

John Goldberg

Interim Dean · Carter Professor of General Jurisprudence · Harvard Law School
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EMPLOYMENT

Harvard Law School, Cambridge MA 2008-present

Interim Dean, March 2024-present

Carter Professor of General Jurisprudence, 2018-present

Deputy Dean, 2017-2022

Eli Goldston Professor of Law, 2012-18

Vanderbilt University Law School, Nashville, TN 1995-2008

Professor, 2000-2008

Associate Dean for Research, 2005-2008

Harvard Law School, Cambridge, MA 2007

Visiting Professor

New York University School of Law, New York, NY Fall 2022; Fall 2003

Visiting Professor

Hill and Barlow, Boston MA 1993-1995

Associate

Hon. Byron R. White, U.S. Supreme Court 1992-1993

Law Clerk

Hon. Jack B. Weinstein, E.D.N.Y. 1991-1992

Law Clerk

EDUCATION

New York University, School of Law, J.D., 1991

Editor-in-Chief, NYU Law Review

Frank H. Sommer Award

Paul D. Kaufman Award (co-recipient)

Princeton University, M.A. in Politics, 1989

Oxford University, St. Antony's College, M. Phil Politics, 1985

Wesleyan University, College of Social Studies, B.A., *high honors*, 1983

PUBLICATIONS AND WORKS IN PROGRESS: AUTHORED, CO-AUTHORED OR EDITED

[Books](#)

TORT LAW: RESPONSIBILITIES AND REDRESS (5th ed. 2021) (with L. Kendrick, A. Sebok & B. Zipursky).

RECOGNIZING WRONGS (2020) (with B. Zipursky) (2023 NCJI Civil Justice Scholarship Award).

OPEN BOOK: THE INSIDE TRACK TO LAW SCHOOL SUCCESS (2d ed. 2016) (with B. Friedman).

THE OXFORD INTRODUCTIONS TO U.S. LAW: TORTS (2010) (with B. Zipursky).

[Books \(Editor\)](#)

A RESEARCH AGENDA FOR TORT LAW (E. Bublick & J. Goldberg eds., forthcoming).

UNDERSTANDING PRIVATE LAW: ESSAYS IN HONOUR OF STEPHEN A. SMITH (E. Fox-Decent, J. Goldberg & L. Smith eds., 2025).

INTERSTITIAL PRIVATE LAW (S. Bray, J. Goldberg, P. Miller & H. Smith eds., 2024).

THE OXFORD HANDBOOK OF NEW PRIVATE LAW (A. Gold, J. Goldberg, D. Kelly, E. Sherwin & H. Smith eds., 2021).

EQUITY AND LAW: FUSION AND FISSION (J. Goldberg, P. Turner & H. Smith eds., 2019).

[Book Chapters](#)

Trying and Succeeding, in UNDERSTANDING PRIVATE LAW: ESSAYS IN HONOUR OF STEPHEN A. SMITH (E. Fox-Decent, J. Goldberg & L. Smith eds., 2025) (with B. Zipursky).

Recklessness in Tort: Interstitial Law as Doctrinal Fine-Tuning, in INTERSTITIAL PRIVATE LAW (S. Bray, J. Goldberg, P. Miller & H. Smith eds., 2024) (with B. Zipursky).

The Place of Philosophy in Private Law Scholarship, in METHODOLOGY IN PRIVATE LAW THEORY: BETWEEN NEW PRIVATE LAW AND RECHTSDOGMATIK (T. Kuntz & P. Miller eds., 2024) (with B. Zipursky).

Torts in the American Law Institute, in AMERICAN LAW INSTITUTE CENTENNIAL HISTORY (A. Gold & R. Gordon eds., 2023).

A Precedent-Based Critique of Legal Positivism, in PHILOSOPHICAL FOUNDATIONS OF PRECEDENT (T. Endicott, H. Kristjánsson & S. Lewis eds. 2023) (with B. Zipursky).

Corrective Justice and the Right to Hold on to What One Has, in PRIVATE LAW AND PRACTICAL REASON (S. Steel & H. Psarras eds., 2023) (with B. Zipursky).

Hohfeldian Analysis and the Separation of Rights and Powers, in THE LEGACY OF WESLEY HOHFELD: EDITED MAJOR WORKS, SELECT PERSONAL PAPERS, AND ORIGINAL COMMENTARIES (S. Balganes, T. Sichelman & H. Smith eds., 2022) (with B. Zipursky).

