

SHELDON A. EVANS

Washington University in St. Louis School of Law
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, St. Louis, MO** 2023 – present
Professor of Law
Faculty Affiliate, Center for the Study of Race, Ethnicity, and Equity
Courses: Criminal Law, Immigration Law, Legal Profession
- NEW YORK UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, New York, NY** Spring 2022, Spring 2023
Adjunct Professor of Law
Courses: Criminal Law, Professional Responsibility
- EMORY UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, Atlanta, GA** Fall 2022
Visiting Professor of Law
Courses: Legal Profession
- ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, Queens, NY** 2018 – 2023
Associate Professor of Law (with tenure), 2022 – 2023
Assistant Professor of Law, 2018 – 2022
Courses: Criminal Law; Immigration Law; Professional Responsibility;
Introduction to Law; Law, Policy, and the Literature of Black Authors

CLERKSHIP

- THE HONORABLE LAVENSKI R. SMITH, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit** 2015
Judicial Law Clerk

EDUCATION

- THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LAW SCHOOL, Chicago, IL** 2012
Juris Doctor
Activities: *The University of Chicago Legal Forum*
Black Law Students Association, Community Service Chair
Honors: Hinton Moot Court Honorable Mention
Midwest BLSA Chapter of the Year, 2009 – 2011
- University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA** 2008
Bachelor of Arts, Political Science and Philosophy, cum laude
Activities: Division I Men's Track and Field, 400mIH, 4x400m
Honors: Alpha Lambda Delta Academic Honor Society
Pi Sigma Alpha Political Science Honor Society
2008 All Pac-10 Conference Academic Team

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Punishment as Placebo, 98 S. CAL. L. REV. 513 (2025)

Towards a Federalism(s) Framework of Punishment, 115 J. CRIM. L. & CRIMINOLOGY 491 (2025)

A Liberty-Balancing Approach to Crime, 62 AM. CRIM. L. REV. 153 (2025)

Punishment Externalities and the Prison Tax, 111 CALIF. L. REV. 683 (2023)

Interest-Based Incorporation: A Statutory Story of Federalism, Delegation, and Democratic Design, 170 U. PA. L. REV. 341 (2022)

Pandora's Loot Box, 90 GEO. WASH. L. REV. 376 (2022)

Categorical Nonuniformity, 120 COLUM. L. REV. 1171 (2020)

In the Shadow of Shular: Conduct Can Unify the Disjointed Categorical Approaches, 32 FED. SENT'G REP. 231 (2020)

Punishing Criminals for Their Conduct: A Return to Reason for the Armed Career Criminal Act, 70 OKLA. L. REV. 623 (2018)

Taking Back the Streets? How Street Art Ordinances Constitute Government Takings, 25 FORDHAM INTELL. PROP. MEDIA & ENT. L.J. 685 (2015), *reprinted in* ZONING AND PLANNING LAW HANDBOOK (Patricia E. Salkin ed., 2016), *and in* New York State Bar Association, *Food For Thought: Street Art And Celebrity Chefs Materials* (November 17, 2015)

It's Alive!: How Early Common Law Changes in the Right Against Self-Incrimination Inform the Right's Continuing Relevance, 51 CRIM. LAW BULLETIN 615 (2015)

INVITED PIECES

Transnational Campus Borderlands, 106 B.U. L. REV. 1225 (2026), *The University and Democracy Law Review Symposium*

Illiberal Immigration Inconsistencies, 70 ST. LOUIS U. L. REV. 637 (2026), *Richard J. Childress Memorial Lecture Law Review Symposium*

Crime as Colonization, reviewing Emmanuel Hiram Arnaud, *Colonizing by Contract*, JOTWELL (July 17, 2026)

Big Tech's Asymmetries with Big Brother, reviewing Yan Fang, *Internet Technology Companies as Evidence Intermediaries*, JOTWELL (Aug. 1, 2025)

