

GERALD (“JERRY”) S. DICKINSON

University of Pittsburgh School of Law
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LEGAL
 ACADEMIA

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH SCHOOL OF LAW Pittsburgh, PA

Dean (Jan. 2025-Present)

Vice Dean (2023-2025)

Professor of Law (2024-Present)

Associate Professor of Law (2020-2024)

Assistant Professor of Law (2017-2020)

Deanship

A Pittsburgh native and Dean of the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, Dickinson is a nationally recognized constitutional law scholar, civil rights lawyer, and former politician. As Dean, he advances Pitt Law’s academic reputation, expands student opportunities, strengthens ties with the local legal community, and leads major fundraising initiatives. His scholarship on judicial federalism and state constitutional law appears in top law journals and is cited by federal courts. A former Fulbright Scholar and federal law clerk, he brings global human rights experience and local legal practice expertise to his role. His political leadership and media presence elevate Pitt Law’s public profile regionally and nationally. Raised in Allegheny County’s foster care system, Dickinson leads with a deep commitment to equity, opportunity, and public service.

Areas of Expertise

Constitutional Law, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, Judicial Federalism, State Constitutional Law, Federal Courts, Takings, Democracy and the Law

Fundraising

Raised approximately \$8 million in new gifts and commitments since being appointed Dean in January 2025, a law school record. Fundraising supports endowed chairs, tuition scholarships, academic initiatives, public interest programming, and business law and financial regulation.

POLITICAL
 CAMPAIGNS &
 FUNDRAISING

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Candidate, Democratic Nomination, Pennsylvania’s 12th Congressional District (2022)
 Fundraising: \$768,432 (100% individual contributions)

Candidate, Democratic Nomination, Pennsylvania’s 18th Congressional District (2020)
 Fundraising: \$262,293 (100% individual contributions)

FEDERAL
CLERKSHIPS

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE THIRD CIRCUIT Philadelphia, PA
Law Clerk, Chief Judge Theodore A. McKee (2015-2016)

PRIVATE
PRACTICE

REED SMITH LLP Pittsburgh, PA
Associate (2013-2015)
Founder & Director, Housing Rights Pro Bono Project

DISTINGUISHED
FELLOWSHIPS

FULBRIGHT SCHOLARSHIP Johannesburg, South Africa
Fulbright Scholar (2009-2010)
Research: Comparative constitutional law, human rights, evictions, housing
Institutions: University of the Witwatersrand School of Law, Centre for Applied Legal Studies

LEGAL
SCHOLARSHIP

THE BOTTOM-UP CONSTITUTION: STATES AND THE EVOLUTION OF AMERICAN CONSTITUTIONAL LAW (book) (forthcoming 2027)

The Constitutional Penumbra of Home Rights (forthcoming 2026)

Taking Homes, 43 YALE J. ON REG. __ (forthcoming 2026)

Abortion Rights from the Bottom-Up, 2026 UTAH L. REV. __ (forthcoming 2026)

Judicial Laboratories, 27 U. PA J. CONST. L. 75 (2025)

Takings Doctrinalization, 81 WASH. & LEE L. REV. 2095 (2025)

Reconciling Brandeisian and Brennanian Laboratories, 87 ALB. L. REV. 941 (2024)

Revisiting Rucho's Dissent: Summoning the Supreme Court to Follow the State Courts, 99 N.Y.U. L. REV. 344 (2024)

A Theory of Federalization Doctrine, 128 PENN STATE DICK. L. REV. 75 (2023)

The New Laboratories of Democracy, 1 FORDHAM L. VOTING RTS. & DEMOCRACY F. 261 (2023)

Judicial Federalization Doctrine, 74 BAYLOR. L. REV. 85 (2023)

Takings Federalization, 100 DENV. L. REV. 681 (2023)

The Fourth Amendment's Constitutional Home, 31 WM. & MARY BILL RTS. J. 1063 (2023)

Reviving Liberal Constitutionalism With Originalism in Emergency Powers Doctrine, 12 J. NAT'L SEC. L. & POL'Y 203 (2021)

Intratextual and Intradoctrinal Dimensions of the Constitutional Home, 15 DUKE J. CONST. L. & PUB. POL.'Y 291 (2020)

The Puzzle of the Constitutional Home, 80 OHIO ST. L.J. 1099 (2019)

State Constitutional General Welfare Doctrine, 40 CARDOZO. L. REV. 2941 (2019)

Federalism, Convergence and Divergence in Constitutional Property, 73 U. MIAMI L. REV. 138 (2018)

