

2026 Originalism Conference “Courts and the Academy”

Hosted by



Thursday, March 5

2:30 - 4:45 PM

209 MARTIN LEVIN ADVOCACY CENTER

Junior Scholar Presentations and Discussions

Presenters:

- Newby Parton, Law Clerk, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit
- Professor Tyler Lindley, Brigham Young University Law School

Discussants:

- Professor Josh Blackman, South Texas College of Law Houston
- Professor Gary Lawson, UF Levin College of Law
- Professor Tara L. Grove, University of Texas School of Law
- Professor Ben Johnson, UF Levin College of Law

5:00 - 6:00 PM

209 MARTIN LEVIN ADVOCACY CENTER

Teaching Originalism Roundtable Discussion

Moderator: Interim Dean Merritt McAlister, UF Levin College of Law

- Judge Kathryn Mizelle, U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida
- Professor Adam Lebovitz, UF Hamilton School
- Professor Benjamin Johnson, UF Levin College of Law
- Professor Josh Blackman, South Texas College of Law

6:15 - 7:00 PM

BAILEY EVENT SPACE

Cocktail reception

7:00 - 8:30 PM

BAILEY EVENT SPACE

Seated dinner

Friday, March 6

8:00 - 8:45 AM

LEVIN ADVOCACY CENTER FOYER

Continental breakfast

9:00 - 10:30 AM

106 MARTIN LEVIN ADVOCACY CENTER

Panel I – Institutional Division of Labor: Can Legal Scholars Help Courts Be Better Originalists?

Courts are not institutionally equipped to perform the historical and linguistic research necessary to decide many of these cases. This panel will consider the extent of the problem, and how the legal academy might bridge this gap.

Moderator: Professor John Stinneford, UF Levin College of Law

- Professor Randy E. Barnett, Georgetown University Law Center
- Chief Justice Carlos G. Muñiz, Florida Supreme Court
- Professor Michael Wolf, UF Levin College of Law

10:45 AM - 12:15 PM

106 MARTIN LEVIN ADVOCACY CENTER

Panel II – Originalism and State Constitutions: Special Challenges and Opportunities

Most discussion regarding originalism focusses on interpreting the U.S. Constitution. This panel will focus on originalism as a method of interpreting state constitutions with special attention to how state constitutions are different.

Moderator: Professor Jonathan Marshfield, UF Levin College of Law

- Justice John D. Couriel, Florida Supreme Court
- Professor Marcus Gadson, University of North Carolina School of Law
- Chief Judge Jeffrey S. Sutton [virtually], U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit

12:15 - 1:15 PM

BAILEY EVENT SPACE

Luncheon

1:30 - 3:00 PM

106 MARTIN LEVIN ADVOCACY CENTER

Panel III – SCOTUS: End of Term Preview

As the Supreme Court's 2025–26 term nears its end, this panel will examine the major cases to be decided by late June, their issues, possible outcomes, originalism's role (if any), and their future implications.

Moderator: Interim Dean Merritt McAlister, UF Levin College of Law

- Professor Aditya Bamzai, University of Virginia School of Law
- Professor Tara Grove, University of Texas School of Law
- Professor Jed Shugerman, Boston University School of Law
- Professor Gary Lawson, UF Levin College of Law

For more information, visit <https://law.ufl.edu/about/events-and-workshops/2026-originalism-conference/>.