

Rebecca Haw Allensworth

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Vanderbilt Law School, Nashville, Tenn.

David Daniels Allen Distinguished Chair in Law	2022-
Professor of Law	2017-
Associate Dean for Research	2023-25
Tarkington Chair in Teaching Excellence	2019-22
Associate Professor of Law	2014-17
Assistant Professor of Law	2011-14
Courses: Contracts, Antitrust, Advanced Antitrust	

Harvard Law School, Cambridge, Mass.

Climenko Fellow	2009-11
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CLERKSHIP

Hon. Richard A. Posner, Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals , Chicago, Ill.	2008-09
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EDUCATION

Harvard Law School, JD, *magna cum laude* (2008)

Cambridge University, M.Phil., American Literature (2005)

Yale University, BA, English, *cum laude* (2001)

PUBLICATIONS

Book

The Licensing Racket: How We Decide Who Is Allowed to Work and Why It Goes Wrong
(Harvard University Press, 2025)

Reviewed in (selected): *Wall Street Journal, Forbes, Harvard Magazine*

Podcasts/appearances (selected): *Freakonomics, NPR Marketplace Tech, Short Circuit, New Books Network, Banner & Company*

Articles and Book Chapters

Long-Term Consumer Welfare, 79 VAND. L. REV (forthcoming 2026)

Doctors Playing Lawyers: Lessons for Professional Regulation in Crisis, 51 AM. J.L. & MED.
(forthcoming 2025) (with Cathal T. Gallagher)

Reviewed in *Jotwell* by Carl Coleman, *A Comparative Law Analysis of Professional Disciplinary Systems: What Can Tennessee Learn from the U.K.?*

The Hypocrisy of Attorney Licensing, in RETHINKING THE LAWYER'S MONOPOLY (forthcoming Cambridge University Press, 2025)

Honoring the Public Trust: Curbing the Bane of Physician Sexual Misconduct, J. L. & BIOSCIENCES, Jan–June 2022, at 1 (with Kunal K. Sindhu, Adam C. Schaffer, I. Glenn Cohen, and Eli Y. Adashi)

Antitrust's High-Tech Exceptionalism, 130 YALE L. J. FORUM (2021)
Featured on the Faculti podcast

The (Limited) Constitutional Right to Compete in an Occupation, 60 WM. & MARY L. REV. 1111 (2019)

Economic Sense and Sensibility: Matsushita and the Rise of the Battle of the Experts, 82 ANTITRUST L.J. 2018

Foxes at the Henhouse: Occupational Licensing Boards Up Close, 105 CAL. L. REV. 1567 (2017)

The New Antitrust Federalism, 102 VA. L. REV. 1387 (2016)

The Commensurability Myth in Antitrust, 69 VAND. L. REV. 1 (2016)

Law and the Art of Modeling: Are Models Facts? 103 GEO. L.J. 825 (2015)

The Influence of the Areeda-Hovenkamp Treatise in the Lower Courts and What It Means for Institutional Reform in Antitrust, 100 IOWA L. REV. 1919 (2015)

Delay and Its Benefits for Judicial Rulemaking Under Scientific Uncertainty, 162 B.C. L. REV. 331 (2014)

Cartels by Another Name: Should Licensed Occupations Face Antitrust Scrutiny? 162 U. PA. L. REV. 1093 (2014) (with Aaron Edlin)

Cited by *North Carolina State Board of Dental Examiners v. FTC*, 135 S. Ct. 1101 (2015)

Adversarial Economics in Antitrust Litigation: Losing Consensus in the Battle of the Experts, 106 NW. U. L. REV. 1261 (2012)

Amicus Briefs and the Sherman Act: Why Antitrust Needs a New Deal, 89 TEX. L. REV. 1247 (2011)

Shorter works

Book Review: Grease or Grit? International Case Studies of Occupational Licensing and Its Effects on Efficiency and Quality, by Morris M. Kleiner and Maria Koumenta, ILR REV. (2023)

Posner on the Federal Trade Commission: Why the Change of Heart?, 18 ANTITRUST SOURCE, Oct. 2018, at 1

