

## SONJA R. WEST

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### ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

<b>The University of Georgia School of Law</b>	Athens, Georgia
<i>Associate Professor of Law</i>	May, 2011 to present
<i>Assistant Professor of Law</i>	July, 2005 to May, 2011

Courses: Constitutional Law I, Constitutional Law II, Media Law,  
The Supreme Court: Current Term, The Press & the Constitution.

<b>The University of Alabama School of Law</b>	Tuscaloosa, Alabama
<i>Hugo Black Faculty Fellow</i>	Jan., 2005 to May, 2006

Teaching fellowship for former U.S. Supreme Court law clerks.  
Courses: Constitutional Law and Media Law and Constitutional Law.

### JUDICIAL CLERKSHIPS

**Law Clerk – The Honorable John Paul Stevens**, Supreme Court of the United States, Washington, D.C. *1999-2000*

**Law Clerk – The Honorable Dorothy W. Nelson**, United States Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit; Pasadena, Cal. *1998-1999*

### EDUCATION

**University of Chicago Law School**; J.D. with High Honors. *June 1998*  
Honors: Order of the Coif; Executive Editor, *The University of Chicago Law Review*; John M. Olin Fellowship in Law and Economics; Tony Patino Fellow

**University of Iowa**; B.A. with Honors and Distinction. *May 1993*  
Double Major: Journalism and Communication Studies  
Honors: Honors Collegiate Scholar and Honors Collegiate Scholar Student Speaker; Phi Beta Kappa, Omicron Delta Kappa and Mortar Board Honor Societies; inaugural recipient of *The Daily Iowan* Scholarship

**ARTICLES AND ESSAYS**

*The “Press,” Then & Now,*

[http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=2579687](http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2579687) (work in progress)

*Student Press Exceptionalism*, 2 EDUC. L. & POL’Y REV. \_\_ (forthcoming 2015)  
(peer invited and reviewed symposium.)

*Press Exceptionalism*, 127 HARV. L. REV. 2434 (2014) (invited symposium)

*The Stealth Press Clause*, 48 GA. L. REV. 730 (2014) (invited symposium)

*First Amendment Neighbors*, 66 ALA. L. REV 357 (2014) (invited symposium)

*Monster in the Courtroom*, 2012 BYU L. REV. 1953 (invited symposium)

*Awakening the Press Clause*, 58 UCLA L. REV. 1025 (2011).

*The Story of Us: Resolving the Face-off Between Autobiographical Speech and Privacy*, 67 WASH. & LEE L. REV. 589 (2010).

*No Civilized System of Justice*, 11 GREEN BAG 521 (2008) (invited book review of *The Day Freedom Died*, Charles Lane).

*Sanctionable Conduct: How the Supreme Court Stealthily Opened the Schoolhouse Gate*, 12 LEWIS & CLARK L. REV. 27 (2008) (invited symposium)

*The Story of Me: The Underprotection of Autobiographical Speech*, 84 WASH. U. L. REV. 905 (2006).

*Concurring in Part & Concurring in the Confusion*, 104 MICH. L. REV. (2006).

Comment, “*Possessing with Intent to Distribute*” Under the Schoolyard Statute, 64 U. CHI. L. REV. 1399 (1997).

**SHORTER WORKS**

*Shadow Trial*, SLATE, Nov. 26, 2014

[http://www.slate.com/articles/news\\_and\\_politics/jurisprudence/2014/11/ferguson\\_grand\\_jury\\_investigation\\_a\\_shadow\\_trial\\_violates\\_the\\_public\\_s\\_right.html](http://www.slate.com/articles/news_and_politics/jurisprudence/2014/11/ferguson_grand_jury_investigation_a_shadow_trial_violates_the_public_s_right.html) (with Dahlia Lithwick)

