

Travis Crum

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Washington University in St. Louis

Professor of Law	2025 — Present
Associate Professor of Law	2020 — 2024

University of Chicago Law School

Harry A. Bigelow Teaching Fellow and Lecturer in Law	2018 — 2020
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EDUCATION

Yale Law School, J.D., 2011

Yale Law Journal, Book Reviews & Features Editor
Supreme Court Advocacy Clinic (member 2L year; student director 3L year)
Morris Tyler Moot Court Finalist
Coker Fellow (Teaching Assistant for Civil Procedure)

London School of Economics, MSc, Comparative Politics (Politics and Markets), 2007

English Mace Semi-Finalist (National Debate Championship)

Johns Hopkins University, B.A., Political Science and Economics, 2006

Max Hochschild Award for Most Outstanding Senior in Economics
Bloomberg Scholar (full-tuition, merit- and need-based scholarship)

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Mayer Brown LLP , Washington, D.C.	2016 — 2018
Associate	

Justice Anthony M. Kennedy and	2014 — 2015
Justice (Ret.) John Paul Stevens , U.S. Supreme Court	
Law Clerk	

U.S. Department of Justice, Office of the Solicitor General	2013 — 2014
Bristow Fellow	

Judge David S. Tatel , U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit	2012 — 2013
Law Clerk	

Judge Myron H. Thompson , U.S. District Court, M.D. Alabama	2011 — 2012
Law Clerk	

U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, Voting Section Intern	Summer 2010
Hogan Lovells US LLP , Washington, D.C. Summer Associate	Summer 2010
U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of Maryland Intern	Summer 2009
Judge David S. Tatel , U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit Reader and Research Assistant	2007 — 2008

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

THE FIFTEENTH AMENDMENT: AN UNABRIDGED HISTORY (work in progress)

Liquidating Reconstruction (work in progress)

[*The Riddle of Race-Based Redistricting*](#),
124 COLUMBIA LAW REVIEW 1823 (2024)

[*The Unabridged Fifteenth Amendment*](#),
133 YALE LAW JOURNAL 1039 (2024)

- Winner, 2024 AALS Distinguished Scholarship Award in Election Law
- Selected for 2023 Harvard/Stanford/Yale Junior Faculty Forum

[*The Lawfulness of the Fifteenth Amendment*](#),
97 NOTRE DAME LAW REVIEW 1543 (2022)

- Symposium on Kurt Lash’s *The Reconstruction Amendments: The Essential Documents*

[*Deregulated Redistricting*](#),
107 CORNELL LAW REVIEW 359 (2022)

[*Reconstructing Racially Polarized Voting*](#),
70 DUKE LAW JOURNAL 261 (2020)

- Cited in [*Allen v. Milligan*](#), 599 U.S. 1, 28-29 (2023)

[*The Superfluous Fifteenth Amendment?*](#),
114 NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY LAW REVIEW 1549 (2020)

[*The Voting Rights Act’s Secret Weapon: Pocket Trigger Litigation and Dynamic Preclearance*](#),
119 YALE LAW JOURNAL 1992 (2010) (student note)

- Profiled in the [*Wall Street Journal*](#)
- Discussed in the [*New York Times*](#), [*Washington Post*](#), and [*MSNBC*](#)
- Effects-test bail-in proposal included in the [*John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2024*](#)

SHORTER WORKS

[*The Curiously Minor Role of Minor v. Happersett*](#),

102 WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY LAW REVIEW 1675 (2025)

(with Susan Frelich Appleton & Hannah Keidan)

- Foreword to symposium on the 150th Anniversary of *Minor v. Happersett*: The Past and Future of Women's Rights

[*Voting under the Federal Constitution*](#),

THE OXFORD HANDBOOK OF AMERICAN ELECTION LAW 199 (Eugene Mazo ed., 2024)

