



Journal of Law and Public Policy Fall Symposium

THE RULE OF LAW

NOVEMBER 21, 2025

THE RULE OF LAW

UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS SCHOOL OF LAW
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Welcome to the University of St. Thomas Journal of Law and Public Policy's fall symposium. This full-day hybrid program will convene distinguished scholars, historians, and policy experts from across the nation and around the world to examine one of the most enduring and contested principles of democratic governance.

The Rule of Law is one of the most enduring and contested principles of democratic governance in both domestic and international contexts. The symposium will feature a keynote address and panel discussions exploring the evolving role of the rule of law in both domestic and international contexts. Topics will include executive authority, constitutional interpretation, authoritarianism, international order, and the use of legal processes as instruments of political or economic power.

UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS JOURNAL OF LAW AND PUBLIC POLICY

The St. Thomas Journal of Law and Public Policy is a student-run journal in the law school that promotes modern legal thought through analysis of contemporary public policy. It raises awareness and provides expert thought on timely public policy issues by hosting academically rigorous symposia and publication of articles. Mike Petschel is the editor-in-chief and Olivea Boyer is the symposium editor, supported by more than thirty other student editors.

AGENDA

8:30 a.m.	Opening Remarks Dean Daniel Kelly and Editor-in-Chief Denley Wenner
8:45 a.m.	Panel 1: Test the Rule of Law: Technology, History, and the Boundaries of Legal Legitimacy Kevin Lee, Jane Davidson, and Dakota Rudesill
10:15 a.m.	Break
10:30 a.m.	Panel 2: Rule of Law Under Pressure: Corruption, Sovereignty, and Global Accountability Henry Frank Carey, Kimberly Breedon, Courage Mlambo, and Enrique Guerra-Pujol
12:00 p.m.	Break
12:30 p.m.	Lunch
1:00 p.m.	Keynote: Law and the Human Condition: Shakespeare's Lessons on Justice and Moral Order Raj Bhala
1:45 p.m.	Panel 3: Constitutional Strain: Safeguarding the Rule of Law in American Governance Isaac Adelekun, Christian Ketter, David Schultz, and John Quinn
3:15 p.m.	Closing Remarks

SPEAKERS

ISAAC ADELEKUN

Emergency Powers Abuses & Constitutional Limits: The Trump Precedent

Isaac Abiodun Adelekun is an emerging voice in African and global historical scholarship, currently pursuing an M.A. in Africana Studies at the University of Delaware. With a foundational background in History and Diplomatic Studies from Nigeria and scholarly publications in reputable local and international journals, Isaac explores the intersections of African history, International relations, peace and gender studies. His research sheds new light on post-colonial governance, racial and gender based issues, conflict resolution, legal history, and cultural memory. He brings a nuanced, transnational perspective historical and social institutional discourse and he is passionate about building inclusive, interdisciplinary academic communities.



KIMBERLY BREEDON

Corruption, Immunity, and the Rule of Law

Kimberly Breedon is a professor of law at Ohio Northern University Pettit College of Law, where she teaches Wills & Estates, Constitutional Law, Civil Procedure, and Legislation & Statutory Interpretation. She previously taught at Barry University, the University of Cincinnati, and Atlanta's John Marshall Law School, and was a Visiting Legal Researcher at Columbia Law School. Breedon earned her J.D. with Order of the Coif honors from the University of Cincinnati and her LL.M. with highest honors from Columbia Law School.



HENRY FRANK CAREY

Sultanistic Democracy: The Decline of the Rule of Law and the Rise of Rule by Law

Henry F. (Chip) Carey is Associate Professor of Political Science at Georgia State University, where he has been based since 1998. He has published many books and articles on international law, human rights and comparative democratization. He received his Ph.D. from Columbia University in 1997. His most recent books are: *Understanding International Law Through Moot Courts: Genocide, Torture, Habeas Corpus, Chemical Weapons and the Responsibility to Protect* (2014); *European Institutions, Democratization, and Human Rights Protection in the European Periphery* (2014); *Trials and Tribulations of International Prosecution* (2013); *Privatizing the Democratic Peace: Policy Dilemmas of NGO Peacebuilding* (2012); and *Reaping what you Sow: A Comparative Examination of Torture Reform in the United States, France, Argentina, and Israel* (2012).



RAJ BHALA

Keynote Speaker

Law and the Human Condition: Shakespeare's Lessons on Justice and Moral Order

Raj Bhala is a University Distinguished Professor at the University of Kansas School of Law, the first in the school's history. A leading scholar in international trade law, Islamic law, and law and literature, he has authored major works including *Modern GATT Law*, *Trade War: Causes, Conduct, and Consequences of Sino-American Confrontation, and Understanding Islamic Law (Shari'a)*. Before entering academia, Bhala practiced at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and represented the United States at UNCITRAL. Recognized as one of "50 Kansans You Should Know" by *Ingram's Business Magazine*, he is an internationally respected voice on global trade, law, and ethics, and has taught and lectured across the world.



JANE DAVIDSON

Celebrity: Litigating Image and Reputation in the Public Eye

Jane Davidson is a lecturer in Music Law at the University of Southern California and an attorney at Nolan Heimann LLP, where she practices Entertainment Law and Litigation. A graduate of USC's Music Industry program and Loyola Law School, she focuses on intellectual property, representing public figures and creative professionals in defamation, right of publicity, trademark, and copyright disputes. She was part of the legal team that successfully ended a 13-year conservatorship for a high-profile artist. In her teaching and scholarship, Davidson blends law, economics, musicology, and ethics to explore how creativity and justice intersect in the entertainment industry.



