

CHRISTOPHER J. RYAN, JR.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF LAW, ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW
AFFILIATED SCHOLAR, AMERICAN BAR FOUNDATION

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY, Bristol, RI

Associate Professor of Law, July 2018 – Present

- Taught courses on Property, Wills & Trusts, Federal Income Tax, Law & Economics, and Statistics for Lawyers.
- Selected for the University's Faculty Diversity & Inclusion Fellowship for the 2019-2020 year.

AMERICAN BAR FOUNDATION, Chicago, IL

Affiliated Scholar, July 2018 – Present

- Researched and consulted on the *After the JD* and the *After Tenure* projects.

American Bar Foundation/ AccessLex Institute Doctoral Research Fellow, August 2017 – June 2018

- Completed doctoral dissertation on the economics of legal education.

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE, Louisville, KY

Lecturer, May 2017 – August 2018

- Taught three graduate courses on Organizational Administration and created departmental curricula.

EDUCATION

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY, Nashville, TN

Ph.D. in Policy Studies, June 2018

- Provost Graduate Fellow and Experimental Education Research Training (ExpERT) Fellow
- Specialties in the economics, politics, and law of higher education, and quantitative research methods
- Dissertation: *Chasing Paper: The Economics of Attending Law School in the 21st Century*

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY, Lexington, KY

J.D., May 2013

- Provost Scholar and U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky Judicial Fellow
- *Kentucky Law Journal*, Notes Editor
- Latino Law Student Association, President

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME, Notre Dame, IN

M.Ed., May 2010

- Thesis Award for *Roles We Play: Psychosocial Development Stages in Romeo & Juliet*

DARTMOUTH COLLEGE, Hanover, NH

A.B. in English and Spanish Literature, June 2008

- College Citation Award and Dean's List Recipient
- Tucker Foundation and Rockefeller Center for Public Policy Grant Recipient

PUBLICATIONS

LAW REVIEW AND PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

- *Paying for Law School: Law Student Loan Indebtedness and Career Choices*, 2021 U. ILL. L. REV. __ (forthcoming 2021).
- *Examining the Impact of Fossil Fuel Divestment on University Endowments*, 17 NYU J. L. & BUS. __ (forthcoming 2020) (with C.R. Marsicano) (discussed in [INSIDE HIGHER ED](#)).
- *The Next “Big Short”: COVID-19, Student Loan Discharge in Bankruptcy Proceedings, and the SLABS Market*, 74 SMU L. REV. __ (forthcoming 2020) (with S.L. Roy).
- *Of Law School Rankings and Football*, 1 DISPARITY L. J. __ (forthcoming 2020) (Invited).
- *Analyzing Law School Choice*, 2020 U. ILL. L. REV. 583-620 (2020) (discussed in [INSIDE HIGHER ED](#)).
- *Patents and Legal Expenditures*, 52 U. PAC. L. REV. 575-590 (2020) (with B.L. Frye) (Invited).
- *Notetaking Modes and Academic Performance in Two Law School Courses*, 68 J. LEG. EDUC. 207-229 (2019) (with C.P. Murphy & Y. Warnapala) (Peer Reviewed).
- *A Value-Added Ranking of Law Schools*, 29 U. FLA. J. L. & PUB. POL’Y 285-308 (2019).
- *The 2019 Revealed-Preferences Ranking of Law Schools*, 7 BELMONT L. REV. 86-110 (2019) (with B.L. Frye) (discussed in [ABOVE THE LAW](#)) (Invited).
- *An Econometric Analysis of North Carolina’s Legislative Right to Counsel*, 47 J. L. & EDUC. 489-510 (2018) (with A.R. Nelson) (Peer Reviewed).
- *An Empirical Analysis of University Patent Activity*, 7 NYU J. INTELL. PROP. & ENT. L. 51-84 (2017) (with B.L. Frye).
- *A Revealed-Preferences Ranking of Law Schools*, 70 ALA. L. REV. 495-531 (2017) (with B.L. Frye) (discussed in the [WASHINGTON POST](#) and [ABOVE THE LAW](#)).
- *Fixing Forum Selling*, 25 U. MIAMI BUS. L. REV. 1-27 (2017) (with B.L. Frye).
- *Labor Market Returns for Graduates of Hispanic-Serving Institutions*, 59 RES. IN HIGHER EDUC. 29-53 (2017) (with T.J. Park & S.M. Flores) (discussed in [US Senate HELP Committee Testimony](#)) (Peer Reviewed).
- *Trusting U.: Examining University Endowment Management*, 42 J. C. & U. L. 159-212 (2016) (Peer Reviewed).
- *An Empirical Study of Law Journal Copyright Practices*, 16 J. MARSHALL REV. INTELL. PROP. L. 207-245 (2016) (with B.L. Frye & F.L. Runge).
- *The Dissertation Dilemma and the Challenge of American Graduate Education*, 25 GOOD SOCIETY 313-331 (2016) (with C.P. Loss) (Peer Reviewed).
- *Something Corporate: The Case for the Treatment of Proprietary Education Institutions as Corporations*, 40 J. C. & U. L. 247-284 (2014) (Peer Reviewed).
- *Old School: A Recommendation for the Treatment of the Disposition of Property Exempt from Local Zoning Ordinances in Kentucky*, 6 KY. J. EQUINE AGRI. & NAT. RES. L. 221-251 (2014).
- *Not-So-Open Access to Legal Scholarship: Balancing Stakeholder Interests with Copyright Principles*, 20 RICH. J. L. & TECH. 1-34 (2013).

