

# ALLISON ORR LARSEN

William & Mary Law School  
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## EXPERIENCE:

### **William & Mary Law School, Williamsburg, Virginia**

*Alfred Wilson & Mary I.W. Lee Professor of Law (with tenure)* (current position)

*Director, Institute of Bill of Rights Law*, (appointed 2020) (current position)

*Associate Professor of Law*, July 2013 – July 2016

*Assistant Professor of Law*, Fall 2010 – July 2013

- Courses Taught: Constitutional law, Administrative law, Statutory Interpretation, Advanced Constitutional Law
- 2025 Walter Williams Jr Memorial Teaching Award – awarded by graduating class to one member of the faculty
- 2023 1L Professor of the Year Award
- 2018 & 2015 Plumeri Award for Faculty Excellence (university-wide award)
- 2016 McGlothlin Teaching Award (inaugural recipient)
- 2014 SCHEV Outstanding Faculty Award, “Rising Star”
  - Awarded by the State Council of Higher Education of Virginia (SCHEV), these awards are the Commonwealth’s highest honor for faculty at Virginia’s public and private universities.
  - Two faculty members in the state are recognized annually as early career “Rising Stars”
- Class of 2013 Walter Williams Jr Memorial Teaching Award
- 2012 Alumni Fellowship Award (university-wide award)

### **Harvard Law School,**

*Daniel P.S. Paul Visiting Professor of Constitutional Law*, Fall 2018

### **Oxford University, UK**

*Visiting Scholar, Hertford College and Centre for Socio-Legal Studies*, Fall 2016

### **Catholic University, Columbus School of Law, Washington, DC**

*Scholar in Residence*, 2009 – 2010

### **O’Melveny & Myers LLP, Washington, DC**

*Associate*, January 2007 to May 2009

## JUDICIAL CLERKSHIPS:

**The Honorable David H. Souter**, Supreme Court of the United States

*Law Clerk*, 2005-2006 Term

**The Honorable J. Harvie Wilkinson, III**, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit

*Law Clerk*, 2004-2005 Term

## PUBLICATIONS:

*Is History Precedent?*, 78 Stan. L. Rev. \_\_ (forthcoming 2026)

*The Judicial Voice on the Courts of Appeals*, 111 Iowa L. Rev. \_ (forthcoming 2026) (with Neal E. Devins)

*What makes a Con Law Doctrine and Why does it Matter*, W&M BILL OF RIGHTS JOURNAL (forthcoming 2026)

*History's Identity Crisis*, 78 SMU L. Rev. 293 (2025)

*Learning to Disagree Agreeably*, 110 Va L. Rev. Online 248 (2024)

*Becoming a Doctrine*, 76 Fla. L. Rev. 1 (2024)

- Featured in the *New York Times*. Adam Liptak, *The Curious Rise of a Supreme Court Doctrine that Threatens Biden's Agenda* (NY Times, March 2023).

*The Precarious Art of Classifying Facts*, 73 Duke L.J. Online 191 (2024)

*Circuit Personalities*, 108 Va. L. Rev. 1315 (2022) (with Neal Devins)

- Featured in Cover Story, *How Fostering 'Circuit Personalities' Can Help Curb Partisan Divisions in the Judiciary* (National Law Journal, April 2022)

*Weaponizing En Banc*, 96 NYU L. Rev. 5 (2021) (with Neal Devins)

- Featured in *New York Times*: Adam Liptak, *On Federal Courts, a Spike in Partisanship*, (NY Times, February 22, 2021).
- Selected as Download of the Week by Legal Theory Blog (February 12, 2021) and Top Ten Download of the Year (December 31 2021)
- Cited by Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals in *Bristol Regional Women's Center, P.C. v. Slatery*, -- F.3d --, 2021 WL 650893 at \*1 n.3 (6th Cir. Feb. 19, 2021).

