

ROBERT C. PALMER

Dept. of History
University of Houston
Houston, TX 77204-3785
e-mail: rpalmer@uh.edu

Law Center
University of Houston
Houston, TX 77204

EDUCATION

University of Iowa

Ph.D., 1977

M.A., 1971

Teaching-Research Fellowship, 1970-1974

University of Oregon

B.A., 1970

Graduation "with highest honors"

Phi Beta Kappa

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

University of Houston

Associate Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, 2001-2.

Cullen Professor of History and Law (joint appointment), 1987--.

Courses Taught: American Legal History, Readings in American Legal History, Research in American Legal History, English Legal History, Research Seminar in English Legal History, Early European Historiography, Constitutional History of Late Medieval England and France, Palaeography, Property Law I, Trust and Wills, Law School Introductory Lectures

Marshall-Wythe School of Law, College of William and Mary

Associate Professor of Law and Adler Fellow in the Institute of Bill of Rights Law, 1985-87; Assistant Professor of Law and Adler Fellow, 1983-1985

Courses Taught: American Legal History, English Legal History, Historical Backgrounds of the Bill of Rights; Seminar in Legal History

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Visiting Ass't Professor of History and Lecturer in Law, 1982-83

Courses taught in the Law School: English Legal History, Historical Backgrounds of the Bill of Rights

Courses taught in the History Department: Palaeography, Constitutional and Legal History of Medieval England

Postdoctoral Fellowships:

Univ. of Michigan, Ann Arbor: Junior Fellow, Michigan Society of Fellows and the University of Michigan Law School, 1979-1982

Univ. of Alberta: Izaak W. Killam Postdoctoral Fellow, 1978-79

C.U.N.Y., Graduate Center: Mellon Fellowship in the Humanities, 1977-78

PUBLICATIONS

Website: *The Anglo-American Legal Tradition* (aalt.law.uh.edu). Launched on January 29, 2007. Under license from the National Archives in London, this website makes accessible newly digitized material hitherto accessible only in the original. At launch the site contained ca. 400,000 frames; by January 2015, 9,000,000 frames. It will grow to about 10,000,000 frames, but may grow well beyond that figure. The frames come from the years 1200 to 1900 and include both common law and equity material as well as material about administration and governmental finance. The license began with 14 documentary series and has been expanded six times to include now 45 series. It is run through the University of Houston Law Library so that by statute it remains non-commercial and provides free access. About a fifth of new acquisitions are funded by personal gifts from external academics.

Website: The Wiki for the Anglo-American Legal Tradition (WAALT: http://www.uh.edu/waalt/index.php/Main_Page). Launched April 29, 2011. The WAALT provides a wiki space for people to contribute to building the history of 1300 English and Welsh towns, of various themes, of the English language (in combination with the Oxford English Dictionary). It also allows for the accumulation of citations for extraneous documents whose contents have been transcribed into different series and for the provision of palaeographical assistance. Current estimate is that about another couple years of data entry will be required before the site becomes a sufficiently significant site that others will reorient their work to building the site. One of the more important thematic structures is the recording of all review procedures from 1200 to 1800, a fundamental project necessary for legal history. Newly entered material is accessible by Google searches within two days. I average a further fifteen to twenty entries a day when not actively working on the AALT.

Books

Selling the Church: the English Parish in Law, Commerce, and Religion, 1350-1550, University of North Carolina Press (American Society for Legal History Series), 2002. 330pp.

English Law in the Age of the Black Death, 1348-1381: A Transformation of Governance and Law, University of North Carolina Press (American Society for Legal History Series), 1993. 452pp.

Liberty and Community: Constitution and Rights in the Early American Republic, coauthored with William Nelson, with an introduction by Frederick Schauer. Institute of Bill of Rights Law Monograph Series (1987) and the New York University School of Law Linden Studies in Legal History (1987)

The Whilton Dispute, 1264-1380: A Social-Legal Study of Dispute Settlement in Medieval England. Princeton University Press, 1984. 295pp.

The County Courts of Medieval England, 1150-1350. Princeton University Press, 1982. 360pp. Special edition paperback by Princeton University Press, 1986. AHA Herbert Baxter Adams Prize.

Articles, etc.

“The construction of an online digital archive: the Anglo-American Legal Tradition website,” in *Laws, Lawyers and Texts: Studies in Medieval Legal History in Honour of*

Paul Brand. Edited by Susanne Jenks, Jonathan Rose and Christopher Whittick. (Brill, 2012).

review of Medieval English Conveyances by J.M. Kay in the American Journal of Legal History (July, 2012).