Torts, in THE OXFORD HANDBOOK OF NEW PRIVATE LAW (A. Gold, J. Goldberg, D. Kelly, E. Sherwin & H. Smith eds., 2021).

Vosburg v. Baxendale: Recourse in Tort and Contract, in CIVIL WRONGS AND JUSTICE IN PRIVATE LAW (P. Miller & J. Oberdiek, eds., 2020) (with B. Zipursky).

From Riggs v. Palmer to Shelley v. Kraemer: Judicial Power and the Law-Equity Distinction, in PHILOSOPHICAL FOUNDATIONS OF THE LAW OF EQUITY (D. Klimchuk, I. Samet & H. Smith eds., 2020) (with B. Zipursky).

Thomas M. Cooley and Oliver Wendell Holmes, in SCHOLARS OF TORT LAW (J. Goudkamp & D. Nolan eds., 2019) (with B. Zipursky).

The Fiduciary Duty of Care, in THE OXFORD HANDBOOK OF FIDUCIARY LAW (E. Criddle, P. Miller, & R. Sitkoff eds., 2019).

Wrongful Fusion: Equity and Tort, in EQUITY AND LAW: FUSION AND FISSION (J. Goldberg, P. Turner & H. Smith eds., Cambridge University Press 2019) (with H. Smith).

Triangular Torts and Fiduciary Duties, in CONTRACT, STATUS, AND FIDUCIARY LAW 239-267 (A. Gold & P. Miller eds., 2016) (with B. Zipursky).

Tort Law's Missing Excuses, in DEFENCES IN TORT 53-64 (A. Dyson, J. Goudkamp & F. Wilmot-Smith eds., 2015).

Tort Law and Responsibility, in PHILOSOPHICAL FOUNDATIONS OF THE LAW OF TORTS 17-37 (J. Oberdiek, ed., 2014) (with B. Zipursky).

Rights and Responsibility in the Law of Torts, in RIGHTS AND PRIVATE LAW 251-274 (D. Nolan & A. Robertson eds., 2012) (with B. Zipursky).

Tort, in THE OXFORD HANDBOOK OF LEGAL STUDIES 21-47 (P. Cane & M. Tushnet, eds. 2003).

Articles and Essays

Civil Conspiracy, Negligence, and Recklessness in Claims Against Manufacturers of Dangerous Products, 74 DEPAUL L. REV. 193-212 (2025) (with B. Zipursky) (annual Clifford Symposium).

On Being a Nuisance, 99 N.Y.U. L. REV. 864-949 (2024).

A Tort for the Digital Age: False Light Invasion of Privacy Reconsidered, 73 DEPAUL L. REV. 461-86 (2024) (with B. Zipursky) (annual Clifford Symposium).

Getting the Law Right: An Essay in Honor of Aaron Twerski, 18 BROOKLYN J. CORP., FIN. & COMM. L. 181-98 (2023) (with B. Zipursky).

Sherman v. Department of Public Safety: Institutional Responsibility for Sexual Assault, 16 J. TORT L. 283-300 (2023) (with B. Zipursky).

Legal Wrongs Between the Prescriptive and the Positive: Replies to Commentators on Recognizing Wrongs, 27 JERUSALEM REV. LEG. STUDIES 99-125 (2023) (with B. Zipursky).

Introduction: The Nature of the Judicial Process at 100, 34 Yale J. L. & H. 1-8 (2023) (with C. Barzun).

Rediscovering The Nature of the Judicial Process: A Comment on Professor Abraham's and White's Doctrinal Forks in the Road, 34 Yale J. L. & H. 99-112 (2023).

The Unable or Unwilling Doctrine: A View from Private Law, 63 HARV. INTL. L.J. 63-134 (2022) (with G. Blum).

Tort Theory, Private Attorneys General, and State Action: From Mass Torts to Texas S.B. 8, 14 J. TORT. LAW 469-491 (2022) (with B. Zipursky).

Replies to Commentators, 41 LAW & PHIL. 127-166 (2021) (with B. Zipursky) (for symposium issue on RECOGNIZING WRONGS).

Taking Responsibility Personally: On John Gardner's From Personal Life to Private Law, 14 J. TORT. LAW 3-26 (2021).

Case-Linked Jurisdiction and Busybody States, 105 MINN. L. REV. HEADNOTES (Oct. 23, 2020) (with H. Erichson & B. Zipursky).