BOOK CHAPTERS

- *501(c): The Charitable Corporation Governance Model Meets Modern Business Realities in the U.S.*, in [OXFORD HANDBOOK OF U.S. HIGHER EDUCATION LAW](#), ed. P.F. Lake (forthcoming 2021).
- *Technology Transfer and the Public Good*, in [RESEARCH HANDBOOK ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER](#), ed. J.H. Rooksby (2020) (with B.L. Frye).
- *The College and Its Trustees and Officers*, in [THE LAW OF HIGHER EDUCATION](#), 6TH ED., ed. W.A. Kaplin, B.A. Lee, N.H. Hutchens, & J.H. Rooksby (2019) (with J.H. Rooksby).

BOOK CHAPTERS (CONTINUED)

- *Corporate Philanthropy*, in BUSINESS & CORPORATE ENGAGEMENT WITH HIGHER EDUCATION: MODELS, THEORIES, AND BEST PRACTICES, ed. M. Clevenger & C.J. MacGregor (2019) (with M. Clevenger & C.J. MacGregor).
- *How Higher Education Thinks and Behaves*, in BUSINESS & CORPORATE ENGAGEMENT WITH HIGHER EDUCATION: MODELS, THEORIES, AND BEST PRACTICES, ed. M. Clevenger & C.J. MacGregor (2019) (with M. Clevenger & C.J. MacGregor).

BOOK REVIEWS & BIBLIOGRAPHIES

- *Review of The Branding of the American Mind: How Universities Capture, Manage, and Monetize Intellectual Property and Why It Matters*, 43 J. C. & U. L. 231-234 (2018).
- *Historical Evolution of Higher Education in the United States*, in OXFORD BIBLIOGRAPHIES IN EDUCATION, ed. L. Meyer (2016) (with C.P. Loss & S. Hinz).

IN PROGRESS AND OTHER WRITING

PAPERS IN PROGRESS

- *Stratification within the Legal Academy* (with M. Dawe).
- *Predicting Federal Judicial Decision Making in University Admissions Cases*.
- *Analyzing Long-term Wage Returns to Law School Graduates*.

OTHER PROJECTS IN PROGRESS (AS OF JULY 2020)

- Investigating the effect of tax-code changes on the top university endowments.
- Analyzing 1,600+ cases citing the *cy-près* doctrine to deviate from charitable trusts' purposes.
- Investigating the impact of COVID-19 on legal education provision plans and matriculant rates (with C.R. Marsicano).
- Examining 10,000+ fintech-lender consumer complaints in the Consumer Finance and Protection Bureau's database (with M.A. Bruckner).
- Analyzing a national dataset of patent litigants in the technology transfer sector from 2000-2018, approved and funded by Stanford Law School (with B.L. Frye).

SCHOLARLY BLOGGING

- Contributing Editor, HIGHER EDUCATION LAW, www.highereducationlaw.org (2015-Present).
- Guest, THE LSSSE BLOG, <http://lssse.indiana.edu/category/blog/> (June 2019).

MAJOR GRANT FUNDING

ACCESSLEX INSTITUTE

Bar Success Research Grant Program, January 2020 – June 2021 (with Prof. Derek Muller, Iowa Law School)

- Principal Investigator for a \$125,000 grant to empirically examine which law schools consistently beat their predicted bar passage rates and to qualitatively investigate how they do so, using survey and interview responses from deans, faculty, and bar success personnel at law schools that consistently overperform their predicted bar passage rates.

