

JOHN F. STINNEFORD
Professor of Law and Edward Rood Eminent Scholar Chair
Senior Fellow, Hamilton Center for Classical and Civic Education
University of Florida Levin College of Law
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

University of Florida, Levin College of Law, Gainesville, Florida

Professor of Law, 2015-present (Associate Professor of Law, 2012-2015; Assistant Professor of Law, 2009-12)

Edward Rood Eminent Scholar Chair, 2020-present

University Term Professor, 2017-2019

Director, Constitutional Interpretation Initiative, Program in Law and Government, 2025-present

Director, Masters in the Study of Law Program, 2024-25

Courses taught: Constitutional Law; Criminal Law; Criminal Procedure – Police Practices; Federal Criminal Law; International Financial Crime Regulation; Law and Literature Seminar; Professional Responsibility; White Collar Crime

Committee Service: Faculty Council (elected by law faculty) (chair 2026-27); Strategic Planning/Distance Learning/MSL Committee (chair 2024-25); Promotion & Tenure Committee (Chair 2020-21); Clerkship Committee (chair 2018-19); Faculty Appointments Committee (chair 2017-18); Faculty Development Committee; Curriculum Committee; Distance Education Committee

University of Florida, Hamilton Center for Classical and Civic Education, Gainesville, Florida

Founding Director, 2022-23

- Wrote proposal to create a new civics-focused academic unit at the University of Florida.
- Hired the first nine tenured or tenure-track faculty, as well as several lecturers, postdoctoral fellows, and staff;
- Worked with colleagues to design the initial curriculum and move our courses through the university approval process;
- Held public events focusing on history, philosophy, politics, literature, and civil discourse;
- Secured university approval for the historic Infirmary as a long-term home for the Hamilton Center;
- Wrote the initial budget for the Center, which formed the basis for the University's successful request to the legislature for \$40 million to renovate the Infirmary and \$10 million per year to support the hiring of over 50 faculty members;
- Met with legislators, elected officials, and staffers on behalf of the university to explain the mission of the Hamilton Center and establish good will;
- Raised two million dollars from private donors.

Visiting Scholar, Georgetown University Law Center, Center for the Constitution, Washington, D.C., Fall 2015

Associate Professor of Law, Florida Coastal School of Law, Jacksonville, Florida, 2008-2009.
Assistant Professor of Law, 2007-2008

Visiting Assistant Professor of Law, University of St. Thomas School of Law, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 2005-2007

Assistant Professor of Lawyering Skills, University of Dayton School of Law, Dayton, Ohio, 2003-2005

Assistant Director, Institute for Justice Clinic on Entrepreneurship, University of Chicago Law School, Chicago, Illinois, 2000-2002

PUBLIC SERVICE

Member, Florida Supreme Court Work Group on Alternatives to ABA Accreditation, 2025 (appointed by Chief Justice) (tasked with evaluating alternatives to requiring graduation from an ABA accredited law school as a condition for taking the Florida Bar Examination).

Member, Florida Criminal Punishment Code Task Force, 2019-2020 (gubernatorial appointment) (tasked with reviewing, evaluating, and making recommendations regarding sentencing for and ranking of noncapital felony offenses under the Florida Criminal Punishment Code)

OTHER EMPLOYMENT

Assistant United States Attorney, Office of the United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, Chicago, Illinois, 2002-2003

Associate, Winston & Strawn, Chicago, Illinois, 1997-2000. Summer Associate, 1994

Law Clerk, Judge James B. Moran, United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, 1996-1997

Summer Associate, Sidley & Austin, Chicago, Illinois, 1995

LAW REVIEW ARTICLES

The Common Law and the Constitution, 54 Pepp. L. Rev. 1 (forthcoming 2026) (lead article)

Is Solitary Confinement a Punishment?, 115 Nw. U. L. Rev. 9 (2020)

Experimental Punishments, 95 Notre Dame L. Rev. 39 (2019)

The Original Meaning of 'Cruel', 105 Geo. L.J. 441 (2017)

Dividing Crime, Multiplying Punishments, 48 U.C. Davis L. Rev. 1955 (2015)

