

JESSE JAMES

College of Law, Florida State University
Main Classroom Building Room 326A
425 W. Jefferson St.
Tallahassee, FL 32306

Office: +1 850 xxx xxxx
jjames@law.fsu.edu
jj2725@columbia.edu

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

2026–present Visiting Assistant Professor, College of Law, Florida State University,
Tallahassee, FL
Fellow, FSU Institute for Governance and Civics
2025–2026 Visiting Assistant Professor of Classics, Grinnell College, Grinnell, IA

POSTDOCTORAL APPOINTMENTS

2024–2025 Senior Associate Member, American School of Classical Studies at
Athens, Greece
2023–2024 Fellow, Columbia University Institute for Ideas and Imagination
Paris, France
2022–2023 Raoul Berger-Mark DeWolfe Howe Legal History Fellow
Harvard Law School, Cambridge, MA

EDUCATION

2022 Ph.D. in Classics, Columbia University, New York, NY
Dissertation: *Greek International Law: Networks, Socialization, and Compliance*, supervised by John Ma
Committee: Roger Bagnall, Adriaan Lanni, Marcus Folch, Alain Bresson
2021–22 Regular Member, American School of Classical Studies at Athens

Prior degrees: M.Phil. and M.A. in Classics, Columbia University
J.D., University of California, Berkeley, School of Law
Certificate in International Law; member, *California Law Review*
Research assistant to Professor Pamela Samuelson
M.A. in Classics, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA
Thesis: “The Sincere Response Requirement in Plato”
Committee: David Kovacs, Jenny Strauss Clay, Daniel Devereux
B.A. in Classics, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

PUBLICATIONS

Monograph

2026 *Laws of All the Greeks: International Law as Social Reality in Ancient Greece* (Oxford University Press)

Journal articles and book chapters:

Under review “Witness Competency and the Roots of Adversarial Lawyering”
Forthcoming “Contextualizing Institutions: Social and Ethical Aspects of *Symbola* Agreements,” in *Law, Institutions and Economic Performance in Classical Antiquity*, edited by M. Leese and C. Bartlett, University of Michigan Press (forthcoming)

2026	“ <i>Pragmata</i> and the Unity of Greek Law in Hermias’s Reconciliation at Airai,” <i>Chiron</i> 56:29–54
2024	“Indicting the Athenians in the Melian Dialogue,” <i>Journal of Hellenic Studies</i> 144:164–81
2023	“Repunctuating Athenian Imperialism in the Phaselis Decree,” <i>Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik</i> 225:133–41
<i>in progress</i>	“Greek Foreign Judges and the Ideology of Dispute Resolution” (re-interpreting the Greek practice of summoning foreign judges to resolve domestic disputes)

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND HONORS

2026–2029	Fellowship, The Phyle Project, a research initiative led by Josiah Ober and funded by the Balzan Prize
2026	Grinnell College Faculty Supplemental Research Grant
2025	Stanwood Cockey Lodge Fund Publication Assistance Grant
2023–2024	Fellowship, Center for Hellenic Studies, Washington, DC (declined)
2023	Henkel-Jacobi Stipendium, Kommission für Alte Geschichte und Epigraphik, Deutsches Archäologisches Institut, Munich, Germany
2021–2022	Lucy Shoe Meritt Fellowship, American School of Classical Studies at Athens
2020–2021	Louis A. Parks Graduate Fellowship in Classics, Columbia University
2020–2021	Preceptorship in the Core Curriculum, Columbia University

Prior awards, fellowships, and honors:

Commager Fellowship for Summer Research, Department of Classics, Columbia University
 Summer Research Fellowship, Center for the Ancient Mediterranean, Columbia University
 Bradley Foundation Fellowship
 Dean’s Diversity Fellowship, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Columbia University
Pro Bono Publico Award, The Legal Aid Society, New York
 Distinguished Service Award, *California Law Review*
 Advocacy Award, U.C. Berkeley School of Law
 Presidential Fellowship, University of Virginia
 Mellon Fellowship in Humanistic Studies, Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation
 Adler Prize for Excellence in Classical Studies, Cornell University

INVITED TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS

September 2026	“Foreign Judges and the Resilience of Greek Democracy,” University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH
December 2025	“Witness Competency and the Roots of Adversarial Lawyering,” University of Detroit Mercy School of Law, Detroit, MI
November 2025	“Witness Competency and the Roots of Adversarial Lawyering,” St. Mary’s University School of Law, San Antonio, TX

May 2024	“A Bias for Foreign Judges in Greek Cities,” Oxford Epigraphy Workshop, Oxford University, Oxford, UK
March 2024	“ATH – JFK: Greek Rhetoric in American Courts,” COR/ISHR Virtual Get Togethers 4.0, Centre for Oratory and Rhetoric at Royal Holloway, University of London
October 2023	“Ancient Greek Democracy,” guest lecture to Greek Civilization class, Kenyon College, Gambier, OH
June 2023	“ <i>Syla</i> in Greek International Law and Commerce,” Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Werkstattseminar: Antike Rechtsgeschichte und Römisches Recht, Munich, Germany
May 2023	“The Laws of All the Greeks: International Law as Social Reality,” University of Zurich, Historisches Seminar, Alte Geschichte, Zurich, Switzerland
September 2022	“A Sociology of Private International Lawsuits in Ancient Greece,” Midwestern Ancient Greek Legal History and Political Theory Conference, Harvard Law School, Cambridge, MA

