, 31 HAST. INT'L & COMP. L. REV. 33 (2008)

The "Midnight Assassination Law" and Minnesota's Anti-Death Penalty Movement, 1849-1911, 22 WM. MITCHELL L. REV. 577 (1996)

The Public Interest and the Unconstitutionality of Private Prosecutors, 47 ARK. L. REV. 511 (1994)

Televised Executions and the Constitution: Recognizing a First Amendment Right of Access to State Executions, 45 FED. COMM. L.J. 355 (1993)

Defining “Co-Party” Within Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 13(g): Are Cross-Claims Between Original Defendants and Third-Party Defendants Allowable?, 66 IND. L.J. 549 (1991)

BOOK REVIEWS

AMERICAN HISTORICAL REVIEW, Vol. 125, Iss. 4 (Oct. 2020), pp. 1417-18 (reviewing Seth Kotch, *Lethal State: A History of the Death Penalty in North Carolina* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2019))

JOURNAL OF LAW & SOCIETY, Vol. 47, Iss. 1 (Feb. 2020), pp. 164-69 (reviewing Bharat Malkani, *Slavery and the Death Penalty: A Study in Abolition* (London: Routledge, 2018))

WESTERN HISTORICAL QUARTERLY (Summer 2017) (reviewing Michael L. Radelet, *The History of the Death Penalty in Colorado* (Louisville: University Press of Colorado, 2017))

AMERICAN HISTORICAL REVIEW, Vol. 117, Iss. 2 (April 2012), pp. 567-68 (reviewing David Garland, *Peculiar Institution: America’s Death Penalty in an Age of Abolition* (Cambridge, MA: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2010))

’Til Death Do Us Part: A Battered Woman’s Capital Murder Case Reexamined, H-NET REVIEWS IN THE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES (published on H-Law, Jan. 2008) (reviewing Kathleen A. Cairns, *The Enigma Woman: The Death Sentence of Nellie May Madison* (University of Nebraska Press, 2007))

OTHER WRITINGS

The Reception of *On Crimes and Punishments*: Beccaria’s Philosophy, the Parsimony Principle, and the Transformation of Criminal Law in the Anglophone World (forthcoming in *Modern Intellectual History*)

A Torturous Practice: Prohibiting the Death Penalty’s Use Through a Peremptory Norm of International Law, University of Oxford Death Penalty Research Unit (May 4, 2023 blog post)

A New Enlightenment: Reclassifying the Death Penalty as Torture, FifteenEightyFour: Academic Perspectives from Cambridge University Press, www.cambridge.org (2022 blog post)

A Travesty of Justice: The Duluth Lynchings, in *The Duluth Lynchings: Reckoning with the Past in the Name of Racial Justice* (St. Paul, MN: Collaborative Legal Community Coalition, 2021)

It’s Time to Stop Executing People with Severe Mental Illness, NATIONAL L.J., June 6, 2018 (op-ed)

La nascita degli Stati Uniti e l’illuminismo italiano, 74 ASPENIA 249 (2016) (translated Aspen Institute lecture)

Cesare Beccaria: A 26-Year-Old Who Enlightened Our Founding Fathers, ITALIAN AMERICA (Summer 2015)

The Methods to the Madness: The Electric Chair, Lethal Injection and Now Nitrogen Gas, JURIST, Apr. 30, 2015 (op-ed)

Actually, the Founders Rejected the Death Penalty, NATIONAL L.J., Oct. 27, 2014 (op-ed)

“Interpreted As It Ought To Be”: Toward a Principled Eighth Amendment, The Constitution Project, Oct. 29, 2014 (blog post)

In Closing, BALTIMORE LAW (University of Baltimore School of Law magazine) (Fall 2014)

The Birth of American Law: An Italian Philosopher and the American Revolution, American Constitution Society blog post (Sept. 16, 2014) (ACS Book Talk)

The Botched Hanging of William Williams: How Too Much Rope and Minnesota’s Newspapers Brought an End to the Death Penalty in Minnesota, THE RAKE (Mar. 2004)

Injustice Casts Shadow on History of State Executions, STARTRIBUNE (Minneapolis), Dec. 3, 2003

