

F. LEE FRANCIS

Assistant Professor of Law
Widener University Commonwealth Law School
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Widener University Commonwealth Law School

Assistant Professor of Law, July 2024

- Courses: Constitutional Law, Criminal Procedure, Evidence, Administrative Law

Mississippi College School of Law

Assistant Professor of Law, August 2023 – June 2024

- Courses: Civil Procedure, Administrative Law
- Director, Center for Litigation and Alternative Dispute Resolution*

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Special Assistant U. S. Attorney, EDNC, 2022-2023

- Prosecuted criminal cases in the US Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.
- Prosecuted misdemeanors and felonies in the Eastern District of North Carolina.

Judge Advocate General Corps, US Army, 2021-2023

- Advised on employment and dozens of sexual harassment cases.
- Advised senior leaders on matter relating to employment law, ethics, and federal regulations.

19th Judicial District Court (Baton Rouge, LA)

- Judicial Intern to the Honorable Kinasiyumki Kimble May 2018–August 2018
- Drafted memoranda and judicial orders and assisted in grand-jury proceedings and evidentiary hearings

ARTICLES

The Waiting is the Hardest Part: The Constitutionality of Firearm Waiting Period Laws, PENN STATE-DICKINSON LAW REVIEW 2025).

The Mutability of Dangerousness: Domestic Violence and Second Amendment Restoration after Rahimi, SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY LAW REVIEW (2025).

- Cited in *United States v. Cockerham* (Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, 2025) (Higginson, J., dissenting).

The Addiction Restriction: Addiction and the Right to Bear Arms, WEST VIRGINIA LAW REVIEW (2025).

- Recipient of Douglas E. Ray Excellence in Faculty Scholarship Award, 2025

Defining Dangerousness: When Disarmament is Appropriate, 56 TEXAS TECH LAW REVIEW 593 (2024).

- Cited in *United States v. Duarte* (Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, 2024) (Van Dyke, J., dissenting from the grant of rehearing en banc).
- Cited in *United States v. Perez-Garcia* (Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, 2024) (Van Dyke, J., dissenting from the denial of rehearing en banc).

Of the Rights of Parents: Parental Authority and the Common Law, TEXAS REVIEW OF LAW AND POLITICS (2024) (Invited).

Armed and Under the Influence: The Second Amendment and the Intoxicant Rule After Bruen, MARQUETTE LAW REVIEW (2024).

- Cited in SUPPLEMENT FOR FIREARMS LAW AND THE SECOND AMENDMENT: REGULATION, RIGHTS, AND POLICY. Ed. Johnson, et al, 2023. (Casebook)

The History of Policing and the Impact on Minority Communities, MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE LAW REVIEW (2024).

In Loco Parentis and the Fourth Amendment Rights of Minors in Public Schools, SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY LAW REVIEW (2022).

Who Decides: What the Constitution Says About Parental Authority and the Rights of Minor Children to Seek Gender Transition Treatment, SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY LAW JOURNAL (2022).

- Mentioned on HealthLawProf Blog.
- Cited in the Journal of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers (2022).
- Cited in *Kanuszewski v. Shah* (Eastern District of Michigan, 2023).

Remembering Congress and the Separation-of-Powers: The Case Against ‘Judicial Updating’ of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 12 JOURNAL OF RACE, GENDER, & POVERTY (2021).

- Mentioned on Legal Theory Blog.

In Memoriam: The Republican Form and the Separation-of-Powers Among the Four Branches of Government Brazilian Journal of Public Policy (2020) (Peer-reviewed).

BOOK CHAPTERS

“A Sartorial Tapestry: The Rhetorical Shifts of Hillary Rodham Clinton.” HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON AND THE 2016 ELECTION: HER POLITICAL AND SOCIAL DISCOURSE. Ed. Michele Lockhart and Kathleen Mollick. Lexington Books, 2015. (with Rochelle Gregory).

- Cited in THE DYNAMICS OF POLITICAL COMMUNICATION: MEDIA AND POLITICS IN A DIGITAL AGE (2017).

“Pardoning Marijuana Possession While Using Marijuana to Criminalize Firearm Ownership.” SUPPLEMENT FOR FIREARMS LAW AND THE SECOND AMENDMENT: REGULATION, RIGHTS, AND POLICY. Ed. Johnson, et al, 2023. (Casebook)

BOOK REVIEWS

RADICAL MOVES: CARIBBEAN MIGRANTS AND THE POLITICS OF RACE IN THE JAZZ AGE (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2013. Pp. 336), 540-542.

CULTIVATION AND CATASTROPHE: THE LYRIC ECOLOGY OF MODERN BLACK LITERATURE (Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2017. Pp. 304), 719-721.

AMICUS BRIEFS

Brief of Amicus Curiae Scholars of Second Amendment Law and The Independence Institute in Support of Defendant-Appellant, *U.S. v. Daniels*, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit (2023) (principal author of brief addressing the constitutionality of 18 U.S.C. §922(g)(3)).

- Cited in *United States v. Daniels* (US Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, 2023).

Brief of Gun Owners of America, Inc., et al as Amicus Curiae in Support of Appellant, *Fitzgerald v. Commonwealth of Virginia*, Supreme Court of Virginia (2026) (principal author of brief addressing the constitutionality of Va. Code § 18.2-308.4).

Brief of the National Rifle Association of America and Independence Institute as Amici Curiae in Support of Respondent, *United States v. Hemani*, U.S. Supreme Court (2026) (principal author of brief addressing the constitutionality of 18 U.S.C. §922(g)(3)).

PRESENTATIONS

All the Presidents Men? The Future of Humphrey's Executor and Presidential Removal Power – Dauphin County Bar Association (2025)

Law Day: The First and Second Amendments – Dauphin County Bar Association (2025)

Firearms Law in Criminal Defense at the 2025 Annual Conference – Pennsylvania Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (2025)

Middle District of Pennsylvania Chapter: CLE – “Armed with Knowledge: Understanding New Developments in Second Amendment Law” (2025)

The Waiting is the Hardest Part: The Constitutionality of Firearm Waiting Period Laws – Dickinson Law School (2025)

The Mutability of Danger: Domestic Violence and the Second Amendment – Southern Methodist University Law School (2024)

Addiction and the Right to Bear Arms – University of Virginia Law School (2024)

The Addiction Restriction: Addiction and the Right to Bear Arms – Duke University Law School (2024)

“Litigating the Second Amendment” – Miss. State Public Defenders Conf. (2023)

EXPERT WITNESS

Delaware State Sportsmen's Association, Inc. et al v. Delaware Department of Safety and Homeland Security et al – Delaware Superior Court (2025)

Ortega v. Grisham – US District Court New Mexico (2025)

Garcia v. Polis – US District Court Colorado (2025)

ADMISSIONS

State of New Jersey

United States District Court – Eastern District of North Carolina

United States District Court – Western District of Wisconsin

United States Court of Appeals – Fourth Circuit

AWARDS

Douglas E. Ray Excellence in Faculty Scholarship Award, 2025

Best Oralist – NEBLSA Moot Court, 2019

Military Honors: Army Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal,
Secret Security Clearance

MEMBERSHIP

Federalist Society, 2019 - Present

EDUCATION

Maurice A. Deane School of Law at Hofstra University, J.D., 2020

- Associate Editor, Journal of Labor and Employment Law

University of North Carolina at Greensboro, M.A., English (Rhetoric and Composition) 2015

Campbell University, B.S., Social Science (Political Science and Humanities) 2013