

DAVID RAPALLO

Associate Professor of Law, Director of the Federal Legislation Clinic
Georgetown University Law Center
McDonough Hall Room 336, 600 New Jersey Avenue NW, Washington DC 20001
david.rapallo@georgetown.edu | [Bio](#) | [SSRN](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Associate Professor of Law, Director of the Federal Legislation Clinic (2021–present)
Georgetown University Law Center

Senior Advisor and Congressional Scholar (2025–present)
Levin Center for Oversight and Democracy

Staff Director, Committee on Oversight and Reform (2011–2021)
Rep. Elijah E. Cummings, U.S. House of Representatives

- While in this role, also served as senior advisor to the following select committees and other investigations:
 - House Impeachment of Donald Trump and Senate Trial Team (2021)
 - House Impeachment of Donald Trump and Senate Trial Team (2019–2020)
 - House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis (2020–2021)
 - House Select Committee on the Events Surrounding the 2012 Terrorist Attack in Benghazi (2014–2016)

Senior Director and Counsel for Legislative Oversight (2009–2011)
National Security Council, The White House

General Counsel, Committee on Energy and Commerce (January to September 2009)
Rep. Henry A. Waxman, U.S. House of Representatives

Chief Investigative Counsel, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform (2006–2009)
Rep. Henry A. Waxman, U.S. House of Representatives

- While in this role, also served as Counsel to House Select Bipartisan Committee to Investigate Preparation for and Response to Hurricane Katrina (2005–2006)

Counsel, Democratic Staff, Subcommittee on National Security (1998–2005)
Committee on Government Reform, U.S. House of Representatives

Adjunct Professor of Law and Senior Supervising Attorney (1997–1998)
Federal Legislation Clinic, Georgetown University Law Center

Teaching Fellow (1995–1997)
Federal Legislation Clinic, Georgetown University Law Center

Staff Attorney and Executive Fellow (1994–1995)
Legal Affairs Office, Office of the Governor, State of California

EDUCATION

Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, DC
LL.M. in International and Comparative Law (1999)
LL.M. in Advocacy (1997)

University of California College of the Law, San Francisco, CA
J.D. (1994)

University of California, Los Angeles, CA
B.A. in English Literature (1991)

PUBLICATIONS

Law Review Publications

David Rapallo, [Mapping Minority Investigative Powers in Congress](#), 63 HARV. J. ON LEGIS. ____ (2026) (forthcoming).

David Rapallo, [Congress's Power to Investigate Crime: Did Trump Kill Kilbourn?](#), 27 N.Y.U. J. LEGIS. & PUB. POL'Y 135–212 (2024).

- Official Selection, *Junior Scholars Conference*, American Association of Law Schools, Section on Criminal Procedure (Sept. 13, 2024).

David Rapallo, [House Rules: Congress and the Attorney-Client Privilege](#), 100 WASH. U. L. REV. 455–515 (2022).

- Winner: [Award for Excellence in Oversight Research](#), Levin Center for Oversight and Democracy (2022).
- Review: Michael Stern, [The Attorney-Client Privilege in Congressional Investigations after Mazars](#), Point of Order (Dec. 17, 2022).
- Review: Christine Bartholomew, [The Attorney-Client Privilege Goes to Washington](#), JOTWELL (Mar. 4, 2024).

Other Publications

David Rapallo, Contributing Editor, *Chapter 8. The Rights and Role of the Minority Party and Individual Members in the Investigatory Process*, in [WHEN CONGRESS COMES CALLING: A STUDY ON THE PRINCIPLES, PRACTICES, AND PRAGMATICS OF LEGISLATIVE INQUIRY](#) (2025 ed.).

David Rapallo, [The Accelerating Assault on Minority Rights in Congress](#), Quorum Call, HARV. J. ON LEGIS. (Nov. 3, 2025).

Co-author, [Brief of Amici Curiae Lawyers Defending American Democracy in Support of Plaintiffs](#), *Neguse et al. v. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement* (D.C. Dist. Sept. 16, 2025) (with Mitt Regan, Edward Waldman, Molly Izer, and Mikaylah Ladue; Aderson Francois, Counsel of Record).

