UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON LAW CENTER

31ST ANNUAL HOUSTON LAW REVIEW LECTURE

Constitutional Presuppositions

Analyzing the Constitution's many assumptions that it does not directly regulate and the unresolved question of what should happen when those assumptions change.



Keynote Speaker

William Baude
Harry Kalven, Jr. Professor of Law
Faculty Director, Constitutional Law Institute
University of Chicago Law School

Commentators



Jamal K. Greene
Dwight Professor of Law
Columbia Law School



John C. Harrison
James Madison Distinguished Professor of Law
Class of 1941 Research Professor of Law
University of Virginia School of Law

Friday, November 20, 2026
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM Central Time

John M. O'Quinn Law Building
Danny M. Sheena Courtroom (1st floor)

UNIVERSITY OF **HOUSTON** LAW CENTER

Agenda

11:00-11:10AM

Opening Remarks

Leonard M. Baynes
Dean, Hugh Roy and Lillie Cranz Cullen
Distinguished Chair
Professor of Law
University of Houston Law Center

11:10-11:40AM

Keynote Address: *Constitutional Presuppositions*

William Baude
Harry Kalven, Jr. Professor of Law
Faculty Director of the Constitutional Law Institute
University of Chicago Law School

11:40AM-12:10PM

Commentary

Jamal K. Greene
Dwight Professor of Law
Columbia Law School

John C. Harrison
James Madison Distinguished Professor of Law
Class of 1941 Research Professor of Law
University of Virginia School of Law

12:10-1:00PM

Moderated Q&A Session

Moderator
David Froomkin
Assistant Professor of Law
University of Houston Law Center

Lunch to Follow in the Foundation Room



WILLIAM BAUDE
Harry Kalven, Jr. Professor of Law
Faculty Director, Constitutional Law Institute
University of Chicago Law School

William Baude is the Harry Kalven, Jr. Professor of Law and Faculty Director of the Constitutional Law Institute at the University of Chicago Law School. His scholarship addresses constitutional interpretation, judicial remedies against the federal government, and the Supreme Court's emergency docket. He is best known for his work on originalism, particularly "Is Originalism Our Law?", which reshaped debate over the method's place in current legal practice. His writing on the emergency docket popularized the term "shadow docket," and his scholarship on Section Three of the Fourteenth Amendment has been widely cited by courts. A former clerk to Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr., Baude served on the Presidential Commission on the Supreme Court and co-hosts the podcast *Divided Argument*.



LEONARD M. BAYNES
Dean, Hugh Roy and Lillie Cranz Cullen Distinguished Chair
Professor of Law
University of Houston Law Center

Leonard M. Baynes, currently the longest serving law dean in Texas, made history in 2014 with his appointment as the first dean of African descent at the University of Houston Law Center.

During his deanship, the UH Law Center's admission credentials have steadily increased — the median LSAT score climbed from 159 to 165 and the median GPA grew from 3.47 to 3.79. Under Dean Baynes's leadership, the Law Center completed the $93 million world-class John M. O'Quinn Law Building in 2022 and expanded pathways to legal education through innovative programs including the 3-3 Program with UH Honors College, the UH Law Express Program, and the award-winning Pre-Law Pipeline Programs.

A prolific scholar, Dean Baynes co-authored the casebook "Telecommunications Law: Convergence and Competition" and has published over 25 law review articles and book chapters. He has received numerous honors, including recognition by *National Jurist* as one of the most influential people in legal education, the Paul Robeson Award from his alma mater Columbia Law School, and the Clyde Ferguson Award from the Association of American Law Schools. In 2026, Baynes received the TMCP Lifetime Achievement Award from the State Bar of Texas.



DAVID FROOMKIN
Assistant Professor of Law
University of Houston Law Center

David Froomkin is an Assistant Professor of Law at the University of Houston Law Center and affiliated faculty in the Department of Political Science. His scholarship focuses on administrative law, election law, and democratic and constitutional theory. His dissertation on the separation of powers received the American Political Science Association's 2025 Leonard D. White Award for the year's best dissertation in public administration. He teaches election law, criminal law, and constitutional design, and is frequently sought for commentary on Supreme Court decisions and redistricting.



JAMAL K. GREENE
Dwight Professor of Law
Columbia Law School

Jamal K. Greene is the Dwight Professor of Law at Columbia Law School, where he teaches constitutional law, comparative constitutional law, and the law of the political process. He is the author of *How Rights Went Wrong: Why Our Obsession with Rights Is Tearing America Apart* and of influential articles including "The Anticanon" and "Rights as Trumps?" A graduate of Harvard College and Yale Law School, he clerked for Judge Guido Calabresi of the Second Circuit and Justice John Paul Stevens of the U.S. Supreme Court, and worked as a reporter for *Sports Illustrated* before law school. He joined the Columbia faculty in 2008.



JOHN C. HARRISON
James Madison Distinguished Professor of Law
Class of 1941 Research Professor of Law
University of Virginia School of Law

John C. Harrison is the James Madison Distinguished Professor of Law and Class of 1941 Research Professor of Law at the University of Virginia School of Law, where he has taught since 1993. His scholarship focuses on constitutional law and the law of remedies, including an influential article on the Privileges or Immunities Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. A graduate of the University of Virginia and Yale Law School, he spent a decade at the U.S. Department of Justice, concluding as Deputy Assistant Attorney General in the Office of Legal Counsel. In 2008 he served as counselor on international law in the State Department's Office of the Legal Adviser.

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