

CHRISTOPHER D. HAMPSON

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA LEVIN COLLEGE OF LAW

Spessard L. Holland Law Center, P.O. Box 117620, Gainesville, FL 32611
(352) 273-0927 | hampson@law.ufl.edu | [SSRN](#) | [@chrishampsonlaw](#)

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

University of Florida Levin College of Law | Gainesville, FL 2022–present
Assistant Professor of Law

CLERKSHIP

The Honorable Richard A. Posner | Chicago, IL 2016–2017
Law Clerk

EDUCATION

Harvard Law School | Cambridge, MA 2016
J.D. *magna cum laude*

Activities: *Harvard Law Review*, Articles Co-Chair; Bankruptcy Roundtable; Financial Distress Research Project.

Dean's Scholar Prizes: Property, Politics of Private Law, Poverty Law, Legal Profession.

Writing Prizes: Steven L. Werner Prize (criminal justice); Addison Brown Prize (int'l private law); Irving Oberman Memorial Award (bankruptcy).

Research Assistant: Martha Minow, Richard Fallon, Adrian Vermeule.

Harvard Divinity School | Cambridge, MA 2016
M.T.S., Religion, Ethics, and Politics
Honors: *Dean's Fellow* (full scholarship with stipend)

Harvard University | Cambridge, MA 2009
B.A. *magna cum laude* with highest honors
Honors: *summa cum laude* for honors thesis; 2009 Thesis Prize for the Comparative Study of Religion

Cranston High School East | Cranston, RI 2005
Honors: *valedictorian*

ARTICLES & ESSAYS

Bankruptcy & Social Enterprise

Bankruptcy Fiduciaries, 110 IOWA L. REV. __ (forthcoming 2025).

Does social enterprise end with insolvency? Is bankruptcy all about the bottom line? The answer lies with understanding the estate in bankruptcy and the fiduciaries that control its fate. Yet the law of fiduciary duties in bankruptcy is undertheorized, conflicted, and muddled. This Article provides a comprehensive rethinking.

Bankruptcy & the Benefit Corporation, 96 AM. BANKR. L.J. 93 (2022) (peer-reviewed).

The benefit corporation form requires directors of social enterprises to balance public benefit alongside shareholder interests. But will this requirement survive the crucible of financial distress? I argue that the balancing mandate persists into bankruptcy, although benefit debtors will still have to navigate bankruptcy's complex rules.

Bankruptcy Strategy & Developments

The Small Business Prepack: How Subchapter V Paves the Way for Bankruptcy's Fastest Cases

(with Jeffrey A. Katz), 92 GEO. WASH. L. REV. __ (forthcoming 2024).

While prepack bankruptcies are challenging and contentious under chapter 11, we argue that subchapter V of the Bankruptcy Code provides a more hospitable procedural outlet for the strategy, paving the way for small businesses to reorganize at lightning speed.

Debt Collection & Debtors' Prisons

Harsh Creditor Remedies & the Role of the Redeemer, 92 FORDHAM L. REV. 935 (2023).

When civil creditors threaten harsh remedies, they extend their reach into the pockets of “redeemers,” third parties with a stake in seeing debt repaid. Too often ignored by courts and lawmakers, this reality provides a potent justification for regulating debt collection.

The New American Debtors' Prisons, 44 AM. J. CRIM. L. 1 (2017).

State by state, Americans abolished imprisonment for debt in the first half of the nineteenth century. But debtors' prisons are back, in the form of imprisonment for nonpayment of criminal fines, fees, and costs. I argue that the old bans on debtors' prisons should be re-interpreted for a new era of mass incarceration.

Note, *State Bans on Debtors' Prisons and Criminal Justice Debt*, 129 HARV. L. REV. 1024 (2016) (separate appendix published at 129 HARV. L. REV. F. 153 (2016)).

I argue that state constitutional bans on imprisonment for debt make imprisonment for certain types of criminal fines and fees unlawful. A [separate appendix](#) sets forth the forty-one state constitutional bans on debtors' prisons.