David Rapallo, [*The Democrats' Motion to Subpoena the Epstein File Has Legal and Historical Basis*](#), THE HILL (Aug. 5, 2025).

David Rapallo, [*Congress Spotlight: The Minority's Toolbox and a Possible Way Forward*](#), JUST SECURITY (Mar. 25, 2025).

David Rapallo, [*Congress's Power to Investigate Crime Is More Important Than Ever*](#), LAWFARE (Nov. 1, 2024).

Selected Contributions to Congressional Reports

From 1998 to 2021, I drafted, contributed to, or edited more than 50 congressional reports, including majority, minority, and bipartisan reports for Members and Committees. A full list is available [here](#), and a select number are listed below:

H. PERM. SELECT COMM. ON INTEL., H. COMM. ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM, AND H. COMM. ON FOREIGN AFFS., THE TRUMP-UKRAINE IMPEACHMENT INQUIRY REPORT, H.R. REP. NO. 116-335 (2019).

MAJ. STAFF OF H. COMM. ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM, 116TH CONG., REP. ON CHILD SEPARATIONS BY THE TRUMP ADMIN. (Comm. Print 2019).

H. COMM. ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM, RESOL. RECOMMENDING THAT THE H.R. FIND WILLIAM P. BARR, ATT'Y GEN. OF THE U.S., AND WILBUR L. ROSS, JR., SEC'Y OF COM., IN CONTEMPT OF CONG. FOR REFUSAL TO COMPLY WITH SUBPOENAS DULY ISSUED BY THE COMM. ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM, H.R. REP. NO. 116-125 (2019).

DEMOCRATIC MEMBERS OF THE H. SELECT COMM. ON THE EVENTS SURROUNDING THE 2012 TERRORIST ATTACK IN BENGHAZI, 114TH CONG., REP. ON HONORING COURAGE, IMPROVING SEC., AND FIGHTING THE EXPLOITATION OF A TRAGEDY (Comm. Print 2016), *reprinted in* H. SELECT COMM. ON THE EVENTS SURROUNDING THE 2012 TERRORIST ATTACK IN BENGHAZI, FINAL REPORT, H.R. REP. NO. 114-848, at 645–989 (2016).

MIN. STAFF OF H. SELECT COMM. ON THE EVENTS SURROUNDING THE 2012 TERRORIST ATTACK IN BENGHAZI, 113TH CONG., COMPENDIUM OF INVESTIGATIVE RESOURCES AND DATABASE—BENGHAZI ON THE RECORD: ASKED AND ANSWERED (Comm. Print 2014).

MAJ. STAFF OF H. COMM. ON OVERSIGHT AND GOV'T REFORM, 110TH CONG., REP. ON PRIV. MIL. CONTRACTORS IN IRAQ: AN EXAMINATION OF BLACKWATER'S ACTIONS IN FALLUJAH (Comm. Print 2007).

MIN. STAFF OF H. COMM. ON GOV'T REFORM, 108TH CONG., REP. AND DATABASE ON IRAQ ON THE REC.: THE BUSH ADMIN.'S PUB. STATEMENTS ON IRAQ (Comm. Print 2004), *reprinted in* 150 CONG. REC. H1103–09 (daily ed. March 16, 2004).

SELECTED PANELS, PRESENTATIONS, AND GUEST LECTURES

Guest Speaker and Commenter, *Politics of Policymaking*, McCourt School of Public Policy, Georgetown University (Nov. 20, 2025)

Panelist, *Congressional Oversight in the Policymaking Process*, The Archer Center, University of Texas (Oct. 20, 2024).

Presenter, *Mapping Minority Investigative Powers in Congress*, Mid-Atlantic Clinic Writers Workshop (Oct. 17, 2023).

Featured Speaker, *Congressional Oversight: Options for the Minority*, Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights (May 29, 2025) (webinar organized based on my article, [Congress Spotlight: The Minority's Toolbox and a Possible Way Forward](#), JUST SECURITY (Mar. 25, 2025)).

Presenter, *From Practice to Pedagogy: Teaching How to Use a North Star in Policy Clinics*, Mid-Atlantic Clinical Conference Panel (Feb. 7, 2024).