Death, Desuetude, and Original Meaning, 56 Wm. & Mary L. Rev. 531 (2014)

The “Not a Search” Game, 38 Harv. J.L. & Pub. Pol’y 17 (2014) (invited)

The Illusory Eighth Amendment, 63 Am.U. L. Rev. 437 (2013)

Youth Matters: Miller v. Alabama and the Future of Juvenile Sentencing, 11 Ohio St. J. Crim. L. 1 (2013) (invited)

Punishment without Culpability, 101 J. Crim. L. & Criminology 653 (2012) (invited)

Rethinking Proportionality under the Cruel and Unusual Punishments Clause, 97 Va. L. Rev. 899 (2011)

Evolving Away from Evolving Standards of Decency, 23 Fed. Sent. Rep. 87 (2010) (invited)

The Original Meaning of ‘Unusual’: The Eighth Amendment as a Bar to Cruel Innovation, 102 Nw. U. L. Rev. 1739 (2008)

Incapacitation through Maiming: Chemical Castration, the Eighth Amendment, and the Denial of Human Dignity, 3 U. St. Thomas L.J. 559 (2006) (invited)

Subsidiarity, Federalism, and Federal Prosecution of Street Crime, 2 J. Cath. Soc. Thought 495 (2005) (symposium) (peer-reviewed)

BOOK CHAPTERS

Back to the Future of the Eighth Amendment, in *The Eighth Amendment and its Future in a New Age of Punishment* (Cambridge University Press 2020).

Law like Love like Language: The Christian Uses of Property Crime, in *Christianity and the Criminal Law* (Routledge 2020).

EDUCATION

Harvard Law School, Cambridge, Massachusetts
J.D., *cum laude*, June 1996

- Best Oralist, Semifinal Round, *Ames Moot Court Competition*

Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Cambridge, Massachusetts (Ph.D. program)
M.A. in English and American Literature and Language, June 1992

- *Mellon Fellowship in the Humanities*, 1990-1992. National award covered the cost of tuition and living expenses for first two years of graduate school.

University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia
B.A. in English Literature *with Highest Distinction*, May 1990

- *Echols Scholar* (awarded to the top 8.5% of the entering class)
- *Dean's List* (every semester)

AWARDS AND HONORS

- Winner, Association of American Law Schools Criminal Justice Section Junior Scholars Call for Papers Competition for *Rethinking Proportionality under the Cruel and Unusual Punishments Clause*, 97 Va. L. Rev. 899 (2011)
- Selectee, Best Article on Constitutional History, Stanford/Yale Junior Faculty Forum for *The Original Meaning of 'Unusual': The Eighth Amendment as a Bar to Cruel Innovation*, 102 Nw. U. L. Rev. 1739 (2008)
- Winner, Southeastern Association of Law Schools Call for Papers competition for *The Original Meaning of 'Unusual': The Eighth Amendment as a Bar to Cruel Innovation*, 102 Nw. U. L. Rev. 1739 (2008)
- Finalist, Professor of the Year (chosen by vote of law school student body) (2010, 2011)
- Faculty Graduation Speaker (chosen by vote of graduating class) (2011, 2014, 2015)

LECTURES, PRESENTATIONS AND SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES

The Ohio State University, Drug Enforcement and Policy Center and Salmon P. Chase Center for Civics, Governance, and Society (co-sponsors), Originalism and Criminal Justice Symposium, *Originalism and Punishment Practices* (panelist) (September 10-11, 2026)

American Association of Law Schools Annual Meeting, *Bounding the Modes of Punishment* (panelist) (panel organized by Judith Resnik) (January 6, 2026).

Georgetown Center for the Constitution, Originalism Summer Seminar, *Filing Amicus Briefs* (May 22, 2025)

Georgetown Center for the Constitution, Twelfth Annual Salmon P. Chase Colloquium, *The Enforceability of Natural Law and Natural Rights* (January 31, 2025)

University of Florida Levin College of Law Inaugural Originalism Conference—Originalism: The What, Why, and How?, *How is One and Originalist?* (panel moderator) (October 24-25, 2024)

Georgia State University College of Law, Prison Law & Advocacy Conference, *Increased Doctrinal Challenges under the 8th Amendment* (panelist) (October 19, 2024)

Cato Institute, 24th Annual Constitution Day Conference, presented *Law, Politics, and the Eighth Amendment* (September 17, 2024).

