

Eric C. Alston

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EDUCATION:

The University of Chicago Law School

September 2011 – June 2014

Juris Doctorate: Constitutional Law & Law and Economics

University of Maryland

June 2006 – May 2008

Master of Arts: Economics

College of Behavioral and Social Sciences

University of Illinois

August 2000 – August 2004

Dual Bachelor of Arts: Economics & Spanish

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

RESEARCH INTERESTS:

New institutional economics, law & economics, blockchain and cryptocurrencies, constitutional drafting and implementation, property rights, and 19th-century US legal and economic history

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS (CURRENT AND FORTHCOMING):

“Playing for Constitutional Time: Interim Constitutions & Transitional Provisions,” with Tom Ginsburg in Frank Fagan and Saul Levmore, eds. *The Timing of Lawmaking*. Elgar: 2017.

“Ecuador’s 2008 Constitution: The Political Economy of Securing an Aspirational Social Contract.” *Constitutional Studies* 3(1): 2018.

“Muddying the Waters: 61 Years of Doctrinal Uncertainty in Montana Water Law” (with John Stafford). *William and Mary Property Rights Conference Journal* 7:2018.

Eric Alston, Lee Alston, Bernardo Mueller and Tomas Nonnenmacher. *Institutional and Organizational Analysis: Concepts and Applications*. Cambridge University Press: 2018.

“Presidential Term Limits and the International Community” (with Christina Murray and Micha Wiebusch) in Baturu and Elgie, eds. *The Politics of Presidential Term Limits*. Oxford University Press: 2019.

“Constitutions and Blockchains: Competitive Governance of Fundamental Rule Sets.” *Case Western Journal of Law, Technology and the Internet*. 11(1): 2020 (forthcoming).

“Two Steps “Forward”, One Step “Back”?: Transformation and Correction in the Implementation of Ecuador’s 2008 Constitution.” in Ginsburg and Huq, eds. *From Parchment to Practice*. Cambridge: 2020 (forthcoming).

“Blockchain and the Law: Legality, Law-like Characteristics, and Legal Applications,” in Caton, James, ed. *Handbook on Blockchain and Cryptocurrencies*. Edward Elgar. 2021 (forthcoming).

WORKING PAPERS AND PROJECTS:

- *Development Derailed: Uncertain Property Rights and Asset-Specific Investment* (w. S. Smith)
- *The Logic of Leadership and Organizational Hierarchies* (w. L. Alston and B. Mueller)
- *Can Permissionless Blockchains Avoid Governance and the Law?* (w. W. Law et al)
- *Private Ordering as the Foundation for Frontier Law*
- *Ghosted Towns: Commodities and Transportation in Economic Development* (w. B. Leonard)
- *Collective Action Problems in Technology Adoption for Supply Chains: Ultimatum vs. Incremental Adoption* (w. M. Kwaramba & C. Kwaramba)
- *Piercing the Veil of Political Altruism*
- *Can blockchain solve legal titling’s conundrum?*(w. M. Cai et al.)
- *Constitutional Constraints on Executive Power & Sunrise Provisions: A New Option for Drafters?*
- *Traits of Effective Leadership: Insights from Natural Language Processing of Biographies*
- *Political Transaction Costs: Constitutions as Unique Barriers to Coaseian Bargaining*
- *Demand for Constitutional Decentralization*
- *Adverse Occupancy & Urban Decline: Urban Exploration, Graffiti, and Squatting*

RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**CU – Boulder** Scholar in Residence, Finance Division & Faculty Director, Hernando de Soto CMP*August 2016 - Present*

- Teach courses in fundamental economic and legal institutions to students at the Leeds Business School
- Pursue a research agenda surrounding constitutional design, institutional analysis, and property law
- Develop upper division electives in institutional analysis, property rights, and blockchain
- Liaise with other departments to create collaborative research and curriculum opportunities
- Present research at relevant conferences, seminars, and workshops at universities worldwide

Comparative Constitutions Project

Research Associate

June 2011 – Present

- Identify research gaps in comparative constitutional law, and respond to project research requests
- Analyze draft constitutions given federalism, political structure, and devolution of power issues
- Provide rapid-response analysis of institutions in nascent countries
- Coded, indexed, and translated constitutions from Nicaragua to Venezuela to Honduras

International IDEA

Yemeni Dialogue Contributor

September 2017 – November 2017

- Responded to rapid research requests surrounding comparative institutional design options
- Developed an understanding of the interests in conflict and how this results in constraints on dialogue
- Provided comparative analysis of interim legislative authorities, constitutional bodies, and secretariats