Commenter, Kyle Compton, *Using Judicial Review to Gain Access to Redistricting Records*, Mid-Atlantic Clinical Conference Panel (Feb. 7, 2024).

Guest Speaker, *Challenges with Conducting Congressional Oversight in Unified Government*, Seminar on Accountability in Government, Stanford University Law School (Feb. 5, 2024).

Guest Speaker and Commenter, Seminar on Congressional Investigations and Democratic Governance, University of Maryland, School of Public Policy (Nov. 19, 2024).

Panelist, *Results of the 2024 Election and Impacts on Food Security Advocacy*, Annual Membership Meeting, Alliance to End Hunger (Nov. 7, 2024).

Guest Speaker, *Congress's Power to Investigate Crime*, Seminar on Congressional Investigations, Georgetown University Law Center (Nov. 7, 2024).

Guest Speaker, *Parallel Congressional, Law Enforcement, and Inspector General Investigations*, Seminar on Accountability in Government, Georgetown University Law Center (Nov. 5, 2024).

Presenter, *Can the U.S. Congress Investigate Crime?*, International Conference on Legislation and Law Reform (Oct. 25, 2024).

Presenter, *Training the Next Generation of Legislative Lawyers*, International Conference on Legislation and Law Reform (Oct. 24, 2024).

Invited Participant, [Congressional Oversight Records Database Workshop](#), Levin Center for Oversight and Democracy, Brookings Institution, American Enterprise Institute (July 18, 2024).

Moderator, *Panel on Researchers Engaging with Congressional Policymakers*, Scholars Strategy Network, National Leadership Convening, Washington D.C. (June 5, 2024).

Co-Facilitator, Legislative/Policy Working Group, American Association of Law Schools, Conference on Clinical Legal Education (May 1–4, 2024).

Co-Presenter, *Utilizing Racial Equity Audits for Legislation*, Mid-Atlantic Clinical Conference (Feb. 24, 2024).

Guest Speaker, *Concurrent Congressional and Inspector General Investigations*, Seminar on Accountability in Government, Stanford University Law School (Jan. 31, 2024).

Guest Congressional Staffer, Racial Equity in Education Policy Clinic, Mock Staffer Meetings, Capitol Hill (Nov. 14, 2023).

Presenter, *Congress' Power to Investigate Crime*, Mid-Atlantic Clinic Writers Workshop (Nov. 10, 2023).

Guest Speaker, *Congressional Oversight and How Committees Work with Agency IGs*, Seminar on Accountability in Government, Georgetown University Law Center (Oct. 31, 2022).

Panelist, *Legal Hot Topics Panel with Law Faculty*, Georgetown University Law Center (Oct. 21, 2023).

Guest Speaker, *Topline Advocacy Points for Members of Congress*, Health Justice Alliance, Medical Student Capitol Hill Day, Georgetown University Law Center (Oct. 17, 2023).

Guest Speaker, Delegation of Turkmenistan Legislators, Georgetown University Law Center (Oct. 4, 2023).

Presenter, *Representing Clients Before Congress*, Kaplan Hecker & Fink LLP (July 20, 2023).

Presenter, [*Award for Excellence in Oversight Research for 2022*](#), Levin Center for Oversight and Democracy (May 17, 2023).

Co-Facilitator, Legislative/Policy Working Group, American Association of Law Schools, Conference on Clinical Legal Education (Apr. 28–29, 2023).

Guest Speaker, *Translating Policy Proposals Into Legislative Advocacy*, Legislative Skills Workshop, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai (Apr. 20, 2023).

Guest Speaker, “*Legislative Lawyering*” on Capitol Hill, Health Justice Alliance, Georgetown University Law Center (Mar. 1, 2023).

Panelist, *How the January 6 Committee Broke the Mold: What It Means for Future Oversight*, Georgetown University Law Center and Levin Center for Oversight and Democracy (Jan. 30, 2023) ([C-SPAN](#)).

Guest Speaker, *Congress and the President: Implications of the Mazars Decision*, Seminar on Congressional Oversight of the Executive Branch, Georgetown University Law Center (Nov. 3, 2022).

Guest Speaker, *The Interaction of Congressional Oversight and Inspectors General*, Seminar on Accountability in Government, Georgetown University Law Center (Oct. 18, 2022).

