

CHRISTOPHER J. ROBINETTE

Southwestern Law School
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Los Angeles, California
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ACADEMIC POSITIONS:

SOUTHWESTERN LAW SCHOOL, Los Angeles, California
Professor of Law, 2021-Present

WIDENER UNIVERSITY COMMONWEALTH LAW SCHOOL, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
Professor of Law, 2014-2021
Associate Professor, 2007-2014 (Tenured as of July 1, 2011)
Visiting Associate Professor, 2005-2007

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS SCHOOL OF LAW, St. Louis, Missouri
Visiting Professor of Law, Spring 2021

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA COLLEGE OF LAW, Iowa City, Iowa
Visiting Professor of Law, Fall 2013

TEMPLE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Honorable Abraham L. Freedman Fellow and Lecturer in Law, 2003-2005

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- Contributing Editor, JOTWELL Torts (2021-Present)
- American Museum of Tort Law Academic Advisory Board (2021)
- Adviser, *Restatement of the Law Third, Torts: Miscellaneous Provisions and Medical Malpractice* (2019-Present)
- United States' Representative, European Group on Tort Law (2019-Present); Contributor (2017-2019)
- Member, European Centre for Tort and Insurance Law (2019-Present)
- Editor-in-Chief, *Journal of Tort Law* (2016-2021); Editorial Board (2022-Present)
- Elected Member, American Law Institute (2012-Present)
- Executive Committee, AALS Torts & Compensation Systems Section (2012-2018); Chair (2017-2018)
- Member, New Appleman on Insurance Advisory Board (2011-2016)
- Editor, TortsProf Blog, <http://lawprofessors.typepad.com/tortsprof/> (2007-Present)

HONORS & AWARDS:

- Southwestern Law School Excellence in Teaching Award (2025)
- Southwestern Law School Commencement Co-Grand Marshal (2024, 2025)
- Widener University Lindback Distinguished Teaching Award (2018)
(University-wide recognition awarded to one professor per year)
- Widener University School of Law/Commonwealth Law School Outstanding Faculty

- Award (2011, 2013, 2016, 2018)
- Widener University School of Law/Commonwealth Law School Douglas E. Ray Excellence in Faculty Scholarship Award (2009, 2015)
- “Best Paper” Award at the International Conference on Public Law at Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) in Shah Alam, Malaysia; December 2011

EDUCATION:

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA SCHOOL OF LAW, Charlottesville, Virginia
J.D., May 1996
Research Assistant to Jeffrey O’Connell
Legal Aid Society

TEMPLE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
LL.M. in Legal Education, May 2005

COLLEGE OF WILLIAM & MARY, Williamsburg, Virginia
B.A., *cum laude*, May 1993
Majors: Government and Philosophy (with Honors)
General Honors Program
Pi Sigma Alpha (Government honor society)
Sigma Delta Pi (Spanish honor society)

Certificates:

University of Illinois Springfield, Master Online Teacher (May 2025)

PUBLICATIONS:

Books:

HARPER, JAMES & GRAY ON TORTS, Cumulative Supplements (Wolters Kluwer 2016-Present) (with Oscar S. Gray & Donald G. Gifford)

6 NEW APPLEMAN ON INSURANCE: MOTOR VEHICLE INSURANCE (ed., LexisNexis 2011)

A RECIPE FOR *BALANCED* TORT REFORM (Carolina Academic Press 2008) (with Jeffrey O’Connell)

Chapters:

Streamlined Procedures, in A RESEARCH AGENDA FOR TORTS (Edward Elgar, forthcoming 2025)

Professor William Prosser, in PRIVATE LAW SCHOLARS: TORT (Hart Publishing 2019)

The Optimal Resolution of Intra-Policy UM/UIM Stacking, in NEW APPLEMAN ON

INSURANCE: CURRENT CRITICAL ISSUES IN INSURANCE LAW (Fall 2014) (with Jessica Smeriglio)

General Principles and Introductory Matters in Motor Vehicle Insurance Law, in 6 NEW APPLEMAN ON INSURANCE: MOTOR VEHICLE INSURANCE, Chapter 61 (LexisNexis 2011)

