

WILLIAM ORTMAN

Wayne State University Law School
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Wayne State University Law School

Professor, 2024 – present
David Adamany Research Scholar, 2024 – present
Associate Professor, 2021 – 2024
Edward M. Wise Research Scholar, 2020 – 2023
Assistant Professor, 2016 – 2021

University of Michigan Law School

Visiting Professor, Fall 2022

Harvard Law School

Climenko Fellow and Lecturer on Law, 2013 – 2016

EDUCATION

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LAW SCHOOL, J.D. with highest honors, 2006

Articles Editor, University of Chicago Law Review
Order of the Coif

SWARTHMORE COLLEGE, B.A. with highest honors, 2002

Major: Political Science; minor: Philosophy
Phi Beta Kappa

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Weinhardt & Logan, P.C., Des Moines, Iowa

Partner, 2011 – 2013

Belin McCormick, P.C., Des Moines, Iowa

Partner, 2011; Associate, 2007 – 2010

Hon. David S. Tatel, D.C. Circuit, Washington, D.C.

Law Clerk, 2006 – 2007

SCHOLARSHIP

ARTICLES & ESSAYS

Confession and Confrontation, 113 CALIFORNIA LAW REVIEW __ (forthcoming 2025)

- featured on [Excited Utterance Podcast](#)

The Prosecution Bar, 101 WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY LAW REVIEW 123 (2023)

The Informed Jury, 75 VANDERBILT LAW REVIEW 823 (2022) (with Daniel Epps)

- response by Darryl K. Brown in [Vanderbilt Law Review En Banc](#)
- cited in KADISH, SCHULHOFER & BARKOW, CRIMINAL LAW AND ITS PROCESSES (11th ed. 2022)

Confrontation in the Age of Plea Bargaining, 121 COLUMBIA LAW REVIEW 451 (2021)

- featured on [Excited Utterance Podcast](#)
- profiled in [The Crime Report](#)

The Defender General, 168 UNIV. OF PENNSYLVANIA LAW REVIEW 1469 (2020) (with Daniel Epps)

- profiled in the [The Appeal](#), [Bloomberg Law](#), and the [New York Times](#)
- selected for Junior Faculty Federal Courts Workshop

When Plea Bargaining Became Normal, 100 BOSTON UNIVERSITY LAW REVIEW 1435 (2020)

- selected for Stanford/Harvard/Yale Junior Faculty Forum

Second-Best Criminal Justice, 96 WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY LAW REVIEW 1061 (2019)

The Lottery Docket, 116 MICHIGAN LAW REVIEW 705 (2018) (with Daniel Epps)

- reviewed in [Jotwell](#) and profiled in the [ABA Journal](#)
- received Honorable Mention, American Association of Law Schools Scholarly Papers Competition
- selected for Junior Faculty Federal Courts Workshop

Probable Cause Revisited, 68 STANFORD LAW REVIEW 511 (2016)

- abridged version published in Search and Seizure Law Report

Rulemaking's Missing Tier, 68 ALABAMA LAW REVIEW 225 (2016)

Chevron for Juries, 36 CARDOZO LAW REVIEW 1287 (2015)

SHORTER WORK

Crawford and Criminal Justice, UNIV. OF MICHIGAN JOURNAL OF LAW REFORM (forthcoming) (invited)

Plea Bargaining Abolitionism: A History, 20 OHIO ST. J. OF CRIMINAL LAW (forthcoming) (invited)

Plea Bargaining and Guilty Plea, in ELGAR ENCYCLOPEDIA OF CRIME AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE (2023)

The Yates Memo Versus Administrative Law, 165 UNIV. OF PENNSYLVANIA LAW REVIEW ONLINE 191 (2017)

Comment, *Parents, Subsidiaries, and RICO Distinctiveness*, 73 UNIV. OF CHICAGO LAW REVIEW 377 (2006)

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Immunity for witnesses is a key tool of prosecutors, whether they're charging Trump or other alleged criminals – here's how it works and what the limits are, The Conversation (Aug. 2, 2023)

Jurors Don't Know What the Penalties for a Guilty Verdict Will Be. They Should. Washington Post (Sept. 15, 2021) (with Daniel Epps)

One Change That Could Make American Criminal Justice Fairer, The Atlantic (Mar. 16, 2020) (with Daniel Epps)

TEACHING

Wayne Evidence (Winter 2017, Fall 2017, Fall 2018, Winter 2019, Fall 2019, Summer 2020, Winter 2022, Fall 2022)
Criminal Law (Winter 2017, Winter 2018, Fall 2018, Winter 2020, Winter 2021, Winter 2022, Winter 2024)
Advanced Topics in Criminal Law and Procedure (Fall 2017, Fall 2019)
Criminal Procedure—Adjudication (Fall 2021, Winter 2024)
Administrative Law (Fall 2016, Winter 2018)

Michigan Criminal Law (Fall 2022)

Harvard Legal Research & Writing (2013–14, 2014–15, 2015–16)

Awards Wayne Law Upper-Level Professor of the Year (voted by students), 2018, 2019, 2020, 2024
Wayne Law First-Year Professor of the Year (voted by students), 2021
Donald H. Gordon Excellence in Teaching Award, 2019

COMMITTEE SERVICE

Wayne Academic Affairs and Curriculum (2017–20, 2021, chair 2021–22, chair 2024); Ad Hoc Committee on Bylaws (2022); AI Task Force (chair, 2024), Appointments (2019-20, 2021, 2022–2023, chair 2024–25); Clinical Programs (2020–2023); Experiential Education (2021–22); Legal Writing (2016–19, chair 2021); Scholarships (2016–18); Student Affairs (2016–17); Working Group on Online Examinations (coordinator 2020–21)