*Stop Draggin' My Heart Around*, SLATE, Oct. 9, 2014

[http://www.slate.com/articles/news\\_and\\_politics/jurisprudence/2014/10/supreme\\_court\\_gay\\_marriage\\_chaos\\_which\\_states\\_allow\\_same\\_sex\\_marriage.html](http://www.slate.com/articles/news_and_politics/jurisprudence/2014/10/supreme_court_gay_marriage_chaos_which_states_allow_same_sex_marriage.html) (with Dahlia Lithwick)

*Advice for Ferguson from the Supreme Court*, SLATE, Aug. 19, 2014

[http://www.slate.com/articles/news\\_and\\_politics/jurisprudence/2014/08/ferguson\\_protesters\\_rebrand\\_yourselves\\_as\\_sidewalk\\_counselors.html](http://www.slate.com/articles/news_and_politics/jurisprudence/2014/08/ferguson_protesters_rebrand_yourselves_as_sidewalk_counselors.html) (with Dahlia Lithwick)

*Quick Change Justice*, SLATE, July 4, 2014

[http://www.slate.com/articles/news\\_and\\_politics/jurisprudence/2014/07/wheaton\\_college\\_injunction\\_the\\_supreme\\_court\\_just\\_sneakily\\_reversed\\_itself.html](http://www.slate.com/articles/news_and_politics/jurisprudence/2014/07/wheaton_college_injunction_the_supreme_court_just_sneakily_reversed_itself.html) (with Dahlia Lithwick)

*Censorship 101*, SLATE, Dec. 6, 2013

[http://www.slate.com/articles/news\\_and\\_politics/jurisprudence/2013/12/when\\_you\\_censor\\_student\\_speech\\_you\\_re\\_mostly\\_teaching\\_kids\\_to\\_live\\_with.html](http://www.slate.com/articles/news_and_politics/jurisprudence/2013/12/when_you_censor_student_speech_you_re_mostly_teaching_kids_to_live_with.html)

*Texas Hold 'Em*, SLATE, Sept. 11, 2013,

[http://www.slate.com/articles/news\\_and\\_politics/jurisprudence/2013/09/texas\\_and\\_gay\\_marriage\\_will\\_texas\\_refusal\\_to\\_grant\\_divorces\\_to\\_same\\_sex.html](http://www.slate.com/articles/news_and_politics/jurisprudence/2013/09/texas_and_gay_marriage_will_texas_refusal_to_grant_divorces_to_same_sex.html) (with Dahlia Lithwick)

*What is Anthony Kennedy Thinking?*, SLATE, June 12, 2013,

[http://www.slate.com/articles/news\\_and\\_politics/jurisprudence/2013/06/anthony\\_kennedy\\_s\\_gay\\_marriage\\_views\\_the\\_supreme\\_court\\_justice\\_may\\_see\\_banning.html](http://www.slate.com/articles/news_and_politics/jurisprudence/2013/06/anthony_kennedy_s_gay_marriage_views_the_supreme_court_justice_may_see_banning.html)

*Rare Supreme Court photos offer brief connection to the Constitution in action*, GEORGIA LAW ADVOCATE MAGAZINE 47:1 at 8-10 (2013)

*Smile for the Camera: The long lost photos of the Supreme Court at work—and what they reveal*, SLATE, Oct. 1, 2012,

[http://www.slate.com/articles/news\\_and\\_politics/jurisprudence/2012/10/the\\_supreme\\_court\\_forbids\\_cameras\\_in\\_the\\_courtroom\\_but\\_twice\\_rogue\\_photographers\\_have\\_snapped\\_a\\_picture\\_of\\_the\\_justices\\_at\\_work.html](http://www.slate.com/articles/news_and_politics/jurisprudence/2012/10/the_supreme_court_forbids_cameras_in_the_courtroom_but_twice_rogue_photographers_have_snapped_a_picture_of_the_justices_at_work.html)

*Judge Not: Why won't progressives fight for federal judges?*, SLATE, Oct. 24, 2011,