Property Musings on the US-Mexico Border, 33 MD. J. INT'L L. 162 (2018)

Cooperative Federalism and Federal Takings After the Trump Administration's Border Wall Executive Order, 70 RUTGERS L. REV. 647 (2018)

Inclusionary Takings Legislation, 62 VILL. L. REV. 135 (2017)

Landowners' FCC Dilemma: Rereading the Supreme Court's Armstrong Opinion After the Third Circuit's DePolo Ruling, 11 N.Y.U. J.L. & LIBERTY 218 (2017)

Towards a New Eviction Jurisprudence, 23 GEO. J. ON POVERTY L. & POL'Y 1 (2015)

Inclusionary Eminent Domain, 45 LOY. U. CHI. L.J. 845 (2014)

Stasis and Change in Environmental Law, 24 FORDHAM ENVTL. L. REV. 1 (2013)

The Blue Moonlight Remedy: Formulating the Voucher Scheme into A New Emergency Housing Remedy in South Africa, 130 S. AFRICAN L.J. 554 (2013)

Blue Moonlight Rising: Evictions, Alternative Accommodation and A Comparative Perspective on Affordable Housing Solutions in Johannesburg, 27 S. AFR. J. ON HUM. RTS. 466 (2011)

SELECT AWARDS

Drum Major Award Justice Award, Allegheny County Bar Association, Homer S. Brown Division, January 2024

Pittsburgh's 20 People to Know In Law, Pittsburgh Business Times, August 2023

SELECT ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

20th Anniversary of *Kelo v. City of New London*, Symposium, Yale Law School, forthcoming February 2025 (presenting *Takings Laboratories*)

State Court Roundtable, Northwestern University School of Law, April 2024 (Presenting *Judicial Laboratories*)

The Promise and Limits of State Constitutions, N.Y.U. School of Law, Symposium, February 2024 (Presented *Judicial Laboratories*)

Fourteenth Annual Constitutional Law Colloquium, Loyola Chicago University School of Law, November 2023 (Presented *A Theory of Federalization Doctrine*)

Fifth Annual National Conference of Constitutional Law Scholars, University of Arizona James Rogers College of Law, March 2023 (Presented *A Theory of Federalization Doctrine*)

Global Summit on Constitutionalism, University of Texas School of Law, March 2023 (Presented *A Theory of Federalization Doctrine*)

Thirteenth Annual Constitutional Law Colloquium, Loyola Chicago University School of Law, November 2022 (Presented *The Fourth Amendment's Constitutional Home*)

Presidential Emergency Powers: Legal Framework and Perspectives for Reform, Georgetown Law Center, Symposium, March 2020

Amending Americas Unwritten Constitution, Boston College Law School, Conference, May 2019

Faculty Workshop, University of Maryland School of Law, September 2018 (Presented *The Puzzle of the Constitutional Home*)

Progressive Property Conference, Harvard Law School, May 2018 (Presented *Federalism, Convergence and Divergence in Constitutional Property*)

Junior Faculty Workshop, Case Western Reserve Law School, November 15 (Presented *Federalism, Convergence and Divergence in Constitutional Property*)

Faculty Workshop, UNC Law School, November 2017 (Presented *Federalism, Convergence and Divergence in Constitutional Property*)

US-Mexico Relationship in International Law and Politics, University of Maryland School of Law, Symposium, October 2017 (Presented *Property Musings on the US-Mexico Border*)

John Mercer Langston Writing Workshop, Miami University School of Law, July 2016 (Presented *Regulatory Eminent Domain*)

PROFESSIONAL
BAR & CLE
PRESENTATIONS

The Role of Text and History in Constitutional Litigation, Museum of the American Revolution, Philadelphia, PA, July 31, 2024.

50th Anniversary of the Fair Housing Act, Pennsylvania Housing Alliance “Homes within Reach” Conference, Panel Discussion, Moderator, Harrisburg, PA, October 30, 2018

Gentrification and Changing Demographics, Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission Public Hearing, Panel Discussion, Panelist, University of Pittsburgh, October 22, 2018

Exploring the Legality of Inclusionary Zoning in Pittsburgh, Buchanan Ingersoll, Pittsburgh, July 18, 2018

The Current State of Affordable Housing in Pittsburgh, Vacant Property Working Group, Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group, June 8, 2018

A Proposal: Hill District Community Land Trust, Hill District Community Development Corporation, May 18, 2018

The State of Real Estate in Pittsburgh, Co-Powerment Series, Omicelo Cares, Inc., May 24, 2018