History, Theory, and Tort: Four Theses, 11 J. TORT LAW 17-38 (2018).

Benjamin Cardozo and the Death of the Common Law, 34 TOURO L. REV. 147-158 (2018) (symposium).

The Strict Liability in Fault and the Fault in Strict Liability, 85 FORDHAM L. REV. 743-788 (2016) (with B. Zipursky).

The Myths of MacPherson, 9 J. TORT LAW 91-122 (2016) (with B. Zipursky)

The Supreme Court's Stealth Return to the Common Law of Torts, 64 DEPAUL L. REV. 433-456 (2016) (with B. Zipursky) (annual Clifford Symposium).

Inexcusable Wrongs, 103 CALIF. L. REV. 467-512 (2015).

Judging Responsibility, Responsible Judging, 64 DEPAUL L. REV. 475-494 (2015) (annual Clifford Symposium).

War for the Wrong Reasons: Lessons from Law, 11 JOURNAL OF MORAL PHILOSOPHY 454-475 (2014) (with G. Blum) (symposium on Frances Kamm's ETHICS FOR ENEMIES).

The Fraud-on-the-Market Tort, 66 VAND. L. REV. 1755-1805 (2013) (with B. Zipursky), reprinted in 56 CORP. PRAC. COMMENTATOR 355-407 (2014).

Civil Recourse Theory Defended: A Reply to Posner, Calabresi, Rustad, Chamallas and Robinette, 88 IND. L.J. 569-609 (2013) (with B. Zipursky) (civil recourse theory symposium).

Torts and Estates: Remedying Wrongful Interference with Inheritance, 65 STANFORD L. REV. 335-397 (2013) (with R. Sitkoff).

Convergence and Contrast in Tort Scholarship: An Essay in Honor of Robert Rabin, 61 DEPAUL L. REV. 467-502 (2012) (annual Clifford Symposium) (with B. Zipursky).

Do Promises Distinguish Contract from Tort?, 45 SUFFOLK. U. L. REV. 873-895 (2012) (with C. Bridgeman) (symposium in honor of Charles Fried's CONTRACT AS PROMISE).

Pragmatism and Private Law, 125 HARV. L. REV. 1640-1663 (2012) (symposium introduction).

Tort Law at the Founding, 39 FLA. ST. U. L. REV. 85-105 (2011).

Civil Recourse Revisited, 39 FLA. ST. U. L. REV. 342-371 (2011) (with B. Zipursky) (response to symposium devoted to civil recourse theory).

OPA and Economic Loss: A Reply to Professor Robertson, 28 MISS. C.L. REV. 203-216 (2011).

The Easy Case for Products Liability: A Response to Professors Polinsky and Shavell, 123 HARV. L. REV. 1919-1948 (2010) (with B. Zipursky).

Liberal Responsibility: A Comment on Justice for Hedgehogs, 90 B.U. L. REV. 677-689 (2010).

Torts as Wrongs, 88 TEX. L. REV. 917-986 (2010) (with B. Zipursky).

Intervening Wrongdoing in Tort: The Third Restatement's Unfortunate Embrace of Negligent Enabling, 44 WAKE FOREST L. REV. 1211-1246 (2009) (with B. Zipursky).

Ten Half-Truths About Tort Law, 42 VALPARAISO U. L. REV. 1221-1276 (2008) (Monsanto Lecture).

Tort Law and Moral Luck, 92 CORNELL L. REV. 1123-1175 (2007) (with B. Zipursky).

The Place of Reliance in Fraud, 48 AZ. L. REV. 1001-1026 (2006) (with A. Sebok & B. Zipursky).

Seeing Tort Law from the Internal Point of View: Holmes and Hart on Legal Duties, 75 FORDHAM L. REV. 1563-1592 (2006) (essay for symposium) (with B. Zipursky).

What Are We Reforming?: Tort Theory's Place in Debates Over Malpractice Reform, 59 VAND. L. REV. 1075-1084 (2006) (essay for symposium).

What Nobody Knows, 104 MICH. L. REV. 1461-1499 (2006) (review of Don Herzog's CUNNING).

Shielding Duty: How Attending to Assumption of Risk, Attractive Nuisance, and Other 'Quaint' Doctrines Can Improve Decision-Making in Negligence Cases, 79 S. CAL. L. REV. 329-361 (2006) (invited reply article) (with B. Zipursky).

