

Call for Papers
2026 Virtual Symposium
THE CENTER FOR CONSTITUTIONAL LAW AT AKRON

*Levels of Scrutiny:
Toppling the Tiers or Restoring the Balance*

Friday, February 20, 2026
9:00am to 4pm (virtual online)

[The Center for Constitutional Law at Akron](#) seeks submission of abstracts to present and publish in the 2026 Virtual Symposium, *Levels of Scrutiny: Toppling the Tiers or Restoring the Balance*. The Center is one of four national centers established by Congress on the bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution to support legal research on constitutional matters.

The 2026 symposium examines the recent trend of the U.S. Supreme Court paradoxically eradicating and reifying tiered levels of scrutiny. In some cases, the Court seems to reject the longstanding variation in judicial oversight, dramatically impacting individual constitutional rights. At the same time, in other cases, the Court has doubled down on these levels, reinscribing them as rigid categorizations of outcomes rather than fluid analysis along a spectrum of consideration. This symposium seeks to bring together scholars engaged with these important constitutional questions as they evaluate opinions and offer critiques and insights on the developing law. Papers might engage with a variety of related questions, which might include the theoretical paradox; historical origins of scrutiny; specific categorizations of strict, intermediate, or rational basis; particular individual rights or amendments; the classification of new suspect classes; or case-specific analysis; and many other topics under the broad umbrella of the topic.

Abstracts for the **2026 Levels of Scrutiny Symposium** should be submitted no later than **December 15, 2025**. Please submit abstracts to Professor Tracy Thomas, Director of the Center for Constitutional Law at Akron, at thomast@uakron.edu.

Papers will then be published in the Center's journal, [ConLawNOW](#), a faculty edited, open-access, online journal. Final papers will be due two weeks after the symposium on March 9, 2026, for publication by mid-April 2026. Papers for this online journal are typically between 5,000 to 10,000 words in length.