Arizona State University, School of Civic and Economic Thought and Leadership, *Where do we go from here? The Case for Liberal Education on Campus, the Truly Free Exchange of Ideas, and Academic Freedom* (panel member) (February 25, 2023).

Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law, *The Influence of the Catholic Legal Tradition on the Common Law* (November 17, 2022) (with Samuel Bray).

Lumen Christi Institute, University of Chicago, Symposium: *Cruel But Usual: Solitary Confinement's Tortured History* (September 30, 2021). Panel member.

Georgetown University Law Center, American Criminal Law Review / National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers Symposium: Prison Brake: Rethinking the Sentencing Status Quo, Washington D.C. (via Zoom) (October 20, 2020). Presented *Lenity and Constitutional Avoidance at Sentencing*.

Defense Research Institute, Retail and Hospitality Law Virtual Seminar (September 25, 2020). Presented *Are NDAs and Confidentiality Agreements Appropriate in the #MeToo Era?*.

Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law, Law Review Symposium: Rethinking Solitary Confinement, Chicago, IL (November 8, 2019). Presented *Is Solitary Confinement a Punishment?*.

George Mason University, Antonin Scalia Law School, Faculty Workshop, Washington, D.C. (April 9, 2019). Presented *Experimental Punishments*.

Notre Dame Law School, Faculty Workshop, South Bend, Indiana (February 28, 2019). Presented *Experimental Punishments*.

Annual Conference of the Southeastern Association of Law Schools, Amelia Island, Florida (August 8, 2018). Presented *Back to the Future of the Eighth Amendment* as part of a Discussion Group on “The Modern Eighth Amendment.”

National Conference of Constitutional Law Scholars, James E. Rogers College of Law, University of Arizona (March 16-17, 2018). Presented draft article *Experimental Punishments*.

University of Michigan Law School, Roundtable on the Law, Practice, and Policy of Incarceration (March 10-11, 2017). Presented draft article *Experimental Punishments*.

U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida, Staff Attorney Conference (November 17, 2016). Gave talk entitled *Recent Developments in Federal Criminal Law*.

University of Chicago Law School, Constitutional Law Workshop, Chicago, IL (September 26, 2016). To present draft article *The Original Meaning of “Cruel.”*

University of Miami School of Law, Constitution Day (September 15, 2016). Participated in debate on the question: *Is the Constitution Living or Dead?*

University of Florida Levin College of Law, Gainesville, FL (April 13, 2016). Presented draft article *The Original Meaning of “Cruel.”*

University of San Diego School of Law, Center for the Study of Constitutional Originalism, Hugh & Hazel Darling Foundation Originalism Works-in-Progress Conference (February 19-20, 2016). Presented draft article *The Original Meaning of “Cruel.”* Article selected in competitive submission process. Other selected authors include William Baude, Jamal Greene, Kurt Lash, John McGinnis, Jeffrey Pojanowski, Michael Rappaport, Stephen Sachs, Larry Solum, and Kevin Walsh.

Criminal Law Theory Colloquium, NYU School of Law and Brooklyn Law School, New York, NY (November 20, 2015). Presented draft article *The Original Meaning of “Cruel.”*

Catholic University of America – Columbus School of Law, Faculty Workshop, Washington, D.C. (October 21, 2015). Presented draft article *The Original Meaning of “Cruel.”*

Constitutional Law Colloquium, Georgetown Law Center, Washington, D.C. (September 21, 2015). Presented draft article *The Original Meaning of “Cruel.”*

Originalism Center Lecture, University of San Diego School of Law, San Diego, California (March 23, 2015). Presented research concerning the original meaning of the Cruel and Unusual Punishments Clause.