[*Federalizing the Voting Rights Act*](#),

74 VANDERBILT LAW REVIEW EN BANC 323 (2021)

- Response piece to Lisa Marshall Manheim, *Presidential Control of Elections*, 74 VANDERBILT LAW REVIEW 385 (2021)

ACADEMIC AMICUS BRIEFS

[*Louisiana v. Callais*](#), U.S. Supreme Court (Nos. 24-109 & 24-110), 2025 WL 2616565
(in support of the *Robinson* appellants)

[*Merrill v. Milligan*](#), U.S. Supreme Court (Nos. 21-1086 & 21-1087), 2022 WL 2873374
(in support of appellees/respondents), decided sub nom. [*Allen v. Milligan*](#)

[*Brnovich v. DNC*](#), U.S. Supreme Court (Nos. 19-1257 & 19-1258), 2021 WL 260088
(in support of respondents)

COMMENTARY

[*Amicus Brief on the Fifteenth Amendment in Louisiana v. Callais*](#), ELECTION LAW BLOG
(Sept. 3, 2025)

[*Alabama Dodges Bail-in*](#), ELECTION LAW BLOG (Aug. 8, 2025)

[*The Prospect of Bailing-in Alabama*](#), ELECTION LAW BLOG (July 28, 2025)

[*Waiting for Callais*](#), ELECTION LAW BLOG (July 25, 2025)

[*Three-Judge District Court Finds Alabama's Congressional Redistricting Plan Intentionally Discriminated Against Black Voters*](#), ELECTION LAW BLOG (May 8, 2025)

[*DDC Enjoins Part of Trump Elections Executive Order*](#), ELECTION LAW BLOG (Apr. 24, 2025)

[*Trump's Voting Executive Order and Section 2 of the VRA*](#), ELECTION LAW BLOG (Mar. 31, 2025)

[Callais Oral Argument Recap](#), ELECTION LAW BLOG (Mar. 24, 2025)

[The Consequences of Overturning Shaw and the Continuing Relevance of Section 2](#), ELECTION LAW BLOG (Mar. 24, 2025)

[Questioning Shaw in Callais](#), ELECTION LAW BLOG (Mar. 21, 2025)

[Rewarding Loyalty and the Fifteenth Amendment](#), BALKINIZATION (July 2, 2024)
(symposium on Mark Graber's *Punish Treason, Reward Loyalty: The Forgotten Goals of Constitutional Reform after the Civil War*)

[Justice Thomas Exits the Political Thicket](#), ELECTION LAW BLOG (May 23, 2024)

[The Court v. The Voters](#), WASHINGTON MONTHLY (May 16, 2024)
(review of Joshua Douglas's *The Court v. The Voters: The Troubling Story of How the Supreme Court has Undermined Voting Rights*)

[Originalism, Lived Experience, and the Twenty-Sixth Amendment](#), ELECTION LAW BLOG
(Apr. 10, 2024)

[Justice Alito Embraces a Retrogression Standard](#), ELECTION LAW BLOG (Feb. 22, 2024)

[The Fifteenth Amendment's Relevance to Trump v. Anderson](#), ELECTION LAW BLOG (Feb. 5, 2024)

[The Eighth Circuit's Other Jurisdictional Problem](#), ELECTION LAW BLOG (Nov. 21, 2023)

[Stopping Alabama's Defiance of the Voting Rights Act](#), ELECTION LAW BLOG (Oct. 10, 2023)

[How the House battle for a new Speaker could topple Trump's bid for the presidency](#), THE HILL
(Oct. 6, 2023)

[Justice Scalia's Draft Dissent from Denial of Certiorari in Rice v. Cayetano](#), ELECTION LAW BLOG (May 23, 2023)

[Coming of Age Reading the Election Law Blog](#), ELECTION LAW BLOG (Mar. 3, 2023)
(symposium for the Election Law Blog's 20th anniversary)