Review, Anthony Gregory, New Deal Law and Order: How the War on Crime Built the Modern Liberal State, CRIM. L. & CRIM. JUSTICE BOOKS (Winter 2025)

Review, Premal Dharia, James Forman, Jr., and Maria Hawilo, Dismantling Mass Incarceration: A Handbook for Change, CRIM. L. & CRIM. JUSTICE BOOKS (Winter 2025)

Review, Anthony Gregory, New Deal Law and Order: How the War on Crime Built the Modern Liberal State, 123 REG. KY. HIST. SOC. (forthcoming Spring 2026)

Review, Tommie Shelby, The Idea of Prison Abolition, CRIM. L. & CRIM. JUSTICE BOOKS (April 2024)

Getting Creative on Crime Policy, reviewing Esther Hong, *The Age of Creativity and Crime*, JOTWELL (July 15, 2024)

ACADEMIC WORKS IN PROGRESS

Campus Borderlands
Immigration Sentencing Guidelines
Crimmigration Membership
American Poison
Authoritarian Immigration

HONORS AND AWARDS

40 Lawyers Under 40: Nation's Best Advocates, *National Bar Association* (2026)

Faculty Member of the Year, Washington University in St. Louis School of Law, Black Law Students Association (2025)

Junior Scholars Paper Competition Award, Criminal Justice Section, American Association of Law Schools (2023) (for *Punishment Externalities and the Prison Tax*)

Harvard/Yale/Stanford Junior Faculty Forum (2020) (for *Categorical Nonuniformity*)

St. John's University School of Law Dean's Award for Excellence in Service (2021)

St. John's University School of Law Dean's Award for Excellence in Scholarship (2020)

St. John's University School of Law Dean's Award for Excellence in Teaching (2019)

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS AND PANELS

Presentations of Scholarship

Immilitarization

University of Maryland Carey School of Law, Faculty Workshop (Jan. 22, 2026)

Campus Borderlands

Washington University in St. Louis School of Law, Faculty Workshop (July 16, 2025)

John Mercer Langston Annual Writing Workshop (July 11, 2025)

American Poison

CrimFest!, “Criminal Law & Immigration” Panel (July 14, 2025)

Immigration Sentencing Guidelines

Arizona State University Sandra Day O’Connor School of Law, Faculty Workshop
(March 24, 2025)

Washington University in St. Louis School of Law, Faculty Workshop (April 2, 2025)

Langston Midwest Writing Workshop (Oct. 9, 2025)

The University of Chicago Law School Legal Scholarship Workshop (Nov. 6, 2025)

Southwest Criminal Legal Scholarship Conference (Nov. 7, 2025)

Migration Dissonance/Immigration Incoherence

Southwest Criminal Legal Scholarship Conference (October 18, 2024)

The University of Chicago Law School Legal Scholarship Workshop (October 24, 2024)

Langston Midwestern Writing Workshop (October 25, 2024)

Punishment as Placebo

Criminal Theory Workshop (September 6, 2024)

John Mercer Langston Annual Writing Workshop (June 27, 2024)

Decarceration Law Professor Works-in-Progress Workshop (June 13, 2024)

University of North Carolina School of Law, Faculty Workshop (March 7, 2024)

CrimFest!, “Punishment Theory” Panel (July 17, 2023)

Towards a Federalism(s) Framework of Punishment

John Mercer Langston Annual Writing Workshop (June 30, 2023)

Law & Society, “Combating Evolving Forms of Hierarchy” Panel (June 4, 2023)

Southern Methodist University Dedman Law School, Faculty Workshop (March 1, 2023)

University of Houston Law Center, Faculty Workshop (February 6, 2023)

New York University School of Law Goldstein-Jacobs Series (January 25, 2023)

University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law, Faculty Workshop (December 6, 2022)

Lutie/Langston Joint Scholarship Workshop (December 1, 2022)

The University of Chicago Law School Legal Scholarship Workshop (November 14, 2022)