Guest Speaker, *House and Senate Legislative Procedure*, Racial Equity in Education Law and Policy Clinic, Georgetown University Law Center (Sept. 13, 2022).

Guest Speaker, *The Congressional Side of the Pitch Meeting*, Health Justice Alliance, Georgetown University Law Center (Mar. 2, 2022).

Panelist, [*Portraits in Oversight: Elijah Cummings*](#), Levin Center for Oversight and Democracy, (Feb. 17, 2022).

Guest Speaker, *House and Senate Legislative Procedure*, Racial Equity in Education Law and Policy Clinic, Georgetown University Law Center (Feb. 1, 2022).

Guest Speaker, “Trump v. Mazars and Other Congressional Oversight Decisions,” Seminar on Congressional Oversight of the Executive Branch, Georgetown University Law Center (Oct. 28, 2021).

Guest Speaker, *Origins of “Seven Member Rule” Litigation and the Trump Hotel*, Civil Litigation Clinic, Georgetown University Law Center (Oct. 8, 2021).

Guest Speaker, *Leadership in Congress*, Course on Public Leaders and Active Citizens, School of Public Policy, University of Maryland (Sept. 16, 2021).

PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Select Congressional Trainings and Consulting

Regularly advise and conduct training sessions for Democratic and Republican Members of Congress and staff:

Instructor, *Congressional Oversight Boot Camp*, Project on Government Oversight, Levin Center for Oversight and Democracy, and The Lugar Center (Aug. 20–21, 2025).

Instructor, *Congressional Oversight Boot Camp*, Project on Government Oversight, Levin Center for Oversight and Democracy, and The Lugar Center (Feb. 19–20, 2025).

Presenter, *Understanding Agency Objections: From Deliberative Process to Legislative Purpose*, Project on Government Oversight, Congressional Oversight Initiative (Oct. 18, 2024).

Instructor, *Congressional Oversight Boot Camp*, Project on Government Oversight, Levin Center for Oversight and Democracy, and The Lugar Center (Aug. 15–16, 2023).

Presenter, *North Stars and Topline Points for Congressional Hearings*, Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs (July 20, 2023).

Presenter, *Minority Rights in the House of Representatives*, House Committee on Oversight and Accountability (Feb. 17, 2023).

Instructor, [*Oversight and Investigations: What It Means and How to Make It Work*](#), Project on Government Oversight, Congressional Oversight Initiative (Jan. 13, 2023) (inaugural session of 2023-24 Congressional Training Program).

Presenter, *Effective Questioning of Government and Non-Governmental Witnesses*, House Committee on Oversight and Reform (Sept. 24, 2021).

Law School and University Committees and Working Groups

Academic Advisory Board Member, Center on Congress and Democracy, Georgetown University Law Center (2023–present).

Selection Committee, Dean’s Public Interest Fellowship Program / Capitol Hill Fellowship Program, Georgetown University Law Center (2022–present).

Visitors and Professors from Practice Committee (2025-2026).

Clinical Appointments Committee (2024–2025).

Teaching and Learning Outcomes Committee (2023–2024).

Journals Committee (2021–2023).

Participant, *2023/24 Mission Priority Examen*, Georgetown University (Oct. 25, 2023).

Public Interest and Congressional Career Mentoring

Mentor, Obama Foundation Voyager Scholarship for Public Service (2023–present).

Panelist, *Federal Legislation and the Hill*, American Constitution Society, Georgetown University Law Center Chapter (Sept. 30, 2025).

Guest Speaker, *Careers on Capitol Hill*, Office of Public Interest and Community Service, Georgetown University Law Center (Mar. 14, 2025).

Guest Speaker, *How to Search, Apply and Interview for an Internship on Capitol Hill*, Office of Public Interest and Community Service, Georgetown University Law Center (Feb. 6, 2025).

Guest Speaker, *Beyond Public Sector Recruiting Program (PSRP)*, Office of Public Interest and Community Service, Georgetown University Law Center (Jan. 30, 2025).

Guest Speaker, *From Law School to Congress*, The Archer Center, University of Texas (Dec. 2, 2024).

