

Jonathan H. Choi
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Current Appointment

Washington University School of Law, St. Louis, MO
James Carr Professor of Law, 2025 - present
Faculty Director, AI Collaborative, 2026 - present
Courses: AI Legal Tech, Corporate Taxation, Seminar on Empirical Text Analysis

Scholarship

Working Drafts

Canons and the Court, 136 YALE LAW JOURNAL (forthcoming 2027) (with Nina Mendelson)

We use LLMs to study canons of statutory interpretation across all Supreme Court opinions from 1791 to 2024. We propose new methods to identify and cluster canons from raw opinion text, validating our approach against human-curated datasets. The data reveal evidence of “fashions” in canons, which rise and fall in popularity, undercutting arguments that they provide a stable basis for interpretation. Moreover, canons support both sides of many or most Supreme Court cases, and there is no discernible hierarchy that would allow the Court to decide which canon should win when canons conflict. Perhaps for this reason, we find that canon use has no effect on the likelihood that a case will be decided on ideological grounds.

Prose and Cons: Evaluating the Legality of Police Stops with Large Language Models (with David Abrams)

Police departments record millions of pedestrian stops, but legal review of those stops remains limited by the cost of expert attorneys. We fine-tune large language models (LLMs) to classify whether police stops are legally justified. In 41,332 attorney-coded stops from a major U.S. city, a fine-tuned LLM achieves 90.1% overall accuracy and classifies 85.0% of stops while maintaining 95% accuracy. We apply this model to assess the legality of more than one million stops, finding persistent disparities in the legality of police stops disfavoring Black and Hispanic suspects. We also find that replacing low-legality officers with median officers would only modestly reduce overall illegal stops. These results show how LLMs can facilitate broader and more direct measurement of legal compliance.

Machine Learning and Deterrence (with Daniel L. Chen, Henrik Sigstad, and Ramya Dhatri Vunikili)

What is the impact of artificial intelligence on the legal system? In a general economic model of legal compliance, we show that although predictive algorithms can optimally reduce both type I and type II errors, relying on algorithmic predictions in legal decision-making may—due to statistical discrimination—

undermine individuals' incentives to comply with the law. We empirically quantify the extent of such statistical discrimination in a range of predictive models applied to a corpus of more than 200,000 Brazilian labor court cases.

Publications

Off-the-Shelf Large Language Models Are Unreliable Judges, JOURNAL OF EMPIRICAL LEGAL STUDIES (forthcoming 2027)

AI Deceleration (or Acceleration) by Taxation, 40 HARVARD JOURNAL OF LAW AND TECHNOLOGY (forthcoming 2026) (with Paul Connell) (invited)

ELARA: A Framework for Empirical Legal Research with AI Agents, JOURNAL OF LAW AND EMPIRICAL ANALYSIS (forthcoming 2026)

Interrogating LLM Design Under a Fair Learning Doctrine, 2025 ACM CONFERENCE ON FAIRNESS, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND TRANSPARENCY (with Johnny Wei et al.)

AI Assistance in Legal Analysis: An Empirical Study, 72 JOURNAL OF LEGAL EDUCATION 384 (2025) (with Daniel Schwarcz)

Measuring Clarity in Legal Text, 91 UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LAW REVIEW 1 (2024)

Subjective Costs of Tax Compliance, 108 MINNESOTA LAW REVIEW 1255 (2024) (with Ariel Jurow Kleiman)

Lawyering in the Age of Artificial Intelligence, 109 MINNESOTA LAW REVIEW 147 (2024) (with Amy Monahan and Daniel Schwarcz)

How to Use Large Language Models for Empirical Legal Research, 180 JOURNAL OF INSTITUTIONAL AND THEORETICAL ECONOMICS 214 (2024) (invited)

LegalBench: A Collaboratively Built Benchmark for Measuring Legal Reasoning in Large Language Models, 37 PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONFERENCE ON NEURAL INFORMATION PROCESSING SYSTEMS TRACK ON DATA AND BENCHMARKS 44123 (2023) (with Neel Guha et al.)

