JUSTIN SEVIER

Charles W. Ehrhardt Professor of Litigation · Florida State University College of Law

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Florida State University College of Law 2015 – present
Charles W. Ehrhardt Professor of Litigation 2017 – present
Professor 2025 – present
Associate Professor (with tenure) 2020 – 2025
Assistant Professor 2015 – 2020

Yale Law School 2012 – 2015
Associate Research Scholar

University of Illinois College of Law 2010 – 2012
Visiting Assistant Professor

EDUCATION

Yale University · *M.S. and M.Phil., Psychology* 2014
Advisor: Tom R. Tyler · Concentration: Social psychology and law

Harvard Law School · *J.D.* 2006
Magna cum laude honors (top 10%) · First-year coursework at Cornell Law School (Law Review member)

Cornell University · *B.A., Psychology* 2003
Distinction honors (GPA: 4.0/4.0) · Phi Beta Kappa member

PUBLICATIONS

The Authentication Illusion: Synthetic Evidence & The Limits of Human Judgment
42 BERKELEY TECHNOLOGY LAW JOURNAL __ (forthcoming 2027)
– Co-authored article with Henry Wang & Gino Cerrone

The Underexplored Psychology of the Excited Utterance & Present Sense Impression
53 FORDHAM URBAN LAW JOURNAL __ (forthcoming 2026)
– Invited contribution for 'The Law's Blind Spots: A Conversation on Outdated Legal Assumptions in Light of Cognitive Science' Symposium

Who Cares About Evidence Scholarship? (And Why Psychologists Should)
RESEARCH HANDBOOK IN LAW & PSYCHOLOGY 136 (Edward Elgar 2024)
– Invited contribution for series edited by Rebecca Hollander-Blumoff

Evidence-Based Hearsay
76 VANDERBILT LAW REVIEW 1799 (2023)
– Invited contribution for 'Reimagining the Rules of Evidence at 50' Symposium

Trademark Tarnishmyths
55 ARIZONA STATE LAW JOURNAL 305 (2023)
– Co-authored article with Jake Linford & Ally Willis
– Featured in Intellectual Property JOTWELL: The Journal of Things We Like (Lots)

Qualified Illegitimacy
56 U.C. DAVIS LAW REVIEW 1635 (2023)

Procedural Justice in Covid-19-Era Civil Courts
71 DePaul Law Review 495 (2022)
– Invited contribution for Clifford Symposium on Tort Law & Social Policy

Evidence Law and Empirical Psychology
Philosophical Foundations of Evidence Law 349 (Oxford Univ. Press 2021)
– Invited contribution for series edited by C. Dahlman, A. Stein, & G. Tuzet

A [Relational] Theory of Procedure
104 Minnesota Law Review 1987 (2020)
– Discussed in Tyler's book, Advanced Introduction to Law and Psychology

An Empirical Assessment of Agency Mechanism Choice
71 Alabama Law Review 1039 (2020)
– Co-authored article with Robert Glicksman & Dave Markell

Legitimizing Character Evidence
68 Emory Law Journal 441 (2019)
– Profiled in Colin Miller's EvidenceProf Blog
– Excerpted in Sklansky & Roth's casebook, Evidence: Cases, Commentary, and Problems

The Paradox of Executive Compensation Regulation
44 Journal of Corporation Law 755 (2019)
– Co-authored article with Minor Myers

Evidentiary Trapdoors
103 Iowa Law Review 1155 (2018)

Consumers, Seller-Advisors, and the Psychology of Trust
59 Boston College Law Review 931 (2018)
– Co-authored article with Kelli Alces Williams

Vicarious Windfalls
102 Iowa Law Review 651 (2017)
– Cited in treatise Modern Scientific Evidence: The Law and Science of Expert Testimony

Popularizing Hearsay
104 Georgetown Law Journal 643 (2016)
– Featured in Ed Cheng's podcast, Excited Utterance
– Cited in Hon. Richard Posner's article, On Hearsay

On Hearsay Dragon-Slaying
68 Florida Law Review Forum 269 (2016)
– Invited contribution commenting on Prof. Liesa Richter's article, Posnerian Hearsay: Slaying the Discretion Dragon

Testing Tribe's Triangle
103 Georgetown Law Journal 879 (2015)
– Discussed in Saks & Spellman's book, The Psychological Foundations of Evidence Law
– Cited in Federal Practice and Procedure treatise

The Truth-Justice Tradeoff
20 Psychology, Public Policy, & Law 212 (2014) (peer-reviewed)
– Cited in Clermont's Principles of Civil Procedure treatise
– Profiled in Solum's Legal Theory Blog

Redesigning the Science Court
73 Maryland Law Review 770 (2014)
– Cited in The New Wigmore: A Treatise on Evidence

How Do the Courts Create Popular Legitimacy?
77 Albany Law Review 1094 (2014)
– Invited symposium contribution co-authored with Tom R. Tyler
– Cited in People v. Bryant, 55 N.E.3d 97 (Ill. Ct. App. 2016)