Two Conceptions of Tort Damages: Fair v. Full Compensation, 55 DEPAUL L. REV. 435-468 (2006) (annual Clifford Symposium).

The Constitutional Status of Tort Law: Due Process and the Right to a Law for the Redress of Wrongs, 115 YALE L.J. 524-627 (2005).

Accidents of the Great Society, 64 MD. L. REV. 364-408 (2005) (with B. Zipursky) (article for symposium issue).

Tort Law for Federalists (and the Rest of Us): Private Law in Disguise, 28 HARV. J. L. & PUB. POLICY 3-16 (2004).

Comment: Rethinking Injury and Proximate Cause, 40 SAN DIEGO L. REV. 1315-43 (2003) (comment on S. Perry, *Harm, History, and Counterfactuals*, 40 SAN DIEGO L. REV. 1315 (2003)).

Judging Reputation: Realism and Common Law in Justice White's Defamation Jurisprudence, 74 U. COL. L. REV. 1471-1522 (2003) (summarized in THE WILSON QUARTERLY, Periodical Observer, Winter 2004).

What Clients are Owed: Cautionary Observations on Lawyers and Loss of a Chance, 52 EMORY L.J. 1201-13 (2003).

Twentieth-Century Tort Theory, 91 GEORGETOWN L.J. 514-83 (2003) (translated into Chinese and reprinted in 5 PRIVATE LAW REVIEW 268-344 (2005) (Peking University Press)).

Unrealized Torts, 88 VA. L. REV. 1625-1719 (2002) (with B. Zipursky).

Unloved: Tort in the Modern Legal Academy, 55 VAND. L. REV. 1501-1519 (2002).

The Restatement (Third) and the Place of Duty in Negligence Law, 54 VAND. L. REV. 657-750 (2001) (with B. Zipursky).

Concern for Cause: A Comment on the Twerski-Sebok Plan for Administering Negligent Marketing Claims Against Gun Manufacturers, 32 CONN. L. REV. 1411-23 (2000) (with B. Zipursky).

Rights and Wrongs, 97 MICH. L. REV. 1828-1856 (1999) (review of ARTHUR RIPSTEIN, EQUALITY RESPONSIBILITY, AND THE LAW).

The Life of the Law, 51 STAN. L. REV. 1419-1475 (1999) (review of ANDREW L. KAUFMAN, CARDOZO (1998)).

The Moral of MacPherson, 146 U. PA. L. REV. 1733-1847 (1998) (with B. Zipursky).

Let Liberals Be Liberals, 61 MODERN L. REV. 899-915 (1998) (reviewing David Dyzenhaus, LEGALITY AND LEGITIMACY: CARL SCHMITT, HANS KELSEN AND HERMANN HELLER IN WEIMAR).

Misconduct, Misfortune, and Just Compensation: Weinstein on Torts, 97 COLUM. L. REV. 2034-2063 (1997) (comment).

Style and Skepticism in The Path of the Law, 63 BROOK. L. REV. 225-278 (1997).

Note: *Community and the Common Law Judge: Reconstructing Cardozo's Theoretical Writings*, 65 N.Y.U. L. REV. 1324-1372 (1990).

[Book Notices, Encyclopedia Entries, and Other Writings](#)

Review of ALLAN BEEVER, A THEORY OF TORTS (2016), 80 MODERN L. REV. 1183-1186 (2017).

Review of R.H. HELMHOLZ, NATURAL LAW IN COURT: A HISTORY OF LEGAL THEORY IN PRACTICE (2015), THE NEW RAMBLER, <http://newramblerreview.com/book-reviews/law/law-naturally>

Ronald Dworkin, 127 HARV. L. REV. 494-498 (2013).

Doing Justice in the Face of A Disaster, 45 AKRON L. REV. 583-589 (2012).

“Liability for Economic Loss in Connection with the Deepwater Horizon Spill,” Report Prepared for Gulf Coast Claims Facility (2010).

Comment on Meir Dan-Cohen, Skirmishes on the Temporal Boundaries of States, 72 L. & CONTEMP. PROBS. 115-122 (2009).

Wrongs Without Recourse: A Comment on Jason Solomon's Judging Plaintiffs, 61 VAND. L. REV. EN BANC 9-28 (2008).

Entries on “William L. Prosser” and “Warren A. Seavey” for the YALE BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY OF AMERICAN LAW (R. Newman, ed. 2009).