[The Fifteenth Amendment and the Independent State Legislature Theory](#), ELECTION LAW BLOG
(Dec. 8, 2022)

[Shaw and the City](#), ELECTION LAW BLOG (Apr. 26, 2022)

[Bailing in the Sunshine State](#), ELECTION LAW BLOG (Mar. 31, 2022)

[*Revising Sections 2 and 5 in the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2021*](#), ELECTION LAW BLOG (Aug. 17, 2021)

[*Avoiding Avoidance in Brnovich*](#), ELECTION LAW BLOG (July 1, 2021)

[*Rethinking the Race or Party Question in Brnovich*](#), ELECTION LAW BLOG (Mar. 1, 2021)

[*The Fatal Flaw that Should Undo Amendment 3*](#), ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH (Oct. 21, 2020)

[*Abridging the Right to Vote in the Fifth Circuit*](#), TAKE CARE BLOG (Sept. 15, 2020)

[*The Voting Rights Act Should be Amended to Apply to the Federal Government*](#), TAKE CARE BLOG (Aug. 20, 2020)

[*The Fifteenth Amendment Goes to Guam*](#), ELECTION LAW BLOG (May 4, 2020)

[*The Curious Disappearance of Shelby County*](#), ELECTION LAW BLOG (Mar. 27, 2020)

[*The Fifteenth Amendment and DNC v. Hobbs*](#), ELECTION LAW BLOG (Jan. 31, 2020)

[*Racially Polarized Voting and the Fifteenth Amendment*](#), ELECTION LAW BLOG (Jan. 30, 2020)

[*Originalism, Colorblindness, and the Fifteenth Amendment*](#), ELECTION LAW BLOG (Jan. 29, 2020)

[*The Voting Rights Act of 1869*](#), ELECTION LAW BLOG (Jan. 28, 2020)

[*The Fifteenth Amendment at 150*](#), ELECTION LAW BLOG (Jan. 26, 2020)

[*Requiem for a Lone Star Bail-in*](#), TAKE CARE BLOG (July 25, 2019)

[*Rucho and Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act*](#), ELECTION LAW BLOG (June 27, 2019) (cross-posted at [TAKE CARE BLOG](#))

[*The Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2019*](#), ELECTION LAW BLOG (Mar. 1, 2019) (cross-posted at [TAKE CARE BLOG](#))

[*A Lone Star Bail-in?*](#), ELECTION LAW BLOG (Feb. 14, 2019) (cross-posted at [TAKE CARE BLOG](#))

[*The House Should Pass an Effects-Test Bail-in Provision*](#), ELECTION LAW BLOG (Nov. 15, 2018) (joint symposium with [TAKE CARE BLOG](#))

[*Raising Red Flags About Shelby County*](#), TAKE CARE BLOG (Oct. 15, 2018)

[*The Prospect of Bailing-in Texas: Strategic Considerations*](#), ELECTION LAW BLOG (Sept. 17, 2018)

[*The Prospect of Bailing-in Texas: The Constitutional Argument for Bail-in*](#), ELECTION LAW BLOG (Sept. 16, 2018)

[*The Prospect of Bailing-in Texas: The Statutory Argument for Bail-in*](#), ELECTION LAW BLOG (Sept. 15, 2018)

[*The Prospect of Bailing-in Texas: Recent Bail-in Litigation*](#), ELECTION LAW BLOG (Sept. 14, 2018)

[*The Prospect of Bailing-in Texas: Initial Thoughts*](#), ELECTION LAW BLOG (Sept. 13, 2018)

[*An Effects-Test Pocket Trigger*](#), ELECTION LAW BLOG (July 8, 2013)

[*October 19-22, 2009 Military Commission Hearings*](#), in 2 NIMJ REPORTS FROM GUANTÁNAMO 20 (2010)

[*The OpenRedistricting Project*](#), BALKINIZATION (Apr. 6, 2009)