America's Death Penalty: Just Another Form of Violence, 82 PHI KAPPA PHI FORUM 13 (2002)

**SELECTED
PRESENTATIONS**

Moderator/Commentator, Book Event for Kim Wehle's *Pardon Power: How the Pardon System Works—and Why* (Woodhall Press, 2024) Baltimore, MD (Oct. 17, 2024)

Lecture, "The Rule of Law and the Universality of Rights: International Law and the Death Penalty's Denial of Universal Human Rights," Amnesty International Office, Tokyo, Japan (Sept. 11, 2024)

Lecture, "The Rule of Law and the Universality of Rights: International Law and the Death Penalty's Denial of Universal Human Rights," University of Minnesota Law School (Nov. 9, 2023)

Panelist, "The Role of State Appellate Courts and State Constitutions," Minnesota Court of Appeals 40th Anniversary Symposium, University of St. Thomas School of Law, Minneapolis MN (Nov. 2, 2023)

Panelist, "The Death Penalty in America," Webinar, American Constitution Society/European Law Institute (Oct. 27, 2023) (moderated by Russ Feingold, President, American Constitution Society)

Lecture, "The Death Penalty as Torture: Capital Punishment as a Violation of Universal Human Rights and the Rule of Law," International Academy of Trial Lawyers, Mid-Year Meeting, Minneapolis, MN (Oct. 21, 2023)

Podcast, "Episode 125: The Psychological Torture of the Death Penalty," American Constitution Society, Broken Law Podcast series (Oct. 10, 2023 – World Day Against the Death Penalty)

• *Summary*: "This week, ACS honored World Day Against the Death Penalty as we continue to work towards death penalty abolition in the United States. I have been thinking at length this week about what Professor John Bessler said on this week's Broken Law podcast episode, that the death penalty, in addition to everything else, is an act of psychological torture. . . . As Professor Bessler points out on our podcast, the Supreme Court consistently mishandles death penalty cases by considering only whether the method of execution constitutes cruel and unusual punishment. The Court has never considered whether the prolonged psychological torture of living for years—20 years on average for death row inmates in the United States—with the looming threat of death is cruel and unusual. I encourage everyone to listen to Christopher Wright Durocher's conversation with Professor Bessler on Broken Law as we continue to work together to abolish the death penalty." —Russ Feingold, President, American Constitution Society

Book Event, *Private Prosecution in America*, Historical Committee of the Bar Association of Baltimore City (Sept. 28, 2023)

Panelist, "The Evolving Eighth Amendment," Southeastern Association of Law Schools Conference (July 26, 2023)

Lecture, "Universal Rights and Individual Wrongs: Advancing the Rule of Law by Abolishing Capital Punishment and Enforcing the Law's Prohibition of Torture," University of Trento, Italy (May 5, 2023)

Lecture, "Private Prosecution in America," University of Trento, Italy (May 3, 2023)

Moderator/Commentator, "The Many Contributions of Professor Robert Lande to the Development of Antitrust," *The Quest for Progressive Antitrust*, University of Baltimore School of Law (Mar. 10, 2023)

Panelist, "Scholars and Artists Discuss the Death Penalty," *Visualizing Capital Punishment: Spectacle, Shame, and Sympathy*, Harvard Law School (Mar. 7, 2023) (panel moderated by Martha Minow)

Lecture, "On the Craft of Writing," Minnesota Court of Appeals, St. Paul, MN (Oct. 14, 2022) (CLE presentation with Minnesota Court of Appeals judges and their law clerks)

Lecture, "What Process Is Due? The History and Use of Private Prosecutions in American States, and an Exploration of Constitutional Rights and the Contours of Due Process," University of Minnesota

Law School (Oct. 13, 2022)

Seminar, “Topics and Methods: Doing Legal History Research,” Riesenfeld Rare Books Research Center, University of Minnesota Law School (Oct. 13, 2022)

Panelist, “The Death Penalty as a Cruel and Inhuman Punishment,” Congress – Against Death Penalty: *Opinio Iuris* and International Law, Universidad de Castilla La Mancha, Madrid, Spain (May 19, 2022)

