

WILLIAM ORTMAN

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CURRENT APPOINTMENT

University of Georgia School of Law

J. Alton Hosch Professor of Law (effective August 2026)

Professor, 2025 – present

PREVIOUS ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Wayne State University Law School

Professor, 2024 – 2025

David Adamany Research Scholar, 2024 – 2025

Associate Professor, 2021 – 2024

Edward M. Wise Research Scholar, 2020 – 2023

Assistant Professor, 2016 – 2021

University of Michigan Law School

Visiting Professor, Fall 2022

Harvard Law School

Climenko Fellow and Lecturer on Law, 2013 – 2016

EDUCATION

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LAW SCHOOL, J.D. 2006

Highest honors

Articles Editor, *University of Chicago Law Review*

Order of the Coif

SWARTHMORE COLLEGE, B.A., 2002

Highest honors in political science (major) and philosophy (minor)

Phi Beta Kappa

SCHOLARSHIP

Articles & Essays

Authoritarian Criminal Justice, 83 WASH & LEE L. REV __ (forthcoming 2027)

Cliff Running, 103 WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY LAW REVIEW 155 (2025) (with Dov Fox)

Confession and Confrontation, 113 CALIFORNIA LAW REVIEW 377 (2025)

- featured on [Excited Utterance Podcast](#)

The Prosecution Bar, 101 WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY LAW REVIEW 123 (2023)

The Informed Jury, 75 VANDERBILT LAW REVIEW 823 (2022) (with Daniel Epps)

- response by Darryl K. Brown in [Vanderbilt Law Review En Banc](#)
- cited in KADISH, SCHULHOFER & BARKOW, CRIMINAL LAW AND ITS PROCESSES (11th ed. 2022)

Confrontation in the Age of Plea Bargaining, 121 COLUMBIA LAW REVIEW 451 (2021)

- featured on [Excited Utterance Podcast](#)
- profiled in [The Crime Report](#)

The Defender General, 168 UNIV. OF PENNSYLVANIA LAW REVIEW 1469 (2020) (with Daniel Epps)

- profiled in the [The Appeal](#), [Bloomberg Law](#), and the [New York Times](#)
- selected for Junior Faculty Federal Courts Workshop

When Plea Bargaining Became Normal, 100 BOSTON UNIVERSITY LAW REVIEW 1435 (2020)

- selected for Stanford/Harvard/Yale Junior Faculty Forum

Second-Best Criminal Justice, 96 WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY LAW REVIEW 1061 (2019)

The Lottery Docket, 116 MICHIGAN LAW REVIEW 705 (2018) (with Daniel Epps)

- reviewed in [Jotwell](#) and profiled in the [ABA Journal](#)
- received Honorable Mention, American Association of Law Schools Scholarly Papers Competition
- selected for Junior Faculty Federal Courts Workshop

Probable Cause Revisited, 68 STANFORD LAW REVIEW 511 (2016)

- abridged version published in Search and Seizure Law Report

Rulemaking's Missing Tier, 68 ALABAMA LAW REVIEW 225 (2016)

Chevron for Juries, 36 CARDOZO LAW REVIEW 1287 (2015)

Shorter Work and Solicited Contributions

Plea Bargaining Abolitionism: A History, 22 OHIO ST. J. OF CRIMINAL LAW 1 (2025)

Crawford and Criminal Justice, 57 UNIV. OF MICHIGAN JOURNAL OF LAW REFORM 765 (2024)

Plea Bargaining and Guilty Plea, in ELGAR ENCYCLOPEDIA OF CRIME AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE (2023)

The Yates Memo Versus Administrative Law, 165 UNIV. OF PENNSYLVANIA LAW REVIEW ONLINE 191 (2017)

Comment, *Parents, Subsidiaries, and RICO Distinctiveness*, 73 UNIV. OF CHICAGO LAW REVIEW 377 (2006)

Public Commentary

Immunity for witnesses is a key tool of prosecutors, whether they're charging Trump or other alleged criminals – here's how it works and what the limits are, The Conversation (Aug. 2, 2023)