The Law Student's Bill of Rights, 21 CONST. COMM. 633-640 (2004) (humor for “But cf.”).

Participant, Roundtable on Tort Litigation and the Public Good, 12 J.L. & POLICY 149 (2003).
Easy Cases, Hard Questions,” 33 VAND. LAWYER 30 (2003).

Review of CRAIG SCOTT, ED., TORTURE AS TORT (2001), 65 MODERN L. REV. 954-958 (2002).

Entries on “Blackstone’s Commentaries,” “*Palsgraf v. Long Island R.R.*,” and “Roger Traynor” in THE OXFORD COMPANION TO AMERICAN LAW (K. Hall ed., 2002).

Introduction, Wade Conference on the Third Torts Restatement, 54 VAND. L. REV. 639-652 (2001).

On The Merits: A Response to Professor Sherry, 50 VAND. L. REV. 537-553 (1997).

BRIEFS

Amicus Curiae Brief of Professors Anthony J. Sebok and John C. P. Goldberg, *Taylor v. The Devereux Foundation, Inc.*, 888 S.E.2d 671 (Ga. 2023).

Brief of *Amici Curiae* Law Professors, *Milan Supply Chain Solutions, Inc. v. Navistar, Inc.*, 627 S.W.3d 125 (Tenn. 2021).

Amici Curiae Brief, *Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp. v. Albrecht*, 139 S. Ct. 1668 (2019) (with B. Zipursky).

HONORS

AALS Jurisprudence Section, Hart-Dworkin Award (co-recipient with B. Zipursky) (2024).

AALS Torts and Compensation Systems Section, William L. Prosser Award (co-recipient with B. Zipursky) (2023).

National Civil Justice Institute 2023 Scholarship Award (for *Recognizing Wrongs*)

Sibley Lecture, University of Georgia School of Law (2014).

Monsanto Lecture, Valparaiso University School of Law (2007).

TEACHING

Four-time Recipient of Hall-Hartman Teaching Award, voted by Vanderbilt Law School students

First-Year Courses

Civil Procedure
Constitutional Law
Contracts
Criminal Law
Torts

Representative Upper-Level Courses

Global Justice (co-taught)
Law and Philosophy Colloquium (co-taught)
Philosophy of Law
Private Law Workshop (co-taught)
Torts at the Supreme Court

SERVICE

Harvard University

Member, University Discrimination and Harassment Steering Committee (2021)
 Member, Provost Advisory Committee (2015-18)
 Chair, Electronic Communications Oversight Committee (2014-15; 2016-18)
 Member, Electronic Communications Policy Task Force (2013-14)
 Member, Academic Appointments Advisory Group (2010-12)
 Member, Provost Search Advisory Committee (2011)
 Member, Dean Search Advisory Group (2009)

Harvard Law School

Deputy Dean (2017-2022)
 Lateral Appointments Committee (Co-Chair 2021-22; Chair 2009-2012; Member 2012-15; 2016-19; Fall 2023)
 Chair, Title IX Policy Implementation Committee (2014-16; 2017-18)

Vanderbilt University

Committee on Ethics Courses (Fall 2005)
 Committee on the Integration of Professional Schools (2002-2004)
 Committee on NCAA Certification, Co-Chair of Governance sub-committee (2002-03)

Vanderbilt Law School

Ad Hoc Tenure Committee (Chair) (2002-03)
 Admissions Committee (Fall 1998)
 Clerkship Advisor / Clerkship Committee (Class of 1998 / 1996-1997; 1995-1996)
 Faculty Appointments Committee (Chair 2000-01; member 2007-08; 2006-07, 2005-06, 2004-05; Spring, 2004; Fall 2002; 1999-2000; 1997-98)
 Faculty Self-Study Committee for A.B.A. Re-accreditation (2001)

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Advisory Board, RAND Center for Catastrophic Risk Management and Compensation (2013-2017)

American Law Institute, Associate Reporter, Restatement (Fourth) of Property (ongoing)

American Law Institute, Members Consultative Group, Restatement (Third) of Torts (ongoing)

AALS Section on Torts and Compensation Systems

Chair (2009); Exec. Comm. Member (2004-08); Section Conference Organizer (June 2003)

Journal of Legal Analysis, Co-Editor-In-Chief (2024-)

Journal of Tort Law, Editorial Board Member (2015-present); Editor in Chief (2009-15)

Legal Theory, Editorial Board Member

Torts Jotwell, Contributing Editor

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