CONSTITUTIONAL LAW and Legal HISTORY

THE LAW SCHOOL’S CURRICULUM places the history of law and the ongoing story of the Constitution in context so that students can better understand both the past and present legal landscape. With more than 25 faculty members in constitutional law and legal history, Virginia offers an unparalleled variety of lecture courses, seminars and clinics in the field.

J.D.-M.A. PROGRAM IN HISTORY
In cooperation with the University of Virginia’s Corcoran Department of History, the Law School allows students to obtain a J.D. and an M.A. in history in three years. Several veterans of the dual-degree program have gone on to successful careers in legal academia, and recent graduates have clerked for U.S. Supreme Court justices. MORE: bit.ly/uvalawhistory

CHARLES W. McCURDY FELLOWSHIP IN LEGAL HISTORY
Offered through a partnership between the Miller Center and the Law School, the yearlong McCurdy Fellowship allows scholars to work in residence at the Law School while completing dissertations in legal and political history. The fellowship, which carries a $32,000 stipend, includes a mentorship program and the opportunity to coordinate and present work at the Law School’s legal history workshop and the Miller Center’s Spring Fellowship Conference.

EVENT PROGRAMMING
The program sponsors a series of monthly legal history lunch workshops in which scholars and Virginia faculty members present works in progress. Advanced J.D.-M.A. candidates participate in these workshops and even present drafts of their own M.A. theses. The program also sponsors a series of lectures and panel discussions in which authors of recent important books are invited to engage in discussions of their work with students and faculty. An informal legal history writing group allows faculty, law students and graduate history students to present works-in-progress over dinner at the homes of faculty members.

VIRGINIA’S PROGRAM ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL HISTORY creates a rich intellectual community of scholars and students with shared historical interests.

CLINICS
APPELLATE LITIGATION CLINIC
Working in teams, students in this yearlong clinic engage in appellate litigation through actual cases before various federal circuit and/or state appellate courts of appeals.

FIRST AMENDMENT CLINIC
Run in conjunction with the Thomas Jefferson Center for the Protection of Free Expression and the law firm Baker Hostetler, the yearlong First Amendment Clinic gives students practical legal experience involving timely free speech and press issues.

SUPREME COURT LITIGATION CLINIC
Students in this yearlong clinic handle actual cases, from seeking Supreme Court review to briefing on the merits.
COURSES AND SEMINARS

CONSTITUTIONAL LAW
Advanced Campaign Finance
Advanced Topics in Constitutional Law
Business and Governmental Tort Liability
Civil Liberties Seminar
Civil Liberties Survey
Civil Rights Litigation
Civil War and the Constitution
Coercion
Comparative Constitutional Design
Comparative Constitutional Law Seminar
Constitutional Law II: Poverty
Constitutional Law: The American Revolution to 1865
Constitutional History II: The Twentieth Century
Constitutional Interpretation
Constitutional Law and Economics
Constitutional Law II: Freedom of Speech and Press
Constitutional Law II: Law and the Theory of Equal Protection
Constitutional Law II: Money and Constitutional Rights
Constitutional Law II: Religious Liberty
Constitutional Theory: Constitutionalism: History and Jurisprudence
Constitutionalism: Nation, Culture and Constitutions
Corporate Rights
Criminal Procedure Survey
Death Penalty
Defamation
Discrimination Theory
Federal Sentencing
First Amendment

Theory
Government Secrecy
Habeas Corpus
Judicial Role in American History
Land Use Law
Law and Higher Education
Law of Armed Conflict
Law of the Police
Lawyering for In-House Counsel
Legal History of the 1960s
Legislation
Legislation and Regulation
LGBTQ Rights Before and After Obergefell
Monetary Constitution Seminar
Money and Rights
Originalism and Its Critics
Presidential Powers
Racial Justice and Law Regulation of the Political Process
Religious Liberty and the Scholarly Process

Right to Education in U.S.: Real or Hollow?
Separation of Church and State
Slavery and the Constitution
Supreme Court from Warren to Roberts
Supreme Court: Juices and the Art of Judging

First Amendment
Clinic
Supreme Court
Litigation Clinic

LEGAL HISTORY
American Legal History Seminar
American History
Civil Rights Litigation
Civil Liberties Seminar
Constitutional History I: American Revolution to 1865
Constitutional History II: The Twentieth Century

CLINICS
Appellate Litigation Clinic

Law and the Theory of Equal Protection

CRIMINAL LAW
Dusts to Cellblocks:
English Legal History to 1776
Judicial Role in American History
Legal History of the Founding Period
Legal History Workshop
Roman Law of Delict
Roman Law of Family and Status
Civil War and the Constitution
Constitutional History Seminar
 Constitutional History II: The Twentieth Century
Constitutional History Seminar
Constitutional History I: American Revolution to 1865
Constitutional History II: The Twentieth Century
Constitutional History Seminar

These courses represent the 2015-18 school years. Not all courses are offered every year.

FACULTY
Virginia's faculty members have a broad range of expertise in constitutional law and legal history.

Many are experts on the decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court and several have argued before the court, including three full-time faculty members since 2010.

OUR FACULTY INCLUDE:

PROFESSOR FREDERICK SCHAUER
is one of the nation’s leading legal scholars and the author of numerous books on constitutional law, free speech and legal theory.

PROFESSOR LESLIE KENDRICK
is an expert on the freedom of expression who teaches courses in torts, property and constitutional law.

PROFESSOR SAIKRISHNA PRAKASH
is an expert in presidential power and separation of powers. He is author of a new book on the American presidency.

PROFESSOR G. EDWARD WHITE
is a Pulitzer Prize finalist, is working on a three-volume series, “Law in American History.”

Professor Cynthia Nicoletti
(434) 243-8540

Professor Charles Barzun
(434) 924-4414

Professor Cynthia Nicoletti
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