Omission Suspicion: Juries, Hearsay, and Attorneys' Strategic Choices
40 Florida State University Law Review 1 (2012)

The Unintended Consequences of Local Rules
21 Cornell Journal of Law & Public Policy 294 (2011)

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Offers, Pleas, & Remedial Deeds
Manuscript in progress

The Hearsay Pipeline
Manuscript in progress

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

Vanderbilt Law School Scheduled: Nov. 13, 2026
Evidence Roundtable · "Evidence & Psychology"

Law and Society Association May 30, 2026
Annual Member Conference · "A Psychological Approach to AI Admissibility"

FSU Business Law Review March 6, 2026
Behavioral Perspectives on Corporate Law · "Commentator: Punishment, Perception, and the Problem of Institutional Silence"

Fordham University Law School Feb. 13, 2026
Symposium: The Law's Blind Spots: A Conversation on Outdated Legal Assumptions in Light of Cognitive Science · "Beyond Sincerity"

FSU Business Law Review March 21, 2025
Encapsulating Product Packaging Trade Dress · "Commentator: Unpacking Survey Evidence in Packaging and Labeling Disputes"

American Bankruptcy Institute Feb. 27, 2025
49th Annual Alexander L. Paskay Memorial Bankruptcy Seminar · "Evidentiary Issues in Bankruptcy"

Office of Judges of Compensation Claims / Workers Compensation Institute Feb. 21, 2025
Annual Winter Seminar · "Evidentiary Issues in Workers Comp"

Jacksonville Bankruptcy Bar Association Aug. 16, 2024
Annual Symposium for Judges & Attorneys · "Federal Evidence Crash Course"

Duke University School of Law July 25, 2023
Workshop on Empirical Methods in IP · "Progressive Tarnishment"

Federal Judicial Center April & July 2023
Federal Bankruptcy Judges Annual Conference · "Everyday Evidence for Federal Judges"

International Trademark Association Feb. 4, 2023
Annual Scholarship Symposium · "Trademark Tarnishmyths"

Vanderbilt Law School Nov. 4, 2022
Vanderbilt Law Review Symposium · "Reimagining the Rules of Evidence at 50"

University of Pennsylvania Law School Oct. 7, 2022
Trademark and Unfair Competition Scholarship Roundtable · "Trademark Tarnishmyths"

Law and Society Association July 13, 2022
Annual Member Conference · "Trademark Tarnishmyths"

George Mason Antonin Scalia Law School April 19, 2022
Legal Scholarship Workshop · "Trademark Tarnishmyths"

George Mason Antonin Scalia Law School March 7, 2022
Judicial Symposium on Scientific Methodology and the Admissibility of Expert Testimony · "The Judge as Gatekeeper: The Proper Role of Judges in Evaluating Expert Testimony"

North Sea Group Oct. 26, 2021
Seminar on Philosophical Foundations of Evidence Law · "Evidence Law and Empirical Psychology"

DePaul University College of Law June 3, 2021
Clifford Symposium on Tort Law and Social Policy · "Procedural Justice in COVID-19-Era Courts"

George Mason Antonin Scalia Law School March 8, 2021
Judicial Symposium on Scientific Methodology and the Admissibility of Expert Testimony · "The Judge as Gatekeeper: The Proper Role of Judges in Evaluating Expert Testimony"

University of Virginia School of Law Nov. 10, 2020
Law & Social Science Colloquium · "Legitimizing Qualified Immunity"

Society for Personality & Social Psychology Feb. 8, 2019
Law & Psychology Preconference · "A [Relational] Theory of Procedure"

Law and Society Association June 8, 2018
Annual Member Conference · "Consumers, Seller-Advisors, and the Psychology of Trust"

Cornell Law School Oct. 13, 2017
Conference on Empirical Legal Studies · "Discussant: Regulation, Public Attitudes, and Private Governance"

Duke University School of Law Nov. 18, 2016
Conference on Empirical Legal Studies · "Who Cares about Agency Costs in Executive Compensation?"

University of North Carolina Law School Oct. 28, 2016
Southeast Jr.-Sr. Scholars Conference · "Vicarious Windfalls"

University of Chicago Law School June 23, 2016
National Business Law Scholars Conference · "Who Cares about Agency Costs in Executive Compensation?"

Washington University in St. Louis Oct. 30, 2015
Conference on Empirical Legal Studies · "Discussant: From Delaware to Israel: Evaluating Israel's Quasi Experiment of a Specialized Corporate Court"

Yale Law School Feb. 21, 2014
Cultural Cognition Laboratory Workshop · "Item Response Theory and Prophet Nathan"

Yale University Department of Psychology April 29, 2013
Social Psychology Workshop · "Truth, Justice, and the American Way?"

