

JAMES D. NELSON
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON LAW CENTER, Houston, TX

Vinson & Elkins Professor, 2021 – present

Associate Professor of Law and Business (with tenure), 2020 – present

Assistant Professor of Law, 2015 – 2020

All-University Award for Excellence in Research and Scholarship, 2020

All-University Teaching Excellence Award, 2019

Professor of the Year, Order of the Barons, 2018 – 2019

COLUMBIA LAW SCHOOL, New York, NY

Postdoctoral Fellow in Corporate Governance, 2014 – 2015

Fellow, Millstein Center for Global Markets and Corporate Ownership, 2014 – 2015

Editor-at-Large, Columbia Law School Blog on Corporations and Capital Markets, 2014

Associate-in-Law, Postdoctoral Research Scholar, and Lecturer-in-Law, 2012 – 2014

HARVARD LAW SCHOOL, Cambridge, MA

Research Director, Project on Corporate Political Spending, Fall 2015

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA SCHOOL OF LAW, Charlottesville, VA

J.D., May 2009

Editor-in-Chief, Virginia Law Review

Roger and Madeleine Traynor Prize (graduation award for best written work)

Robert E. Goldsten Award for Distinction in the Classroom

Order of the Coif

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA, Charlottesville, VA

B.A., Government and Political Philosophy, Policy, and Law (PPL), *with high distinction*, May 2006

Jefferson Scholar (full merit scholarship)

Echols Scholar (honors program)

Lawn Resident

PUBLICATIONS

Second-Order Decisions in Rights Conflicts, 109 VIRGINIA LAW REVIEW (forthcoming 2023) (with Micah Schwartzman)

Religion Law and Political Economy, 108 IOWA LAW REVIEW (forthcoming 2023) (with Elizabeth Sepper)
(invited symposium)

Government's Religious Hospitals, 109 VIRGINIA LAW REVIEW 61 (2023) (with Elizabeth Sepper)

The Separation of Ownership and Conscience, 48 JOURNAL OF CORPORATION LAW 577 (2023)

Adolf Berle's Corporate Conscience, 45 UNIVERSITY OF SEATTLE LAW REVIEW 97 (2022) (with Elizabeth Sepper)
(invited symposium)

Facts and Values in Corporate Legal Theory, in RESEARCH HANDBOOK ON CORPORATE PURPOSE AND PERSONHOOD (Elizabeth Pollman & Robert Thompson eds., 2021)

The Religious Conversion of Corporate Social Responsibility, 71 EMORY LAW JOURNAL 217 (2021) (with Elizabeth Sepper)

Some Realism about Corporate Crime, 83 LAW & CONTEMPORARY PROBLEMS 113 (2020)

The Untenable Case for Keeping Investors in the Dark, 10 HARVARD BUSINESS LAW REVIEW 1 (2020) (with Lucian Bebchuk, Robert J. Jackson, Jr., and Roberto Tallarita)

Corporate Disestablishment, 105 VIRGINIA LAW REVIEW 595 (2019)
Winner, Association of American Law Schools' Scholarly Papers Competition

The Trouble with Corporate Conscience, 71 VANDERBILT LAW REVIEW 1655 (2018)

Corporations, Unions, and the Illusion of Symmetry, 102 VIRGINIA LAW REVIEW 1969 (2016)

The Freedom of Business Association, 115 COLUMBIA LAW REVIEW 461 (2015)

Conscience, Incorporated, 2013 MICHIGAN STATE LAW REVIEW 1565
Reviewed in Paul Horwitz, *Beyond Contraceptive Mandate Doctrinalism*, JOTWELL: THE JOURNAL OF THINGS WE LIKE (LOTS), 2014

Note, *Incarceration, Accommodation, and Strict Scrutiny*, 95 VIRGINIA LAW REVIEW 2053 (2009)

SELECTED SHORTER WORKS

[*The Supreme Court Just Dealt a Major Blow to Corporate Mandates*](#), SLATE (June 30, 2023) (with Micah Schwartzman & Elizabeth Sepper)

[*Keeping the Faith*](#), BOSTON REVIEW (May 24, 2023) (with Elizabeth Sepper)

[*How the Court is Pitting Workers Against Each Other*](#), LPE BLOG (April 10, 2023) (with Elizabeth Sepper & Kate Redburn)

[*The Merger of Government and Religion*](#), LPE BLOG (March 9, 2023) (with Elizabeth Sepper)

[*Fulton v. Philadelphia: A Masterpiece of an Opinion?*](#), ACS EXPERT FORUM (June 18, 2021) (with Elizabeth Sepper)

