2018

2018-2019 Supreme Court Preview: Schedule and Panel Members

Institute of Bill of Rights Law at The College of William & Mary School of Law

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2018-2019 Supreme Court Preview

Schedule of Events

Friday, September 21, 2018

WELCOME 5:00 PM
Moot Court 5:05 to 6:05 PM
Break 6:05 to 6:15 PM
Moot Court Discussion 6:15 to 6:30 PM
Trump & the Court 6:35 to 7:25 PM

Saturday, September 22, 2018

Criminal Law Panel 9:00 to 9:50 AM
Property Rights & Environmental Law Panel 10:00 to 10:50 AM
Break 10:50 to 11:05 AM
Business Law Panel 11:05 to 12:00 PM
Lunch Breakout Sessions 12:20 to 1:20 PM

1. Judging on the U.S. Court of Appeals
2. The Legal “Resistance” to the Trump Administration
3. The “Weaponizing” of the First Amendment by Conservative Groups

Separation of Powers 1:30 to 2:20 PM
Civil Rights 2:25 to 3:20 PM
Conference Concludes 3:20 PM
ROBERT BARNES has been a Washington Post reporter and editor since 1987. He joined the paper to cover Maryland politics, and has served in various editing positions including metropolitan editor and national political editor. He has covered the Supreme Court since November 2006.

JOAN BISKUPIC a CNN legal analyst, has covered the Supreme Court for twenty-five years and is the author of several books on the judiciary. Before joining CNN as a fulltime analyst in July, she spent a year as a visiting professor at the University of California, Irvine, law school. She previously was an editor-in-charge for Legal Affairs at Reuters and, before that position, the Supreme Court correspondent for the Washington Post and for USA Today. Her books include Breaking In: The Rise of Sonia Sotomayor and the Politics of Justice (2014), American Original: The Life and Constitution of Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia (2009) and Sandra Day O’Connor (2005). She currently is working on a biography of Chief Justice John Roberts. A graduate of Georgetown University law school, she was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in explanatory journalism in 2015.

JESS BRAVIN covers the U.S. Supreme Court for The Wall Street Journal, after earlier postings as United Nations correspondent and editor of the WSJ/California Weekly.

Mr. Bravin is the author of "The Terror Courts," an award-winning account of military trials at Guantanamo Bay, and "Squeaky: The Life and Times of Lynette Alice Fromme," and a contributor to books including "Violence in America: An Encyclopedia," "Crimes of War 2.0," and "A Concise Introduction to Logic" (Second Edition). His work twice has been recognized with the Elizabeth Neuffer Memorial Prize (individually, for coverage of the International Criminal Court and, with colleagues, United Nations reform efforts), the American Bar Association’s Silver Gavel Award (for coverage of the legal response to 9/11) and, for team coverage of the Supreme Court’s healthcare case, prizes from the National Press Foundation, the New York News Publishers Association and the New York Press Club.

Prior to joining The Wall Street Journal, Mr. Bravin was a reporter for the Los Angeles Times, contributed to publications including the Washington Post, Harper’s Bazaar and Spy magazine, evaluated scripts for a Hollywood talent agency, and managed a campaign for local school board. While in law school, he served on the University of California Board of Regents and, after completing his term, was appointed by the California Senate Rules Committee to the panel vetting regental nominees for the governor.
He also served on the UC Police Review Board and the Berkeley Police Review Commission, which reviewed misconduct complaints for the university and municipal police forces, as an alternate member of the Berkeley Zoning Adjustments Board and, earlier, as a member of the Los Angeles County Commission on Youth and the first student member of the Los Angeles City Board of Education. Of far greater interest,

Mr. Bravin led the effort to designate Raymond Chandler Square (Los Angeles City Historic-Cultural Monument No. 597) in Hollywood, in honor of the hard-boiled novelist. Mr. Bravin has taught at the University of California Washington Center, received a John Jacobs Fellowship at UC Berkeley’s Graduate School of Journalism and Institute of Governmental Studies, and delivered John Field Simms Sr. Memorial Lecture in Law at the University of New Mexico School of Law. He is a graduate of Harvard College and holds a law degree from UC Berkeley (Boalt Hall).

Beth Brinkmann is Co-Chair of Covington & Burling’s Appellate and Supreme Court practice. She represents clients across a wide range of industries within various practices including commercial litigation, administrative law, and patent appeals. Ms. Brinkmann is a veteran appellate litigator who has argued 24 cases before the Supreme Court of the United States, as well as numerous cases in federal and state appellate courts.