Tort Law's Flaws, in MATERIALS ON TORT REFORM (Andrew Popper, ed., West 2010) (with Jeffrey O'Connell)

Articles & Essays:

When Originalism Failed: Lessons from Tort Law, 51 FLA. ST. U. L. REV. 1 (2023) (with Donald G. Gifford & Richard C. Boldt)

Harmonizing Wrongs and Compensation, 80 MD. L. REV. 343 (2021) (invited)

Incorporating an Actual Malice Exception into Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act, 49 SW. U. L. REV. 462 (2020) (with Shannon N. Costa) (invited)

Raising Compulsory Automobile Insurance Minimum Amounts: A Case Study from the United States, INSURANCE REVIEW 2019 no. 4, 59 (with Dani Wachtel) (invited)

Pharmaceutical Product Liability in the United States of America, 20 PHARMACEUTICALS POLICY AND LAW 23 (2018) (with Michael D. Green) (invited)

The Prosser Letters: Scholar as Dean, 10 J. TORT L. 99 (2017) (with Kyle Graham)

The Prosser Letters: 1917-1948, 101 IOWA L. REV. 1143 (2016)

Party Autonomy in Tort Theory and Reform, 6 J. TORT L. 173 (2015)

Apportioning Liability in Maryland Tort Cases: Time to End Contributory Negligence and Joint and Several Liability, 73 MD. L. REV. 701 (2014) (with Donald G. Gifford)

Two Roads Diverge for Civil Recourse Theory, 88 IND. L.J. 543 (2013)

Why Civil Recourse Theory Is Incomplete, 78 TENN. L. REV. 431 (2011)

The Prosser Notebook: Classroom as Biography and Intellectual History, 2010 U. ILL. L. REV. 577

The Synergy of Early Offers and Medical Explanations/Apologies, 103 NW. U. L. REV. 2007 (2009)

Peace: A Public Purpose for Punitive Damages?, 2 CHARLESTON L. REV. 327 (2008) (invited), *reprinted in* PUNITIVE DAMAGES: NEW DIMENSIONS (M.N. Bhavani, ed., Amicus Books of Icfai University Press, India 2008)

Torts Rationales, Pluralism, and Isaiah Berlin, 14 GEO. MASON L. REV. 329 (2007)

Can There Be a Unified Theory of Torts? A Pluralist Suggestion from History and Doctrine, 43 BRANDEIS L.J. 369 (2005)

Contributory or Comparative: Which is the Optimal Negligence Rule?, 24 N. ILL. U. L. REV. 41 (2003) (with Paul G. Sherland)

The Role of Compensation in Personal Injury Tort Law: A Response to the Opposite Concerns of Gary Schwartz and Patrick Atiyah, 32 CONN. L. REV. 137 (1999) (with Jeffrey O'Connell)

"Choice Auto Insurance": Do Theories of Justice Require Linkage Between Injurers and the Injured?, 1997 U. ILL. L. REV. 1109 (with Jeffrey O'Connell)

Symposia Introductions:

Concluding the Restatement (Third) of Torts: An Introduction, 52 SW. U. L. REV. 351 (2024) (with Byron G. Stier)

"Tort, No-Fault, and Real-World Compensation," A Volume in Honor of Jeffrey O'Connell, 6 J. TORT L. 1 (2015) (with John C.P. Goldberg)

Perspectives on Mass Tort Litigation: Introduction, Part II, 23 WIDENER L.J. 633 (2014)

Perspectives on Mass Tort Litigation: Introduction, 23 WIDENER L.J. 47 (2013)

Crimtorts, 17 WIDENER L.J. 705 (2008)

PRESENTATIONS:

Presenter, *A Restatement of Medical Malpractice*, University of Innsbruck; Innsbruck, Austria; September 28, 2023

Legal Theory Workshop, *When Originalism Failed: Lessons from Tort Law*, University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law; Baltimore, Maryland; September 21, 2023

Symposium Organizer and Moderator, *Concluding the Restatement (Third) of Torts*, Southwestern Law School; March 24, 2023

Guest, *COVID-19 and Cruise Ships*, National Sea Grant Law Center's "Law on the Half Shell" Podcast; March 30, 2022