Legal Theory, Methodology & Pedagogy

Essay, *Critical Theory & Commercial Law in the Sunshine*, 75 FLA. L. REV. F. 15 (2023).

In recent years, Florida and other states have attempted to expel critical legal theory, critical race theory, and all things “woke” from institutions of higher education. This Essay aims to bring these ideas into the sunshine.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Fairness, Efficiency & Formation

Defamation, Bankruptcy, and the First Amendment

Debtors' Prisons & the Reconstruction Amendments

Essay, *Law & the Spirit of Jubilee*

Essay, *How to Read a Law School Grade*

COMMENTARY

The Law of Creditors, Debtors, and Redeemers, THE FINREG BLOG, DUKE FIN. ECON. CTR. (July 24, 2023).

Debt collection activity aims to discover the debtor's assets, induce the debtor to repay, and pressure “redeemers” — third parties with a concrete stake in seeing a debt repaid — to help. We might want to call this area “the law of debtors, creditors, and redeemers.”

Bespoke, Tailored, and Off-the-Rack Bankruptcy: A Response to Professor Coordes's 'Bespoke Bankruptcy', 73 FLA. L. REV. F. 15 (2023).

By studying at least one type of bankruptcy misfit, my bankruptcy course takes a sharp left turn, veering away from the Code and towards a complicated new landscape. Professor Coordes's core insights serve to remind scholars and practitioners that the terrain covered by lowercase-b "bankruptcy" extends far beyond the Code.

When Benefit Corporations File for Bankruptcy, Will Anything Be Different?, HARV. L. SCH. BANKR. ROUNDTABLE (Oct. 4, 2022).

Some scholars are pessimists about the benefit corporation's fate in bankruptcy. After all, the U.S. Supreme Court has told us that the trustee has a duty to maximize the value of the estate. I am more optimistic.

How "Mothballed" Chapter 11 Cases Will Affect Vendors, Landlords, LAW360, with George Shuster, Paul Jakubowski, and Benjamin Loveland (Apr. 14, 2020).

Many companies seeking bankruptcy protection have attempted to shorten their chapter 11 cases. But the COVID-19 pandemic may be disrupting that trend: some companies have sought to "mothball" their cases completely and others have asked for a partial freeze.

Recent Legislation, *Crim. Pro. — Colorado Requires On-the-Record Indigency Proceedings Prior to Incarceration for Failure to Pay Fines* — H.B. 14-1061, 69th Gen. Assemb., 2d Reg. Sess. (Colo. 2014), 128 HARV. L. REV. 1312 (2015).

Colorado's legislation requires that indigency determinations be made on the record, yet further work needs to be done on the substantive requirements for indigency.

Book Review, 15 PHILOSOPHIA CHRISTI 490 (2013) (reviewing *WHOSE GOD RULES? IS THE UNITED STATES A SECULAR NATION OR A THEOLEGAL DEMOCRACY?* (Nathan C. Walker and Edwin J. Greenlee, eds., 2011)).

Walker and Greenlee's excellent anthology of essays on the role of religion in public life makes insightful contributions to a typology but lacks progressive religious voices.

OTHER ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Toward the Glittering Heaven: Poetry and Asceticism in Gregory of Nazianzus' Arcane Poems, 1 KANNENBRIGHT 14 (2010).

This analysis and translation of 1800+ lines of Greek poetry argues that Gregory of Nazianzus fit the form of his *Arcane Poems* to match his message of mysticism.

The Spirit in the Machine, HARV. DIVINITY BULL. (Winter 2017, Bicentennial Issue). This award-winning essay imagines what religious studies will look like in 2116.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

University of Florida Levin College of Law, Faculty Scholarship Roundtable, *Defamation, Bankruptcy & the First Amendment* (May 15, 2024).