Book Event, *Private Prosecution in America*, University of Baltimore School of Law (Mar. 31, 2022)

Lecture, “The Death Penalty and Torture: Universal Human Rights, Evolving Standards, and the Law’s Post-World War II Transformation,” Indiana University Mauer School of Law (Feb. 15, 2022)

Panelist, “Race and Capital Punishment,” Symposium - Revoking Irrevocable Punishment, Washington & Lee University School of Law, *Journal of Civil Rights and Social Justice* (Feb. 10, 2022)

Presentation, “The Reception of *On Crimes and Punishments*: Beccaria’s Philosophy, the Parsimony Principle, and the Criminal Law’s Transformation in the English-Speaking World,” Zoom Conference - “Torture, Death Penalty, Imprisonment: Beccaria and His Legacies,” Columbia University (Oct. 15, 2021)

Lecture, “The Law’s Torturous Path: From Torture and Barbaric Executions in Beccaria’s Time to Universal Human Rights and the Death Penalty’s Decline,” University of Trento, Italy (Oct. 14, 2021)

Invited Speaker, “The Duluth Lynchings: The Historical Context,” Clayton Jackson McGhie Memorial / U.S. District Court for the District of Minnesota / Minnesota Humanities Center (June 14, 2021)

Panelist, “The Private Role in Criminal Justice,” Southeastern Association of Law Schools Conference (July 31, 2020)

Panelist, “The Bill of Rights as an Inspiration to the World,” National Archives, Washington, DC (Dec. 12, 2019)

Invited Speaker, “Cesare Beccaria and America’s Founders: The Italian Enlightenment’s Influence on the American Revolution,” University of Dallas, TX (Nov. 7, 2019)

Invited Speaker, Justinian Society of Lawyers and National Italian American Bar Association, Chicago, IL (Oct. 24, 2019) (presentation on the influence of Cesare Beccaria on America’s founding)

Invited Speaker, *The Baron and the Marquis: Liberty, Tyranny, and the Enlightenment Maxim that Can Remake American Criminal Justice*, Harvard Law School, Criminal Justice Policy Program (Oct. 4, 2019)

Panelist, Law & Society Meeting, Washington, DC (May 31, 2019)
(panel on the death penalty and the concept of human dignity)

Book Event/Panel, University of Baltimore School of Law (Apr. 4, 2019)
(presentation on *The Baron and the Marquis*)

Invited Speaker, “The Death Penalty as Torture,” Capital Punishment Center, The University of Texas at Austin School of Law (Mar. 8, 2019)

Presenter, Annual Conference, Southeastern Association of Law Schools (Aug. 2018)
(panels on the death penalty and the U.S. Constitution’s Eighth Amendment)

Presentation, *The Celebrated Marquis: An Italian Noble and the Making of the Modern World*, Human Rights Center, University of Minnesota Law School (Apr. 26, 2018)

Invited Panelist, Thurgood Marshall: 50th Anniversary Celebration, The Judge Alexander Williams, Jr. Center for Education, Justice & Ethics, University of Maryland (Oct. 27, 2017)

Invited Panelist, Richard J. Childress Memorial Lecture, *Saint Louis University Law Journal* (Oct. 13, 2017) (panel on the death penalty)

Panelist, Constitution Day Program, The Italian Influence on the American Constitution (Sept. 15, 2017), Co-Sponsored by the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania and the Honorary Consul of Italy/Pittsburgh

Invited Presenter, “Should the Death Penalty Be Categorized as Torture?” International Law & Society Meeting, Mexico City (June 20, 2017)

Invited Speaker, *Against the Death Penalty* Presentation (May 1, 2017)
Jack Mason Law & Democracy Initiative of Books for Africa, Minneapolis, MN

Invited Speaker, *The Death Penalty as Torture* Presentation (Apr. 25, 2017)
Baltimore Bar Library, Mitchell Courthouse, 1000 North Calvert St., Baltimore, MD

Keynote Speaker, *The Death Penalty as Torture* Presentation (Mar. 21, 2017)
The Creative Writing Program and Human Rights Program at the University of Minnesota