Annual Conference of the Southeastern Association of Law Schools, Amelia Island, Florida (August 4, 2014). Presented *Dividing Crime, Multiplying Punishments* as part of a Discussion Group on the topic of “Mercy” in the Criminal Law.

Vanderbilt Law School, Faculty Workshop, Nashville, Tennessee (April 9, 2014). Presented *Death, Desuetude, and Original Meaning*.

Federalist Society National Student Symposium, University of Florida Levin College of Law, Gainesville, Florida (March 7, 2014). Participated in panel entitled *Balancing Privacy and Security*.

University of Georgia School of Law, Faculty Workshop, Athens, Georgia (February 26, 2014). Presented *Death, Desuetude, and Original Meaning*.

Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law Criminal Justice Colloquium (January 23, 2014). Presented *Death, Desuetude, and Original Meaning*.

University of Pennsylvania Law School, Faculty Workshop (December 4, 2013). Presented *Death, Desuetude, and Original Meaning*.

Guest Editor, Ohio State Journal of Criminal Law, *Symposium – Youth Matters: Miller v. Alabama and the Future of Juvenile Sentencing* (2013)

University of Florida Levin College of Law, Faculty Workshop (October 23, 2013). Presented *Death, Desuetude, and Original Meaning*

University of Florida Criminal Justice Center Junior Scholar's Conference (March 21-22, 2013). Presented *Miranda and the Eighth Amendment: Implementation and Illusion in Constitutional Adjudication*, and provided comments on seven other papers.

Conversation with Justice Stevens, University of Florida Levin College of Law (February 5, 2013). Engaged in a public "conversation" with retired Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens and two other faculty members.

"Overcriminalization" Symposium, Journal Of Criminal Law & Criminology, Northwestern University Law School, Chicago, Illinois (January 27, 2012). Presented *Punishment without Culpability*.

Annual Conference of the Southeastern Association of Law Schools, Hilton Head, South Carolina (July 26, 2011). Presented *Punishment without Culpability* as part of a panel entitled *Cruel and Unusual? Exploring the Interpretation and Application of the Eighth Amendment*.

Southeast Regional Junior Faculty Working Papers Conference, University of Florida Levin College of Law, Gainesville, Florida (December 4, 2010). Presented *Rethinking Proportionality under the Cruel and Unusual Punishments Clause*.

Florida State University College of Law, Faculty Workshop, Tallahassee, Florida (March 3, 2010). Presented *Rethinking Proportionality under the Cruel and Unusual Punishments Clause*.

Annual Conference of the Southeastern Association of Law Schools, Palm Beach, Florida (August 6, 2009). Served as moderator of the New Scholars Colloquium on Criminal Law.

Annual Conference of the Southeastern Association of Law Schools, Palm Beach, Florida (August 1, 2008). Presented *The Original Meaning of 'Unusual': The Eighth Amendment as a Bar to Cruel Innovation*. Article was a winner of the annual Call for Papers Competition.

Stanford/Yale Junior Faculty Forum, Yale Law School, New Haven, Connecticut (June 20, 2008). Presented *The Original Meaning of 'Unusual': The Eighth Amendment as a Bar to Cruel Innovation*.

Seaborn College Visitor, University of Cincinnati College of Law, Cincinnati, Ohio (April 10, 2008). Presented *The Original Meaning of 'Unusual': The Eighth Amendment as a Bar to Cruel Innovation* to students and faculty of the law school.

Annual Conference, Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana (December 2006). Presented *Criminal Punishment in America: Modernity's Role in Vindicating and Undermining Human Dignity*.

Symposium on Exploring Alternatives to the Incarceration Crisis, University of St. Thomas School of Law, Minneapolis, Minnesota (March 2006). Presented *Chemical Castration, the Eighth Amendment, and the Denial of Human Dignity*.

Faculty Colloquium, University of St. Thomas School of Law, Minneapolis, Minnesota (January 2006), *Chemical Castration and the Denial of Human Dignity*.

Villanova University Conference on Catholic Social Thought and the Law, Villanova University School of Law, Villanova, PA (October 2004). Presented *The Principle of Subsidiarity and the Federalization of Street Crime*.