American Bankruptcy Institute, *Where's the Supreme Court Going? Recent Decisions, Trends, and Predictions*, with Hon. Craig T. Goldblatt (Bankr. D. Del.), Bill Rochelle, Bob Lawless & Reno Fernandez (May 6, 2024).

American Bar Association, *2024 Earth Day Panel: Bankruptcy Committees: It's All About the Bottom Line. Or Is It?*, with Hon. Grace Robson (Bankr. M.D. Fla.), Hamid R. Rafatjoo & Danielle Reyes (Apr. 22, 2024).

University of Florida Levin College of Law, Association of Law and Business, *Symposium: Artificial Intelligence & Business, What's the Deal with ChatGPT?* (Mar. 28, 2024).

Southeastern Bankruptcy Law Institute, 50th Annual Seminar on Bankruptcy Law & Rules, *Prepackaged Bankruptcies (Could This Be a Model for Subchapter V?)*, with Charles A. Dale & Laura Davis Jones (Mar. 14, 2024).

Northeastern University Law School, Junior Scholars Conference, *Bankruptcy Fiduciaries* (Mar. 1, 2024).

University of Florida Levin College of Law, *Transactional Practice*, with Associate Dean Peter Molk (Feb. 7, 2024).

University of Florida Levin College of Law, *Judicial Clerkship Series: Faculty Panel*, with Hon. John Badalamenti (M.D. Fla.), Merritt McAlister, and Matthew Kim (Oct. 26, 2023).

National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, *Bankruptcy Committees: It's All About the Bottom Line. Or Is It?*, with Hon. Grace Robson (Bankr. M.D. Fla.), Hamid R. Rafatjoo & Danielle Reyes (October 13, 2023).

University of Florida Levin College of Law, Marshall M. Criser Distinguished Internal Faculty Workshop, *Bankruptcy Fiduciaries* (Sept. 11, 2023).

Wharton-Harvard Insolvency & Restructuring Conference, *Bankruptcy Fiduciaries* (Sept. 8, 2023).

Tenth Annual UF Law NaviGators Program, *Clerkship and Externship Opportunities*, with Hon. Robert J. Luck (11th Cir.) and Hon. Paul C. Huck (S.D. Fla.) (July 20, 2023).

National Conference of Business Law Scholars, *Harsh Creditor Remedies & the Role of the Redeemer* (June 15, 2023).

University of Florida Levin College of Law, Faculty Scholarship Roundtable, *Bankruptcy Fiduciaries* (Apr. 24, 2023).

University of Florida Center for Teaching Excellence, Interface Conference, *Bringing Groupwork from the Courtroom to the Classroom* (Apr. 20, 2023).

Washington University School of Law, *Harsh Creditor Remedies & the Role of the Redeemer* (Sept. 21, 2022).

Southeast Association of Law Schools, *Bankruptcy & the Benefit Corporation* (July 28, 2021).

National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, *The P's of Evidence: Proper Preparation, Presentation, Pitfalls, and Practice Pointers*, with Hon. Michael A. Fagone (Bankr. D. Me.), Nancy L. Manzer & Isley Markman Gostin (Oct. 31, 2019).

University of Texas at Austin, *Debtors' Prison*, Symposium Panel at the 2017 Conference of the *Tex. J. C.R.-C.L.*, "Misdemeanor Defendants and the 85th Legislative Session," with Hon. Edward Spillane III, Rep. James White & Trisha Trigilio (Jan. 27, 2017).

Harvard University, *The Political Economy of Modern Capitalism*, Respondent, with Thomas Piketty (March 6, 2015).

Harvard University, *The Role of Religion in Public Life*, Moderator, with Michael Sandel and Jean Bethke Elshtain (March 5, 2013).

MEDIA APPEARANCES

Randi Love, BLOOMBERG LAW, [*Giuliani's Legal Woes Extend Beyond Defamation Judgment*](#) (Feb. 21, 2024).