American Bar Foundation / AccessLex Institute Doctoral Fellow Grant Program, August 2017 – May 2018

- Secured a \$35,000 grant to fund an original survey of law students and to support my doctoral dissertation research at Vanderbilt University and the American Bar Foundation.

PRESENTATIONS

INVITED LECTURES & PANELS

- *The Secret Sauce: Examining Law Schools that Overperform (and Underperform) on the Bar Exam* (with D. Muller).
 - AccessLex Legal Education Research Conference, Nashville, TN – Dec. 3, 2020 (Virtual).
- *AALS Faculty Focus: A Perspective from the Dean's Office* (with D.M. Conway, D. Filler, & R.L. Goluboff).
 - American Association of Law Schools, Washington, DC – July 7, 2020 (Virtual).
- *Changes to the U.S. News' Law School Rankings Methodology* (with M. Deo, E. Mertz, and B. Shucha).
 - Law & Society Association, Denver, CO – May 30, 2020 (Virtual).
- *U.S. News' New Metric and Its Effect on the Legal Academy* (with R. Moran, R. Morse, J.B. Ruhl, & G. Sisk).
 - American Association of Law Schools, Washington, DC – January 3, 2020.
- *Funding University Research or Patent Litigation?* (with B.L. Frye).
 - Stanford NPE Litigation Conference, Stanford, CA – November 15, 2019.
- *Understanding the Different Ways in Which Prospective Law Students Navigate the Decision of Whether and Where to Go to Law School* (with J.M. Organ).
 - Northeast Association of Pre-Law Advisors Conference, Boston, MA – June 19, 2019.
- *Ranking Law Schools* (with P.L. Caron, R. Morse, and J.C. Shepherd).
 - AccessLex Legal Education Research Conference, Scottsdale, AZ – Nov. 11, 2018.
- *The Perennial Challenge of Cost, Affordability, and Access in Legal Education* (with B. Currier, S. Daniels, R. Van Cleave, & J.W. Wegner).
 - American Bar Association Mid-Year Conference, Vancouver, BC – Feb. 2, 2018.
- *Analyzing the Effect of Financial Aid on Law School Matriculation.*
 - AccessLex Legal Education Research Conference, Clearwater Beach, FL – Nov. 8, 2017.

ACADEMIC CONFERENCES

- *Examining the Impact of Divestment from Fossil Fuels on University Endowments.*
 - Law & Society Association, Denver, CO – May 29, 2020 (Virtual).
 - American Association of Law Schools, Washington, DC – Jan. 3, 2020.
- *An Empirical Look: How Well Are We Preparing Law Students to Become Ethical Leaders Who Serve Others?*
 - American Association of Law Schools, Washington, DC – Jan. 2, 2020.
- *Analyzing Law School Choice.*
 - Law & Society Association, Washington, DC – June 1, 2019.
- *Analyzing the Effect of Financial Aid on Law School Matriculation.*
 - Association for Education Finance and Policy, Washington, DC – March 15, 2018.
 - Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, Chicago, IL – Nov. 2, 2017.
- *BYOA: An Econometric Analysis of North Carolina's Right-to-Counsel Law* (with A.R. Nelson).
 - Education Law Association, San Diego, CA – Nov. 10, 2017.
 - Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, Chicago, IL – Nov. 2, 2017.
- *Labor Market Returns for Hispanic Serving Institution Graduates* (with T.J. Park & S.M. Flores).
 - American Educational Research Association, Washington, DC – April 8, 2016.
- *A Comparative Law & Economic Analysis of Faculty Compensation in the U.S. and Mexico.*
 - Comparative & International Education Society, Washington, DC – March 12, 2015.
- *Whom Do U. Trust?: An Examination of Endowment Management During the Recession.*
 - National Education Finance Association, Indianapolis, IN – May 2, 2013.
- *The Case for Fiduciary Duties in Proprietary Postsecondary Education.*
 - Education Law Association, Hilton Head, SC – Nov. 8, 2012.

