Georgetown Center for the Constitution

GEORGETOWN LAW
The Georgetown Center for the Constitution, founded in 2012, offers a variety of programs on constitutional law and theory at Georgetown Law, placing special emphasis on how best to remain faithful to the Constitution’s text. Led by Professor Randy Barnett, the Center sponsors lectures, faculty colloquia, conferences, visiting scholars, post-graduate fellowships, and student fellows. All of its activities are designed to engage scholars, students, and even Supreme Court justices in conversations about how to interpret and apply the document that sits under glass less than ten blocks away from Georgetown Law.

“Under the strong leadership of Professor Randy Barnett, the Georgetown Center for the Constitution, is making profound contributions to the field of constitutional law. In addition to providing informative events featuring renowned constitutional law scholars and offering an important forum for discussions ranging from the impact of recent Supreme Court decisions to general theories of constitutional interpretation, the Center is leading a thoughtful examination of the best practices for originalist jurisprudence, and it is focusing scholars on the modern significance of nineteenth century anti-slavery jurisprudence. Already deeply influential, the Center’s contributions to constitutional law will only grow more significant in the years ahead, and I am deeply proud of its important work.”

William Treanor, Dean
Annual Salmon P. Chase Distinguished Lecture and Faculty Colloquium

Together with the Supreme Court Historical Society, the Center sponsors the annual Salmon P. Chase Distinguished Lecture and Faculty Colloquium on some aspect of our constitutional history. Each lecture is delivered in the courtroom of the U.S. Supreme Court and hosted by a Justice. The next day, a group of scholars meets at Georgetown Law to discuss papers on the topic of the lecture. The lecture and papers are then published in the *Georgetown Journal of Law & Public Policy*. Topics and lecturers to date have been:

- **2014:** The 150th anniversary of Salmon P. Chase becoming Chief Justice of the United States (by historian James Oakes)
- **2015:** The 150th anniversary of the adoption of the 13th Amendment (by historian Eric Foner)
- **2016:** The 225th anniversary of the adoption of the Bill of Rights (by political scientist Colleen Sheehan)
- **2017:** The Career of Justice James Wilson (by law professor William Ewald)

Salmon Portland Chase was an antislavery lawyer, co-founder of the Liberty, Free Soil, and Republican parties, Governor of Ohio, U.S. Senator, Treasury Secretary, and Chief Justice of the United States.

Annual Thomas Cooley Book Prize & Symposium

The annual Thomas Cooley Book Prize of $50,000 honors a book for its contribution to our understanding of the Constitution. The faculty symposium helps promote the book to a wider audience of scholars by gathering a select group of experts to discuss critical papers about the book, which are published in the *Georgetown Journal of Law and Public Policy*.

Thomas McIntyre Cooley was a longstanding Chief Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court, and a professor at the University of Michigan Law School, where he also served as the Dean. Cooley was a renowned legal scholar who authored several highly influential treatises, including *A Treatise on the Constitutional Limitations Which Rest Upon the Legislative Power of the States of the American Union* and *The General Principles of Constitutional Law in the United States of America*. 
Bradley Fellows Program

The Center’s Bradley Fellows Program awards several year-long fellowships to GULC students with an interest in originalism and the Constitution. In return for a stipend of $5000, Bradley Fellows (picture below) are required to: attend the Originalism Summer Seminar; attend the Annual Chase Lecture; and observe the annual faculty colloquium and the Cooley Prize Symposium; attend various Center programs; and submit a report on what they learned as Fellows. The Bradley Fellows Program is made possible by the Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation.

“...
The Student Fellows Programs

The Student Fellows Program is an integral part of the Center’s mission to diversify the educational experience of Georgetown Law students through interaction with leading scholars, judges, and practitioners with diverse views on the subject of constitutional interpretation and implementation. Student Fellows get special access to talks by leading constitutional law scholars, as well as Justices, Senators, and Attorneys General. Student Fellows are also invited to attend the annual Chase Lecture in the courtroom of the U.S. Supreme Court.

The Georgetown Journal of Law & Public Policy

The Center has partnered with the Georgetown Journal of Law & Public Policy to publish the Chase Lectures and the scholarly papers presented at the annual Faculty Colloquium and Cooley Prize Symposium. The Journal has also published papers from Center co-sponsored conferences on the constitutionality of the rational basis test and on the administrative state (with the Institute for Justice), on the Second Amendment (with the Heritage Foundation), and on substantive due process (with the James Wilson Institute). The Center pays to print and distribute its symposium issues of the GJLPP to every U.S. constitutional law professor.

U.S. Constitution and the American Economy Summer Program

Directed by Visiting Professor John Baker, the U.S. Constitution and the American Economy Program is designed to help students from Chinese law schools to understand the complex constitutional structure that shapes the U.S. government and economy, to learn about being a professional in the United States, and to experience American culture. Participants meet with government officials, practicing lawyers and U.S. law students, and are paired with American mentors. The two-week program allows participants to tour the city, experience American cuisine, and participate in American pastimes.

“I believe the Constitution means what it says, and the only proper way to understand the text is from the foundation of its original meaning. The Boot Camp provided an intensive week of study into the theories and methods for unlocking that meaning.”

— Dan Chiafair, L’18, Harvard Law School
From previous page: Participants of the Boot Camp visit the United States Supreme Court. From top: Attorney General Jeff Sessions talks to the Law Center about free speech. Professor Louis Michael Seidman offered critical commentary on Professor Barnett’s presentation on “Our Republican Constitution.” Clark Neily of the Cato Institute debated Ed Whelan of the Ethics and Public Policy Center about judicial engagement versus judicial restraint. Constitution Accountability Center President Elizabeth Wydra speaks to the Originalism Summer Seminar. Each semester, the Center engages students in meaningful discussions about constitutional law and its impact on everyday life.
Randy Barnett
Director
Carmack Waterhouse Professor of Legal Theory

Brad Snyder
Senior Scholar
Professor of Law

Lawrence B. Solum
Senior Scholar
Carmack Waterhouse Professor of Law

Shon Hopwood
Faculty Scholar
Associate Professor of Law

Laura K. Donohue
Senior Scholar
Professor of Law

Yvonne Tew
Faculty Scholar
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John Mikhail
Senior Scholar
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