Ms. Brinkmann has served in senior positions at the Department of Justice, including as Deputy Assistant Attorney General and the Civil Division’s top appellate lawyer. Ms. Brinkmann was responsible for the civil appellate litigation for the Executive Branch, representing dozens of federal agencies, the President, and Cabinet officials in courts across the country. She handled a wide range of legal issues, including constitutional challenges, statutory interpretation, federal preemption, regulatory issues, intellectual property matters, and national security cases. Ms. Brinkmann was called upon to present oral argument in many of the government’s highest profile appellate cases. She also regularly consulted on the development of legal arguments and strategy at early phases of litigation in trial courts, conferred on appellate and Supreme Court matters with the Office of the Solicitor General, and advised senior leadership of cabinet-level departments and regulatory agencies regarding litigation risk, legislative proposals, and rulemaking matters.

Ms. Brinkmann previously served as an Assistant to the Solicitor General of the United States, where she represented the United States before the Supreme Court, and as an Assistant Federal Public Defender, where she represented indigent criminal defendants, including in approximately a dozen felony jury trials. Following law school, she served as a law clerk to Hon. Phyllis A. Kravitch, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, and to Hon. Harry A. Blackmun, Supreme Court of the United States. Ms. Brinkmann graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, A.B. She received her J.D. from Yale Law School.
ERWIN CHEMERINSKY became the thirteenth Dean of Berkeley Law on July 1, 2017. Prior to assuming this position, from 2008-2017, he was the founding Dean and Distinguished Professor of Law, and Raymond Pryke Professor of First Amendment Law, at University of California, Irvine School of Law., with a joint appointment in Political Science. Before that he was the Alston and Bird Professor of Law and Political Science at Duke University from 2004-2008, and from 1983-2004 was a professor at the University of Southern California Law School, including as the Sydney M. Irmas Professor of Public Interest Law, Legal Ethics, and Political Science. He also has taught at DePaul College of Law and UCLA Law School.

He is the author of ten books, including The Case Against the Supreme Court, published by Viking in 2014, and two books published by Yale University Press in 2017, Closing the Courthouse Doors: How Your Constitutional Rights Became Unenforceable and Free Speech on Campus (with Howard Gillman). He also is the author of more than 200 law review articles. He writes a weekly column for the Sacramento Bee, monthly columns for the ABA Journal and the Daily Journal, and frequent op-eds in newspapers across the country. He frequently argues appellate cases, including in the United States Supreme Court.

In 2016, he was named a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. In January 2017, National Jurist magazine again named Dean Chemerinsky as the most influential person in legal education in the United States.

PAUL D. CLEMENT is a partner at Kirkland & Ellis. Mr. Clement served as the 43rd Solicitor General of the United States from June 2005 until June 2008. Before his confirmation as Solicitor General, he served as Acting Solicitor General for nearly a year and as Principal Deputy Solicitor General for over three years. He has argued over 90 cases before the United States Supreme Court, including McConnell v. FEC, Tennessee v. Lane, Rumsfeld v. Padilla, Credit Suisse v. Billing, United States v. Booker, ABC v. Aereo, Hobby Lobby v. Burwell, and Jesner v. Arab Bank. He has also argued many important cases in the lower courts, including Walker v. Cheney, United States v. Moussaoui, and NFL v. Brady.

Mr. Clement is a native of Cedarburg, Wisconsin, and a graduate of the Cedarburg public schools. He received his bachelor’s degree summa cum laude from the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service, and a master’s degree in economics from Cambridge University. He graduated magna cum laude from Harvard Law School, where he was the Supreme Court editor of the Harvard Law Review.

Following graduation, Mr. Clement clerked for Judge Laurence H. Silberman of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit and for Associate Justice Antonin Scalia of the U.S. Supreme Court. After his clerkships, Mr. Clement went on to serve as Chief Counsel of the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on the Constitution, Federalism and Property Rights.
MR. CLEMENT IS A DISTINGUISHED LECTURER IN LAW AT THE GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER, WHERE HE HAS TAUGHT IN VARIOUS CAPACITIES SINCE 1998, AND A DISTINGUISHED LECTURER IN GOVERNMENT AT GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY. HE ALSO SERVES AS A SENIOR FELLOW OF THE LAW CENTER’S SUPREME COURT INSTITUTE.


