

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

2018 — 2020

Harry A. Bigelow Teaching Fellow and Lecturer in Law

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 OF THE FIGHT AGAINST RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN VOTING (Cambridge University Press, forthcoming 2028) (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

[Turtle Mountain Cert Petition Remains Pending: What Does this Mean for Callais?](#), ELECTION LAW BLOG (Dec. 8, 2025)

[Mid-Decade Redistricting and the Purcell Principle](#), ELECTION LAW BLOG (Nov. 19, 2025)

[Callais Re-Argument Recap](#), ELECTION LAW BLOG (Oct. 15, 2025)

[Originalism and Expiration Dates](#), ELECTION LAW BLOG (Oct. 14, 2025)

[Section 2's Limits](#), ELECTION LAW BLOG (Oct. 14, 2025)

[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

- National Conference of Constitutional Law Scholars, James E. Rogers College of Law, University of Arizona (Mar. 6-7, 2026) (scheduled)
- Law & Politics Workshop, Harvard Law School (Apr. 22, 2026) (scheduled)

THE FIFTEENTH AMENDMENT: AN UNABRIDGED HISTORY OF THE FIGHT AGAINST RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN VOTING (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 2026; Spring 2025; Fall 2023; Spring 2023; Spring 2022; Spring 2021)

Law of the Fourteenth Amendment (Spring 2026; 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: January 23, 2026