Law and Society Association June 7, 2012
Annual Member Conference · "Emotions, Narrative, and Ritual (Panel Chair)"

University of Chicago Law School Oct. 10, 2011
Legal Scholarship Workshop · "Omission Suspicion"

Michigan State University College of Law Sept. 21, 2011
Faculty Workshop · "Omission Suspicion"

Vanderbilt University Law School Sept. 5, 2011
Ph.D. Program in Law and Economics Seminar · "Motivation and the Hearsay Doctrine"

Indiana University Maurer School of Law Aug. 2, 2011
Big Ten Untenured Conference · "Motivation and the Hearsay Doctrine"

University of Illinois College of Law April 18, 2011
Behavioral Law and Economics Seminar · "Behavioral Biases and Local Court Rules"

TEACHING & UNIVERSITY HONORS

Inaugural Faculty Commencement Speaker 2026
FSU College of Law · Elected by the graduating 3L class

University Distinguished Teaching Award 2024
Florida State University · Awarded annually to one professor at the University ($7,500)

University Teaching Award: Outstanding Graduate Teaching 2018
Florida State University · Awarded annually to eight professors across the University ($2,000)

Faculty Open-Door Teaching Award 2017, 2019, 2024, 2025
FSU College of Law · Inaugural recipient; awarded annually to one professor at the College of Law ($1,000)

Teachers Ranked as Excellent by Their Students 2011, 2012
University of Illinois College of Law

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Evidence *Florida State University College of Law*
Examines the manner in which courts determine the information that fact finders use to adjudicate legal disputes.

Torts *Florida State University College of Law*
Examines civil wrongs for which the common law provides a remedy in the form of an action for damages.

Closely Held Business Organizations *Florida State University College of Law*
Examines the ways in which business organizations including LLCs and partnerships are formed, are regulated, and dissolve.

Law & Psychology *Florida State University College of Law*
Seminar examining topics at the intersection of law and cognitive science, including eyewitness identification, coercive interrogations, insanity and civil commitment, perceptions of justice and punishment, and judicial decision-making.

Behavioral Law and Economics *Florida State University College of Law*
Seminar examining how decision making in the regulatory, business, and litigation context departs from the rational-actor model of human behavior, and the implications for the law.

The American Jury *FSU College of Law & University of Illinois College of Law*
Interdisciplinary seminar examining the historical and philosophical underpinnings of the modern American jury and how jurors make legal decisions.

Social Science Research Methods *Yale Law School*
Familiarizes law students with experimental research design and the interpretation of statistical results (co-taught with Tom R. Tyler).

Psychology and the Law *Duke University*
Introduces students in the Duke Talent Identification Program to key issues in law and psychology, including eyewitness testimony, lie detection, jury decision making, and confession evidence.

Scientific Evidence *University of Illinois College of Law*
Examines the role and function of scientific and expert evidence in the legal system.

RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit San Francisco, CA · 2009
Law Clerk to Judge Carlos T. Bea · Authored bench memoranda and assisted in drafting panel and en banc opinions

Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz New York, NY · 2008 – 2009
Corporate Litigation Associate · Specialized in securities litigation and white-collar investigations

Sullivan & Cromwell LLP New York, NY · 2006 – 2008
Corporate Litigation Associate · Specialized in complex commercial, securities, and employment litigation

Office of the Massachusetts Attorney General Boston, MA · 2005
Extern, Criminal Appeals Division · Assisted in drafting habeas briefs and authored memoranda on expert witnesses

EDITORIAL BOARD MEMBERSHIPS

Law and Human Behavior 2020 – present
Journal of the American Psychology-Law Society

Law and Social Inquiry 2019 – 2022
Journal of the American Bar Foundation

EXTERNAL ACADEMIC SERVICE

American Bar Foundation · Referee, law and psychology scholarship
Center for Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction (CALI) · Referee, casebook submission on tort law
International Commentary on Evidence · Referee, comparative evidence law
Israel Science Foundation (ISF) · Referee, law and psychology grant applications
Journal of Empirical Legal Studies (JELS) · Referee, psychology and the law
Journal of Experimental Criminology · Referee, psychology and the law
Jurimetrics: The Journal of Law, Science and Technology · Referee, juries and scientific evidence
Law and Human Behavior · Referee, psychology and the law
Law and Social Inquiry · Referee, psychology and the law
Law and Society Review · Referee, psychology and the law
McGill Law Journal · Referee, evidence law
Oxford University Press · Referee, evidence law
Time-Sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences (TESS) · Referee, empirical grant submissions

INTERNAL ACADEMIC SERVICE

FSU Faculty Governance Committees

Faculty Senate	2025 – present
Promotion & Tenure	Chair 2026 – ; member 2025 –
Faculty Appointments	Chair 2021 – 2022; member 2020 – 2022, 2024 – 2025
Admissions	2018 – 2025
Academic Waivers	Chair 2022 – 2023
University Teaching Awards	2020 – 2022
Curriculum	2019 – 2020
Faculty Enrichment	2016 – 2018
Judicial Clerkships	2015 – 2019

MEMBERSHIPS & AFFILIATIONS

American Psychology-Law Society · Interdisciplinary organization devoted to scholarship in psychology and law
Law and Society Association · Legal scholarship in social, political, economic, and cultural life
New York State Bar · Licensed member in good standing
Society for Empirical Legal Studies · International organization of scholars in empirical legal studies
Society for Personality and Social Psychology · Researchers exploring how people think, behave, and interact