Cornell Law School, Faculty Workshop (November 7, 2022)

Punishment Externalities and the Prison Tax

Law & Society, “Sentencing and Punishment” Panel (July 15, 2022)

John Mercer Langston Annual Writing Workshop (July 7, 2022)

Culp Emerging Scholars Workshop (June 13, 2022)
 University of Southern California, Faculty Workshop (February 22, 2022)
 Markelloquium Criminal Law Workshop (February 4, 2022)
 Lutie/Langston Joint Scholarship Workshop (December 16, 2021)
 Fordham University School of Law, Faculty Workshop (November 4, 2021)
 Chicago-Kent College of Law, Faculty Workshop (November 2, 2021)
 The University of Chicago Law School, Public Law Workshop (October 19, 2021)
 The University of Chicago Law School Legal Scholarship Workshop (October 18, 2021)

Interest-Based Incorporation: A Statutory Story of Federalism, Delegation, and Democratic Design

American Association of Law Schools, “Legislation & Law of the Political Process” Panel, (January 5, 2022)
 Emory University School of Law, Faculty Workshop (January 12, 2022)
 University of Florida Levin College of Law, Faculty Workshop (September 30, 2021)
 Seton Hall University School of Law, Faculty Workshop (February 10, 2021)

Pandora’s Lootbox

Race, Technology, and the Law Workshop (November 12, 2021)
 University of Nevada, Los Vegas, William S. Boyd School of Law, Faculty Workshop (March 29, 2021)
 The University of Chicago Law School Legal Scholarship Workshop (October 12, 2020)
 CrimFest!, “New Technology” Panel (July 16, 2020)
 New St. John’s Scholars Roundtable (November 4, 2019)

Categorical Nonuniformity

Harvard/Yale/Stanford Junior Faculty Forum (July 23, 2020)
 St. John’s University School of Law, Faculty Retreat (September 27, 2019)
 CrimFest!, “Criminal Statutes” Panel (July 15, 2019)
 Richmond University School of Law, Junior Faculty Forum (May 21, 2019)
 New St. John’s Scholars Roundtable (April 1, 2019)
 National People of Color Legal Scholarship Conference, “Judicial Power” Panel (March 24, 2019)

Punishing Criminals for Their Conduct: A Return to Reason for the Armed Career Criminal Act

Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law Legal Scholarship Workshop (October 10, 2017)
 The University of Chicago Law School Legal Scholarship Workshop (October 9, 2017)

Invited Commentary on Scholarship and Moderation of Panels

Commentator, *Due Process in the Shadows*, John Mercer Langston Annual Writing Workshop (August 6, 2026)

Commentator, *Courts and Contested Presidencies*, John Mercer Langston Annual Writing Workshop (August 6, 2025)

Commentator, *Token Triumph*, John Mercer Langston Midwest Writing Workshop (October 11, 2025)

Moderator, *New Technology*, CrimFest! (July 14, 2025)

Commentator, *State Takeovers of Public Schools and Racial Subjugation: Critical Race Perspectives on Policy Implementation*, John Mercer Langston Annual Writing Workshop (July 10, 2025)

Commentator, *Blackness as Dual Citizenship: Should NAACP and Other Black Legacy Organizations Advance Dual Citizenship?*, John Mercer Langston Annual Writing Workshop (July 12, 2025)

Commentator, *Intentional Health-Related Wronding*, John Mercer Langston Annual Writing Workshop (July 12, 2025)

Commentator, *Solitary Confinement and Discretion*, Empirical Criminal Law Roundtable (Dec. 12, 2024)

Commentator, *Lawyering on the Eve of War*, John Mercer Langston Midwest Writing Workshop (October 26, 2024)

Moderator, *Crimmigration*, CrimFest! (July 15, 2024)

Commentator, *Thinking Abolition: Learning Fairness*, John Mercer Langston Annual Writing Workshop (June 27, 2024)