*Judging Under Fire & the Retreat to Facts*, 61 William & Mary Law Rev. 1083 (2020)

*Judicial Decision-Making* (West 2020) (with Barry Friedman, Maggie Lemos, Andrew Martin, Tom Clark and Anna Harvey)

*Virtual Briefing in the Supreme Court*, 105 Cornell Law Rev. 85 (2019)(with Jeff Fisher)

- Number 2 download on all of SSRN (week of June 3<sup>rd</sup>), and voted a top ten article of the year by Legal Theory Blog
- Featured in *Reuters* and in other national media and numerous blogs. See, e.g. Frankel, *Supreme Court scholars' new paper sparks debate over influence of blogs, podcasts* (May 30, 2019)
- Favorably reviewed in JOTWELL (Marin Levy, September 4, 2019)
- Awarded the 2018 Eisenberg price for best piece of scholarship about appellate courts by the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers

*Constitutional Law in an Age of Alternative Facts*, 93 NYU L. Rev. 175 (2018)

*Supreme Court Norms of Impersonality*, 33 Constitutional Commentary 373 (2018)

*Judicial Fact-Finding in an Age of Rapid Change: Creative Reforms from Abroad*, 130 Harv. L. Rev. F. 316 (2017)

*The Amicus Machine*, 102 Va. Law Rev. 1901 (2016) (with Neal Devins)

- Featured in *The New York Times*, Adam Liptak, *Study Shows How Much Work It Takes to Be Supreme Court's Friend*, (March 7, 2016)
- Awarded the 2016 Eisenberg price for best piece of scholarship about appellate courts by the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers

*Do Laws Have a Constitutional Shelf Life?*, 94 Tex. Law Rev. 59 (2015)

*The Trouble with Amicus Facts*, 100 VA. LAW REV. 1757 (2014)

- Discussed with Stephen Colbert as a guest on Comedy Central's *The Colbert Report* (October 6, 2014)
- Cited by Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals, *Rowe v. Gibson*, 798 F.3d 622, 638 (2015) (Judge Hamilton, dissenting)
- Featured in *The New York Times* (Adam Liptak, "Seeking Facts, the Justices Settle for what the Briefs tell Them," September 1, 2014)
- Featured on Talking Points Memo (Sahil Kapur, "Seven Times the Court has Relied on Sketchy Facts," September 2, 2014)
- Selected as one of ten "Downloads of the Year" on Lawrence Solum's, Legal Theory Blog.

*Factual Precedents*, 162 U. PA. L. REV. 59 (2013)

*Confronting Supreme Court Fact Finding*, 98 VA L. REV. 1255 (2012)

- Cited by the Fourth Circuit, *United States v. Perkins*, 67 F.4th 583, 640 (4th Cir. May 4, 2023).
- Cited by the Ninth Circuit, *Isaacson v. Horne*, 716 F.3d 1213, (9th Cir. 2013).
- Featured in *The Washington Post*, (Robert Barnes, "Supreme Court rule: (Other) justices shouldn't conduct independent research," March 25, 2018)
- Featured in *The New York Times*, (Adam Liptak, "In Supreme Court Opinions, Web Links to Nowhere," September 23, 2013)
- Featured in *The Boston Globe* (Josh Rothman, "Supreme Court Justices Addicted to Google," June 7, 2012).

*Bargaining Inside the Black Box*, 99 GEORGETOWN LAW JOURNAL 1567 (2011)

- Cited by US District Court (WD VA), *Ewing v. Clarke*, No. 19-cv-00702 (2020)

*Perpetual Dissents*, 15 GEORGE MASON LAW REVIEW 447 (2008)

- Featured in *The New York Times* (Adam Liptak, "When Perpetual Dissent Removes the Blindfold," September 5, 2011)

## OTHER PUBLICATIONS:

- *The heartbeat of the law is human connection*, SCOTUSblog, May 14, 2025.
- *Why the Word 'Doctrine' Matters in the Major Questions Doctrine*, Bloomberg Law, July 6, 2023.
- *The Supreme Court Decisions on Guns and Abortion Relied Heavily on History. But Whose History?*, Politico, July 26, 2022.
- *Legal scholarship highlight: The Amicus Machine*, SCOTUSblog (2016) (with Neal E. Devins).

