

# 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:

Constitutional drafting and implementation, new institutional economics, legal transitions, law & economics, property rights, blockchain, and 19<sup>th</sup>-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 Nonnemacher. *Institutional and Organizational Analysis: Concepts and Applications*. Cambridge: 2018.

“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: forthcoming 2019.

“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: forthcoming 2019.

## WORKING PAPERS:

- *Railroads, Popular Sentiment and Legal Uncertainty: Comparative Development of Irrigation in Colorado and Montana* (with Steven Smith)
- *Constitutional Amendment Rules and Blockchain: A Study in Competitive Private Governance*
- *Political Transaction Costs: Constitutions as Unique Barriers to Coaseian Bargaining*
- *Demand for Constitutional Decentralization*
- *Recognition of Custom and Incentives to Formalize: Frontier Mineral Property Rights in the Supreme Court of Colorado* (Olin Fellowship paper written under Richard Epstein)
- *Toward an Economic Theory of Leadership* (w. Lee Alston and Bernardo Mueller)
- *Yemen’s constitution conundrum: An analysis of the draft constitution and of its prospects for survival* (forthcoming with Zaid Al-Ali and Christopher Roberts)
- *IDEA Constitution Building Primer on Transitional Provisions* (forthcoming)

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**CU – Boulder** Scholar in Residence, Finance Division & Faculty Director, de Soto Capital Markets Prog.  
*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

**Charles Koch Institute**

Senior Policy and Research Analyst

*September 2014 – July 2016*

- Developed policy positions in the criminal justice reform issue space, including overcriminalization, sentencing reform, collateral consequences, police militarization, and civil asset forfeiture
- Provided public commentary regarding criminal justice reform priorities on the state and federal levels
- Created curriculum for, and led a seminar in the evolution of law and the judiciary in democratic societies, and implications for current policy debates in the United States

**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

**CGK Foundation**

Policy Analyst

*June 2010 – August 2011*

- Designed and launched a project synthesizing research regarding economic institutions
- Supervised less-experienced analysts and helped them develop their capabilities

**Political Economy Research Institute**

Program Officer

*June 2009 - June 2010*

- Prepared a theoretical risk analysis of economic development strategies and resulting policy implications

- Formed part of group that designed, compiled, edited, and published a guide to careers in public policy

### **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

### **University of Colorado**

Research Assistant

*December 2008 - June 2009*

- Developed a more thorough explanation of frontier property rights in the American West
- Prepared a presentation linking beliefs and decision-making to institutional outcomes
- Summarized previous works for eventual publication on a Depression-era economics website

### **University of Illinois**

Research Assistant

*July 2008 – May 2009*

- Aided in the preparation of supplementary material to *Law and Economics 5<sup>th</sup> Ed.* by Cooter & Ulen
- Synthesized summaries of articles furthering topic areas discussed in the textbook
- Discussed areas for further inquiry and provided direct links between new material and the text

### **University of Maryland**

Teaching Assistant

*August 2007 – May 2008*

- Taught Econ History (311) and Macroeconomics (201), with 200 and 434 students, respectively
- Administered and coordinated large-scale exams spanning multiple classrooms and buildings

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### **University of Colorado Boulder**

#### **AY 2018-2019**

- BCOR105 World of Business (Fall & Spring)
- Finance 4828 – Social Institutions: Theory History and Methods (Spring)
- Finance 4829 – Blockchain & Cryptocurrencies: Speculation or Innovation? (Spring)

#### **AY 2017-2018**

- BCOR105 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 2018 Annual Conference on *Railroads, Popular Sentiment and Legal Uncertainty: Comparative Development of Irrigation in Colorado and Montana*, November 20, 2018.
- Presenter at University of Michigan’s Empirical Legal Studies Conference on *Railroads, Popular Sentiment and Legal Uncertainty: Comparative Development of Irrigation in Colorado and Montana*, 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. (upcoming)
- 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. (upcoming)
- Participant at the Renewing Indigenous Economies Tribal Leadership Forum at the Hoover Institution at Stanford, September 23-25, 2018. (upcoming)
- 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 (upcoming)
- 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 United Nations University, Maastricht, and Syracuse’s 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:**

#### **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*
- Frasca Teaching Excellence Award Nominee *April 2018*
- PERC Lone Mountain Fellow *May 2017 – August 2017*
- Frasca 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 (Skilled in Stata, familiar with SAS and Eviews)
- Fluent in Spanish and proficient in Catalan