International IDEA

Yemen Research Fellow

September 2014 – March 2015

- Provided critical feedback regarding nascent legal frameworks in such areas as rights and decentralization
- Coauthored a report on problems with the current draft to serve as input to the next drafting process
- Examined constitutional texts and legally binding framework documents for conformity

United Nations Development Programme

Research Associate

July 2013 – September 2013

- Provided comparative constitutional research over 20 years of Mongolian constitutional democracy
- Participated in constitutional amendment meetings in Vietnam regarding rights commitments

International IDEA

Human Rights Research Fellow

June 2013 – August 2013

- Drafted a chapter on decentralization of government power for Libya's constituent assembly
- Prepared a detailed literature review on decentralization in constitutions and subsequent implementation
- Created a comprehensive dataset on the extent and form of decentralization in Muslim constitutions

International Development Law Organization

Constitution Reform Associate

June 2012 – September 2012

- Prepared a substantial report on the impact of the Kenyan Commission for the Implementation of the Constitution (CIC), including comparative analysis with similar commissions in other constitutions
- Met with members of the CIC, Civil Society, and thirty High Court Justices on a mission to Kenya
- Developed a comparative analysis of rights guarantees in the Somali Draft Constitution, the results of which were published in news sites including Washington Post, Huffington Post, Bloomberg, and others

Kaplan Educational Centers

Test Preparation Tutor and Instructor

April 2001 – May 2011

- Taught classes from 4 to 30 students involving preparation for the SAT, ACT, GRE, and LSAT
- Tutored students with learning disabilities and other test-based disadvantages
- Developed and administered advanced curricula for students aiming to score in the highest percentiles

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Colorado Boulder

AY 2019-2020

- FNCE 4070 Financial Markets and Institutions (Spring)
- BCOR 1015 World of Business (Spring)
- MBAC6002 Social, Moral and Economic Foundations of Business (Fall)
- Independent Study – The Economic Analysis of Private Organizations (Fall)

AY 2018-2019

- BCOR 1015 World of Business (Fall & Spring)
- Independent Study – Blockchain & Cryptocurrencies: Speculation or Innovation? (Spring)

AY 2017-2018

- BCOR 1015 World of Business (Fall & Spring)
- Finance 4828 – Social Institutions: Theory History and Methods (Spring)

AY 2016-2017

- BCOR105 World of Business (Spring)
- First Year Global Experience Peru (Spring)

Miscellaneous

- Guest lecturer in CESR 4005: Business Solutions for the Developing World on “Rule of Law and Economic Development” at CU Boulder Leeds School of Business, September 21, 2017.
- Closing Speaker at the Property and Environment Research Center’s Undergraduate and Graduate Colloquium: "Enhancing Environmental Quality through Property Rights and Markets" June 23, 2017.
- Guest lecturer in CESR 4005: Business Solutions for the Developing World on “Rule of Law and Economic Development” at CU Boulder Leeds School of Business, September 15, 2016.
- Lecturer in the Bill of Rights Institute’s Constitutional Academy – “Constitutional Sustenance and the Rule of Law.” July 2015
- Visiting Scholar in the Law Faculty at Moscow’s Higher School of Economics – taught the grad-level course: “Political Economy of Institutions: Constitutions, Culture and Collective Action.” May 2015
- Guest Lecturer in Mila Versteeg’s Comparative Constitutional Design Seminar at UVA Law on *Ecuador’s 2008 Constitution The Political Economy Underlying a New Social Contract*. November 2014
- Teaching assistant in University of Maryland’s Econ History (311) and Macroeconomics (201) courses. August 2007 – May 2008

CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP EXPERIENCE:

- Presenter at the Southern Economic Association’s 2019 Annual Conference on *Ghosted Towns: Commodities and Transportation in Economic Development*, November 23, 2019.
- Presenter at King’s College London’s Center for the Study of Governance and Society’s Symposium on Self-Governance on *Constitutions and Blockchains: Competitive Governance of Fundamental Rule Sets*. October 25, 2019.
- Presenter at the Canadian Law and Economics Association Annual Conference on *Constitutions and Blockchains: Competitive Governance of Fundamental Rule Sets*. September 21, 2019.
- Presenter at the Economic History Association’s 2019 Annual Meeting on *Ghosted Towns: Commodities and Transportation in Economic Development*. September 15, 2019.
- Presenter at the Society for Institutional and Organizational Economics 2019 Annual Conference on *Demand for Constitutional Decentralization*, June 29, 2019.
- Panelist at the Foundation for Economic Education’s Annual Conference on “How Crypto _____ Will Bring About a Better Society “, June 15, 2019.
- Participant at Indiana University’s Ostrom Workshop’s Political Institutions and Economy Policy Workshop, April 27, 2019.
- Presenter at the Association for Private Enterprise Education 2019 Annual Conference on *Ghosted Towns: Commodities and Transportation in Economic Development*. April 7, 2019.