ChatGPT Goes to Law School, 72 JOURNAL OF LEGAL EDUCATION 387 (2023) (lead author, with Kristin Hickman, Amy Monahan & Daniel Schwarcz)

Large Language Models as Tax Attorneys: A Case Study in Legal Capabilities Emergence, 382 PHILOSOPHICAL TRANSACTIONS OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY A: MATHEMATICAL, PHYSICAL AND ENGINEERING SCIENCES 1 (2023) (with John Ney et al.) (invited)

A Limited Defense of Efficiency in a Tax-and-Transfer Framework, 37 SOCIAL PHILOSOPHY AND POLICY 252 (2023) (invited)

AI Tools for Lawyers: A Practical Guide, 107 MINNESOTA LAW REVIEW HEADNOTES 1 (2023)
(with Daniel Schwarcz)

Beyond Purposivism in Tax Law, 107 IOWA LAW REVIEW 1439 (2022)

Legal Analysis, Policy Analysis, and the Price of Deference: An Empirical Study of Mayo and Chevron, 38 YALE JOURNAL ON REGULATION 818 (2021)

The Substantive Canons of Tax Law, 72 STANFORD LAW REVIEW 195 (2020)

An Empirical Study of Statutory Interpretation in Tax Law, 95 NEW YORK UNIVERSITY LAW REVIEW 363 (2020)

In Defense of the Billable Hour: A Monitoring Theory of Law Firm Fees, 70 SOUTH CAROLINA LAW REVIEW 297 (2018) (law school paper)

Early Release in International Criminal Law, Note, 123 YALE LAW JOURNAL 1784 (2014)

Tax Commitment Devices, 15 JOURNAL OF BUSINESS AND SECURITIES LAW 1 (2014) (law school paper)

Other Works in Progress

Hard Cases and Textualism

The contemporary, textualist Supreme Court is frequently criticized for literalist readings of statutes that turn on highly technical aspects of syntax, grammar, or word choice. I investigate whether this is caused by selection for hard cases from pre-trial to trial and then from trial courts to the Supreme Court. Using LLMs to quantify the textual difficulty of cases in a new dataset that includes extensive pre-trial records, I empirically quantify increases in textual difficulty as cases proceed toward the Supreme Court. I discuss the implications of selection for hard cases that will apply to jurisprudential discussion of any dominant interpretive methodology.

We Were All Textualists Then, Too (with Jonah Gelbach)

We interrogate the widespread belief that during the era of high purposivism, prior to the New Textualism, the Supreme Court frequently prioritized legislative history and broad readings of statutory purpose over statutory text. Using LLMs to code features of Supreme Court opinions, we find that this almost never happened and that the rate at which the Supreme Court has focused on and relied upon statutory text has stayed essentially constant since the 1940s.

Tax Confusion (with Ariel Jurow Kleiman)

Tax law is perennially criticized for its complexity, but there has been little empirical study linking specific sources of legal complexity to observed taxpayer confusion. This paper proposes a novel approach: we scrape and analyze data from

Reddit fora in which taxpayers post detailed questions about tax filing. We identify patterns of confusion and trace them back to statutory text, Treasury regulations, and IRS publications. In doing so, we establish which elements of the underlying law are most confusing to taxpayers and therefore which simplification efforts policymakers should prioritize.

Automated Corpus Linguistics (with Carissa Chen)

We use LLMs to automate corpus linguistics, conducting sensitivity analysis to determine how much corpus linguistics results vary depending on methodological choices.

Other Employment

Harvard Law School, Cambridge, MA

Donald C. Alexander Visiting Professor in Tax Law, Fall 2025

Courses: AI and the Future of Law, Corporate Taxation

University of Southern California Gould School of Law, Los Angeles, CA

Professor of Law, 2023 - 2025

Courses: AI and the Future of Law, Corporate Taxation, Legislation and Regulation

University of Minnesota Law School, Minneapolis, MN

McKnight Land-Grant Professor (declined), 2023

Solly Robbins Faculty Research Scholar, 2022 - 2023

Associate Professor, 2020 - 2023

Courses: Corporate Taxation, Federal Income Taxation, Legislation and Regulation

New York University School of Law, New York, NY

Fellow, 2018 - 2020

Midtown Labs, New York, NY

Co-Founder, 2025 - present

Solomon AI, Los Angeles, CA and New York, NY

Co-Founder and Head of AI, 2023 - 2025

Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz, New York, NY

Associate, 2014 - 2018

Education

Yale Law School, J.D., 2014

Yale Law Journal, Executive *Bluebook* Editor

Yale Journal on Regulation, Founding *Bulletin* Co-Director

Dartmouth College, B.A., *summa cum laude*, 2011

Triple major: Computer Science (high honors for thesis), Economics, and Philosophy