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

Liquidating Reconstruction

- Law & Politics Workshop, Harvard Law School (Apr. 22, 2026) (scheduled)

THE FIFTEENTH AMENDMENT: AN UNABRIDGED HISTORY (book project)

- Faculty Workshop, Saint Louis University School of Law (Oct. 16, 2024)

The Riddle of Race-Based Redistricting

- Faculty Workshop, Washington University in St. Louis (Apr. 24, 2024)
- Election Law Conference, Washington University in St. Louis (Mar. 22, 2024)
- Second Founding Conference, Tulane Law School (Mar. 15, 2024)
- Faculty Workshop, Northwestern Pritzker School of Law (Mar. 4, 2024)

The Unabridged Fifteenth Amendment

- Constitutional Law Colloquium, Loyola University Chicago Law School (Nov. 10, 2023)
- Workshop on Politics, Economics, and Society, Washington University in St. Louis (Nov. 3, 2023)
- Harvard/Stanford/Yale Junior Faculty Forum, Yale Law School (June 30, 2023)
- Faculty Workshop, Washington University in St. Louis (May 24, 2023)
- Faculty Workshop, George Washington University Law School (Nov. 9, 2022)

Voting under the Federal Constitution

- Conference for Oxford Handbook on American Election Law (Aug. 5, 2022) (virtual)

The Lawfulness of the Fifteenth Amendment

- Conference on the Reconstruction Amendments, University of Chicago Law School (Apr. 22, 2022)
- Faculty Workshop, Washington University in St. Louis (Apr. 6, 2022)
- National Conference of Constitutional Law Scholars, James E. Rogers College of Law, University of Arizona (Feb. 19, 2022) (virtual)
- Symposium, Constitutional Reconstruction: The History of the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments, Notre Dame Law School (Oct. 29, 2021)

Deregulated Redistricting

- ACS Junior Scholars Schmooze, Washington, DC (May 6, 2022)
- Faculty Workshop, Indiana University Maurer School of Law (Jan. 29, 2021) (virtual)
- New Voices in Election Law, AALS Annual Meeting (Jan. 9, 2021) (virtual)
- Constitutional Law Colloquium, Loyola University Chicago Law School (Nov. 6, 2020) (virtual)
- Faculty Workshop, Washington University in St. Louis (Oct. 21, 2020) (virtual)

Reconstructing Racially Polarized Voting

- Washington University in St. Louis (Nov. 4, 2019)
- University of Illinois Law School (Oct. 22, 2019)
- Junior Scholars Colloquium, University of Chicago Law School (Sept. 24, 2019)
- Moot Camp, Yale Law School (Sept. 6, 2019)
- Work-in-Progress Workshop, University of Chicago Law School (Aug. 28, 2019)

The Superfluous Fifteenth Amendment?

- Law & Society Association Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C. (May 31, 2019)
- National Conference of Constitutional Law Scholars, James E. Rogers College of Law, University of Arizona (Mar. 10, 2019)
- Junior Scholars Colloquium, University of Chicago Law School (Mar. 5, 2019)

Commentator

- Moderator, *Districting and Democracy*, Election Law Conference, Florida State University (Sept. 13, 2025)
- Panelist, *The Future of Constitutional Interpretation*, Childress Symposium, Saint Louis University School of Law (Oct. 25, 2024)
- Moderator, *Voting Rights Panel*, Washington University Law Review Symposium, *The 150th Anniversary of Minor v. Happersett: The Past and Future of Women's Rights* (Sept. 27, 2024)
- Moderator, *Keynote Panel*, Election Law Conference, Washington University in St. Louis (Mar. 22, 2024)
- Panelist, Lightning Round, *Translating Elections*, National Conference of Constitutional Law Scholars, James E. Rogers College of Law, University of Arizona (Feb. 24, 2024)
- Panelist, *Voting Rights in a Politically Polarized Era*, Washington & Lee Law School (Feb. 16, 2024)