Housing as a Human Right: Legal & Ethical Considerations, City of Pittsburgh Commission on Human Relations, April 24, 2018

The Candidates Positions on Affordable Housing, Allegheny County Democratic Committee, Oak Hill Residents, April 21, 2018

Moderator, *Discussion with Robert Grados '91*, Innovation Practice Institute, University of Pittsburgh School of Law, April 3, 2018

The State of Real Estate in Pittsburgh, Co-Powerment Series, Omicelo Cares, Inc., October 10, 2017

Community Land Trusts in Pittsburgh, Hill District Community Development Corporation, August 16, 2017

Exploring the Legality of Inclusionary Zoning in Pittsburgh, Neighborhood Legal Services Association, August 9, 2017

The State of Real Estate in Pittsburgh, Co-Powerment Series, Omicelo Cares, Inc., June 8, 2017

Exploring the Legality of Inclusionary Zoning in Pittsburgh, Babst Calland P.C., Pittsburgh, June 1, 2017

Exploring the Legality of Inclusionary Zoning in Pittsburgh, Meyer, Unkovic & Scott LLP, Pittsburgh, April 19, 2017

Exploring the Legality of Inclusionary Zoning in Pennsylvania, Allegheny County Bar Association Real Property Section, November 10, 2016

SELECT OP-EDS

Pennsylvania's Supreme Court does not align with ideological split of SCOTUS Chevron decision, *Penn Capital-Star*, July 8, 2024

Ghosts, guns, and Quakers: The Pa. legislature's Second Amendment gamble, *Penn Capital-Star*, May 2, 2024

What Pennsylvania's constitutional laboratory and its trailblazing experiments portend for 2024, *Penn Capital-Star*, Mar. 11, 2024

The U.S. Supreme Court's History of Adopting State Supreme Court Guidance, *State Court Report*, Brennan Center for Justice, New York University School of Law, Feb. 12, 2024

An African American hope for Pittsburgh, *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, Jan. 11, 2024

In Pennsylvania, we have the privilege of voting judges in or out, *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, Oct. 19, 2023

The Federalization Dimension in Takings, *State Court Report*, Brennan Center for Justice, New York University School of Law, Oct. 13, 2023

Pittsburgh is America's Apartheid City, *Public Source*, Feb. 22, 2021

The City of Pittsburgh and the police union bargained away the public's health and safety. It's time to reclaim it, *Pittsburgh City Paper*, Oct. 29, 2020

What the First-Term Trump Presidency Tells Us About the Dangers of a Second-Term Trump Presidency, *Pittsburgh Current*, Sept. 1, 2020

A Teaching Lesson for Congressman Doyle from Professor Dickinson, *Pittsburgh City Paper*, May 7, 2020

The National Emergencies Act was never meant for something like Trump's wall, *Washington Post*, Jan. 31, 2019

What Trump Can and Can't Do to Get His Border Wall, *The Atlantic*, Jan. 8, 2019

Trump's militarized land seizure for border wall is more complicated than 'I can do it if I want', *The Hill*, Jan. 7, 2019

The Founders would have opposed seizing land for Trump's border wall, *Washington Post*, Nov. 29, 2017

Affordable Housing in Pittsburgh: The importance of framing a legally sound inclusionary zoning proposal, *Public Source*, May 17, 2017

Forget the funding for the wall, Trump needs the land first, *The Hill*, Aug. 25, 2017

The biggest problem for Trump's border wall isn't money. It's getting the land, *Washington Post*, Mar. 3, 2017

MEDIA APPEARANCES

* Complete List of Quotes/Comments Available Upon Request

Television

BBC-UK, MSNBC, CNN, WTAE-Pittsburgh, WPXI-Pittsburgh, KDKA-Pittsburgh

Print

BBC-News, New York Times, The Washington Post, US Today, Rolling Stone, Roll Call, Boston Globe, Austin American-Statesman, Washington Examiner, Bloomberg,

The Hill, The Atlantic, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Pittsburgh Tribune-Review,
Pittsburgh City Paper, WESA-Pittsburgh

COURSES TAUGHT

Constitutional Law
Constitutional Law II
Property
Race and the Law (formerly Land, Race & Property Rights)
Estates & Trusts