Thesis: *A Solution to k-Exclusion with $O(\log k)$ RMR Complexity*

Honors: Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Xi (scientific honor society), Woodbury Memorial Law Prize

Other Writing

“An Original Take on the Original Meaning of the Sixteenth Amendment”, JOTWELL, June 7, 2024

“The Case for a Tilt *Toward* Revenue in Tax Administration”, JOTWELL, Apr. 18, 2023

“Democrats Should Finally Close the Carried Interest Loophole for the Wealthy,” op-ed, WASHINGTON POST, September 14, 2021

“A Survey of Law Professors on Tax Reform,” YALE JOURNAL ON REGULATION: NOTICE AND COMMENT, August 25, 2021

“Are Agencies Really More Purposivist than Courts?” YALE JOURNAL ON REGULATION: NOTICE AND COMMENT, October 2, 2019

“The Most-Cited Tax Articles of All Time,” YALE JOURNAL ON REGULATION: NOTICE AND COMMENT, May 11, 2019

Selected Media

ABA Journal, ABC News, Bloomberg News, Bloomberg Law, Business Insider, CBS News, CNN, Fast Company, Fox News, MIT Technology Review, Mother Jones, NBC Nightly News, New York Times Dealbook, NPR, Reuters, The New Yorker, The Practice, The Star Tribune, USA Today, The Washington Post

Other Selected Presentations

American Bar Association, Law School Admissions Council, West Academic, Minnesota State Bar Association, Sansad TV (Indian parliamentary TV station), U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts Bench and Bar Conference

Academic Presentations

2026 Harvard Law School Faculty Workshop; University of Virginia Law School Faculty Workshop; Columbia Law School and Economics Department Tax Workshop; Harvard Journal on Law and Technology Symposium on Agentic AI; Stanford Law School Anti-Discrimination Law x AI Conference; Harvard Law School Reading Group on Becoming a Law Professor; Yale Law School Legislation Roundtable; Yale Law School Statutory Theory Seminar; Harvard Law School Law and

- Economics Colloquium; Georgetown Law School Advanced Topics in Legislation Seminar; Brooklyn Law School Faculty Workshop; University of Connecticut Faculty Workshop
- 2025 National Bureau of Economic Research Summer Institute, Law and Economics and Economics of Crime (joint session); AI Economics in the OpenAI Forum; University of Chicago Seminar on Current Trends in Public Law Scholarship; ETH Zurich and University of Zurich Workshop & Lecture Series in Law & Economics; Northwestern Law School Faculty Workshop; Conference on Data Science and Law; International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Law, Workshop on Legal Argument Mining; United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts Bench Bar Conference; Association of American Law Schools Annual Meeting (Legislation Section, Law and Technology Section); Georgetown Symposium on Legal Interpretation and Data; University of Hong Kong Law and Technology Center Workshop; Online Workshop for the Computational Analysis of Law; University of Southern California Gould School of Law Faculty Workshop; National Tax Association Annual Conference
- 2024 Yale Law School Theories of Statutory Interpretation Seminar; William and Mary Law School Faculty Workshop; Harvard Law School Seminar on the Legal Profession; Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS) Workshop on Causality and Large Models (CaLM); Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS) Workshop on Statistical Frontiers in LLMs and Foundation Models (SFLLM); University of Southern California Gould School of Law Faculty Workshop; University of Toronto Law and Economics Summer Workshop; University of Southern California Center for Law and Social Science Workshop; SMU Dedman School of Law Faculty Workshop; Conference on Empirical Legal Studies; ABA Tax Section Midyear Meeting
- 2023 Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems; Harvard/Stanford/Yale Junior Faculty Forum; Yale Law School Law, Economics and Organization Workshop; University of Pennsylvania Law and Economics Seminar; University of Virginia Tax Conference; Georgetown University Law Center Legislation Roundtable; Max Planck Institute Conference on Machine Learning and Law; University of Toronto Law School Faculty Workshop; Ohio State University Information Governance Colloquium; National Tax Association Annual Conference; University of Denver Sturm College of Law Faculty Workshop; University of Florida College of Law Faculty Workshop; Northwestern University Tax Colloquium; Loyola Law School, Los Angeles Faculty Workshop; Florida State University Tax Scholarship Workshop; University of San Francisco Law School Tax Policy Colloquium; Association of American Law Schools Panel on “Statutory Interpretation in the Era of High Textualism”
- 2022 University of Virginia School of Law Faculty Workshop; Cornell Law School Faculty Workshop; University of Miami Law School Faculty Workshop; Northwestern/Penn/Stanford Junior Faculty Forum for Law and STEM; American Law and Economics Association Annual Meeting; Junior Tax Scholars Workshop; Max Planck Institute Law and Economics Seminar; National Tax Association Annual Conference; University of Minnesota Law School Faculty Squaretable; University of Illinois College of Law Faculty Workshop; Conference on Empirical Legal Studies; Singapore Management University Computational Legal Studies