ENRIQUE GUERRA-PUJOL

ICE Raids and the Shadow Docket: Masking the Rule of Law

Professor F. E. Guerra-Pujol earned his J.D. from Yale Law School after graduating with highest honors from the University of California, Santa Barbara. Following several years in business law practice, he began his academic career at the Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico and now teaches at the University of Central Florida. His research focuses on markets, property rights, and the philosophy of law, and his scholarship includes numerous articles and book chapters such as *Gödel's Loophole*, *A Bayesian Model of Litigation*, and *The Poker-Litigation Game*.



CHRISTIAN KETTER

Textualism and the Fourteenth Amendment's Citizenship Clause

Christian Ketter is an Adjunct Professor of Law at the University of Illinois Chicago. A former prosecutor and judicial intern on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, Ketter has published widely in law reviews and bar journals, and frequently lectures on topics including criminal procedure, constitutional law, appellate law, and jail litigation. He earned his undergraduate degree, cum laude, from DePaul University; and his J.D. degree, cum laude, from John Marshall Law School in Chicago.



KEVIN LEE

The Information Revolution and the Fate of the Rule of Law

Kevin Lee teaches at North Carolina Central University School of Law, after serving 15 years as a tenured professor at Campbell University, where he founded the Campbell Law Innovation Institute and chaired the NC Bar Association's Future of Law Committee. He has practiced in Tokyo, clerked on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, and holds advanced degrees in ethics, philosophy, and religion, in addition to his J.D. from New York Law School.



COURAGE MLAMBO

Chinese Influence in Africa: Authoritarian Superpowers and the Erosion of Rule of Law in Developing Countries

Dr. Courage Mlambo is a Zimbabwean scholar based in South Africa (Walter Sisulu University). He was a Visiting scholar at the Wilson Center for International Scholars (Dec 2024- July 2025) in the USA. He is authoring a book on China-Africa economic and political relations. He has worked with U.S.-based international organizations like the International Republican Institute (USA) on democracy, authoritarianism, and Chinese economic expansionism in Africa. Dr. Mlambo has authored articles on China-Africa relations, as well as on politics, women's rights, women health, social justice, and economics.



JOHN QUINN

"Tradition" and Its Discontents: Re-examining Dobbs

John R. Quinn is an Assistant Professor of Law at Touro University, where he teaches Civil Dispute Resolution & Procedure, Evidence, and Appellate Advocacy, and serves as co-advisor to Moot Court. He joined the faculty full-time in 2023 and transitioned to the tenure track in 2024. Professor Quinn has been recognized with multiple honors, including the Judge George C. Pratt Moot Court Board Alumni Association Award in Appellate Advocacy, the Student Bar Association Faculty Award of Excellence, the Law Center's Award for Devoted Service to the Ideals and Purpose of Legal Education, and Professor of the Year. Previously, he taught at St. John's and Harvard Law Schools and served as a law clerk in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York following more than a decade in trial and appellate litigation. His research interests include law and religion, constitutionalism, statutory interpretation, and habeas corpus. Professor Quinn earned his A.B. and J.D. from Harvard and a Ph.D. in English from Stony Brook, and he currently serves on the Criminal Justice Act Panel for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.



DAKOTA RUDESILL

Courts: Speak the Law to the Troops

Dakota Rudesill is a Professor of Law at The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law, where he teaches national security law, legislation, and professional responsibility, and directs the Legislation Clinic and the Ohio State National Security Simulation. His scholarship on intelligence, secrecy, arms control, and legislation has appeared in leading journals including the Georgetown Law Journal and Yale Journal of International Law. He has served in all three branches of the federal government, including the U.S. Senate, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, and as a law clerk to Chief Judge James B. Loken of the Eighth Circuit. Professor Rudesill earned his B.A. from St. Olaf College and J.D. from Yale Law School.



DAVID SCHULTZ

A Republic if You Can Keep It: Rule of Law and American Democracy in the Age of Trump

David Schultz is Distinguished University Professor in the Departments of Political Science, Environmental Studies, and Legal Studies at Hamline University. He is also a professor of Law at the University of St. Thomas and at the General Jonas Žemaitis Military Academy of Lithuania. A four-time Fulbright scholar who has taught extensively in Europe and Asia, and the winner of the Leslie A. Whittington national award for excellence in public affairs teaching, David is former editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Public Affairs Education* and the author of more than 45 books and 200+ articles on various aspects of American politics, election law, and the media and politics. He is regularly interviewed and quoted in the local, national, and international media on these subjects including *The New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Post*, *The Economist*, and National Public Radio. His most recent books are *Constitutional Precedent in US Supreme Court Reasoning* (2022), *Handbook of Election Law* (2022), *Presidential Swing States* (2022), and *Generational Politics in the United States* (2024). Prior to teaching, Professor Schultz served as a city director of planning, zoning and code enforcement, and as a housing and economic planner for a community action agency. David is former executive director of Common Cause Minnesota and a former vice-president for the Minnesota and South Texas chapters of the American Civil Liberties Union. He is licensed to practice law in Minnesota and before the US Supreme Court.



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