Panelist, *Synthesizing Tort Theory*, Southwestern Law School; Los Angeles, California; February 7, 2020

Panelist, *Reverse Waivers in Tort and Amusement Park Liability*, University of Gdańsk; Gdańsk, Poland; October 10, 2019

Presenter, *Private Law Scholars: Tort (Professor William Prosser)*, University of Oxford; Oxford, United Kingdom; April 6-7, 2018

Moderator, *The Role of History in Tort Theory*, Association of American Law Schools Annual Meeting; Torts & Compensation Systems Section; San Diego, California; January 5, 2018

Legal Theory Workshop, *Prosser's Letters and Tort Law*, University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law; Baltimore, Maryland; September 28, 2017

Faculty Colloquium, *What Prosser on Prosser Reveals about Prosser on Torts*, Duquesne University School of Law; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; September 27, 2016

Faculty Colloquium, *Pluralism in Tort Theory and Reform*, Iowa College of Law; Iowa City, Iowa; November 22, 2013

Symposium Chair and Moderator, *Perspectives on Mass Tort Litigation*, Widener University School of Law; Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; April 16, 2013

Invited Participant, "An Injury Law Constitution by Marshall Shapo," Searle Center Conference; Northwestern University School of Law; Chicago, Illinois; March 14-15, 2013

Panelist, *Twenty-First Century Tort Theories: A New Audit of Civil Recourse Theory*, Association of American Law Schools Annual Meeting; Torts & Compensation Systems Section; Washington, D.C.; January 5, 2012

Panelist, *Automobile No-Fault in Malaysia: The Proper Relationship with Tort Liability*, International Conference on Public Law 2011; Universiti Teknologi MARA; Shah Alam, Selangor, Malaysia; December 13-14, 2011

Panelist, *Evidence in Custody Trials*, 2010 Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges Annual Meeting; Hershey, Pennsylvania; July 22, 2010

Reader, *Author Meets Reader—The Measure of Injury: Race, Gender, and Tort Law*, 2010 Law & Society Association Annual Meeting; Chicago, Illinois; May 28, 2010

Panelist, *Pluralism in Tort Law and Litigation*, 13th Annual Conference: Association for the Study of Law, Culture, and the Humanities, Brown University; Providence, Rhode Island; March 20, 2010

Panelist, *Privacy, Technology, and the Workplace*, Pennsylvania Cable Network's *In Session*; February 28, 2010

Faculty Colloquium, *The Prosser Notebook: Classroom as Biography and Intellectual*

History, Rutgers School of Law-Camden; Camden, New Jersey; September 15, 2008

Symposium Chair and Moderator, *Crimtorts*, Widener University School of Law; Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; February 25, 2008

Panelist, *The Duke Lacrosse Ethics Case*, Pennsylvania Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers Conference; State College, Pennsylvania; October 19, 2007

Moderator, *Punitive Damages, Due Process, & Deterrence: The Debate After Phillip Morris v. Williams*, Charleston School of Law; Charleston, South Carolina; September 7, 2007

PRACTICE EXPERIENCE:

TREMBLAY & SMITH, LLP, Charlottesville, Virginia
Associate (1996-2003)

- Represented clients in tort actions, including defamation, medical malpractice, and false imprisonment. Litigated issues of sovereign immunity and punitive damages.
- Represented clients in commercial litigation and transactions, including UCC, contract, and administrative law issues. Representative clients included national communications corporations, a leading multi-national plastic producer, and a national leasing corporation.
- Acted as first and second chair in federal and state litigation. Represented clients in mediations.

ACTIVITIES:

Harrisburg Salvation Army Advisory Board (2005-2021); Chair (2010-2012)
UPMC/Pinnacle Health Ethics Committee (2016-2018)
Virginia State Bar Litigation Section Young Lawyers Committee (1999-2003)
Albemarle County Public Recreational Facilities Authority (1998-2003)
Charlottesville Salvation Army Advisory Board (1997-2003)
Virginia Trial Lawyers Association (1996-2003)

BAR ADMISSIONS:

State: Virginia

Federal: United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit;
United States District Courts for the Western and Eastern Districts of Virginia