Commentator, *Rights in the Box: Diversity and Fairness in Juries*, John Mercer Langston Annual Writing Workshop (June 28, 2024)

Moderator, *Criminal Justice Minimalism Applied*, Washington University Law Review Criminal Justice Minimalism Symposium (Jan. 23, 2024)

Commentator, *I've Got Your (Social Security) Number*, John Mercer Langston Midwest Writing Workshop (October 30, 2023)

Commentator, *Involuntary Baselines*, John Mercer Langston Midwest Writing Workshop (October 30, 2023)

Commentator, *Creating Space for Race in Proportionality-Driven Sentencing Regimes*, John Mercer Langston Annual Writing Workshop (June 30, 2023)

Commentator, *The Probative Value of Skin Color*, John Mercer Langston Annual Writing Workshop (June 30, 2022)

Moderator, *Promoting Legal Scholarship in the Digital Media Age* (March 17, 2023)

Commentator, *The Resurgence of Massive Resistance*, Lutie/Langston Joint Scholarship Workshop (December 1, 2022)

Moderator, *Immigration*, CrimFest! (July 19, 2022)

Commentator, *Policing for Equality and Liberty*, John Mercer Langston Scholarship Conference (July 7, 2022)

Commentator, *Is Caste America's Theory of Everything?*, Lutie/Langston Joint Scholarship Workshop (December 16, 2021)

Moderator, New St. John's Scholars Roundtable (2019 – 2022)

Moderator, John Mercer Langston Nascent Ideas Workshop (2021 – 2022)

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS AND PANELS

Panelist, *ABA Rapid Response: Fourth Amendment Issues in Immigration and Administrative Warrants* (June 4, 2026)

Speaker, *The Changing Landscape of Enforcing American Citizenship*, Washington University in St. Louis School of Law Alumni Weekend (April 18, 2026)

Moderator, *The Challenges of Transformative Prosecution*, Washington University in St. Louis Public Interest Law & Policy Speakers Series (Feb. 11, 2026)

Panelist, Black Lawyering Panel, Washington University in St. Louis School of Law (Feb. 11, 2024)

Panelist, Educators at Law – Criminal Law Panel (Oct. 1, 2024)

Speaker, Microsoft Blacks in CELA Presents: Afrofuturism and the Metaverse (Feb. 22, 2024)

Panelist, United States Sentencing Commission Roundtable on the Categorical Approach and Career Offender Guidelines (Feb. 7, 2024)

Host, Black Authors Book Club (2020 – 2023)

Moderator, "Race and Refugee Policies" Panel, St. John's School of Law Racial-Justice Teach-In (March 10, 2023)

Moderator, "40th Anniversary of *Plyler v. Doe*" Panel, St. John's Law Review Fall Symposium (November 4, 2022)

On Service: Striking the "Right" Balance, Society of American Law Teachers, LatCrit Section (October 7, 2021)

Moderator, "Student Perspectives" Panel, St. John's School of Law Racial-Justice Teach-In (April 6, 2021)

Immigration in the New Administration, St. John's School of Law Multilingual Affinity Group (February 16, 2021)

The Ongoing Importance of Title IX Policy, St. John's University Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (February 12, 2021)

Courageous Conversations about Race and Racism, Center for Dispute Resolution and St. John's School of Law (July 9, 2020)

Black Lives Matter, Ron Brown Center for Civil Rights and St. John's School of Law Dialogue Day (June 4, 2020)

Family Separations at the Border, St. John's School of Law Admitted Students of Color Day (April 2, 2020)

Moderator, Franklin H. Williams Judicial Conference, "Criminal Law & Immigration" Panel (June 13, 2019)

Right or Wrong: Family Separations at the Border, Ron Brown Center for Civil Rights and St. John's School of Law Dialogue Day (September 20, 2018)

Moderator, Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP Black History Month Forum, "Feminism in the Black Community" Panel (February 23, 2017)