EPPS RECEIVED HIS LL.M. IN COMPARATIVE AND INTERNATIONAL LAW AND HIS J.D. FROM DUKE UNIVERSITY, WHERE HE SERVED AS ARTICLES EDITOR OF LAW AND CONTEMPORARY PROBLEMS AND GRADUATED WITH THE WILLIS SMITH AWARD FOR THE HIGHEST THREE-YEAR ACADEMIC AVERAGE. BEFORE ATTENDING LAW SCHOOL, EPPS EARNED HIS M.A. IN ENGLISH WRITING IN 1975 FROM HOLLINS COLLEGE AND HIS B.A. IN 1972 FROM HARVARD COLLEGE, WHERE HE WAS EDITOR OF THE HARVARD CRIMSON.

JOHN ELWOOD IS A PARTNER IN VINSON & ELKINS’ APPELLATE PRACTICE GROUP. HE HAS ARGUED NINE CASES BEFORE THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND ARGUED BEFORE MOST FEDERAL COURTS OF APPEALS. IN ADDITION, HE HAS TAUGHT THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA SCHOOL OF LAW’S SUPREME COURT PRACTICE CLINICAL PROGRAM.

BEFORE ENTERING PRIVATE PRACTICE, JOHN SERVED AS COUNSELOR TO CRIMINAL DIVISION ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL MICHAEL CHERTOFF, AND AS AN ASSISTANT TO THE SOLICITOR GENERAL. AS THE SENIOR DEPUTY IN THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT’S OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL, HE ADVISED THE WHITE HOUSE AND FEDERAL AGENCIES ON A RANGE OF CONSTITUTIONAL, STATUTORY, AND REGULATORY ISSUES, AND HELPED PREPARE TWO SUPREME COURT NOMINEES FOR CONFIRMATION HEARINGS. JOHN HAS WON BOTH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL’S AWARD FOR EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE AND THE AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE, THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT’S TOP TWO AWARDS FOR LAWYERS.
JEFFREY L. FISHER is a professor of law at Stanford Law School and co-director of the Stanford Supreme Court Litigation Clinic. He has argued 35 cases in the Supreme Court, on issues ranging from criminal procedure to maritime law to civil and human rights. He also has published academic articles on various constitutional issues and is a frequent commentator on the Court.

Professor Fisher’s litigation successes include the landmark cases of Crawford v. Washington and Melendez-Diaz v. Massachusetts, in which he persuaded the Court to adopt a new approach to the Constitution’s Confrontation Clause; Riley v. California, in which the Court for the first time applied the Fourth Amendment’s protections against unreasonable searches to digital information on smart phones; Blakely v. Washington, in which the Court held that the Sixth Amendment right to a jury trial applies to sentencing guidelines; and Kennedy v. Louisiana, in which the Court held that the Eighth Amendment prohibits states from imposing capital punishment for crimes against individuals that do not result in death. Professor Fisher was also co-counsel for the plaintiffs in Obergefell v. Hodges, in which the Court held that the Fourteenth Amendment guarantees same-sex couples a right to marry. In 2006, The National Law Journal named Professor Fisher one of the 100 most influential lawyers in America—the youngest person on the list.

In addition to his work at Stanford, Professor Fisher also is special counsel at O'Melveny & Myers. He clerked for U.S. Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens and Judge Stephen Reinhardt of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

GREGORY GARRE is a partner in the Washington, D.C. office of Latham & Watkins LLP and chair of the firm’s Supreme Court and appellate practice. He previously served as the 44th Solicitor General of the United States (2008-2009), Principal Deputy Solicitor General (2005-2008), and Assistant to the Solicitor General (2000-2004), and is the only person to have held all of those positions within the Office of the Solicitor General. He has argued 43 cases before the Supreme Court and numerous other cases before the courts of appeals. Last term, he secured a 5-4 win on behalf of the State of Florida in its original action against the State of Georgia, seeking to protect and preserve the Apalachicola Basin in Florida. His other Supreme Court wins include Fisher v. University of Texas, Ashcroft v. Iqbal, Vance v. Ball State University, Maples v. Thomas, and FCC v. Fox. A recent study by EmpiricalSCOTUS found that Mr. Garre prevailed in more 5-to-4 (or one-vote-margin) cases before the Supreme Court since 2005 than any other advocate during that period. From 2011 to 2017, Mr. Garre served by appointment of the Chief Justice as a member of the Standing Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure of the U.S. Judicial Conference. Following his graduation from law school, he served as a law clerk to Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist, and to Judge Anthony J. Scirica of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. He speaks frequently on issues related to the Supreme Court and appellate practice.
ADAM M. GERSHOWITZ is the Associate Dean for Research and Faculty Development and Professor of Law at William & Mary Law School. Previously, he served as a law clerk to the Honorable Robert B. King of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit and worked as a litigation associate at Covington & Burling. Prior to joining William & Mary, Professor Gershowitz taught at the University of Houston Law Center and South Texas College of Law.