[*Why Corporate Religious Exemptions are Not Corporate Social Responsibility*](#), CANOPY FORUM (May 18, 2021) (with Elizabeth Sepper)

[*Disestablishing Hospitals*](#), 49 JOURNAL OF LAW, MEDICINE & ETHICS 542 (2021) (with Elizabeth Sepper)
(invited symposium)

[*The Untenable Case for Keeping Investors in the Dark*](#), HARVARD LAW SCHOOL FORUM ON CORPORATE GOVERNANCE (November 14, 2018) (with Lucian Bebchuk, Robert J. Jackson, Jr., and Roberto Tallarita)

[*Halliburton II and Stare Decisis*](#), CLS BLUE SKY BLOG (July 10, 2014)

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

Religion Law and Political Economy

University of Iowa, October 2022

Second Order Decisions in Rights Conflicts

University of Virginia, June 2022

Government's Religious Hospitals

Temple University Beasley School of Law, January 2023

Brooklyn Law School, September 2022

University of Texas School of Law, November 2021

Yale Law School, November 2021

Annual Law & Religion Roundtable, BYU Law School, June 2021

Adolf Berle's Corporate Conscience

Berle XII Symposium, Seattle University School of Law, May 2021

The Religious Conversion of Corporate Social Responsibility

National Business Law Scholars Conference, June 2021

University of California, Davis, School of Law, March 2021

Disestablishing Hospitals

George Washington University Law School, March 2021

Facts and Values in Corporate Legal Theory

University of Pennsylvania Law School, September 2020

Some Realism about Corporate Crime

Duke University School of Law, November 2019

The Untenable Case for Keeping Investors in the Dark

Roundtable on Corporate Political Accountability, February 2019

Corporate Disestablishment

Association of American Law Schools' Scholarly Paper Presentation, January 2019

University of Michigan Law School, April 2018

University of Virginia School of Law, February 2018

University of Houston Law Center, January 2018

The Trouble with Corporate Conscience

University of Florida Levin College of Law, November 2017

University of Iowa College of Law, October 2017

University of Houston Law Center, August 2017

Corporations, Unions, and the Illusion of Symmetry

SMU Dedman School of Law, August 2016

Southeastern Association of Law Schools Annual Conference, August 2016

University of Houston Law Center, January 2016

Columbia Law School, November 2015

The Freedom of Business Association

University of North Carolina School of Law, November 2014

University of Maryland School of Law, November 2014

Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, November 2014
University of Houston Law Center, November 2014
Columbia Law School, February 2014

Conscience, Incorporated

University of Virginia School of Law, February 2014
Arizona State University, Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, December 2013
Symposium on Religious Institutionalism, DePaul College of Law, September 2013
Columbia Law School, August 2013

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Referee: Cambridge University Press; Law and Social Inquiry; Journal of Law, Religion and State;
Journal of Church and State; Polity; Social Theory and Practice; American Journal of
Political Science; Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics

Law School: Faculty Scholarship and Advancement Committee (2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18)
Clinical Hiring Committee (2016-17, 2017-18)
Clerkship Committee (2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22 (chair), 2022-
23 (chair), 2023-24)
Curriculum Committee (2018-19, 2019-20)
Executive Committee (2019-20, 2020-21)
Committee on Faculty Diversity (2021 (ad hoc), 2021-22, 2022-23)
Faculty Outreach and Planning Committee on Faculty Hiring (2023-24)
Faculty Appointments Committee (2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24)

University: Faculty Senate, Member (2020-23)
Graduate & Professional Studies Committee of the Faculty Senate, Member (2020-23)

External: AALS Section on Law & Religion, Executive Committee (2022-23)
AALS Section on Business Associations, Executive Committee (2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24)
Nootbaar Institute Fellow, Pepperdine Caruso School of Law (2022-23, 2023-24)
AALS Committee to Review Scholarly Papers (2019-20)

OTHER LEGAL EXPERIENCE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, CIVIL DIVISION, FEDERAL PROGRAMS BRANCH, Washington, DC
Trial Attorney, 2010 – 2012

THE HON. JERRY E. SMITH, U.S. COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE FIFTH CIRCUIT, Houston, TX
Law Clerk, 2009 – 2010

HOGAN & HARTSON LLP, Washington, DC
Summer Associate, 2008

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION, BUREAU OF CONSUMER PROTECTION, Washington, DC
Summer Law Clerk, 2007

Bar Admission: Virginia (2009)