Guest Speaker, *Capitol Hill 101*, Office of Public Interest and Community Service, Georgetown University Law Center (Oct. 18, 2024).

Guest Speaker, *Law School as a Path to Working in Congress*, The Archer Center, University of Texas (Apr. 15, 2024).

Guest Speaker, *Careers on Capitol Hill*, Office of Public Interest and Community Service, Georgetown University Law Center (Feb. 12, 2024).

Panelist, *Public Sector 101*, Office of Public Interest and Community Service, Georgetown University Law Center (Oct. 12, 2023).

Panelist, *Inaugural Public Interest Panel*, Black Law Students Association, Georgetown University Law Center (Sept. 22, 2023).

Guest Speaker, *Postgraduate Fellowships*, Office of Public Interest and Community Service (Nov. 17, 2022) (rollout of Georgetown Law Capitol Hill Fellowship Program).

Participant, *Diversity Career Fair*, Black Law Students Association, Georgetown University Law Center (Oct. 20, 2022).

Guest Speaker, *Public Interest Fellows Faculty Tea*, Office of Public Interest and Community Service, Georgetown University Law Center (Mar. 4, 2022).

MEMBERSHIPS

Member, American Society for Legal History (2025–present).

Member, Scholars Strategy Network, Maryland-Washington D.C. Chapter (2023–present).

Member, Society of American Law Teachers (2022–present).

Member, American Association of Law Schools (2021–present).

Member, Clinical Legal Education Association (2021–present).

SELECTED MEDIA APPEARANCES

[*Johnson Calls House Back Into Session After Refusing to Convene During Shutdown*](#), ASSOCIATED PRESS (Nov. 11, 2025).

[*NJ Congresswoman's Defense Tests Bounds of Trump Immunity Ruling*](#), BLOOMBERG LAW (Oct. 23, 2025).

[*Trump's Planned Suit Over Senate Blue Slips Faces Slim Odds*](#), BLOOMBERG LAW (Aug. 27, 2025).

[*A House Panel Must Subpoena the Epstein Files. Here's What to Know.*](#), WASH. POST (July 25, 2025).

[*Trump v. Law Firms, President Uses Power on Potential Court Foes*](#), ROLL CALL (May 6, 2025).

[*Auto Industry's Shift Toward EVs is Expected to go on Despite Trump Threat to Kill Tax Credits*](#), ASSOCIATED PRESS (Nov. 26, 2024).

[*Why McCarthy Launched an Impeachment Inquiry Without a Vote—And Why He Can*](#), THE HILL (Sept. 12, 2023).

[*Is James Comer Lying About His Biden Probe Sources?*](#), NEW REPUBLIC (June 2, 2023).

[*House Republicans Hold NYC Hearing Targeting DA Bringing Criminal Charges Against Trump*](#), PBS NEWSHOUR (Apr. 17, 2023).

[*GOP Seeks to Shield Trump from All Future State Prosecutions*](#), HUFFINGTON POST (Mar. 12, 2023).

[*Senate Republicans Cool on House Plans to Question Manhattan DA*](#), AXIOS (Mar 21, 2023).

[*Coordinated Focus Let House Jan. 6 Panel Grab the Public's Attention*](#), ROLL CALL (Mar. 20, 2023).

[*Meet the Little-Known Lawyer Behind Democrats' Years-Long Battle with Trump*](#), CNN (Dec. 29, 2022).

[*House Subpoena Would Create Legal Showdown with Trump*](#), LAW360 (Oct. 17, 2022).

[*How a GOP Congress Could Try to Impeach a Biden Cabinet Member*](#), THE HILL (Oct. 11, 2022).

[*Lawmakers Are Pushing to Depose Dan Snyder. He's Parking the Boat Overseas.*](#), WALL STREET JOURNAL (July 13, 2022).

[*How the Jan. 6 Committee is Piecing Together the 'Puzzle' of the Capitol Attack*](#), ABC NEWS (Jan. 6, 2022).

[*Merrick Garland Has Satisfied His Democratic Critics—For Now*](#), NEW REPUBLIC (Jan. 6, 2022).

BAR ADMISSIONS

Washington D.C. (active) (1996 to present).

California (inactive) (1994 to present).