SELECTED LEGAL COMMENTARIES

"Tough on Immigrants" is the New "Tough on Crime", THE HILL (March 2, 2024)

It's Not Just Trump – Crime and Punishment are Inherently Political, THE HILL (Nov. 16, 2023)

Viewing Class Settlements Through a New Lens: Parts 1 & 2, with Kahn Scolnick, LAW 360 (July 25 and 26, 2017)

Recent Trends in Environmental Nuisance Law, with Matthew Hoffman and Abbey Hudson, LAW 360 (November 17, 2015)

Offsets Survive Challenge as Cap-and-Trade Moves Forward, with Patrick Dennis and Krista Hernandez, *Daily Journal* (April 22, 2013)

SELECTED MEDIA CONTRIBUTIONS

David Bell, *Lens of a Lawyer Podcast* (July 31, 2026) (interviewed)

Rachel Lippman, *St. Louis County Council Seeks its Own Attorney*, ST. LOUIS PUB. RADIO (Oct. 23, 2024) (interviewed and quoted)

Frank Morano, *The Other Side of Midnight with Frank Morano* (Nov. 27, 2023) (interviewed)

Sharon Crowley, *NYC's Status as a Sanctuary City Draws Thousands of Asylum Seekers Weekly*, Fox 5 NY (May 23, 2023) (interviewed and quoted)

David Lazarus, *Are "Loot Boxes" in Video Games a Form of Gambling?*, LA Times (Dec. 11, 2020) (interviewed and quoted)

Ipse Dixit Podcast (May 28, 2020) (interviewed)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

President, John Mercer Langston Group, Inc. (2023 – 2025)

Co-Chair, John Mercer Langston Midwest Writing Workshop (2023 – present)

Advisory Board Member, Criminal Law & Criminal Justice Books (2022 – present)

Contributor, The Journal of Things We Like (Lots) (JOTWELL) (2022 – present)

Instructor, Immigration Law, University of Miami School of Law Summer Legal Academy (2020-present)

Instructor, Ronald H. Brown Center for Civil Rights, Law School Pipeline Book Club (2021)

PEER REVIEW AND REFEREE ACTIVITY

Yale Law Journal

Oxford Intersections: Borders

Information and Communication Technology Law

Regulation & Governance

Gaming Law Review

Crime & Delinquency

Journal of Gambling Issues

Journal of Medical Internet Research

PLOS One

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE AND STUDENT SERVICE

St. John's School of Law

Faculty-Student Liaison Committee (2018)

Curriculum Committee (2019)

Grades Committee, (2019 – 2021)

Intellectual Life Committee (2020)
Diversity Committee (2021 – 2022)
Faculty Advisor, Latin American Law School Association, (2020 – 2021)
Faculty Advisor, Immigration Law Society (2019 – 2023)
Faculty Advisor, Ted Jones Fellows (2021)

Washington University School of Law

Honor Code Presiding Officer (2024-25)
Appointments Committee (2023-24)
Sub-Committee on Grading System (2024-25)
Clerkship Committee (2025-26)
Faculty Advisor, Black Law Students Association (2024-present)
Faculty Advisor, Washington University Law Review (2026–27)
Faculty Senate Council Representative, Washington University (2026-28)
Promotions and Tenure Committee (2026-27)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

American Bar Association
American Constitutional Society
American Historical Association
American Society for Political and Legal Philosophy
Association for American Educators
Association for the Study of Law, Culture and the Humanities
International Political Science Association
International Public Policy Association
Law & Society Association
National Bar Association
National Black Law Students Association
National Capital-Area Political Science Association
Society of American Law Teachers
State Bar of California*

LEGAL EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, LLP, Los Angeles, CA

Summer Associate, June 2011 – August 2011
Associate Attorney, 2012 – 2014, 2015 – 2018

Stradling Yocca Carlson & Rauth, Newport Beach, CA

Summer Associate, June 2010 – August 2010

* Admitted in 2012