Antitrust Scrutiny for the Occupations: North Carolina Dental and Its Impact on U.S. Licensing Boards, 4 PÁZMÁNY L. REV. 169 (2016)

Brief of Antitrust Scholars as Amici Curiae in Support of Respondent, North Carolina State Board of Dental Examiners v. FTC, 135 S. Ct. 1101 (2015) (with Einer Elhauge and Aaron Edlin)

Casting a FRAND Shadow: The Importance of Legally Defining “Fair and Reasonable” and How Microsoft v. Motorola Missed the Mark, 22 TEX. INTELL. PROP. L.J. 235 (2014)

Popular Press Publications

How medical boards often fail patients — and with deadly results, THE NEW YORK POST, February 15, 2025

Why No One Can Fix the Broken Licensing System, THE ATLANTIC, February 12, 2025

You don’t need to own an iPhone for the government lawsuit against Apple to benefit you, LOS ANGELES TIMES, April 22, 2024

How a Paramount-Warner Bros. Discovery merger could test the new world of antitrust, LOS ANGELES TIMES, January 26, 2024

The Government Did Not Foresee How Facebook Would Behave, THE ATLANTIC, January 30, 2021 (with John Newman)

Why Facebook antitrust case relies so heavily on Mark Zuckerberg’s emails, THE CONVERSATION, December 18, 2020

Licensed to Pill, THE NEW YORK REVIEW OF BOOKS, July 21, 2020

Letting Dentists Feel the Bite of Competition, WALL STREET JOURNAL, March 8, 2015, at A13 (with Aaron Edlin)

SELECTED MEDIA APPEARANCES

PBS NewsHour

How Meta’s blockbuster antitrust trial could have major implications for big tech (April 14, 2025)

Judge rules Google broke laws to maintain search monopoly (August 5, 2024)

Google faces biggest monopoly trial of modern digital era (September 11, 2023)

All Things Considered (NPR)

The Google antitrust case shows the century old law can hold up in modern times (August 7, 2024)

Google’s antitrust showdown begins this week (September 11, 2023)

Prof G Markets (Vox Media Podcasts)

Breaking Down the Google Monopoly Ruling (August 8, 2024)

Marketplace Tech (NPR)

Google's Justice Department trial could test the future of antitrust law (September 8, 2023)

Amazon's business dominance is a many-tentacled thing (May 27, 2021)

Will a Biden administration try to break up Big Tech? (November 11, 2020)

The Takeaway (NPR)

How Antitrust Laws are Defining the Facebook Monopolization Case (January 20, 2022)

This American Life (NPR)

Trust Me I'm a Doctor (Oct. 2, 2020)

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Federal Public Defender, Northern District of California, San Francisco, Calif.

Summer Law Clerk 2007

Hon. Charles R. Breyer, Northern District of California, San Francisco, Calif.

Summer Intern 2006

HONORS

- 2024 Commencement Speaker, Vanderbilt Law School (voted by students)
- 2024 Hall-Hartman Outstanding Professor Award, Vanderbilt Law School (voted by students, received for Contracts)
- 2022 Hall-Hartman Outstanding Professor Award, Vanderbilt Law School (voted by students, received for Contracts)
- 2019-22 Tarkington Chair in Teaching Excellence, Vanderbilt Law School
- 2019 Commencement Speaker, Vanderbilt Law School (voted by students)
- 2019 Hall-Hartman Outstanding Professor Award, Vanderbilt Law School (voted by students, received for Contracts and for Antitrust Law)
- 2017 Hall-Hartman Outstanding Professor Award, Vanderbilt Law School (voted by students, received for Contracts)
- 2015 Jerry S. Cohen Memorial Fund Writing Award (2015) (for *Cartels by Another Name: Should Licensed Occupations Face Antitrust Scrutiny?* 162 U. PA. L. REV. 1093 (2014))
- 2015 Hall-Hartman Outstanding Professor Award, Vanderbilt Law School (voted by students, received for Contracts)