OTHER TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS

November 2026	“Foreign Judges and the Resilience of Greek Democracy,” Stanford University, Stanford, CA
October 2025	“ <i>Trump v. N.Y. Times</i> : Defamation and Your Case for Law School,” Grinnell College, Grinnell, IA
February 2024	“Courtroom Persuasion <i>à la grecque</i> ,” Columbia University Institute for Ideas and Imagination, Paris, France (viewable at: https://youtu.be/96HZ1gnEuuk?si=v6FmYQPSfJYCVrlz)
August 2023	“Material Bias in Greek Law,” Société Internationale Fernand de Visscher pour l’Histoire des Droits de l’Antiquité annual meeting, Helsinki, Finland
July 2023	“Helping Yourself in Trading Places: <i>Syla</i> in Greek International Commerce,” Ancient Law: Outside the Norms, University of Edinburgh Centre of Legal History, Edinburgh, Scotland
April 2023	“Greek International Law,” Kommission für Alte Geschichte und Epigraphik, Munich, Germany
November 2022	“A Sociology of Private International Lawsuits in Ancient Greece,” American Society for Legal History annual meeting, Chicago, IL
October 2020	“Statues, Monuments and Cities: Ancient and Modern,” Columbia University Classics Colloquium, New York, NY (moderator)
January 2020	“Socialized Compliance with Greek International Law,” Society for Classical Studies annual meeting, Washington, DC
June 2019	“Social and Ethical Aspects of Greek International Economic Law,” Celtic Conference in Classics, Coimbra, Portugal
November 2018	Response to Matthew Simonton, “Classical Greek Oligarchy,” Classical Dialogues series, Columbia University, New York, NY

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Grinnell College

Fall 2025	History of Ancient Greece
Fall 2025	Intermediate Latin: Cicero

Spring 2026	Ancient Greek Law and Society
Spring 2026	Greek Archaeology and Art
Spring 2026	Senior Seminar for Classics Majors

Columbia University

Fall 2020 and Spring 2021	Contemporary Civilization, Core Curriculum: year-long survey of foundational texts in philosophy and political theory
Spring 2019	Intensive Elementary Greek
Fall 2018	Intermediate Latin 2: Sallust's <i>Catiline</i> and Ovid's <i>Metamorphoses</i>
Spring 2018	Intensive Elementary Latin
Fall 2017	Intermediate Greek 1: Plato's <i>Crito</i>
Spring 2017	Intensive Elementary Latin (Teaching Assistant)
Fall 2016	Greek Mythology (Teaching Assistant)

Prior teaching experience:

U.C. Berkeley School of Law

Torts (Teaching Assistant)

University of Virginia

Greek Mythology
Intermediate Latin: Catullus and Cicero
Greek Mythology (Teaching Assistant)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EXPERIENCE

June 2022	Trench supervisor, American School of Classical Studies excavation at Corinth, Greece
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SERVICE

2025–2026	Regular informal advising of Grinnell students and recent alumni regarding law school and legal careers
2022	Co-organizer (with Adriaan Lanni) of panel “Individual, Community, and Law in Ancient Greece,” American Society for Legal History Annual Conference, Chicago
2020–2021	Pre-publication reviewer for <i>European Journal of International Law</i> .
2019–2020	Co-organizer (with Marcus Folch and John Ma) of “War and Peace in the Ancient Mediterranean and Near East,” a two-day conference funded by the Columbia University Humanities War and Peace Initiative. <i>Originally scheduled to take place in April 2020—currently postponed.</i>
2017–2019	Co-organizer of Columbia Classics Colloquium speaker series.
2011–2014	Performed approximately 100 hours per year of <i>pro bono</i> legal services for low income and nonprofit clients
2007–2008	1L student body representative in law school student government

RELATED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

4 years	Hughes Hubbard & Reed, New York, NY Litigation attorney with focus in domestic and international securities, professional liability, white collar, and commercial disputes.
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1 year Provided approximately 100 hours per year of *pro bono* legal services to low-income and nonprofit clients.
George Washington Middle School, Alexandria, VA
Latin teacher for sixth, seventh, and eighth grades in public middle school.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Society for Classical Studies
American Society for Legal History
Association of Ancient Historians
American Society of Papyrologists
American Society of Greek and Latin Epigraphy
American Society for Political and Legal Philosophy
New York City Bar Association

Actively licensed to practice law in New York State. Admitted to the United States District Courts for the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York.

LANGUAGES: Reading competence in Ancient Greek, Latin, French, German, Italian.
Learning modern Greek.

Last updated: 24 July 2026