

RUSSELL M. GOLD

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF LAW
UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA SCHOOL OF LAW
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CURRENT APPOINTMENT

University of Alabama School of Law, Tuscaloosa, AL

Associate Professor of Law

Associate Professor of Law (with tenure)

Professor of Law

Frank M. Bainbridge-Walter L. Mims Professor of Law

Irving and Frances Silver Faculty Scholar

July 2020 – August 2023

August 2023 – August 2024

August 2024 – September 2024

October 2024 – present

August 2025 – present

Tenure-track appointment with teaching and scholarly responsibilities. Teaching responsibilities include criminal law, criminal procedure, and a criminal procedure simulation course.

Honors: Student Bar Association Outstanding Faculty Member Award (2024); Faculty Fellow, University of Alabama Teaching Academy (2024-2026); University of Alabama Teaching Academy Outstanding Contribution to Teaching Development Award (2026); Dean Thomas W. Christopher Award for outstanding service to the law school (2026).

PREVIOUS APPOINTMENTS

Wake Forest University School of Law, Winston-Salem, NC

Associate Professor of Legal Writing

July 2016 – June 2020

Tenure-track appointment with teaching and scholarly responsibilities. Teaching responsibilities included criminal law, class-action simulation course, and first-year legal analysis, writing, and research course.

New York University School of Law, New York, New York

Acting Assistant Professor

June 2012 – May 2016

Associate Director, Lawyering Program

June 2014 – May 2016

Full-time appointment teaching mandatory first-year course using simulation-based approach to legal reasoning, research, and writing; witness interviewing; client interviewing and counseling; negotiation; oral advocacy; and professional responsibility. Curriculum development responsibilities included creating due diligence component of negotiation exercise to incorporate business and financial literacy concepts and two new oral argument exercises.

Concurrent appointment as Associate Director included additional responsibilities mentoring Lawyering faculty, coordinating with doctrinal and clinical faculty, and assisting the Director with program management and development.

Honors: Podell Distinguished Teaching Award (2016)

LAW REVIEW PUBLICATIONS

Fiscally Restraining Criminal Lawmaking, 104 WASH. U. L. REV. (forthcoming 2026) (with Leah Nelson): This article will consider how legislative process tools that legislatures use to fiscally restrain themselves in other contexts could fiscally restrain criminal law.

Look What You Made Me Do, 82 WASH. & LEE L. REV. 1377 (2025): This article considers the various ways that criminal procedure sends the message that crime is simply bad acts by individual actors who could have chosen not to do those bad acts and how criminal procedure coerces defendants to adopt that narrative aloud in court.

The Price of Criminal Law, 56 ARIZ. ST. L.J. 841 (2024): This article argues that the most important check on prosecutors is limited budgets, and it considers how to encourage county-level budgeting process to face the hard tradeoffs of how to spend scarce resources. To achieve greater democratic accountability in local budgeting for criminal law, the article proposes in part imposing caps on prosecutors' caseloads derived from the budgets of other relevant entities, including indigent defense and jails, so that prosecutors cannot simply overwhelm those other actors with their charging and bargaining decisions.

The Public Voice of the Defender, 75 ALA. L. REV. 157 (2023) (with Kay L. Levine): This article contends that indigent defense lawyers should view their role not solely as seeking to represent individual clients but also to engage in public-facing conversations about the criminal legal system. It argues that the current moment of political fracture in criminal law, the growth of decarceral community organizations, and the availability of social networking platforms make such an approach both feasible and productive. It then analyzes the specific ways that four popular social media platforms enable such an approach.

Power Over Procedure, 57 WAKE FOREST L. REV. 51 (2022): This article argues that comparing civil and criminal pretrial procedure reveals systemic racism and classism underlying American law. Criminal defendants are disproportionately poor people of color, while wealthy corporations whose executives are largely white play an outsized role as civil defendants in shaping procedure. Instead of criminal law offering more protection for defendants' liberty than civil procedure provides for defendants' property, disparities between the two systems track predictable differences in defendants' race and class.

