

NIKOLAS BOWIE

Louis D. Brandeis Professor of Law
Harvard Law School

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EDUCATION

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

PHD, history, 2018

JD, 2014

AM, history, 2011

YALE UNIVERSITY

BA, history, 2009

PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

HARVARD LAW SCHOOL

Louis D. Brandeis Professor of Law, 2022–

Assistant Professor of Law, 2018–22

Reginald Lewis Fellow, 2017–18

Berger-Howe Fellow, 2016–17

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

Law clerk to Justice Sonia Sotomayor, 2015–16

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE SIXTH CIRCUIT

Law clerk to Judge Jeffrey Sutton, 2014–15

TEACHING & RESEARCH INTERESTS

Democracy

Federal & state constitutional law

Legal history

Local government law

BAR ADMISSIONS

Supreme Court of the United States

United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit

United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

BOARD & PANEL MEMBERSHIPS

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS

Council member and Foundation board member, 2025-

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Charter review committee member, 2022-24

ACLU OF MASSACHUSETTS

Board member, 2021-24

PEOPLE'S PARITY PROJECT

Board member, 2020-

MASSVOTE

Board member, 2020-25

MASS. CITIZENS COMMISSION TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION

Member, 2019-20

LAWYERS FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

Board member, 2018-

CAMBRIDGE PLANNING BOARD

Associate member, 2018-21

COMMITTEE FOR PUBLIC COUNSEL SERVICES

Postconviction & Appeals Panel member, 2017-24

HARVARD LAW REVIEW

Forum and online content chair, 2013-14

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Historical Association

American Society for Legal History

Association of Law & Political Economy

Law & Society Association

BOOKS

SUPREMACY: HOW RULE BY THE COURT REPLACED GOVERNMENT BY THE PEOPLE (W.W. Norton & Co., 2026) (with Daphna Renan)

FEDERAL CONSTITUTIONAL LAW (Foundation Press, 2022) (casebook for course on U.S. Constitutional Law)

ACADEMIC ARTICLES

The Separation-of-Powers Counterrevolution, 131 *YALE L.J.* 2020 (2022) (with Daphna Renan)

The Imaginary Immigration Clause, 120 MICH. L. REV. 1419 (2022) (with Norah Rast)

Antidemocracy, 135 HARV. L. REV. 160 (2021)

The Constitutional Right of Self-Government, 130 YALE L.J. 1801 (2021)

Why the Constitution Was Written Down, 71 STAN. L. REV. 1397 (2019)

The Government-Could-Not-Work Doctrine, 105 VA. L. REV. 1 (2019)

Corporate Personhood v. Corporate Statehood, 132 HARV. L. REV. 2009 (2019)
(book review)

High Crimes Without Law, 132 HARV. L. REV. F. 59 (2018)

Corporate Democracy: How Corporations Justified Their Right to Speak in 1970s Boston, 36 L. & HIST. REV. 689 (2018) (peer reviewed)

Dissertation, *Corporate America: A History of Corporate Statehood Since 1629* (2018) (Emma Rothschild, James Kloppenberg, Morton Horwitz, and Ken Mack, committee)

Note, *Congress's Power to Define the Privileges & Immunities of Citizenship*, 128 HARV. L. REV. 1206 (2015)

Case Comment, *Massachusetts v. U.S. Dep't of Health & Human Services*, 682 F.3d 1 (1st Cir. 2012), 126 HARV. L. REV. 611 (2012)

Poison Ivy: The Problem of Tax Exemption in a Deindustrializing City; Yale and New Haven, 1967-1973, 3 FOUNDATIONS 61 (2009)

OPINION ESSAYS

Who Will Stand up to the Supreme Court Justices?, N.Y. TIMES (May 2, 2026) (with Daphna Renan)

Harvard's Moment of Truth, BOS. GLOBE (Apr. 4, 2025) (with Benjamin Eidelson)

Higher Ed Is Under Attack. An Organized Faculty Is Its Best Defense, HARV. CRIMSON (Nov. 15, 2024) (with Vincent Brown & Kirsten Weld)

The Supreme Court Has Grown Too Powerful. Congress Must Intervene, N.Y. TIMES (Oct. 11, 2024) (with Daphna Renan)

The Supreme Court Is Not Supposed to Have This Much Power, THE ATLANTIC (Jun. 8, 2022) (with Daphna Renan)

How the Supreme Court Dominates Our Democracy, WASH. POST (Jul. 16, 2021)

Do We Have to Pay Businesses to Obey the Law?, N.Y. TIMES (Mar. 20, 2021)

The Challenges of Teaching the Constitution in the Age of Trump, WASH. POST (Jan. 18, 2021)

Preventing Female Genital Mutilation in the United States: The Legal Threat to Effective Action, 110 AM. J. PUB. HEALTH 813 (2020) (with I. Glenn Cohen, Megan Jones & Eli Y. Adashi)

Don't Be Confused by Trump's Defense. What He Is Accused of Are Crimes, N.Y. TIMES (Jan. 27, 2020)

Will Puerto Rico Still Be Allowed to Govern Itself?, N.Y. TIMES (Oct. 9, 2019)

The NFL Anthem Policy Violates Several State Constitutions, SLATE (Jun. 4, 2018)

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Shutzer Fellow, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, 2024-25

American Bar Association AdLaw Section Annual Scholarship Award, 2023

Albert M. Sacks-Paul A. Freund Award for Teaching Excellence, 2021

Delancey K. Jay Prize, best dissertation on American institutions, 2019

Irving Oberman Memorial Prize, best paper on legal history, 2014

Ames Moot Court Competition, best brief & overall team, 2013

Williston Negotiation Competition, best representation of client, 2012

Harvard/Cambridge Centre for History & Economics Mellon Prize, 2011

Weatherhead Center for International Affairs Fellowship, 2010-11

The Tobin Project Graduate Fellowship, 2010-11

Harvard JD/PHD Graduate Fellowship, 2009-18

YALE UNIVERSITY

John A. Porter Prize, best senior thesis on American history, 2009

Charles Garside Jr. Cup, best residential-college work on history, 2009

Mellon Mays / Bouchet Undergraduate Research Fellowship, 2007-09

E. Francis Riggs Memorial Prize, excellence in Directed Studies, 2006