GOVERNMENT TESTIMONY

The Little Hoover Commission, Hearing on Governor Newsom's 2025 Government Reorganization Plan, April 2025 (virtual testimony)

United States House of Representatives, Committee on the Judiciary, “Occupational Licensing: Regulation and Competition” Washington, D.C., September 2017

White House Roundtable on Occupational Licensing, Washington, D.C., June 2015

United States House of Representatives, Small Business Committee, “Barriers to Opportunity: Do Occupational Licensing Laws Unfairly Limit Entrepreneurship and Jobs?” Washington, D.C., March 2014

SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS, WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES

Federalist Society, “Ad It Again: A Second Google Antitrust Decision,” April 2025 (virtual panel)

Center for Security and Emerging Technology, “Long Term Consumer Welfare” Georgetown University (virtual workshop) March 2025

Niskanen Center, “The Licensing Racket” (author’s dinner) Washington, D.C., January 2025

Wharton School of Business, “Long-Term Consumer Welfare” (faculty workshop) Philadelphia, Penn., November 2024

Vanderbilt Law School, “Long-Term Consumer Welfare” (faculty workshop) Nashville, Tenn., November 2024

Respectfully Dissent (debate series), “Should Antitrust Have Limits?” with Thom Lambert, Vanderbilt Law School, Nashville, Tenn., October 2024

Federalist Society, “Litigation Update: *US v. Apple*,” Virtual Panel, July 2024

Council on Foreign Relations, “Antitrust Policy Roundtable,” Virtual panel, July 2024

Antitrust Law & Economics Institute for Federal Judges, “Monopolization,” Berkeley, Calif., June 2024

DOJ/FTC Public Workshop on 2023 Draft Merger Guidelines, “Dynamics of Competition,” University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill., November 2023

The Utah Project on Antitrust and Consumer Protection, “Platform/High Tech Mergers,” University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, October 2023

Professor David Williams II Symposium, “The NCAA and the Battle Over Amateurism” (panel moderator), Vanderbilt University Law School, Nashville, Tenn., September 2023

Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference, “Regulating Big Tech,” Portland, Ore., August 2023

New Voices in Access to Justice, “The Hypocrisy of Attorney Licensing,” Stanford Law School, Palo Alto, Calif., May 2023

American Constitution Society, “Antitrust at a Crossroads,” Vanderbilt University Law School, Nashville, Tenn., April 2023

Knee Center for the Study of Occupational Regulation Manuscript Workshop: Occupational Licensing in Puerto Rico and Beyond, “The Club,” San Juan, Puerto Rico, February 2023

Labor and Employment Relations Association at Allied Social Science Association Annual Meeting, “Occupational Licensing and Public Policy” (symposium chair), New Orleans, La., January 2023

Patient Safety Action Network, Medical Boards Roundtable, “Forgive and Forget: American Medical Regulation in Crisis and Lessons from the UK,” November 2022 (virtual presentation)

Vanderbilt Law School, Conference on Networks, Platforms and Utilities (panelist), Nashville, Tenn., April 2022

Jaharis Health Law Institute, DePaul University College of Law, “Antitrust in Health Insurance and Health Provider Markets,” (virtual panelist) March 2022

University of California, Los Angeles, “Board to Death: Why Professional Licensing Isn’t Keeping You Safe,” Los Angeles, Calif., March 2022

Vanderbilt Law School, “Board to Death: Why Professional Licensing Isn’t Keeping You Safe,” Nashville, Tenn., March 2022

Patient Safety Action Network, Medical Boards Roundtable, “Board to Death: Why Professional Licensing Isn’t Keeping You Safe,” December 2021 (virtual presentation)

Northwestern Pritzker School of Law Faculty Workshop, “Licensed to Ill” and “The Fallen Provider” (draft chapters from Board to Death) Chicago, Ill., November 2021

Academy of Interactive Arts and Sciences, “DICE Conversations: Epic v. Apple” Virtual Panelist, February 2021

Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy, “Changing Hats?” Webinar, August 2020

University of Florida Antitrust Virtual Workshop Series, “State Medical Boards and the Doctors They Protect: A Self-Regulation Story in Two Acts,” May 2020

Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards, 2020 Board Meeting, “Changing Hats?” Nashville, Tenn., February 2020

Federation of American Regulatory Boards, 2020 Forum, panelist, “Regulatory Reaction: Now What?” Colorado Spring, Colo., January 2020

Boston College Law School Regulation and Markets Workshop, “Boards Behaving Badly” (draft chapter from Board to Death) Newton, Mass., November 2019

Institute for Consumer Antitrust Studies, Loyola University Chicago School of Law, Commentator, “The Incoherent Justification for Naked Restraints of Competition: What the Dental Self-Regulation Cases Tell Us about the Cavities in Antitrust Law” Chicago, Ill., April 2019

American Association of Law Schools Annual Meeting, “Antitrust and Two-Sided Markets,” New York, N.Y., January 2019

National Conference of State Legislatures Occupational Licensing Conference, Panel: “Licensing Legal Case Update,” Clearwater Fla., November 2018

National Conference of State Legislatures Legislative Summit, Panel: “Pushing Past Limits on Occupational Licensing,” Los Angeles, Calif., July 2018

Cardozo Law School, “The Constitutional Law of Occupational Licensing,” New York, N.Y., April 2018

National Oral Health Conference, Panel: “Competition and Regulation in the Dental Professions: The Impact on Access, Cost, and Quality,” Louisville, Ky., April 2018

Federal Trade Commission Economic Liberty Taskforce, Presentation on Occupational Licensing, Washington, D.C., April 2018

American Bar Association Antitrust Section Annual Meeting, Panel: “Judge Posner: A Retrospective,” Washington, D.C., April 2018

William & Mary Law Review Symposium on Antitrust and the Constitutional Order, “The Constitutional Law of Occupational Licensing” Williamsburg, Va., February 2018

Vanderbilt Law School Research Roundtable, “The New Infrastructure: The Law and Policy of Platforms, Utilities, and Public Options” (discussant) Nashville, Tenn., February 2018

Mackinac Center for Public Policy, “Is This Working? The Effects of Occupational Licensing on the Workforce” Lansing, Mich., January 2018

American Medical Association State Legislative Strategy Conference, “Room for Debate: Will Safeguarding the Quality of Health Care Yield to Competition Concerns?” Fort Myers, Fla., January 2018

Vanderbilt Law School Research Roundtable, “Revisiting the Public Utility” (discussant), Vanderbilt Law School, Nashville, Tenn., January 2017

Funders Oral Health Policy Group Annual Meeting, spoke to foundations and funding groups about the oral health licensing landscape and potential avenues for reform, Washington, D.C., December 2016

State Center Conference on *NC Dental*, spoke to state antitrust enforcers about the impact of *NC Dental* on state regulation, Washington, D.C., April 2016

American Association of Law Schools Annual Meeting, “Antitrust and the State,” New York, N.Y., January 2016

Yale/Harvard Junior Faculty Forum, presented forthcoming article “The Commensurability Myth in Antitrust,” Cambridge, Mass., June 2015

American Bar Association Antitrust Section Annual Meeting, panel discussion of the *NC Dental* case, Washington, D.C., April 2015

American Bar Association, “*North Carolina Board of Dental Examiners Amici: The Scope of State Action Immunity*,” Teleconference, March 2015

University of Tilburg, TILEC Seminar, “The Commensurability Myth in Antitrust,” Tilburg, Netherlands, January 2015

American Association of Law Schools Annual Meeting, “Competition Policy in Health Care,” Washington, D.C., January 2015

American Bar Association, “Taking Stock of the State Action Doctrine in Light of *North Carolina Board of Dental Examiners v. FTC*,” Teleconference, December 2014

Iowa Law Review Symposium Honoring Herbert Hovenkamp, “The Influence of the Areeda-Hovenkamp Treatise in the Lower Courts and What It Means for Institutional Reform in Antitrust,” Iowa City, Iowa, October 2014

Federalist Society, “Regulating the Regulators: *North Carolina Board of Dental Examiners v. Federal Trade Commission*,” Teleconference, October 2014