SYMPOSIA & ROUNDTABLES

- *Stratification in the Legal Academy* (with M. Dawe).
 - UC Irvine Center for Empirical Research on the Legal Profession Roundtable, Irvine, CA – July 17, 2020 (Virtual).
- *Predicting Federal Judicial Decision Making in College Admissions Cases.*
 - University of Houston – Penn State Law & Governance in Higher Education Roundtable, University Park, PA - May 17, 2020 (deferred to May 16, 2021 because of COVID-19).
- *University Patents and Legal Expenditures* (with B.L. Frye).
 - Intellectual Property, Trade, and Ethics Symposium, Sacramento, CA – April 5, 2019.
- *An Empirical Study of University Patent Activity* (with B.L. Frye).
 - Searle Center Research Roundtable on Patent & Technology, Chicago, IL – May 5, 2017.
- *An Empirical Study of Law Journals' Copyright Practices* (with B.L. Frye & F.L. Runge).
 - Conference on Empirical Research on Copyright Issues, Chicago, IL – Nov. 20, 2015.

LAW SCHOOL SERVICE

FACULTY COMMITTEES

Member, Public Interest Loan Repayment Assistance Program Committee, August 2019 – Present

Member, Curriculum Committee, August 2018 – Present

Elected Member, Dean's Search Committee, September 2019 – May 2020

Adviser, Ad Hoc Committee on Bar Success, January 2019 – May 2019

- Elected by my colleagues and appointed by the university president to vet candidates for the law school's next dean and to coordinate with the various stakeholders of the law school.
- Appointed by the dean to evaluate curricular offerings and bar passage success, by collecting and analyzing student-level data, and to administer a student loan repayment assistance program.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Faculty Adviser to the Latino Law Student Association, August 2019 – Present

Faculty Adviser to the Tax & Business Law Society, August 2019 – Present

Faculty Adviser to the Health Law Society, January 2019 – Present

- Advised student organization leadership teams on budgetary concerns, programming, and the organizations' constitutional matters.
- Organized and moderated panel presentations for these student organizations' public events.

STUDENT RESEARCH

Faculty Adviser to Crystal Collins, May 2020 – August 2020

Faculty Adviser to Brendan Goff, Samantha Roy, and Jonathan Stark-Sachs, January 2020 – May 2020

Faculty Adviser to Morgan Moniz and Jake Rogers, January 2019 – May 2019

- Oversaw substantial independent student research projects on intellectual property rights of inventors of artificial intelligence, antitrust issues related to data agglomeration, legal and economic implications of the student loan crisis, the efficiency of property tax caps in Rhode Island, and electronic wills.

UNIVERSITY, PUBLIC, AND GOVERNMENT SERVICE

ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY HUMAN SUBJECTS REVIEW BOARD

Board Member, July 2020 – Present

- Reviewed research proposals, dealing with human subjects, conducted by members of the university.

LATINO POLICY INSTITUTE

Board Member, January 2019 – Present

- Met with lawmakers and community members to discern issues impacting the state’s Latino population.
- Reviewed research proposals and recommended policy initiatives for this statewide institute.

KENTUCKY COUNCIL ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

Council Member, July 2012 – June 2013

- Appointed by Governor Steve Beshear to serve on Kentucky’s higher education regulatory board.
- Implemented the lowest statewide, public university tuition increase in decades.

RECENT PRESS INTERVIEWS

TRUSTS & ENDOWMENTS

- Adam Aton, *Warren Climate Adviser Seeks Yale Seat to Urge Divestment*, E&E NEWS, April 29, 2020.
- Michael Katz, *Fossil Fuel Divestment Yields ‘No Discernible Effect’ on Endowments, but Study Also Finds Divestment Has No Adverse Effects on University Portfolios*, CHIEF INVESTMENT OFFICER, January 27, 2020.
- Rick Seltzer, *Does Fiduciary Duty Prevent Fossil Fuel Divestment?*, INSIDE HIGHER ED, January 3, 2020.

TAX

- Pat Murphy, *Terms Make PPP Loan Program ‘No Brainer’ for Firms, Experts Say*, LAWYERS WEEKLY, April 16, 2020.
- Jennifer McDermott, *The Buddy Cianci Play Is Popular with Audiences. But His Charity? Not So Much*, BOSTON GLOBE, October 22, 2019.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

- Laura Damon, *Newport Gallery Owner Sued for Alleged Copyright Infringement*, NEWPORT DAILY NEWS, February 16, 2020.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

BAR ADMISSION

- Commonwealth of Kentucky Bar Association (active).

ACADEMIC AFFILIATIONS

- American Bar Association; American Association of Law Schools; Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management; Association for the Study of Higher Education; Education Law Association; Law & Society Association (appointed to the Presidential Task Force on Sociological Metrics); and Society for Empirical Legal Studies.

PERSONAL INTERESTS

INTERESTS

- Art; college sports; half marathons; hot yoga; live music; maps; midcentury design; skiing; and travel.