Professor Gershowitz has won seven teaching awards, including the Professor of the Year prize at three different law schools. In 2015, the graduating class honored him with the Walter L. Williams, Jr. Memorial Teaching Award. Previously, he was awarded the All University Teaching Award at the University of Houston. Outside of the classroom, Professor Gershowitz has been quoted in hundreds of media stories, including in The New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, and NPR.


LINDA GREENHOUSE is the Joseph Goldstein Lecturer in Law and Knight Distinguished Journalist in Residence at Yale Law School. She covered the Supreme Court for The New York Times between 1978 and 2008 and writes a biweekly op-ed column on law as a contributing columnist. Ms. Greenhouse received several major journalism awards during her 40-year career at the Times, including the Pulitzer Prize (1998) and the Goldsmith Career Award for Excellence in Journalism from Harvard University’s Kennedy School (2004). In 2002, the American Political Science Association gave her its Carey McWilliams Award for “a major journalistic contribution to our understanding of politics.” Her books include a biography of Justice Harry A. Blackmun, Becoming Justice Blackmun; Before Roe v. Wade: Voices That Shaped the Abortion Debate Before the Supreme Court’s Ruling (with Reva B. Siegel); The U.S. Supreme Court, A Very Short Introduction; and The Burger Court and the Rise of the Judicial Right, with Michael J. Graetz, published last year. Her latest book, a journalistic memoir entitled Just a Journalist, WAS published LAST fall by Harvard University Press. In her extracurricular life, she is President of the American Philosophical Society, the country’s oldest learned society.
TARA LEIGH GROVE is a professor of law at the William and Mary Law School. She graduated summa cum laude from Duke University and magna cum laude from Harvard Law School, where she served as the Supreme Court Chair of the Harvard Law Review. Grove clerked for Judge Emilio Garza on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, and then spent four years as an attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Appellate Staff, where she argued fifteen cases in the courts of appeals. In Fall 2012, Grove was a visiting professor at Northwestern University School of Law. In Fall 2017, Grove was a visiting professor at Harvard Law School. Grove’s research focuses on the federal judiciary and the constitutional separation of powers. She has published with such prestigious law journals as the Harvard Law Review, Columbia Law Review, University of Chicago Law Review, University of Pennsylvania Law Review, New York University Law Review, and Cornell Law Review. Grove has received awards for both her research and her teaching, including the Walter L. Williams, Jr., Memorial Teaching Award in 2018, and the Paul M. Bator Award in 2016. Grove’s articles are cited and discussed in leading Federal Courts casebooks, and she has served as the Chair of the Federal Courts Section of the Association of American Law Schools.

PAMELA HARRIS is a judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, appointed in 2014 by President Obama. Previously, Judge Harris worked in private practice as a Supreme Court and appellate litigator with the firm of O’Melveny & Myers LLP. She served twice at the United States Department of Justice, as Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Legal Policy from 2010 to 2012, and as an Attorney-Advisor at the Office of Legal Counsel from 1993 to 1996. Judge Harris also taught constitutional law and criminal procedure at the University of Pennsylvania Law School and the Georgetown Law Center, served as Executive Director of Georgetown Law Center’s Supreme Court Institute, and was a Co-Director of Harvard Law School’s Supreme Court and Appellate Advocacy Clinic. A graduate of Yale College and Yale Law School, she served as a law clerk to Justice John Paul Stevens of the United States Supreme Court and Judge Harry T. Edwards of the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals.

TOBY HEYTENS is Virginia’s sixth Solicitor General. He previously spent eight years as a professor at the University of Virginia School of Law, where he served as co-director of the Supreme Court Litigation Clinic, coached the three-time national champion undergraduate trial advocacy team, and received an All-University Teaching Award in 2016. Before that, Heytens spent three years at the Office of the Solicitor General in the United States Department of Justice, where he advised the Solicitor General and the Attorney General and argued six cases before the United States Supreme Court. A former law clerk to Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Chief Judge Edward R. Becker, Heytens is a graduate of Macalester College and the University of Virginia School of Law.
WILLIAM JAY is a partner in and co-chair of Goodwin’s award-winning Appellate Litigation Practice. Mr. Jay focuses on litigation before the U.S. Supreme Court and other federal and state appellate courts. He has argued 16 cases before the Supreme Court, briefed more than 40 cases on the merits, and briefed more than 150 cases at the certiorari stage. His Supreme Court cases have covered subjects from intellectual property and tax to the First Amendment and federal preemption of state law.

