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.

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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.
FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF JUSTICE ANTONIN SCALIA, who served on the UVA Law faculty before becoming a judge, a panel of UVA Law professors and Dahlia Lithwick, a senior editor at Slate who covers the Supreme Court, discussed his legacy and what’s next for the court.

PROFESSOR DOUGLAS LAYCOCK frequently returns to the SUPREME COURT to argue religious liberty cases. His most recent win was with Holt v. Hobbs, a case in which he represented an Arkansas prisoner who sought to wear a beard per his religious beliefs, but in contrast to prison policy. The justices decided unanimously in Holt’s favor.

COURSES AND SEMINARS

CONSTITUTIONAL LAW
- Advanced Campaign Finance
- Advanced Topics in Constitutional Law
- Advanced Topics in the First Amendment (Religion Clauses)
- 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 History I: American Revolution to 1865

Education Rights and Enforcement
- Federal Sentencing
- Federalism
- First Amendment and the Scholarly Process
- Government Secrecy
- Habeas Corpus
- Judicial Role in American History
- Land Use Law
- Law and Higher Education
- Law of Armed Conflict
- Law of the Police
- Legal History of the 1960s
- Legislation
- LGBTIQ Rights Before and After Obergefell
- Lochner Era
- Money and Rights
- Originalism and its Critics
- Presidential Powers

Race and Law
- Racial Justice and Law
- Regulation of the Political Process
- Right to Education in the U.S.: Real or Hollow?
- Separation of Church and State
- Slavery and the Constitution
- State Tax in the U.S. and EU
- Supreme Court from Warren to Roberts
- Supreme Court Justices and the Art of Judging

CLINICS
- Appellate Litigation Clinic
- First Amendment Clinic
- Supreme Court Litigation Clinic

LEGAL HISTORY
- American Legal History Seminar
- An American Half-Century
- Civil War and the Constitution
- Colloquium in American Legal History
- Comparative Constitutional Law
- Constitutional History I: American Revolution to 1865
- Constitutional History II: The Twentieth Century
- Constitutionalism: History and Jurisprudence
- Crime and Punishment in American History
- Global Legal History
- International Law in the Mid-Twentieth Century
- Judicial Role in American History

These courses represent the 2014-15 school year. 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.

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.

DEAN RISA GOLUBOFF is the author of “Vagrant Nation: Police Power, Constitutional Change and the Making of the 1960s” and “The Lost Promise of Civil Rights.”

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

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