Volunteer Prosecutors, 59 AM. CRIM. L. REV. 1483 (2022): This article provides the first scholarly treatment of what I call volunteer prosecutors—people who work as prosecutors without being paid. It considers the motivations that drive people to prosecute crime for free—sometimes as their full-time jobs—and conducts a content analysis of news sources to develop a taxonomy of the various forms of volunteer prosecution and document some places where they exist. It also takes up some normative concerns that this practice raises—primarily that providing free labor to prosecutors' offices widens the government's net in criminal law and evades the most meaningful constraint on prosecutors: a limited budget.

Paying for Pretrial Detention, 98 N.C. L. REV. 1255 (2020): This article critiques the disparity between the way that criminal pretrial detention and civil preliminary injunctions employ financial incentives. The civil system uses financial incentives to limit relief before judgment by placing

financial risk on the party seeking relief whereas the criminal system employs financial incentives to encourage incarceration before judgment by requiring many defendants to pay for their freedom.

Jail as Injunction, [107 GEO. L.J. 501](#) (2019): Pretrial detention is in a great state of flux across the country. This article considers the disparity in procedure and substantive standards between pretrial detention and civil preliminary injunctions. It then re-envision the pretrial detention system by drawing insights from civil preliminary injunctions. Pretrial detention law should increase the showing the government must make to irreparable injury, add individualized consideration of defendants' interests to balance against the government's interests in detention, and account for the government's likelihood of success on the merits.

Civilizing Criminal Settlements, [97 B.U. L. REV. 1607](#) (2017) (with Carissa Byrne Hessick and F. Andrew Hessick): This article considers how criminal law could improve the plea bargaining system by which most cases are resolved by drawing on lessons from the civil system. It suggests relying more heavily on procedures like motions to dismiss, discovery, and summary judgment rather than relying so heavily on the government's leverage over defendants.

"Clientless" Prosecutors, [51 GA. L. REV. 693](#) (2017): This article continues the comparison between class counsel and prosecutors that I detail in *"Clientless" Lawyers* and considers what criminal law can learn from class action law about lawyer accountability. More specifically, it explores ways that judges can improve accountability in criminal law such as by reviewing plea agreements akin to class settlement review and by urging prosecutors to justify their decisions on the record when the judge has cause for concern.

"Clientless" Lawyers, [92 WASH. L. REV. 87](#) (2017): Class counsel and prosecutors share an unrecognized similarity: both are lawyers who must make decisions that are traditionally reserved to clients. Despite this similarity, class action law turns to judicial review to monitor the resulting agency costs while criminal law relies instead on elections and internal processes. The article contends that class actions should look within the plaintiff's bar to improve accountability much as criminal law scholars have suggested about prosecutors' offices.

Compensation's Role in Deterrence, [91 NOTRE DAME L. REV. 1997](#) (2016): I argue that, at least in damages class actions, compensating victims likely deters more wrongdoing than other forms of relief. Scholars have largely overlooked that firms anticipating harm to their reputations as a result of litigation provides a source of deterrence. Because the American public values victim compensation in civil litigation, compensation enhances the legitimacy of the class device and therefore bolsters this reputational deterrence.

Beyond the Judicial Fourth Amendment: The Prosecutor's Role, [47 U.C. DAVIS L. REV. 1591](#) (2014): I argue that regardless of admissibility, prosecutors have both an ethical and a constitutional duty to refrain from charging or prosecuting cases based on evidence that they conclude was obtained in an unconstitutional search or seizure.

- Awarded Fred C. Zacharias Memorial Prize for Professional Responsibility scholarship by AALS

Promoting Democracy in Prosecution, 86 WASH. L. REV. 69 (2011): This article argues that the political check on elected prosecutors has become largely ineffectual because voters lack the information they would need for meaningful monitoring. It therefore proposes requiring prosecutors to disclose the costs of their cases and cases that they decline despite probable cause (including defense, incarceration, and appellate costs) to reinvigorate the political check by providing voters and electoral challengers with meaningful data.

Note, *Is This Your Bedroom?: Reconsidering Third-Party Consent Searches Under Modern Living Arrangements*, 76 GEO. WASH. L. REV. 375 (2008): This note considers third-party consent doctrine in shared, non-spousal living arrangements. It urges courts to narrowly analyze the scope of actual third-party consent and require police to ask clarifying questions to the consenter regarding the scope of her authority over the search areas before finding apparent authority to consent.