Jurors Don't Know What the Penalties for a Guilty Verdict Will Be. They Should. Washington Post (Sept. 15, 2021) (with Daniel Epps)

One Change That Could Make American Criminal Justice Fairer, The Atlantic (Mar. 16, 2020) (with Daniel Epps)

TEACHING

Georgia Evidence
Criminal Procedure II

Wayne Evidence
Criminal Law
Advanced Topics in Criminal Law and Procedure
Criminal Procedure: Adjudication
Administrative Law

Michigan Criminal Law

Harvard Legal Research & Writing

Awards Wayne Law Upper-Level Professor of the Year (student vote): 2018, 2019, 2020, 2024
Wayne Law First-Year Professor of the Year (student vote): 2021
Donald H. Gordon Excellence in Teaching Award: 2019

COMMITTEE SERVICE

AT GEORGIA

Member Academic and Student Affairs Committee (2025–26)
Accelerate Committee (2025–26)
Veterans Legal Clinic Hiring Committee (2025–26)

AT WAYNE LAW

Chair AI Task Force (2024)
Academic Affairs and Curriculum Committee (2021–22, 2024)
Faculty Appointments Committee (2024–25)
Legal Writing Committee (2021)
Working Group on Online Examinations (2020–21) (coordinator)

Member Academic Affairs and Curriculum Committee (2017–20, 2021)
Ad Hoc Committee on Bylaws (2022)
Clinical Programs Subcommittee (2020–23)
Experiential Education Committee (2021–22)
Faculty Appointments Committee (2019–20, 2021, 2022–23)
Legal Writing Committee (2016–19)
On-Line Evening Program Committee (2024–25)
Scholarships Committee (2016–18)
Student Affairs Committee (2016–17)

OTHER LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Weinhardt & Logan, P.C., Des Moines, Iowa
Partner, 2011 – 2013

Belin McCormick, P.C., Des Moines, Iowa
Partner, 2011; Associate, 2007 – 2010

Hon. David S. Tatel, D.C. Circuit, Washington, D.C.
Law Clerk, 2006 – 2007

PRESENTATIONS (SELECTED)

Authoritarian Criminal Justice
Criminal Justice Roundtable, University of Chicago (April 2026)

The History of Plea Bargaining
Michele Taruffo Girona Evidence Week, University of Girona, Spain (June 2025)

When Innocence Doesn't Matter: The Mass Production of Error in Chicago's Criminal Court
Criminal Justice Ethics Schmooze, Fordham Law School (April 2024)

Crawford and Criminal Justice
Crawford at 20 Symposium, University of Michigan Law School (March 2024)

Should Prosecutors Be Lawyers?
University of San Diego Law School Colloquium (March 2022)

SCOTUS: A Review of the 2020 Term's Most Important Cases
Michigan Court of Appeals (March 2022)

The Informed Jury
University of California Hastings Law School Colloquium (March 2021)

Confrontation in the Age of Plea Bargaining
University of Oregon Law School Colloquium (February 2021)

When Plea Bargaining Became Normal
Stanford/Harvard/Yale Junior Faculty Forum (August 2020); Colorado Junior Criminal Law Workshop (June 2019);
Crimfest!, Cardozo Law School (July 2018)

SCOTUS: A Review of the 2018 Term's Most Important Cases
Michigan Court of Appeals (December 2019)

The Defender General
Washington University School of Law (December 2019); Junior Faculty Federal Courts Workshop, University of Arkansas Law School (September 2019)

Confrontation in the Age of Plea Bargaining
Crimfest!, Brooklyn Law School (July 2019)

The Lottery Docket
Junior Faculty Federal Courts Workshop, Emory Law School (April 2017)

The Yates Memo Versus Administrative Law
AALS Annual Meeting – New Voices in Administrative Law (January 2017)

Chevron for Juries
New England Regional Junior Faculty Workshop, New England Law | Boston (February 2014); Harvard Law School
Reading Group (February 2014)