Mr. Jay has handled cases in every federal court of appeals as well. He has filed more than 200 briefs in federal and state appeals courts and argued in nine federal circuits. Mr. Jay also regularly counsels clients on appellate strategy at the trial level, including pursuing judicial review of agency action. Before joining Goodwin, Mr. Jay served for five years as Assistant to the Solicitor General at the U.S. Department of Justice. In that capacity, he handled Supreme Court and appellate matters for many federal agencies, and received the Attorney General’s Distinguished Service Award.

Mr. Jay clerked for Justice Antonin Scalia of the U.S. Supreme Court and for Judge Diarmuid O’Scaannlain of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Mr. Jay graduated magna cum laude from Harvard Law School, where he was executive editor of the Harvard Law Review.

PAMELA S. KARLAN is co-director of the Stanford Law School’s Supreme Court Litigation Clinic, where students litigate live cases before the Court. One of the nation’s leading experts on voting and the political process, she has served as a commissioner on the California Fair Political Practices Commission, an assistant counsel and cooperating attorney for the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, and a Deputy Assistant Attorney General in the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice (where she received the Attorney General’s Award for Exceptional Service – the department’s highest award for employee performance – as part of the team responsible for implementing the Supreme Court’s decision in United States v. Windsor). Professor Karlan is the co-author of leading casebooks on constitutional law, constitutional litigation, and the law of democracy, as well as numerous scholarly articles.

Before joining the Stanford Law School faculty in 1998, she was a professor of law at the University of Virginia School of Law and served as a law clerk to Justice Harry A. Blackmun of the U.S. Supreme Court and Judge Abraham D. Sofaer of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York. Karlan is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers, and the American Law Institute.

ALLISON ORR LARSEN is a professor of law at William & Mary. She graduated

PROFESSOR LARSEN’S RESEARCH INTERESTS INCLUDE CONSTITUTIONAL LAW AND THE INSTITUTIONAL AND INFORMATION DYNAMICS OF LEGAL DECISION-MAKING. HER WORK ON FACT-FINDING AT THE SUPREME COURT HAS BEEN FEATURED IN THE NEW YORK TIMES, THE WASHINGTON POST, AND THE WALL STREET JOURNAL. SHE HAS BEEN CITED BY THE COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT AND FOR THE SEVENTH CIRCUIT. LARSEN ALSO APPEARED WITH STEPHEN COLBERT AS A GUEST ON THE COLBERT REPORT (COMEDY CENTRAL) TO DISCUSS HER SCHOLARSHIP ON SUPREME COURT AMICUS BRIEFS. THIS SEMESTER SHE IS THE DANIEL P.S. PAUL VISITING PROFESSOR OF CONSTITUTIONAL LAW AT HARVARD LAW SCHOOL.

ADAM LIPTAK COVERS THE SUPREME COURT FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES. LIPTAK’S COLUMN ON LEGAL AFFAIRS, “SIDEBAR,” APPEARS EVERY OTHER TUESDAY.


HE WAS AWARDED HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY’S PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL AND AN HONORARY DOCTORATE FROM STETSON UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LAW.


has been cited in opinions of the Supreme Court second most often of any legal scholar during the past decade. He is co-editor of three books: Religion and the Law, Christian Perspectives on Legal Thought, and The Constitution of the United States. McConnell has argued fifteen cases in the Supreme Court. He served as law clerk to Supreme Court Justice William J. Brennan, Jr. and is Of Counsel to the appellate practice of Kirkland & Ellis.

Patricia A. Millett was appointed to the United States Court of Appeals on December 10, 2013. She graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (summa cum laude) in 1985 and from Harvard Law School (magna cum laude) in 1988. After working in a private law firm (Miller & Chevalier) for two years, she clerked for Judge Thomas Tang of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Following her clerkship, she worked for four years on the Appellate Staff of the Civil Division in the United States Department of Justice and for eleven years as an Assistant in the Office of the Solicitor General. In September 2007, she became a leading partner the Supreme Court and appellate practices at Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP. She has argued 32 cases before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Judge Kevin C. Newsom is a member of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. He sits in Birmingham, Alabama.