Published on AALT (aalt.law.uh.edu)

- (a) "Conceptualization: Legal Tradition and Legal Systems" Jan. 2007
- (b) "A Statistical Overview of English Legal History" Jan. 2007
- (c) "Attorneys in Early Modern England and Wales" Jan. 2007
- (d) "Litigiousness in Early Modern England", Feb.-Apr. 2007
- (e) "Writs of Prohibition under James I" 2007 and continuing
- (f) "Chancery and the Common Law: Reduction of Penal Bonds to Actual Damages"
- (g) "Marriage Arrangements in King's Bench, 1607" August 2007
- (h) "Town Courts in Early Modern England and Wales" December 2007
- (i) "Enforcement of the Statutes of 1529" April, 2007
- (j) "The Statute of Uses before the Statute of Wills" November 2007
- (k) "Lawyer Attorneys and the Transformation at the Time of the Black Death" September 2007.

Published on WAALT (http://www.uh.edu/waalt/index.php/Main_Page)

A variety of lists and archival projects. The most significant *lists* so far are under the thematic titles of "Review Procedures," "Prohibition/Premunire," and "Religion Miscellany." The most important archival project is the work by Helen Good on the Star Chamber (in which I have no part except in providing the space) but the projects detailing final concords, deeds, and inquisitions post mortem are becoming significant. Development of these projects will continue through my retirement.

"Law in English Society, 1100-1485," in *A Companion to Britain in the Later Middle Ages*, ed Stephen H. Rigby (Blackwell Press, 2002).

"Akhil Amar: Elitist Populist and Anti-Textual Textualist," 16 Southern Illinois University Law Journal 395-417 (1992)

"Trial by Ordeal," review essay, 87 Michigan Law Review 1547-1556 (1989)

"Obligations of Contracts: Intent and Distortion," 37 Case Western Law Review symposium edition, 631-73 (1987)

"Covenant, Justices Writs, and Reasonable Showings," 31 The American Journal of Legal History, 97-117 (1987)

review of John Baker, The Order of Serjeants, in 31 The American Journal of Legal History, 72-73 (1987)

"Conscience and the Law: the English Criminal Trial Jury," 84 Michigan Law Review 1601-1615 (1986)

"The Federal Common Law of Crime," 4 Law and History Review 262-321 (1986)

"The Economic and Cultural Impact of the Origins of Property," 3 Law and History Review 375-96 (1985)

"The Origins of Property in England," 3 Law and History Review 1-50 (1985)

"The Parameters of Constitutional Reconstruction: Slaughter-House, Cruikshank, and the Fourteenth Amendment," 1984 University of Illinois Law Review 739-70 (1984)

"Contexts of Marriage in Medieval England: Evidence from the King's Court circa 1300," 59 Speculum 42-67 (1984)

"review of A.R. & E.R. DeWindt, Royal Justice and the Medieval English Countryside," 58 Speculum 745 (1983)

"review of P.R. Hyams, King, Lords, and Peasants in Medieval England, The Common Law of Villeinage in the Twelfth and Thirteenth Centuries," 51 The Legal History Review 185 (1983)

"review of H.G. Richardson & G.O. Sayles, The English Parliament in the Middle Ages," 26 The American Journal of Legal History 387 (1982)

"The Feudal Framework of English Law," 79 Michigan Law Review 1130-64 (1981)

"The Origins of the Legal Profession in England," 11 Irish Jurist 126-46 (1976)

"County Court Year-Book Reports: the Professional Lawyer in the Medieval County Court," 91 English Historical Review 776-801 (1976)

SCHOLARLY PAPERS

"Local Courts": Law and Governance in pre-Modern Britain, University of Western Ontario, 14-15 October 2011 (a specialized English legal history conference).

"Legal Documents at the National Archives": an hour long presentation on use of the AALT for research into English literature at the Harrington symposium for 2010 at the University of Texas, Austin: The Archives and the Profession of Literary Study: Early Modern and Modern British and Irish Literature.

"The Anglo-American Legal Traditional Website Project", American Society for Legal History Conference, Dallas, November 2009.

"Lawyers and Litigiousness in Jacobean England," American Society for Legal History Conference, Baltimore, November 2006

"Transformation or Evolution: Legal Change in Fourteenth Century England," Department of History, University of Aberystwyth, Wales, March 2004.

"Conceptualizing Major Legal Change, 1100-1600: Revolution, Transformation, or Evolution," American Society for Legal History annual convention, San Diego, 2002 (an hour-long address).

