

## Newsletter Fall 2016



**TRACY THOMAS**  
Director of CCL and  
Seiberling Chair of  
Constitutional Law

*Her work focuses on questions of gender and civil rights remedies. She is editor of the Gender Law Prof Blog. As a practicing attorney at Covington & Burling in Washington, D.C., Thomas litigated pro bono cases of constitutional prison conditions, gender equality, and criminal procedure.*

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sept. 16, 2016** 12pm  
Professor Laurie  
Levenson, Constitution  
Week Lecture:  
*Innocence and the  
Constitution: How We  
can Do Better.*

**Oct. 20 & 21, 2016**  
Symposium: *The U.S.  
Feminist Judgments  
Project: Rewriting  
Constitutional Law*

# University of Akron Center for Constitutional Law

Congress established the Center for Constitutional Law (CCL) at Akron in 1986 as one of four national resource centers dedicated to legal research on constitutional issues. Akron Law created the John F. Seiberling Chair of Constitutional Law to fulfill this mission. The Center has hosted visiting U.S. Supreme Court Justices Sandra Day O'Connor and Arthur Goldberg.

The Center fosters scholarly research, public education, and student engagement on current topics of constitutional import. Follow us on [Twitter](#) @conlawcenter

## CCL Faculty Fellows



Kristen Barnes teaches Property, Comparative Law, International Human Rights and Real Estate and researches in race discrimination.



Dean Marty Belsky teaches Constitutional Law, Prosecutorial Function, and Post-Conviction Remedies and researches in freedom of religion.



Bernadette Bollas Genetin teaches and researches on Civil Procedure, Federal Jurisdiction and Procedure, and Complex Litigation.



Brant Lee teaches Property, Feminist & Race Theory, Employment Discrimination & researches race discrimination.



William D. Rich teaches Constitutional Law, First Amendment Law, Election Law, and Criminal Law.



**The 5th Annual Symposium on  
Constitutional Law  
The U.S. Feminist Judgments Project:  
Rewriting the Law, Writing the Future  
October 20-21, 2016**

This year's symposium focuses on questions of gender and equality. It flows from the **U.S. Feminist Judgments Project**, a book pulling together a group of leading feminist legal scholars in the United States to rewrite, using feminist reasoning, the most significant Supreme Court cases on gender from the 1800s to the present day.

The symposium picks up where the book leaves off, beginning the discussion of how to integrate feminist thinking and appreciation of gender equality into judicial decision making.

The keynote luncheon speaker will be Sally Kenney, author of **Gender & Justice: Why Women in the Judiciary Really Matter** and professor of political science at Tulane University. A special panel will feature women judges reflecting on their experiences in decision-making. Other speakers include the editors and contributors from the U.S. Feminist Judgments book as well as scholars from multiple fields exploring the intersection of gender and lawmaking.

For information and registration (free to all) visit the symposium website at: <https://www.uakron.edu/law/ccl/symposium.dot>

## ConLawNOW

ConLawNOW is an online legal journal published by the Center for Constitutional Law at the University of Akron School of Law. The short essay format (5-10 pgs.) provides debate and analysis of legal issues of constitutional import in the headlines including pending Supreme Court cases, and events as they happen.

**ConLawNOW** is always looking for submissions from both academic authors and practitioners. For questions or submissions, please contact the journal editor at [conlawjournal@uakron.edu](mailto:conlawjournal@uakron.edu).

### **Articles from Volume 7, Issue 1**

- **Pursuing Procedural Justice: Reflections by an Attorney in the Tamir Rice Case**  
*Walter Madison*
- **Toward a Judicial Bulwark Against Constitutional Extravagance - A Proposed Constitutional Amendment for State Consent Over Judicial Appointments**  
*Steven T. Voigt*
- **Obergefell's Prescription: Why the Fourteenth Amendment Trumps State Employees' Free Exercise Claims**  
*Douglas B. McKechnie*
- **Obergefell v. Hodges: How the Supreme Court Should Have Decided the Case**  
*Adam Lamparello*
- **Why We Need Reed: Unmasking Pretext in Anti-Panhandling Legislation**  
*Joseph Mead*
- **Tying the Knot with a Surname? The Constitutionality of Japan's Law Requiring a Same Marital Name**  
*Koji Higashikawa*

Want to learn more about constitutional law?

Visit the CCL resource page at <https://www.uakron.edu/law/ccl/resources.dot>





### **CCL STUDENT FELLOWS**

The CCL sponsors Student Fellowships each academic year. Fellows engage in all aspects of the Center's work including research, social media, conferences, lectures, and public education. They may also write individual directed research thesis papers with CCL faculty. Students have opportunities for individualized faculty mentorship in the field of constitutional law including work on special projects, co-authored papers and networking with faculty and alumni.



The CCL Student Fellows for 2016-17



### **Constitutional Law Discussion Forums**

The CCL hosts a Constitutional Law Discussion Forum the last Tuesday of the month. Topics usually reflect current events or recent court decisions.

**Last year's topics included:**

- Marriage Equality and Religious Liberty Conscientious Objection
- Constitutionality of the Death Penalty
- Criminal Justice Reform
- Constitutional Issues Surrounding Gun Control
- Constitutional Issues Surrounding Immigration
- The Presidential Election, the Supreme Court, and the Constitution

Join us on Sept. 27, Oct. 25, and Nov. 15

12:30 to 1:15 in Room 140

Let your voice be heard!