American Law and Economics Association Annual Meeting, “Cartels by Another Name: Should Licensed Occupations Face Antitrust Scrutiny?” Chicago, Ill., May 2014

Institute for Consumer Antitrust Studies, Loyola University Chicago School of Law, “Antitrust Law and the Art of Modeling: Are Models Facts?” Chicago, Ill., April 2014

Federal Trade Commission, “Cartels by Another Name: Should Licensed Occupations Face Antitrust Scrutiny?” Washington, D.C., April 2014

FRAND Symposium at University of Texas Law School, “Casting a FRAND Shadow: The Importance of Legally Defining ‘Fair and Reasonable’ and How *Microsoft v. Motorola* Missed the Mark,” Austin, Tex., February 2014

NYU Next Generation of Antitrust Scholarship Conference, “Antitrust Law and the Art of Modeling: Are Models Facts?” New York, N.Y., January 2014

Georgia State University College of Law, “Delay and Its Benefits for Judicial Rulemaking Under Scientific Uncertainty,” Atlanta, Ga., September 2013

Heath Lecture and FRAND Workshop at University of Florida Levin College of Law, “Casting a FRAND Shadow: The Importance of Legally Defining ‘Fair and Reasonable’ and How *Microsoft v. Motorola* Missed the Mark,” Gainesville, Fla., September 2013

SEALS Annual Conference, New Scholars Colloquium, “Delay and Its Benefits for Judicial Rulemaking Under Scientific Uncertainty,” Palm Beach, Fla., August 2013

Tennessee Workers Compensation Conference, “Letting It All In: Medical Expert Evidence in Workers Compensation Claims Under the 2013 Amendments,” Nashville, Tenn., June 2013

Vanderbilt Law School, “Cartels by Another Name: Should Licensed Occupations Face Antitrust Scrutiny?” Nashville, Tenn., April 2013

NYU Next Generation of Antitrust Scholarship Conference, “Adversarial Economics in Antitrust Litigation: Losing Consensus in the Battle of the Experts,” New York, N.Y., January 2012

Law and Society Conference, “Amicus Briefs and the Sherman Act: Why Antitrust Needs a New Deal,” Chicago, Ill., May 2010

Harvard Law School Climenko Fellow Workshop, “Amicus Briefs and the Sherman Act: Why Antitrust Needs a New Deal,” Cambridge, Mass., March 2010

Harvard Law School Climenko Fellow Workshop, “Economic Arguments in Antitrust Cases: Findings of Fact in the District Court, Issues of Law in the Circuit Court,” Cambridge, Mass., October 2009

Harvard Law School Criminal Justice Seminar, “Can an Information Market Combat Terrorism?” Cambridge, Mass., March 2008

SERVICE

Vanderbilt Law School

Immigration Clinic (pro bono attorney), 2023-

Associate Dean for Research, 2023-25

Faculty Appointments Committee, 2012-13, 2015-16, 2018-19, 2023-25

Mentoring Committee, January 2023-25 (chair)
Working Group on Free Expression and Civil Discourse, 2023-25
Curriculum Committee, 2021-22 (chair), 2012-13
Ad Hoc Promotion Committee, 2020-21 (chair)

Vanderbilt University

Vanderbilt University Inclusive Leadership Collaborative, 2024-25
Vanderbilt University Research Council, 2023-25
Vanderbilt University Prestigious Awards Working Group, 2023

Immigration Justice Campaign

Pro bono attorney, 2018-2024

American Association of Law Schools

Member, Executive Committee, Section on Antitrust & Economic Regulation, 2012-19 (chair 2018-19)

Peer Review Service (selected)

Antitrust Law Journal
Journal of Empirical Legal Studies
Journal of Competition Law & Economics
European Journal of Law & Economics
Searle Civil Justice Institute
Journal of Philosophy, Science & Law
Stanford Journal of Complex Litigation
Wolters Kluwer Law & Business

BAR ADMISSION

Tennessee (since 2018)

INTERESTS

Literature, road cycling, mountain biking, open-water swimming, gardening, mountains

This CV last updated: May 2025