[http://www.slate.com/articles/news\\_and\\_politics/jurisprudence/2011/10/why\\_won\\_t\\_progressives\\_fight\\_for\\_federal\\_judges.html](http://www.slate.com/articles/news_and_politics/jurisprudence/2011/10/why_won_t_progressives_fight_for_federal_judges.html)

*Unplugged: When do Supreme Court justices need to just sit down and be quiet?*, SLATE, Dec. 14, 2010, <http://www.slate.com/id/2277915/> (with Dahlia Lithwick)

*The Law of Student Journalism in the Information Age*, Education Law Association, Nov. 11, 2010 (with Frank LeMonte, et al)

*Constitutional Interpretation: There's No App for That*, SLATE, June 23, 2010, <http://www.slate.com/id/2257941/>

*The Least Popular Dissent*, SCOTUSblog, May 4, 2010, <http://www.scotusblog.com/2010/05/the-least-popular-dissent/>

*The Unsung Empathy of Justice Stevens*, SLATE, April 9, 2010, <http://www.slate.com/id/2250370/> (with Dahlia Lithwick)

*Some Hot-Button Issues*, 29 NAT'L L.J. 8 (2008)

*A Conservative Shift*, 29 NAT'L L.J. 32 (2007)

*Post-Bartnicki v. Vopper: Matters of "Public Concern,"* LDRC BULLETIN (Libel Defense Resource Center, New York, NY) March 27, 2002 at 55 (with Theodore J. Boutrous, Jr.)

*Reporter's Privilege: 9th Cir.*, in REPORTER'S PRIVILEGE COMPENDIUM 09-1 (Reporter's Committee for Freedom of the Press ed. 2002) (with Theodore J. Boutrous, Jr.)

*Update: Latest Development in Boehner v. McDermott*, LDRC LIBELLETTER (Libel Defense Resource Center, New York, NY), January 2002 at 21

*Factual Misstatements*, in INTERNET AND ONLINE LAW 3-1 (Kent D. Stuckey ed., 2001) (with Theodore J. Boutrous, Jr. and Jarrert D. Arp)

*Survey of California Libel Law* in MEDIA LIBEL LAW 262 (Libel Defense Resource Center ed., 2001) (with Theodore J. Boutrous, Jr. and Rex Heinke)

*Supreme Court: Courts May Review Punitive Damage Awards De Novo*, LDRC LIBELLETTER (Libel Defense Resource Center, New York, NY), June 13, 2001 at 13 (with Theodore J. Boutrous, Jr. and Thomas H. Dupree, Jr.)

**PRESENTATIONS**

“The ‘Press,’ Then & Now,” Freedom of Expression Scholars Conference, Yale Law School, New Haven, CT (upcoming May 2, 2015) (invitation only conference presentation)

Panelist, Georgia Political Review discussion on 2014-2015 Supreme Court term, Athens, GA (upcoming March 30, 2015)

“The ‘Press,’ Then & Now,” Tulane Law School, New Orleans, LA (Sept. 29, 2014)

Panelist, “The Press, the Supreme Court and the Constitution,” Chicago-Kent Law School, Chicago, IL (Sept. 9, 2014)

Keynote speaker, Phi Beta Kappa Georgia chapter initiation, Athens, GA (April 29, 2014)

Panelist, “Supreme Sunshine: Shining a Light on the High Court,” NYU-Washington, Washington, DC (March 21, 2014)

“First Amendment Neighbors,” Alabama Law Review Symposium on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of *New York Times v. Sullivan*, Tuscaloosa, AL (March 1, 2014)

“Press Exceptionalism, Harvard Law Review Symposium on Press Freedom, Cambridge, MA (Feb. 15, 2014)

“Press Exceptionalism,” University of Georgia Law School, Athens, GA (Nov. 20, 2014)

Moderator, “Supreme Court Cases and Issues,” SCOTUSblog conference, University of Georgia, Athens, GA (Sept. 9, 2014)