- Panelist, *Multiracial Democracy after the Supreme Court's Decisions in Allen v. Milligan and Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. v. Harvard College*, AALS Annual Meeting, Washington DC (Jan. 6, 2024)
- Panelist, *Reviving Article V: A Structural Approach to Defending Democracy*, AALS Annual Meeting, Washington DC (Jan. 5, 2024)
- Panelist, *Constitution Day 2023: U.S. Supreme Court Review*, Washington University in St. Louis (Sept. 26, 2023)
- Panelist, *Supreme Court Decision Round-Up: A Roundtable Discussion*, Washington University in St. Louis (July 25, 2023)
- Panelist, *The 2022 Midterm Elections*, The Weidenbaum Center, Washington University in St. Louis (Nov. 17, 2022)
- Panelist, *Evaluating Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, Washington University in St. Louis (July 21, 2022)
- Panelist, *Redistricting St. Louis*, Gephardt Institute for Civil and Community Engagement, Washington University in St. Louis (Dec. 6, 2021) (virtual)
- Panelist, *Voting Rights in a Constitutional, Legal, and Historical Context*, Missouri State Bar Association Annual Meeting, (Sept. 23, 2021) (virtual)
- Panelist, Louisiana Law Review Symposium on the 15th and 19th Amendments and the 2020 Election (Mar. 5, 2021) (virtual)
- Panelist, *Rucho: Renaissance of the Passive Virtues?*, Connecticut Law Review Symposium on the Political Question Doctrine (Oct. 9, 2020) (virtual)
- Panelist, *Race, Sex, and Voting Rights: Past, Present, and Future*, Washington University in St. Louis, Public Interest Law & Policy Speaker Series (Sept. 21, 2020)
- Interviewee, *U.S. Grant History Chat*, Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site (May 21, 2020) (virtual)
- Discussant for Vicki Schultz's *Rationalizing the Workplace: Title VII's Lasting Contribution to American Society*, Workshop on Regulation of Family, Sex, and Gender, University of Chicago Law School (Oct. 31, 2018)
- Speaker, *The Use of Data in Election Law*, Geometry of Redistricting Conference, University of Texas at Austin (Feb. 3, 2018)

Redistricting Testimony

- St. Louis City Aldermanic Redistricting Hearing (Nov. 3, 2021)
- Missouri State House Independent Bipartisan Citizen Commission (Oct. 21, 2021)
- Missouri State Senate Independent Bipartisan Citizen Commission (Oct. 16, 2021)

TEACHING

Constitutional Law (Spring 2025; Fall 2023; Spring 2023; Spring 2022; Spring 2021)

Law of the Fourteenth Amendment (Spring 2025; Fall 2023; Spring 2023; Spring 2022)

Voting Rights Seminar (Fall 2024; Spring 2024; Fall 2022; Fall 2021; Spring 2020)

ACADEMIC SERVICE

The Profession:

Co-Organizer, Florida State University Election Law Conference (Sept. 2025)

Organizer, Washington University Election Law Conference (Mar. 2024)

Co-Advisor, *Washington University Law Review* Symposium, The 150th Anniversary of *Minor v. Happersett*: The Past and Future of Women's Rights (Sept. 2024)

Contributor, Election Law Blog (2025 — Present)

Peer/External Reviewer: Election Law Journal; Stanford Law Review; University of Chicago Law Review; Yale Law Journal

Washington University in St. Louis:

Member, Appointments Committee (2023 — 2024)

Member, Clerkship Committee (2024 — Present; 2020 — 2023)
Chair (2021 — 2022)

Faculty Research Fellow, Weidenbaum Center on the Economy, Government, and Public Policy, Washington University in St. Louis College of Arts & Sciences (2023 — Present)

BAR AND COURT ADMISSIONS

Maryland
District of Columbia
2nd, 4th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, and D.C. Circuits
U.S. Supreme Court

Last Updated: September 17, 2025