BOOKS

THE OXFORD HANDBOOK OF PROSECUTORS AND PROSECUTION (Ronald F. Wright, Kay L. Levine & Russell M. Gold eds., 2021) (co-editor).

SHORTER WORKS

Exoneration Finance, 99 N.Y.U. L. REV. ONLINE 298 (2024) (with Kay L. Levine)

Trump's special treatment in the courts highlights failings in our legal system, THE HILL, Aug. 17, 2023 (with Christopher Robertson)

Donald Trump's right – he is getting special treatment, far better than most other criminal defendants, THE CONVERSATION, Aug. 9, 2023 (with Christopher T. Robertson)

How Public Defenders Can Use Social Media to Drive Change, LAW360, July 21, 2023 (with Kay L. Levine)

Prosecutors and Their Legislatures, Legislatures and Their Prosecutors, in THE OXFORD HANDBOOK OF PROSECUTORS AND PROSECUTION (Ronald F. Wright, Kay L. Levine & Russell M. Gold eds., 2021).

Introduction: Understanding Prosecutors in All Their Contexts, in THE OXFORD HANDBOOK OF PROSECUTORS AND PROSECUTION (Ronald F. Wright, Kay L. Levine & Russell M. Gold eds., 2021) (with Ronald F. Wright & Kay L. Levine).

The Political Patterns of Bail Reform, 55 WAKE FOREST L. REV. 743 (2020) (with Ronald F. Wright): This is the foreword to a symposium issue on bail reform. It focuses on the politics of criminal law reform, using bail as a particular lens to understand the different political processes and coalitions that can facilitate reform. It also emphasizes the value of decentralization in American criminal law.

Prosecutors' Fourth Amendment, 42 SEARCH & SEIZURE L. REP. 71 (2015).

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

Taking Trauma Seriously in Self-Defense, Law and Society Association Annual Meeting (May 29, 2026)

Defense and Prosecution Collaboration in Actual Innocence Cases, 20th Annual Actual Innocence, Center for American and International Law, Texas Innocence Project, Texas A&M University School of Law (May 15, 2026)

Fiscally Restraining Criminal Lawmaking, ABA/AALS Criminal Justice Academic Workshop (Dec. 5, 2025) (via Zoom)

Fiscally Restraining Criminal Lawmaking, Vanderbilt Criminal Justice Roundtable (Nov. 15, 2025)

Driving Student Engagement in Lecture Classes, University of Alabama Teaching Academy (Sept. 30, 2025)

Fiscally Restraining Criminal Law, CrimFest (July 14, 2025)

Criminal Legislative Exceptionalism, Crim Works-in-Progress Workshop (June 23, 2025) (via Zoom)

Look What You Made Me Do, Law & Society Association Annual Meeting (May 24, 2025)

Look What You Made Me Do, Markelloquium Criminal Theory Colloquium (May 9, 2025) (via Zoom)

Criminal Legislative Exceptionalism, Democracy Works-in-Progress Conference (Apr. 10-11, 2025)

Look What You Made Me Do, University of Kansas School of Law Faculty Workshop (Mar. 4, 2025)

Look What You Made Me Do, ABA/AALS Criminal Justice Roundtable (Dec. 2, 2024) (via Zoom)

Becoming a Productive and Fulfilled Scholar, Southeastern Association of Law Schools Annual Meeting (July 23, 2024)

Look What You Made Me Do, Criminal Procedure Works-in-Progress Session, Southeastern Association of Law Schools Annual Meeting (July 22, 2024)

Look What You Made Me Do, CrimFest (July 16, 2024)

Becoming a Productive and Fulfilled Scholar, Southeastern Association of Law Schools Annual Meeting (July 26, 2023)

Starving the Prosecutorial Beast, CrimFest (July 18, 2023)

Prosecutor Scarcity and Experience, Criminal Justice Ethics Schmooze (June 8, 2023)

The Public Voice of the Defender, Law and Society Association Annual Meeting (June 1, 2023)

The Public Voice of the Defender, ABA/AALS/Academy for Justice Workshop (Dec. 2, 2022)
(via Zoom)

Budget Scarcity and Prosecutor Accountability, CrimFest, Cardozo Law School, New York, NY
(July 18, 2022)

Procedure's Racism, CrimFest (July 19, 2021) (via Zoom)