“The Stealth Press Clause,” Georgia Law Review Symposium on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of *New York Times v. Sullivan*, Athens, GA (Nov. 5, 2013)

Introductory Speaker and Moderator, Justice John Paul Stevens’ Key Note Address, Georgia Law Review Symposium on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of *New York Times v. Sullivan*, Athens, GA (Nov. 5, 2013)

“The Stealth Press Clause,” the Southeastern Association of Law Schools Annual Conference, (Aug. 9, 2013)

“Press Exceptionalism,” Freedom of Expression Scholars Conference, Yale Law School, New Haven, CT (May 4, 2013) (invitation-only conference)

“Press Exceptionalism,” Association of American Law Schools Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA (Jan. 5, 2013) (winner of the Sections on Internet & Computer Law and Mass Communications Call for Papers)

“The Uneasy Relationship between United States Supreme Court Justices and Cameras,” Israeli Law and Society Association Annual Conference, Tel Aviv, Israel (Dec. 19, 2012)

“The Obama Administration and Federal District Court Judgeships,” on panel titled, “President Obama and the Courts,” Southeastern Association of Law Schools Annual Conference, (July 31, 2012)

“Press Exceptionalism,” Emory Law School and the University of Georgia School of Law Works-in-Progress Conference (June 27 2012)

“Monster in the Courtroom,” University of Georgia Honors Lunchbox Lecture, Athens, GA (Feb. 16, 2012)

“Monster in the Courtroom” at Brigham Young University Law Review symposium titled “The Press, the Public, and the U.S. Supreme Court,” Provo, UT (Jan. 24, 2012) (invited symposium)

“In Support of a Narrow Interpretation of ‘Press’,” Southeastern Association of Law Schools Conference, Hilton Head, SC (July 24, 2011)

Panelist, “Game Over: Violent Video Games and Juvenile Crimes,” Working in the Public Interest Conference, Athens, GA (April 2, 2011)

Speaker, “Hasta La Vista, Bloodshed: First Amendment Concerns with Schwarzenegger's Ban on Violent Games,” American Constitution Society and the Entertainment Law Society, Athens, GA (Feb. 16, 2011)

Panelist, “Mortal Kombat: How Video Game Violence Could Shape the 21<sup>st</sup> Century First Amendment,” Vance Forum, Atlanta, GA (Feb. 7, 2011)

Panelist, “The Law of Student Journalism in the Information Age,” Education Law Association Annual Conference, Vancouver, BC (Nov. 11, 2010)

“The Empathy of Justice Stevens,” Southeastern Association of Law Schools Conference, Palm Beach, FL (Aug. 1, 2010)

“Awakening the Press Clause,” Emory Law School and the University of Georgia School of Law Works-in-Progress Conference, Atlanta, GA (July 13, 2010)

“Awakening the Press Clause,” Georgia State Law School, Atlanta, GA (April 2010)

Panelist, “Media and the Public Interest” for the Working in the Public Interest Conference (Feb., 27 2010).

“Fringe Protection Absolutism,” PrawfsFest!, Southwestern Law School, Los Angeles, CA (Dec. 4, 2009)

“The Story of Us: The Face-Off Between Autobiographical Speech and Privacy,” Southeastern Association of Law Schools Conference, Palm Beach, FL (July 28, 2008)

Moderator, “LGBT Persons: The Fight for the Right to Marry” at the Working in the Public Interest Conference, Athens, GA (Feb. 28, 2009).

Speaker, Federalist Society’s Event with Alan Gura, Athens, GA (Feb. 24, 2009)

Moderator, “The Media: How it Shapes Our View of the Law,” Working in the Public Interest Conference, Athens, GA (April 5, 2008)

Panelist, “Law and Media,” Emory Public Interest Conference, Atlanta, GA (Oct., 2007)

Panelist, “Race & Education: A Discussion on Diversity, Desegregation, and American Education Policy,” Athens, GA (Feb. 22, 2007)