"English Legal History, 1200-1570," American Society for Legal History annual convention, Chicago, 2001.

"Judge-Made Law," American Society for Legal History annual convention, Toronto, October 1999.

"Conceiving the Reformation," American Society for Legal History annual convention, Seattle, October 1998

"Selling the Church," Haskins International Medieval Society, Annual Meeting, Houston, November 1995

"The Primacy of the Document: The Assize of Northampton (1176) and the United States Constitution and Bill of Rights (1787-91)," Princeton University Davis Center Colloquium, November 1993

Commentary on session "What did Medieval English Villagers Mean by 'Customary Law,' Annual Meeting, American Society for Legal History, October 1993

Commentary on paper of Akhil Amar at a Bill of Rights Symposium at the Southern Illinois University School of Law, 1991

"Processes of Legal Change in Fourteenth Century England", American Society for Legal History annual convention, Chicago, October 1990

"In Plague and Oppression: the Foundations of Anglo-American Law, 1348-1381", the Harold E. and Margaret Rorschach Legal History Memorial Lecture, Rice University, February 1989

"The Black Death and the Origins of Case and Assumpsit", American Society of Legal History annual convention, Charleston, S.C. October 1988

"The Black Death and English Law", American Historical Society annual convention, Cincinnati, Ohio, December 1988

"The Obligations of Contracts Clause and Documentary Construction," American Judges Association seminar, April 1987

"Rethinking the Law, 1360-1370," the Selden Society Centennial Lecture, Wayne State Law School, February 1987

Also at University of Miami Law School, March 1987

"State Constitutional Influence on the U.S. Constitution: A Sceptical Approach," AALS Convention, Los Angeles, January 1987

"Early English Obligations," at the British Legal Manuscripts Convention, Chicago, at the Newberry Library, April 1986

"Liberties as Constitutional Provisions, 1776-91," (different forms, formats, and editions)

Plenary Session, annual meeting of the American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies, Williamsburg, March 1986

Also at University of Illinois Law School, Champaign-Urbana (March 1986), Colgate College (March 1986), and Hamilton College (March 1986)

Bicentennial Seminar of the National Humanities Center, Research Triangle Park (N.C.), February 1986, Lee Community College (September 1987)

Annual meeting of the American Society for Legal History, New Orleans, October 1985

University of Southern California Law Center, February 1985

"The First Amendment: the Early History," delivered at a seminar of the Southern Newspaper

Publishers Association, Williamsburg, November 1985

"Law, State, and Society in the Reign of Edward I," delivered at the Weingart Conference, California Institute of Technology, March 1985

"The Role of Politics in the Origins of the Property Law," delivered at the University of Illinois College of Law, November 1984

"The Great Inflation and the Origins of the Common Law," (different forms, formats, and editions)

New York University Law School Program in Law and History, April 1984

Sixth British Legal History Conference, Norwich, England, July 1983

University of Chicago Law School, May 1983

Commentator at session "The Legal Profession in the Thirteenth Century" at the annual meeting of the American Society for Legal History, Baltimore, October 1983

"Sheriffs, Seneschals, and Suitors: Rendering Judgments in Medieval English County Courts," delivered at the Midwest Medieval Conference, Columbus, October 1981

"The Emergence of a National Legal System in England," delivered at the annual meeting of the American Society for Legal History, Williamsburg, October 1979

"Jurisdiction in Personal Actions: The Reign of Edward I," delivered at a branch meeting of the Am. Soc. Leg. Hist., Philadelphia, March 1978

"The Jurisdiction of Medieval County Courts," delivered at the Third British Legal History Conference, Edinburgh, Scotland, July 1977

M.A. AND PH.D. STUDENTS DIRECTED

Non-Thesis M.A.

Anne Henricks	[medieval concentration]
Gregory Illich	[medieval concentration]
Major Stephenson	[U.S. constitutional history concentration]

Thesis M.A.

Michael Phifer	[Dower law before and after the Black Death]
Mark Carroll	[George Wallace as freshman legislator]
Diane Martin ("with distinction")	[Premunire Prosecutions, 1377-1381]
Paul White	[<i>The Federalist Papers</i> as political debate]
Kevin O'Neal ("with distinction")	[Labor regulation and the Uprising of 1381]
Austin Allen ("with distinction")	[Citizenship in the Dred Scott decision]
Scott Jernigan ("with distinction")	[Policy of John Fyneux, 1485-1495]

Ph.D.