“*Dead Man Walking: An Opera for Our Times*,” The Aspen Institute, Washington, D.C. (Mar. 8, 2017)

Panelist, “Does the Death Penalty Violate the Constitution?” (Dec. 15, 2016)
Bill of Rights Book Festival, National Constitution Center, Philadelphia, PA

Panelist, “Race and the Death Penalty,” Harvard Law School, Cambridge, MA,
The Supreme Court and Capital Punishment conference (Nov. 18, 2016)

Keynote speaker, The Oslo International Symposium on Capital Punishment, University of Oslo (Oslo, Norway) – “Should the Death Penalty Be Categorized as Torture?” (June 20, 2016)

Invited Panelist, Law & Society Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA (June 3, 2016)
(panel organized by Indiana University School of Law Prof. Emeritus Gene Shreve on law as an academic discipline)

Keynote Speaker, “The Long March Toward Abolition: From the Enlightenment to the United Nations,” Oslo, Norway (Dec. 7, 2015)

Speaker, International Neighbors Club 1, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
(Sept. 16, 2015) (presentation on *The Birth of American Law*)

Teleforum, “Execution Methods and Deciding Implementation of the Death Penalty,”
The Federalist Society, Washington, D.C. (July 13, 2015)

Panelist, “Interdisciplinary Legal Scholarship: Practice, Process, and Future” –
Law & Society Association Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA (May 30, 2015)

Speaker, “Italian Enlightenment and Early American Constitutions and Laws” –
Washington, D.C. (Apr. 7, 2015) (sponsored by The Constitutional Sources Project)

Symposium Speaker/Panelist, “The Death Penalty Debate in America,” Hamline
University, St. Paul, MN (Mar. 27, 2015)

Speaker, “Beccaria et Etats-Unis” - Paris, France (Jan. 5, 2015) (presentation on *The Birth of American Law*)

Panelist, Aspen Institute Italia - Rome, Italy (Nov. 26, 2014) (presentation on Cesare Beccaria)

Invited Speaker, The George Washington University Law School – Washington, D.C.
(Nov. 12, 2014) (presentation on *The Birth of American Law*)

Panelist, University of Verona – Verona, Italy (Oct. 24, 2014) (presentation on Cesare Beccaria on the 250th anniversary of the publication of Beccaria’s treatise, *Dei delitti e delle pene*)

Keynote Speaker, University of Parma – Parma, Italy (Oct. 23, 2014)
(presentation on the 250th anniversary of Cesare Beccaria’s treatise, *Dei delitti e delle pene*)

American Constitution Society - Georgetown University Law Center – Washington, D.C.
(Sept. 24, 2014) (presentation on the Eighth Amendment)

50th Anniversary Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, MN
(May 29-June 1, 2014) (presentation on the Eighth Amendment)

Nobel Peace Prize Forum, Minneapolis, MN (Mar. 1, 2014) (sponsored by The Nobel Institute,
Augsburg College and the University of Minnesota)

Presenter and Panel Moderator, The Death Penalty and Torture, 5th World Congress
Against the Death Penalty - Madrid, Spain (June 14, 2013)

Presenter, Cesare Beccaria: Reception et Heritage – Geneva, Switzerland (Feb. 22, 2013)

Presenter, The 2nd Oslo International Symposium on Capital Punishment - Oslo, Norway (Dec. 8, 2012)

Presentation, “Introduction to the Death Penalty: History and Jurisprudence,” Human Rights and the
Death Penalty CLE, Faegre & Benson, LLP, Minneapolis, MN (June 17, 2003)

Panelist, “Media Access to Executions,” The Intersection of Communications and the Law (Mar. 27, 2003)
(sponsored by the *Federal Communications Law Journal* at the Indiana University School of Law
in Bloomington, Indiana)

BAR ADMISSIONS

State of Minnesota, District of Columbia, U.S. District Court for the District of Minnesota,
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit, U.S. Supreme Court

OTHER

Elected Member, American Law Institute (Dec. 17, 2024)

Finisher – Twin Cities Marathon (1987); Charlottesville Marathon (2010)