LUCY WILLIAMS

Professor
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENT

Professor, J. Reuben Clark Law School, Brigham Young University (May 2026 – present).

Courses: Structures of the Constitution, First Amendment, Criminal Procedure, Constitutional Law II

Francis R. Kirkham Professorship in Law (2024-2025)

Associate Professor, J. Reuben Clark Law School, Brigham Young University (May 2021 – May 2026).

Assistant Professor, Brigham Young University, Department of Political Science (Aug. – Dec. 2018, Jan. 2020 – Apr. 2021).

Courses: Constitutional Law, Western Political Heritage

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Law Clerk, The Honorable Scott M. Matheson, Jr., United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit (Dec. 2018 – Dec. 2019).

Summer Associate, Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP, Los Angeles, CA (May – Aug. 2016).

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Political Science, University of California, Los Angeles (2018).

Dissertation: "Aspirational Exceptionalism: Rhetoric, Politics, and the Pursuit of American Greatness."

Subfields: Political theory; public law; race, ethnicity, politics.

Honors: Distinction on first Field Paper.

J.D. University of California, Los Angeles (2017).

Activities: UCLA Law Review Podcast Editor, 2016 – 2017; UCLA Law Review Staff Member, 2015 – 2016.

Honors: Order of the Coif; Masin Family Academic Silver Award in Constitutional Law II; Masin Family Academic Award Runner-Up in Lawyering Skills.

M.A. Political Science, University of California, Los Angeles (2014).

B.S. Political Science, University of Utah (2012).

Honors: Summa cum laude, Elbert Thomas Award for most outstanding student in the Department of Political Science.

RESEARCH

Articles

- *Performative Judging? Measuring the Effect of Video Recording on Judicial Behavior in Circuit Court Oral Arguments*, J. L. & EMPIRICAL ANALYSIS (forthcoming 2026) (with Aaron Kaufman and Dane Thorley).
    - Discussed by Sarah Isgur and David French on the *Advisory Opinions* podcast ("Abundance Judges," Jun. 5, 2025).

- *Gender Bias in Federal and State Case Law: A Machine Learning Analysis of Court Opinions*, 15 U.C. IRVINE L. REV. (forthcoming 2026) (with Matthew Jennejohn, Sam Nelson, and Carolina Núñez).
- *"Women's Language" in Supreme Court Oral Arguments*, 97 U. COLO. L. REV. 1 (2026) (with Carolina Núñez, David Wingate, Aerin Christensen, and Anna Mae Walker).
- *The First Amendment and Constitutive Rhetoric: A Policy Proposal*, 99 N.Y.U. L. REV. 1338 (2024) (with Mason Spedding).
    - Winner of the Order of the Coif's 2025 Lolly Gasaway Faculty-Student Writing Award
- *American Exceptionalism and/in Affirmative Action*, 56 ARIZ. ST. L.J. 365 (2024).
- *Making A Mother: The Supreme Court and the Constitutive Rhetoric of Motherhood*, 102 N.C. L. REV. 395 (2024).
- *American Exceptionalism as/in Constitutional Interpretation*, 57 GA. L. REV. 1071 (2023).
- *Grieving Critically: Barack Obama and the Counter-Eulogy* (peer-reviewed article), 75 POL. RES. Q., 307 (2021).
- *Blasting Reproach and All-Pervading Light: Frederick Douglass's Aspirational American Exceptionalism* (peer-reviewed article), 9 AM. POL. THOUGHT 369 (2020).
    - Winner of the American Political Science Association's 2020 section award for best article in the journal *American Political Thought.*

Book Reviews

- *Black Reason, White Feeling: The Jeffersonian Enlightenment in the African American Tradition*, 23 PERSPECTIVES ON POL. 756 (reviewing HANNAH SPAHN, BLACK REASON, WHITE FEELING: THE JEFFERSONIAN ENLIGHTENMENT IN THE AFRICAN AMERICAN TRADITION (2024)).
- *Book Review: Peter Charles Hoffer, Reading Law Forward*, 14 AM. POL. THOUGHT 301 (2025) (reviewing PETER CHARLES HOFFER, READING LAW FORWARD: THE MAKING OF A DEMOCRATIC JURISPRUDENCE FROM JOHN MARSHALL TO STEPHEN G. BREYER (2024)).
- *American Exceptionalism as Religion: Postmodern Discontent*, 10 AM. POL. THOUGHT 656 (2021) (reviewing JORDAN CARSON, AMERICAN EXCEPTIONALISM AS RELIGION: POSTMODERN DISCONTENT (2020)).