- Presenter at the Institute for Humane Studies and Center for Growth and Opportunity's Frontiers in Permissionless Innovation seminar on *Constitutions and Blockchains: Competitive Governance of Fundamental Rule Sets*, April 4, 2019.
- Presenter at the Southern Economic Association's 2018 Annual Conference on *Development Derailed: Railroad Land Grants and Irrigation in the Western United States*, November 20, 2018.
- Participant at the Global Antitrust Institute's Feeling the Heat: Antitrust in the Era of Platforms and Big Tech, November 17, 2018.
- Presenter at University of Michigan's Empirical Legal Studies Conference on *Development Derailed: Railroad Land Grants and Irrigation in the Western United States*, November 9, 2018.
- Presenter at North Dakota State University's conference on Research and Practice on Blockchain on *Constitutional Amendment Rules and Blockchain: A Study in Competitive Private Governance*, October 27, 2018.
- Presenter at the "Shifting Environmental Demands: Old West v. New West" workshop at Arizona State University on *Recognition of Custom and Incentives to Formalize: Frontier Mineral Property Rights in the Supreme Court of Colorado*, October 18-20, 2018.
- Participant at the Renewing Indigenous Economies Tribal Leadership Forum at the Hoover Institution at Stanford, September 23-25, 2018.
- Presenter at the Canadian Law and Economics Association Annual Conference on *Recognition of Custom and Incentives to Formalize: Frontier Mineral Property Rights in the Supreme Court of Colorado*, September 22, 2018
- Presenter at the Society for Institutional and Organizational Economics 2018 Annual Conference on *Custom and the Formalization of Mineral Property Rights: Evidence from the Supreme Court of Colorado*, June 22, 2018.
- Participant at the International Center for Law and Economics and the Institute for Humane Studies' Policy Research Seminar – The Anti-Economics Trend in Regulation: Lessons for Economists and Legal Scholars, June 19, 2018.
- Speaker at the Boulder Think Tank event "Blockchain: The most impactful creation since the Internet Protocol." May 5, 2018.
- Participant at Indiana University's Ostrom Workshop's Political Institutions and Economy Policy Workshop, April 12, 2018.
- Presenter at the Association for Private Enterprise Education 2018 Annual Conference on *Political Transaction Costs: Constitutions as Unique Barriers to Coaseian Bargaining*, April 3, 2018.
- Presenter at the Public Choice Society's 2018 Annual Conference on *Political Transaction Costs: Constitutions as Unique Barriers to Coaseian Bargaining*, March 3, 2018.
- Presenter at Emory University's Joint Conferences on Causal Inference, Institutions and Lawmaking on *Railroads, Popular Sentiment and Legal Uncertainty: Comparative Development of Irrigation in Colorado and Montana*, February 24, 2018.
- Panelist at the CU Boulder's Center for Western Civilization Thought and Policy "Trump's America: One Year Later", January 24, 2018.
- Panelist at the CU Boulder Law School's Silicon Flatirons Crash Course: Deciphering Blockchain and ICOs ... Future or Fad?, November 29, 2017.
- Presenter at William & Mary Law School's Brigham-Kanner Property Rights Conference on *Muddying the Waters: 61 Years of Doctrinal Uncertainty in Montana Water Law*, October 13, 2017.
- Invitee to the Silicon Flatiron's Colloquium on "The Political Spectrum by Tom Hazlett", October 5, 2017.
- Presenter at Texas Tech University's Governing Natural Resources in the American West research workshop on *Custom and the Formalization of Mineral Property Rights: Evidence from the Supreme Court of Colorado*, August 24 & 25, 2017.
- Presenter at the Property and Environment Research Center's Lone Mountain Fellowship Workshop on *Railroads, Popular Sentiment and Legal Uncertainty: Comparative Development of Irrigation in Colorado and Montana*, August 8, 2017.