Shannon McCarthy & Emma Kiely-Hampson, THIS PODCAST DOESN'T EXIST, [*Team Tommy: The Ship of Gold, with Special Guest Chris*](#) (Feb. 2, 2024).

Zoey Thomas, THE ALLIGATOR, [*Florida Shut Down State Funding For Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. These UF Programs Could Be Affected*](#) (Jan. 29, 2024).

David Schultz, BLOOMBERG LAW, [*Giuliani, Alex Jones and the Pipeline Into Bankruptcy \(Podcast\)*](#) (Jan. 16, 2024).

James Nani, BLOOMBERG LAW, [*Giuliani Joins Alex Jones in Defamation-to-Bankruptcy Pipeline*](#) (Oct. 20, 2023).

Melissa MacDougall, NALP BULLETIN, [Increasing Student Participation in Rural Clerkships](#) (Dec. 2023).

Ben Schreckinger, POLITICO, [OpenAI and the Future of the Corporation](#) (Nov. 27, 2023).

Nichole Manna, THE JACKSONVILLE TRIBUTARY, [Former Duval Jail Medical Provider, Armor, Says It Can't Pay Millions in Debt](#) (Oct. 31, 2023).

James Nani, BLOOMBERG LAW, [Alex Jones Loses, Cardi B Wins on Flip Sides of Bankruptcy Law](#) (Oct. 20, 2023).

James Nani & Alex Wolf, BLOOMBERG LAW, [Top Texas Judge's Ethical Lapse Threatens Court's Reputation](#) (Oct. 16, 2023).

Sindhu Sundar, INSIDER, [Elon Musk Said He Has To "Save Twitter from Bankruptcy." Here's What Would Happen If It Filed for Chapter 11](#) (Feb 25, 2023).

Kalpna Jain, HARVARD DIVINITY SCHOOL, [Credit to His Faith](#) (Oct. 24, 2014).

Pooja Podugu, HARVARD CRIMSON, [Sandel Discusses Religion in Public Life](#) (Mar. 6, 2013).

AMICUS BRIEFS & OPEN LETTERS

Motion of Christopher D. Hampson and Lea Krivinskas Shepard for Leave to File Amicus Curiae Brief, *United States v. Thomas Thompson*, No. 2:15-cr-00081 (S.D. Ohio May 20, 2024) (supporting release of civil contemnor after eight years' imprisonment for refusal to turn over 500 gold coins from the wreck of the *S.S. Central America*).

Brief of Amicus Curiae The National Consumer Law Center In Support of Motion to Dismiss, *In re MV Realty PBC, LLC*, No. 23-17590 (Bankr. S.D. Fla. Apr. 10, 2024) (supporting dismissal of chapter 11 bankruptcy case when estate's main assets were unconscionable and illegal executory contracts).

Motion to Unseal Order of Release, *In re Maurice M.*, No. 88-704202 (Md. Cir. Ct. Baltimore Mar. 22, 2024) (petitioning to unseal order releasing Jacqueline Bouknight, who had been held for contempt of court for seven years pursuant to *Baltimore City Dep't of Soc. Servs. v. Bouknight*, 493 U.S. 549 (1990)).

Brief in Support of Appellees, *Aearo Technologies, LLC v. Those Parties Listed on Appendix A to the Complaint (In re Aearo Technologies, LLC)*, No. 22-2606 (7th Cir. Feb. 1, 2023) (opposing extension of bankruptcy's automatic stay to enjoin the *3M Combat Arms Earplug Products Liability* lawsuit, the largest mass tort case in American history to date).

Letter to Hon. Elizabeth Warren Regarding the Consumer Bankruptcy Reform Act of 2022 (Sept. 28, 2022) (supporting comprehensive reform of the consumer bankruptcy system, including a single-chapter approach).