Before his appointment to the bench, Judge Newsom was the head of the appellate practice group at Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP and, before that, the Solicitor General of Alabama. As a practicing lawyer, Judge Newsom argued four cases in the Supreme Court of the United States, and nearly 40 more in the United States Courts of Appeals and state supreme and appellate courts.

Judge Newsom graduated summa cum laude from Samford University and magna cum laude from Harvard Law School, where he was an articles editor on the Harvard Law Review. Following law school, Judge Newsom clerked for Judge Diarmuid F. O’Scanlon of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and Justice David H. Souter of the Supreme Court of the United States.

David Savage has written about the Supreme Court for the Los Angeles Times since 1986 and has covered the confirmations of all the current justices. Prior to that, he was an education writer for the paper in Los Angeles. He is the author of "Turning Right: The Making of the Rehnquist Supreme Court" (1992) and of the revised two-volume guide to the U.S. Supreme Court published by the CQ Press. He has degrees from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Northwestern University.

Kannon Shanmugam is a partner at the law firm of Williams & Connolly in Washington. He heads the firm’s Supreme Court and appellate litigation practice. He is the only lawyer to have joined the firm as a lateral partner in the last 32 years. Kannon has argued 23 cases before the Supreme Court, including several of the
Court’s most significant recent business and criminal cases. Earlier this year, Kannon successfully obtained review from the Court in three separate cases on the same day—an apparently unprecedented feat for a lawyer in private practice. Beyond the Supreme Court, Kannon has argued dozens of appeals in courts across the country, including arguments in all thirteen federal courts of appeals and in numerous state courts.

Kannon joined Williams & Connolly in 2008 after serving as an Assistant to the Solicitor General in the Department of Justice. Born and raised in Lawrence, Kansas, he received an A.B. summa cum laude in classics from Harvard; an M. Litt. in classics from the University of Oxford, where he was a Marshall Scholar; and a J.D. magna cum laude from Harvard Law School, where he was executive editor of the law review and argued for the winning side in the moot-court competition. After graduation, he served as a law clerk to Justice Antonin Scalia on the Supreme Court and Judge J. Michael Luttig on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.

Paul M. Smith is a Visiting Professor from Practice at Georgetown Law, where is courses include Constitutional Law and Election Law. He is also the Vice President, Litigation and Strategy for the Campaign Legal Center. Paul has more than three decades of experience litigating a wide range of cases. He has argued before the U.S. Supreme Court 21 times and secured numerous victories, including in important cases advancing civil liberties. Two examples are Lawrence v. Texas, the landmark gay rights case, and Brown v. Entertainment Merchants Ass’n, which established First Amendment rights of those who produce and sell video games.

In addition, Paul has argued a number of important voting rights cases at the Supreme Court, including Gill v. Whitford and Vieth v. Jubelirer, involving partisan gerrymandering, LULAC v. Perry, involving the legality of Texas’s mid-decade redrawing of congressional districts, Crawford v. Marion County Election Board, involving the constitutionality of a voter identification law, and Harris v. Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission, involving a constitutional challenge to Arizona’s legislative map.

Paul previously served as a partner in the law firm of Jenner & Block, where he was chair of the firm’s Appellate and Supreme Court Practice and co-chair of the firm’s Election Law and Redistricting Practice.

Paul graduated from Amherst College and Yale Law School, where he served as Editor-in-Chief of the Yale Law Journal. He clerked for Supreme Court Justice Lewis F. Powell Jr. In 2010, he was given the Thurgood Marshall Award by the ABA Section of Civil Rights and Social Justice for his work promoting civil rights and civil liberties.

JEFF WALL is the Principal Deputy Solicitor General and former Acting Solicitor General of the United States. Before joining the Department of Justice, he was a partner and the co-chair of the appellate litigation practice at Sullivan & Cromwell LLP. He is a former law clerk to Justice Clarence Thomas and Judge J. Harvie Wilkinson III. Jeff received a J.D. from the University of Chicago Law School and a B.A. from Georgetown University.

TIMOTHY ZICK is Mills E. Godwin, Jr. Professor of Law at William & Mary. Prior to entering academia, Professor Zick was an associate with Williams and Connolly in Washington, D.C., and Foley Hoag in Boston. He also served as a Trial Attorney in the Federal Programs Branch of the United States Department of Justice and as law clerk to the Honorable Levin H. Campbell of the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit. Prior to joining the faculty at William & Mary, Professor Zick taught at St. John's University School of Law.


Professor Zick is a frequent commentator on First Amendment issues in local, national, and international media. He testified before a subcommittee of the U.S. Congress regarding the First Amendment rights of participants in the Occupy Wall Street protests.