- Presenter at the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management International Conference on *Demand for Constitutional Decentralization*, July 13, 2017.
- Participant at the Central European University and International IDEA's Constitution-building in Africa Workshop, July 3 – 12, 2017.
- Participant at the Center for the American West's NSF-funded Sub-surface Mineral Rights Workshop, May 21-23, 2017.
- Participant at Indiana University's Ostrom Workshop's Political Institutions and Economy Policy Workshop, May 12, 2017.
- Presenter at the Association for Private Enterprise Education's 2017 Annual Conference on *Demand for Constitutional Decentralization*, April 12, 2017.
- Participant at the IHS/PERC/Strata Seminar "The Challenge of Balancing Competing Demands for Water", April 8, 2017.
- Presenter at the Public Choice Society's 2017 Annual Conference on *Ecuador's 2008 Constitution: The Political Economy of Securing an Aspirational Social Contract*, March 4, 2017.
- Presenter at the Colorado School of Mines Department of Economics on *Ecuador's 2008 Constitution: The Political Economy of Securing an Aspirational Social Contract*, December 2, 2016.
- Delegate regarding "Blockchain Property Titling" at the Future Cities Forum with Voice & Exit 2016 in Austin, Texas, November 11-13, 2016.
- Workshop instructor for "Constitutional Reform: IVLP Program from Sri Lanka" at the Robert H. Smith Center for the Constitution at Madison's Montpelier. September 26, 2016.
- Participant in the Property and Environment Research Center Young Professor's Property Rights Colloquium. August 22-24, 2016.
- Participant in the George Mason University School of Law's Law & Economics Colloquium. September 2015 – May 2016.
- Presenter at Madison's Montpelier Center for the Constitution & UVA Law's Comparative Constitutional Law Roundtable on *Playing for Constitutional Time: Interim Constitutions & Transitional Provisions*. October 2015
- Presenter at the Midwestern Law & Economics Association meetings at Kansas University School of Law on *Demand for Constitutional Decentralization*. October 2015
- Presenter in the Political Economy workshop in the Economics Faculty at Moscow's Higher School of Economics on "Demand for Constitutional Decentralization." May 2015
- Presenter in the George Mason University School of Law's Workshop in Law and Liberty on *Ecuador's 2008 Constitution: The Political Economy Underlying a New Social Contract*. March 2015
- Participant in the George Mason University School of Law's Workshop in Law and Liberty. January 2015 – May 2015
- Participant in Madison's Montpelier Center for the Constitution & UVA Law's Comparative Constitutional Law Roundtable. October 2014.

SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

Referee:

- Journal of Institutional Economics
- Economic Papers
- IEEE Transactions in Engineering Management

Exoneration Project Clinic, The University of Chicago Law School

Student

- Examined witnesses in federal court in a habeas corpus case, and jointly prepared closing arguments
- Presented oral arguments in a petition for leave to file a successive post conviction motion in the IL state courts, after having worked on the case from investigation through the filing of the motion itself
- Worked on several other cases in different stages of the post-conviction relief process in Illinois

Constitution Making Experiences of Vietnam and the USA Workshop

Participant

- Provided comments and questions regarding Vietnamese constitutional amendments

- Drafted example amendments to propose to the Institute for Legislative Studies during the workshop

Law & Technology Society, The University of Chicago Law School Co-Founder & Co-Executive Director

- Developed and successfully pitched the concept for the society along with other co-executive directors
- Coordinated board elections, and planned and executed numerous events

Law & Econ Society, The University of Chicago Law School President ('12-'13) & Treasurer ('13-'14)

- Expanded the membership base numerous times over, and raised the society's profile accordingly
- Formalized the Coase-Sandor Institute as a source of additional funding for society activities

RECENT AWARDS & HONORS:

- CU Boulder Implementation of Multicultural Perspectives in Research and Teaching (IMPART) Fellow *August 2018 – June 2019*
- CU Boulder Implementation of Multicultural Perspectives in Research and Teaching (IMPART) Fellow *August 2017 – June 2018*
- Hayek Fund Scholar *April 2018*
- Frasona Teaching Excellence Award Nominee *April 2018*
- PERC Lone Mountain Fellow *May 2017 – August 2017*
- Frasona Teaching Excellence Award Nominee *April 2017*
- Salzberg Cutler International Rule of Law Fellow *September 2012 – June 2014*
- Victor McQuiston Scholar *September 2011 – June 2014*
- Olin Law & Economics Fellow *September 2012 – May 2013*
- Humane Studies Fellow *September 2011 – June 2014*
- Hayek Fund Scholar *December 2012*

ADDITIONAL SKILLS:

- Capable statistical analyst (Proficient in Stata)
- Fluent in Spanish and proficient in Catalan