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP | Boston, MA

2017–2022

Senior Associate (2020–2022) & *Associate* (2017–2020)

Engaged in fast-paced and dynamic bankruptcy practice, combining litigation with transactional work. Managed a bilingual team in a \$1.6-billion securities litigation. Represented medium-sized debtor in chapter 11 case. Defended complex preference and fraudulent transfer actions in *Toys "R" Us*, *Sears*, and *Puerto Rico*. Litigated bankruptcy jurisdictional and procedural issues. Managed complex discovery processes. Championed active pro bono practice including eviction defense, asylum cases, and citizenship applications.

Professor Richard H. Fallon, Jr. | Cambridge, MA Fall 2015
Teaching Fellow
Taught two sections of undergraduate constitutional law. Prepared lesson plans and taught weekly small groups, held office hours, coordinated joint teaching with a colleague, and graded two sets of papers and exams.

White & Case, LLP | Miami, FL & Mexico City, MX Summer 2015
Summer Associate
Conducted legal research and editing across a variety of practice groups, including financial restructuring & insolvency, disputes, and project finance. Reviewed and translated Spanish-language legal documents.

Professor John Witte Jr. | Atlanta, Ga Summer 2014
Research Assistant
Conducted legal and interdisciplinary research for book project on the functions of law, including the expressive function of law, behavioral law and economics, and alternative sanctions.

PRIOR WORK EXPERIENCE

The Veritas Forum | Cambridge, MA 2010–2012
Northeast Regional Director, Director of Content Development
Independent Researcher (Summer 2013)
Directed academic dialogue events at over a dozen elite universities. Researched content in law, psychology, religion, economics, and business.

AmeriCorps | Boston, MA 2009–2010
Helped run an After School Program serving a diverse body of 246 students.
Coordinated 35 volunteers (over 1200 volunteer hours).

TEACHING

University of Florida Levin College of Law

Courses

Bankruptcy (Fall 2022, Fall 2023)
Contracts (Spring 2023, Spring 2024)
Law, Religion & Ethics of Debt (Fall 2023)

Independent Studies

Aristotelian Ethics & Natural Law on Student Debt (Fall 2023)
Preferred Stocks and Liquidation Preferences in Startups (Summer 2023)

Student Notes (Selected)

Sarah Jones, *How Abstention and Venue Transfer Can Ameliorate Bankruptcy's Forum-Shopping Crisis*, FLA. L. REV. (forthcoming 2024).

SERVICE

University of Florida Levin College of Law

Clerkship Committee, *Member* (2022–present) & *Chair* (2023–present)
Junior Faculty Writing Workshop, *Co-Facilitator* (2023–present)
New York City Bar National Moot Court Benchling Session, *Practice Judge* (2022)
UF Law Final Four Moot Court Benchling Session, *Practice Judge* (2023)
Thomas Tang Moot Court Benchling Session, *Practice Judge* (2023)
1L Final Oral Arguments, *Judge* (2024)
Brown Admiralty Competition, *Practice Judge* (2024)

American Bar Association

Regional Client Counseling Competition, hosted by Boston College, *Judge* (2024)

Regional Client Counseling Competition, hosted by University of North Carolina, *Judge* (2024)

AWARDS & HONORS

National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, 13th Annual Next Generation (“NextGen”)	2022
<i>Boston Magazine’s</i> Inaugural Top Lawyers List	2021
<i>The Supreme Court’s 2014 Term</i> , taught by Justice Elena Kagan at HLS (by application only)	2015
Harvey Fellowship	2013

BAR ADMISSIONS

Commonwealth of Massachusetts	2017
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COURT ADMISSIONS

U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts	2019
U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Massachusetts	2019
U.S. Bankruptcy Appellate Panel for the First Circuit	2019
U.S. Bankruptcy Appellate Panel for the Ninth Circuit	2019
U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit	2023
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit	2018
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit	2019
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit	2024

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Bar Association (Member)

American Bankruptcy Institute (Member)

Boston Bar Association (Member)

WORKING LANGUAGES

Spanish (fluent)

French (academic reading)

German (academic reading)

Ancient Greek (academic reading)

Last updated June 1, 2024