Procedure's Racism, Civil Procedure Workshop (July 15, 2021) (via zoom)

Procedure's Racism, Wilson Center for Science and Justice, Duke Law School (Mar. 29, 2021)
(via Zoom)

Volunteer Prosecutors, SEALS Conference, Panel on The Private Role in Criminal Justice (July
31, 2020) (via Zoom)

(Not) Paying Prosecutors, Faculty Workshop, University of Alabama School of Law, Tuscaloosa,
AL (Feb. 25, 2020)

Paying Prosecutors, Faculty Workshop, University of Georgia School of Law, Athens, GA (Jan.
27, 2020)

Paying for Pretrial Detention, Faculty Workshop, Wayne Law School, Detroit, MI (Nov. 18, 2019)

Paying for Pretrial Detention, Faculty Workshop, University of Alabama School of Law,
Tuscaloosa, AL (Sept. 23, 2019)

Paying Prosecutors, CrimFest, Brooklyn Law School, Brooklyn, NY (July 15, 2019)

Volunteer Prosecutors, Junior Faculty Forum, University of Richmond School of Law, Richmond,
VA (May 21, 2019)

Paying for Pretrial Detention, Fourth Annual Civil Procedure Workshop, Stanford Law School,
Stanford, CA (Nov. 9, 2018)

Paying for Pretrial Detention, Southeastern Junior/Senior Workshop, University of Georgia School
of Law, Athens, GA (Oct. 26, 2018)

Paying for Pretrial Detention, CrimFest, Cardozo Law School, New York, NY (July 17, 2018)

Paying for Pretrial Detention, Criminal Justice Ethics Schmooze, Brooklyn Law School, Brooklyn, NY (June 12, 2018)

Inverting Bail, Mid-Atlantic Junior Faculty Forum, University of Richmond School of Law, Richmond, VA (May 16, 2018)

Integrating LRW and Doctrinal Courses, Rocky Mountain Regional Legal Writing Conference, University of Denver Sturm College of Law, Denver, CO (Mar. 23, 2018)

Jail as Injunction, Faculty Workshop, Washington & Lee University School of Law, Lexington, VA (Jan. 22, 2018)

Coordinating Writing Assignments with Other 1L Courses, Legal Writing Institute One-Day Workshop, Elon University School of Law, Greensboro, NC (Dec. 8, 2017) (with Christine Coughlin & Elizabeth Johnson)

Jail as Injunction, Faculty Workshop, William & Mary Law School, Williamsburg, VA (Oct. 26, 2017)

Jail as Injunction, Third Annual Civil Procedure Workshop, James E. Rogers College of Law, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ (Oct. 6, 2017)

Jail as Interim Relief, Mid-Atlantic Junior Faculty Forum, University of Richmond School of Law, Richmond, VA (May 11, 2017)

Designing a Simulation-Based Upper-Level Legal Writing Course, Legal Writing Institute One-Day Workshop, Tulane Law School, New Orleans, LA (Dec. 2, 2016)

“Clientless” Prosecutors, Southeastern Junior/Senior Faculty Workshop, University of North Carolina School of Law, Chapel Hill, NC (Oct. 28-29, 2016)

“Clientless” Prosecutors, Faculty Workshop, University of Richmond School of Law, Richmond, VA (Sept. 16, 2016)

Civilizing Criminal Settlements, Faculty Workshop, University of North Carolina School of Law, Chapel Hill, NC (Aug. 18, 2016) (with Carissa Byrne Hessick and F. Andrew Hessick)

“Clientless” Prosecutors, SEALS Conference, New Scholars Workshop on Litigation and Professional Responsibility, Amelia Island, FL (Aug. 4, 2016)

“Clientless” Lawyers, Second Annual Civil Procedure Workshop, University of Washington School of Law, Seattle, WA (July 14, 2016)

A Criminal Settlement System, CrimFest, Cardozo Law School, New York, NY (July 11, 2016)

“Clientless” Lawyers, Faculty Workshop, Wake Forest University School of Law, Winston-Salem, NC (Nov. 23, 2015)

“Clientless” Lawyers, Junior Faculty Federal Courts Workshop, UC Irvine School of Law, Irvine, CA (Sept. 12, 2015)

“Clientless” Lawyers, CrimFest, Cardozo Law School, New York, NY (July 20, 2015)