FACULTY SERVICE

Dean (2023-Present)
Vice Dean (2023-2025)
Law Library Director Search Committee (Chair, 2024-Present)
Ad Hoc Judicial Clerkships Committee (Chair, 2024-Present)
Curriculum Committee, *Ex Officio* (2024-Present)
Petitions and Academic Standards Committee, *Ex Officio* (2024-Present)
Appointments Committee, *Ex Officio* (2023-2024)
Ad Hoc Judicial Clerkships Committee (Chair, 2023-2024)
Writing & Research Awards Committee (2022-2023)
Steering Committee (Chair, 2022-2023)
Ad Hoc Judicial Clerkships Committee (2022-2023)
Tenure Promotion Committee (2021-2022)
Judicial Clerkships Committee (2021-2022)
Racial Justice Ad Hoc Committee (2021-2022)
Diversity Committee (Ex Officio, 2021-2022)
Diversity Committee (Chair, 2020-2021)
Curriculum Committee (2019-2020)
Colloquium Committee (Chair, 2018-2019)
Colloquium Committee (2017-2018)
Appointments Committee (2017-2018)
Diversity Committee (2016-2017)

EDITORIAL BOARDS

Journal of National Security Law & Policy, Georgetown Law (2020-Present)

CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY

U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
Written Expert Testimony, *Fencing Along the Southwest Border* (invitation from former
Senator Claire McCaskill (D-MO), April 4, 2017 (available upon request)

CIVIL RIGHTS ADVOCACY

Litigation

Allegheny County Housing Authority v. Beck, GD-24-006526 (2024) * active

In re Anna Marie Cleary, Administrative Law Judge, (Social Security Administration, 2024) * active

In re Anna Marie Cleary, Appeals Council, (Social Security Administration, January 25, 2024)

Moraca v. Norris, LT-22-000092 (2022)

Moraca v. Norris, LT-21-000431 (2021)

Pittsburgh Com. on Hum. Rel. & Linda Robinson v. Lonnie Parker, GD-20-008359 (2020)

Homewood North Apartments v. Hardy, LT-15-000239 (2015)

Housing Authority City of Pittsburgh v. Somerville, GD-14-007207 (2014)

Transactional

Lead counsel representing tenants in COVID-19 pandemic CARE relief applications (2021-2022)

Lead counsel representing Stop the Station activist group in municipal ballot initiative (2020-2021)

Lead counsel representing Bethel A.M.E. church in land and redevelopment negotiations (2020-2021)

Lead counsel representing Hill Community Development Corp. in community land trust project (2018-2020)

BAR ADMISSIONS

Pennsylvania (Active)

EDUCATION

JD, FORDHAM LAW (2010-2013)

Honors

Editor-in-Chief, FORDHAM ENVIRONMENTAL LAW REVIEW

Dean's List

Mary Daly Prize (most significant writing contribution to the legal profession)

Stein Scholar for Public Interest (merit scholar for leadership in public interest law)

Crowley International Law Scholar (merit scholar for excellence in human rights)

NAACP Earl Warren Scholar (merit scholarship for leadership in civil rights)

Co-Instructor, Housing Rights Clinic (advocacy clinic for subsidized tenants)

Director, Housing Advocacy Project (provided legal advice to low-income tenants)

Brendan Moore Trial Advocacy Team (ABA Regional Champion)

President, Fordham Law Democrats

LL.M, UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND SCHOOL OF LAW (2009-2010)

Honors: Fulbright Fellow

Dissertation: A Comparative Analysis of Housing Law and Housing Policy: The Role of Housing Voucher Programs in Providing Alternative Accommodation for the Evicted in Johannesburg, South Africa (Funded by William J. Fulbright Grant)

AB, COLLEGE OF THE HOLY CROSS (2005-2009)

Political Science; Sociology

Academic Honors

College Honors Program

Thesis: The Section 8 Program: The Role of Housing Policy Design in Facilitating Black Neighborhood Movement and Social Mobility

Dean's List

Alpha Kappa Delta (National Sociological Honors Society)

George B. Moran Award (highest recognition for extraordinary scholarship)

Pedro Arrupe Medal (award for community work committed to social justice reform)

Crusader of the Year (award to student who excelled in the classroom and the field)

Bishop Fenwick Service Award (award for outstanding service to college community)

Joseph J. Reilly Award (award to senior who supported social justice reform)

Athletic Honors

Holy Cross Men's Soccer (NCAA Division I)

Three-Year Captain (2006-2008)

Patriot League Player of the Year (2008)

All-Patriot League First Team (2008)

Patriot League All-Tournament Team (2008)

All-Mid Atlantic Regional All-American First Team (2008) (National Soccer Coaches Ass. of America)

All-Patriot League Second Team (2007)