Mark Steiner ("with distinction")	[Lincoln's legal profession]
Current employment:	South Texas School of Law
Mark Carroll ("with distinction")	[Texas family law, 1820's-1860]
Current employment:	Department of History, University of Missouri-Columbia
Austin Allen ("with distinction")	[Dred Scott Decision and Jacksonian Jurisprudence]

Current employment:	Department of History, University of Houston Downtown
Douglas Erwing	[Federalism in the U.S. Constitution]
Current employment:	UH Honors College
Michael Phifer (“with distinction”)	[Women’s Property Rights before and after the Black Death]
Privately employed during job search	

HONORS

1984: Herbert Baxter Adams Prize (the American Historical Association prize for a first book in European history) for The County Courts of Medieval England

1987: Chaired Professorship at the University of Houston

1988: Fellow, Royal Historical Society

ADDITIONAL GRANTS

Ames Foundation (Harvard): donation of material digitized from originals at UK National Archives for the AALT: 2009

AALT license from U.K. National Archives for UH

College of William and Mary Summer Research Grant: 1986
Research Topic: The English Law of Obligations, Fourteenth Century

College of William and Mary Summer Research Grant: 1985
Research Topic: The Federal Common Law of Crime

National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Research Grant: 1984
Research Topic: The Origins of Property Law

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

R&S Committee Research Integrity Review Committee: 2015

Law Center Post-Tenure Review Committee: 2014-16

Ad Hoc Curriculum Committee (and subcommittee for interdisciplinary projects): 2014

Provost’s committee of inquiry: 2014

R&S Committee GEAR subcommittee: 2014

R&S Committee Small Grants Subcommittee: 2014

Provost’s Moores Professorship Committee: 2012-2014

Centers and Institutes Committee: 2012-2013

Administrator/Developer: Wiki for the AALT (WAALT): 2011-2015

Research Council/Research and Scholarship Committee: 2010-2015

History of the Society Website Committee, American Society for Legal History: 2011-2015

Scholarship and Community Committee, 2009-2010

Administrator/Developer: Anglo-American Legal Tradition Website Project: 2006-15

Transfer Issues Committee, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, 2000-2003

Graduate Studies Council, 2001-2002

Associate Dean for Graduate Studies, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, 2001-2002

Provost's Classroom Committee, 2001-2003

member: Law Promotion and Tenure Committee, 2000-2001, 2008-10

Author: Review of history department evaluation for external review of February 2001

Vice-Chair, Department of History, 2000-2001

HFAC Council, 1999-2000

Committee sole to review tenure and promotions standards for College of HFAC, 1999

Chair, Merit Increment Committee and Post-Tenure Review Committee (History) 1999

Post-Tenure Review Committee (Law) member: 1999-2000, 2008-13
Chair: 2000-2001

Chair, Search Committee, Dean of the College of Social Sciences 1999-2000

Member, Search Committee, Vice-President/Vice-Chancellor for Development and Vice-President/Vice-Chancellor for University Relations 1999-2000

Committee sole, review of HFAC college and departmental standards for promotion and tenure 1999

Faculty Senate, 1993-1999, 2009-13

Chair, Committee on Committees, 1999 (as immediate past-president of the UH Faculty Senate)

President of the UH Faculty Senate 1998
Member of UH Chancellor/President's Cabinet and many other committees

President-Elect of Faculty Senate, 1997
President-elect serves also as a member of all senate committees

University Planning and Policy Council, 1997-98, 1999

Provosts' Council, 1997

Member, Search Committee for chief financial officer of UH and UH System, 1997

Faculty Senate Executive Committee, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999

Faculty Senate Educational Policies Committee, 1993

Faculty Senate Budget Committee, 1994, 1995, 1996

Ad Hoc Committee on Athletics, 1994

Executive Committee, U.H. Department of History, 1988-89; 1990-91, 1993-94, 1995-96

Executive Committee, Law Center, 1996-1997

Board of Directors, American Society for Legal History, 1987-89

Nominating Committee, American Society for Legal History, 1985

Sutherland Prize Committee, American Society for Legal History, 1995-97

Primary Drafter of the UH Law Center Bylaws, 1993

Primary Drafter of university ad hoc committee for Post-tenure Review and Remediation procedures, 1996-7

Chair of History Department faculty search committees for (1) Modern British History, (2) Tudor/Stuart History, (3) U.S. Women's History; (4) Early American History; member of History Department search committees for (1) Modern European Social History, (2) History of Brazil

Various law school, history department, college and society committees

American Historical Association, Selden Society, American Society for Legal History, Pipe Roll Society