“Clientless” Lawyers, Criminal Justice Ethics Schmooze, Fordham University School of Law, New York, NY (June 8, 2015)

Compensation’s Role in Deterrence, Junior Faculty Federal Courts Workshop, University of Georgia School of Law, Athens, GA (Oct. 11, 2014)

Beyond the Judicial Fourth Amendment, Faculty Enrichment Series, James E. Rogers College of Law, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ (Apr. 24, 2013)

Prosecutors’ Duty of Administrative Suppression, Lawyering Scholarship Colloquium, New York University School of Law, New York, NY (Aug. 14, 2012)

EDUCATION

George Washington University Law School, Washington, District of Columbia

Juris Doctor, Highest Honors, May 2008

- Class Rank: 2 of 501; GPA: 4.119
- Senior Notes Editor, *The George Washington Law Review*
- Willard Waddington Gatchell Award for one of the three highest cumulative averages
- John Ordronaux Award for the highest cumulative average in first year
- Imogen Williford Constitutional Law Award
- Presidential Merit Scholar
- Research Assistant to Professors Roger Fairfax, Amanda Tyler, and Jerome Barron

Arizona State University, Barrett Honors College, Tempe, Arizona

Bachelor of Science, summa cum laude, Economics, May 2004

Bachelor of Arts, summa cum laude, Political Science, May 2004

- Minor: Mathematics; Certificate: Ethics
- Honors Thesis: *Leaving the Gifted Child Behind*
- Provost Scholar; Bank One Economics Scholar

TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, Experiential Courses, Civil Procedure

LEGAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP, San Francisco, California

Litigation Associate

November 2009 – April 2012

Summer Associate

May 2007 – August 2007

Practice focused on complex litigation and appellate matters. Worked on cases including: federal constitutional challenge to California's Proposition 8 banning same-sex marriage; United States Supreme Court employment discrimination class action; nationwide privacy class action regarding social media; civil antitrust; immigration appeal; attorney malpractice defense; guardianship of a minor; dissolution of marriage; and product liability.

The Honorable Carlos F. Lucero, Denver, Colorado

Law Clerk,

August 2008 – August 2009

United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit

SERVICE

University of Alabama School of Law

- Advisor, Alabama Civil Rights & Civil Liberties Law Review, 2020-present
- Member, Faculty Appointments Committee, 2021-2022
- Chair, Legal Writing Hiring Committee, 2022
- Chair, Associate Dean for Experiential Learning Search Committee, 2024-2025
- Member, Dean's Search Committee, 2023
- Chair, Clinical Hiring Committee (Criminal Defense Clinic), 2023-2024
- Member, Clinical Hiring Committee (Domestic Violence Clinic), 2023-2024
- Alternate, University of Alabama Faculty Senate, 2023-present
- Member, University of Alabama Academic Program Review Council, 2025-2028
- Chair, Faculty Appointments Committee (entry-level), 2026-2027

Wake Forest University School of Law

- Instructor, Upper-Level Writing Requirement Lecture Series, 2016-2018
- Advisor, Wake Forest Law Review, 2016-2020
- Member, Career and Professional Development Committee, 2016-2017
- Member, Student Wellbeing Committee, 2018-2019
- Member, Clerkship Committee, 2019-2020
- Member, Academic Life Committee, 2019-2020
- Member, Dean of Students Search Committee, 2019-2020

New York University School of Law

- Member, Selection Committee for New York City Bar Diversity Fellowship (by invitation), 2015-2016
- Member, Diversity Working Group (by invitation), 2015-2016
- Associate Director, Lawyering Program, 2014-2016
- Interim Chair, Lawyering Oral Argument Committee, 2015
- Member, Lawyering Oral Argument Committee, 2014-2016

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- Co-Chair, Lawyering Negotiation Committee, 2013-2014
- Member, Lawyering Negotiation Committee, 2012-2013

Other

- Chair, AALS Criminal Procedure Section, 2025-2026
- Chair-Elect, AALS Criminal Procedure Section, 2024-2025
- Member, Selection Committee for Fred C. Zacharias Memorial Prize awarded by AALS Professional Responsibility Section (by invitation), 2015-present
- Peer Reviewer, NEW CRIMINAL LAW REVIEW, 2018-2021