- Conference; Online Workshop for the Computational Analysis of Law; Duke Law School Tax Policy Seminar; Boston College Tax Policy Workshop
- 2021 Duke University Annual Administrative Law Symposium; University of Minnesota Public Law Workshop; University of Minnesota Law School Faculty Squaratable; UC Irvine Law Tax Policy Colloquium; University of Wisconsin Faculty Workshop; University of Toronto Faculty Workshop (COVID-19 cancellation); Indiana University Maurer School of Law Tax Policy Colloquium; Break into Tax Series; University of Florida Tax Policy and Public Finance Colloquium; USD-Davis-Hastings Tax Law Speaker Series; Online Workshop for the Computational Analysis of Law Conference; Association of American Law Schools New Voices in Administrative Law and Legislation Panel; Association of American Law Schools New Voices in Taxation Panel; Arizona State University Justifying Taxation Conference
- 2020 Law and Society Association Conference; New York University Lawyering Scholarship Colloquium; National Tax Association Conference; Florida-Michigan-Virginia Virtual Law and Economics Workshop; University of Oregon Law Tax Policy Colloquium; University of Minnesota Law School Faculty Squaratable; University of Toronto Law & Economics Colloquium (COVID-19 cancellation); Junior Tax Scholars Workshop; Critical Tax Conference; AALS Annual Meeting
- 2019 Conference on Empirical Legal Studies; Harvard Law School Caselaw Access Project Summit; New York University Lawyering Scholarship Colloquium; Law and Society Association Conference; Critical Tax Conference
- 2018 New York University Lawyering Scholarship Colloquium

Grants

Keston Exploratory Research Award (\$100,000), Kommerstad Faculty Imagination Fund (\$15,000)

Service

Affiliations: Faculty Associate, Berkman Klein Center for Internet and Society at Harvard University; Research Affiliate, Center for Empirical Research in the Law at Washington University (St. Louis); Co-Director, Center for Law and Social Science at the University of Southern California

Advisor: *Washington University Law Review*; Asian Pacific American Law Students Association; Myriad Legal Consulting; Venture Capital and Technology Association; Privacy, Cybersecurity, and Technology Law Association

Committees: Combined Hiring Committee, Dean Search Committee; Lateral Hiring Committee; Tenure and Promotion Committee; Academic Affairs Committee; Faculty Works in Progress Committee; Faculty and Staff Recognition Committee; SJD Admissions Committee; AI Advisory Committee

External Service: Chair, AALS Section on Legislation and Law of the Political Process; Area Organizer, American Law and Economics Association Annual Conference; Area Organizer, Conference on Empirical Legal Studies; Program Committee Member, ACM Symposium on CS and Law (CSLAW); Area Chair, ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency (FAccT); Class Secretary, Yale Law School

Reviewer: *Science; Journal of Legal Analysis; Journal of Law and Economics; Journal of Empirical Legal Studies; Journal of Law and Empirical Analysis; Yale Law Journal; Minnesota Law Review; University of Chicago Law Review; Columbia Law Review; Northwestern University Law Review; Washington University Law Review*

Bar Admission

New York, 2015