

WILLIAM J. MAGNUSON

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Texas A&M University School of Law

Professor of Law, 2016-present

Harvard Law School

Climenko Fellow and Lecturer on Law, 2011-13

EDUCATION

Harvard Law School

J.D., *magna cum laude*, 2009

Harvard International Law Journal, Editor-in-Chief

Università di Padova

M.A., *Integrazione europea*, 2007

Princeton University

A.B., *magna cum laude*, School of Public and International Affairs, 2004

BOOKS

THE JUST AND THE GOOD: HOW LAW MADE THE WESTERN WORLD (Georgetown University Press, forthcoming 2026)

MERGERS AND ACQUISITIONS (Aspen, forthcoming 2026)

FOR PROFIT: A HISTORY OF CORPORATIONS (Basic Books, 2022)

BLOCKCHAIN DEMOCRACY: TECHNOLOGY, LAW AND THE RULE OF THE CROWD (Cambridge University Press, 2020)

ARTICLES

Artificially Intelligent Markets, 16 HARV. BUS. L. REV. (forthcoming 2026)

Private Equity, Public Capital, and Litigation Risk, 105 N.C. L. REV. (forthcoming 2026) (with Ludovic Phalippou)

The Lost Origins of Antitrust, 51 J. CORP. L. 635 (2026)

Original Discontent, 78 VAND. L. REV. 217 (2025)

The Failure of Market Efficiency, 48 B.Y.U. L. REV. 827 (2023)

A Unified Theory of Data, 58 HARV. J. ON LEGIS. 23 (2021)

Data Autonomy, 74 VAND. L. REV. 327 (2021) (with Cesare Fracassi)

Artificial Financial Intelligence, 10 HARV. BUS. L. REV. 337 (2020)

The Race to the Middle, 95 NOTRE DAME L. REV. 1183 (2020)

Financial Regulation in the Bitcoin Era, 23 STAN. J. L. BUS. & FIN. 159 (2018)

Regulating Fintech, 71 VAND. L. REV. 1167 (2018)

The Public Cost of Private Equity, 102 MINN. L. REV. 1847 (2018)

Unilateral Corporate Regulation, 17 CHI. J. INT'L L. 521 (2017)

International Corporate Bribery and Unilateral Enforcement, 51 COLUM. J. TRANSNAT'L L. 360 (2013)

The Domestic Politics of International Extradition, 52 VA. J. INT'L L. 839 (2012)

WTO Jurisprudence and Its Critiques: The Appellate Body's Anti-Constitutional Resistance, 51 HARV. INT'L L. J. ONLINE 121 (2010)

The Responsibility to Protect and the Decline of Sovereignty: Free Speech Protection Under International Law, 43 VANDERBILT J. TRANSNAT'L L. 255 (2010)

Takeover Regulation in the United States and Europe: An Institutional Approach, 21 PACE INT'L L. REV. 205 (2009)

POPULAR PUBLICATIONS AND PRESS

[*Private Equity May Regret Inviting in Mom and Dad*](#), Financial Times, December 9, 2025

[*What Ancient Athens Can Teach Modern America About Law and Democracy*](#), Financial Times, February 3, 2024

[*The Best Defense Against the Energy Weapon: Big Oil*](#), Wall Street Journal, October 4, 2022

[*Cracking the Code of Crypto*](#), The Hill, October 2, 2021

[*The Modern Day Trustbusters Have Facebook in Their Sights*](#), Financial Times, December 18, 2020

[*The 2020 New Deal Means Building Internet Access for All Americans*](#), Esquire, June 18, 2020

[*Why We Should Be Worried About Artificial Intelligence on Wall Street*](#), Los Angeles Times, November 1, 2019

[*How Should Financial Regulators Handle the Bitcoin Era?*](#), Harvard Law School Forum on Corporate Governance and Financial Regulation, April 19, 2018

[*The Next Crisis Will Start in Silicon Valley*](#), Bloomberg, September 18, 2017

[*How Should We Regulate Fintech?*](#), Harvard Law School Forum on Corporate Governance and Financial Regulation, September 13, 2017

[*The Public Cost of Private Equity*](#), The CLS Blue Sky Blog, May 11, 2017

[*Is Brexit the Beginning of the End for International Cooperation?*](#), The Conversation, March 29, 2017, *reprinted as The New World Order: Every Country for Itself*, Time, April 2, 2017

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Graves, Dougherty, Hearon & Moody, P.C., Austin, TX
Corporate Associate, 2015-2016

Sullivan & Cromwell, LLP, New York
Corporate Associate, 2010-11, 2013-2015

Law Clerk to the Honorable Priscilla Richman, Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, Austin, Texas
Law Clerk, 2009-10

The Washington Post, Rome, Italy
News Assistant, 2005

Associated Press, Rome, Italy
News Assistant, 2004-2005

BAR ADMISSIONS

New York, 2010; Texas, 2015