Other Scholarship

- *Birthright Citizenship and Apophatic Interpretation*, BALKINIZATION (May 12, 2026), https://balkin.blogspot.com/2026/05/birthright-citizenship-and-apophatic.html (with Carolina Núñez).
- "Discourse Theory of Law" (encyclopedia entry), in ELGAR CONCISE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF LEGAL THEORY AND PHILOSOPHY (forthcoming 2026).
- *President Trump's Spending Freezes Violate Separation of Powers and Federal Law*, DESERET NEWS (Mar. 13, 2025), https://www.deseret.com/opinion/2025/03/13/trump-spending-freeze-separation-of-powers-ica/ (with Kif Augustine-Adams, John Fee, Frederick Mark Gedicks, Lisa Grow, Carolina Núñez, and Michalyn Steele).
- *Why Everyone Should Care About the Constitution's Separation of Powers*, DESERET NEWS (Feb. 19, 2025), https://www.deseret.com/opinion/2025/02/19/constitution-separation-of-powers-protects-individual-rights/ (with Kif Augustine-Adams, John Fee, Frederick Mark Gedicks, Lisa Grow, Carolina Núñez, and Michalyn Steele).
- *Eliminating Birthright Citizenship Bypasses the Constitution and Legal Precedent*, DESERET NEWS (Feb. 13, 2025), https://www.deseret.com/opinion/2025/02/13/us-birthright-citizenship-legal-precedent-trump-executive-order/ (with Kif Augustine-Adams, John Fee, Frederick Mark Gedicks, Lisa Grow, Carolina Núñez, and Michalyn Steele).
- *The McCain Eulogies Fit a Long, Classic Tradition of Political Funeral Orations*, THE MONKEY CAGE – WASH. POST (Sep. 4, 2018), https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-

cage/wp/2018/09/04/the-mccain-eulogies-fit-a-long-classical-tradition-of-political-funeral-orations/.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

- *Apophatic Interpretation, Birthright Citizenship, and the Anti-Aristocratic Constitution* (with Carolina Núñez) (article manuscript, in progress).
  - Featured on BALKINIZATION (May 12, 2026).
  - Featured on LEGAL THEORY BLOG (April 20, 2026).
  - Featured on IMMPROF BLOG (April 14, 2026).
- *Precedent as Monument* (article manuscript, in progress).

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

- "Spirit and Structure: The Declaration as Moral Foundation." Invited keynote presentation to be given at the 2026 Summer Civics Seminar at Jacksonville State University's Center for Leadership and American Principles.
- "Apophatic Interpretation, Birthright Citizenship, and the Anti-Aristocratic Constitution." Presentation given at Florida State University's invitation-only 2026 Junior Faculty Constitutional Law Conference.
- "Constitutional Interpretation." Invited presentation given at UVU Center for Constitutional Studies 2025 Constitutional Literacy Initiative.
- "Peacemaking." Invited presentation given at 2025 BYU General Education Academy.
- "'Women's Language' in Supreme Court Oral Arguments." Invited presentation given at Chase College of Law, Northern Kentucky University, March 2025.
- "The First Amendment and Constitutive Rhetoric: A Policy Proposal." Invited presentation given at University of Utah's First Amendment Colloquium, February 2025.
- "Civil Rights Exceptionalism." Invited presentation given at the Jack Miller Center's Tocqueville Lecture Series, Jacksonville State University, February 2022.
- "Patriotism and Dissent." Invited presentation given at University of Wisconsin-Madison's Political Economy, Philosophy, and Politics Roundtable, February 2021.
- "Frederick Douglass' Aspirational American Exceptionalism." Invited presentation given at University of Richmond's Marshall Center for International Statesmanship, September 2020.

DEPARTMENT AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE

- BYU Law Admissions Committee (2023 – present)
- BYU Law Appellate Academy Faculty Sponsor (May 2023)
- BYU Law External Speakers Committee (2022 – present)
- BYU Law Student Awards Committee (2022 – 2023)
- BYU Law Clerkship Committee (2021 – 2023)
- BYU Law Curriculum Committee (2021 – 2022)
- BYU Political Affairs Society Co-Advisor (2020 – 2021)
- FHSS Diversity Collaboration and Inclusion Gender Subcommittee (2020 – 2021)
- Political Science Research & Academic Life Committee (2018 – 2021)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

- United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit Bar, admitted May 2019.
- State Bar of California, admitted December 2017.
- American Political Science Association
- Western Political Science Association
- Midwestern Political Science Association
- Association for Political Theory

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

- BYU Law Meritorious Service Award, 2025-2026
- Selected as BYU Law Convocation speaker, 2025
- 1L Professor of the Year, 2022-2023
- 2L and 3L Professor of the Year, 2023-2024

AREAS OF INTEREST

Law and rhetoric, constitutional law, First Amendment, American political thought.