## EDUCATION:

### University of Virginia School of Law, J.D., 2004

- Highest GPA in a class of 360
- Margaret Hyde Award (highest award given to a UVA law student, selected by the faculty)
- Law School Alumni Award for Academic Excellence, Z Society Shannon Award
- Order of the Coif
- *Virginia Law Review*, Managing Board

### The College of William and Mary

B.A., *magna cum laude*, English and Psychology, May 1999

## RECENT INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- Stanford Law School, Constitutional Law Colloquium (2026)
- UVA Law School, Faculty Workshop Series (2025)
- Northwestern Law School, Public Law Colloquium (2024)
- NYU Law School, Constitutional Colloquium (2023)
- Duke Law School, Judicial Roundtable Workshop (2018-2025)
- Annenberg Retreat at Sunnylands, *Protecting Science and the Courts* (2019) (featured speaker presenting research on amicus briefs funded by Annenberg).
- University of Virginia Law School, Faculty Workshop Series (2018)
- Duke Law School, Constitutional Law Workshop Series (2018)
- Arizona State University, Faculty Workshop Series (2018)
- Harvard Law School, Public Law Workshop (2016)
- University of Chicago Law School, Constitutional Law Workshop Series (2016)
- Cornell University School of Law, Constitutional Law Workshop Series (2015)
- University of Pennsylvania School of Law, Con. Law Workshop Series (2014)
- Oral Argument, Podcast (Episode 97 “Fact-y”)
- National Association of Attorneys General (invited speaker to annual meeting of state solicitor generals, June 2016)
- 2016, 2014 & 2012 Virginia Judicial Conference (invited speaker on Supreme Court’s Term to the annual conference for all Virginia judges)
- 2013 U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit Judicial Conference (invited speaker)

## SELECT SERVICE

- Associate Dean for Faculty Research & Development (2022-2023)
- Chair, Law School Dean’s Search Committee (2019-2020)
- Appointments Committee (2017-2024, Chair in 2021-2022 and 2023-24)
- Faculty Status and Tenure Committee (2019-2020, 2025-26)
- Clerkship Committee, Chair (2017-2021)
- Honor System Advisory Committee (university-wide) (2017-2020)

## SELECT MEDIA APPEARANCES:

- NY Times, “In Abortion Cases, Legions of ‘Friends’ Seek to Persuade Supreme Court,” N.Y. Times, (Adam Liptak, June 24, 2024).

- CBS News, 4 major takeaways from the Supreme Court's most consequential term in years, (Melissa Quinn, July 3, 2024)
- Washington Post, "This Humble Fish may help the Supreme Court weaken the administrative state," (Ann Marimow, Jan 15 2024)
- NY Times, "June 24, 2022: The Day Chief Justice Roberts Lost His Court," (Adam Liptak, June 24, 2022).
- Washington Post, "How a Supreme Court case is decided," (Ann Marimow May 3, 2022)
- CBS News "Supreme Court's Conservatives Assert Control as Momentous Term Comes to an End," (Melissa Quinn June 30, 2022).
- NYTimes, "New Supreme Court Term Could End Roberts's Dominant Role" (Adam Liptak Oct. 4, 2020)
- Wall Street Journal, "No Obama or Trump Judges Here," (Jess Bravin, September 15, 2019)
- USA Today, (Richard Wolf, "His Supreme Court divided like the country, Chief Justice John Roberts prepares for outsized role as umpire," Sep 25, 2019)
- CNN, (Ariane de Vouge, "Supreme Court Hears from All Corners of the country ahead of travel ban case," April 24, 2018)
- Wall Street Journal (Jess Bravin, "Obama's Gun Plan: A Legal Assessment" January 5, 2016)
- Bloomberg, (Greg Stohr, "Post Scalia Clerk Has Liberals Winning, Conservatives Venting, June 28, 2016)
- Washington Post (Bob Barnes, "Justices Kennedy and Scalia and their Divide on Gay Rights, April 26, 2015)
- Newsweek, (Pema Levy, "Does the Hobby Lobby Decision Threaten Gay Rights," July 9, 2014)
- C-SPAN (June 29, 2013) (Supreme Court 2012-2013 Term Review)
- CNN, (John Blake, "Has the Roberts Court Placed Landmark 1964 Civil Rights Law on a Hit List," April 10, 2014)
- The Colbert Report, Comedy Central (October 6, 2014) (invited guest)

## **PRINCIPAL TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS:**

CONSTITUTIONAL LAW  
 ADMINISTRATIVE LAW  
 STATUTORY INTERPRETATION  
 JUDICIAL DECISION MAKING  
 ADVANCED CON LAW (First Am / Second Am)

## **ADMITTED TO PRACTICE:**

Virginia, Washington DC