Jonathon J. Booth

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Academic Appointments

2024– Associate Professor of Law, University of Colorado Law School
Courses Taught: Criminal Law, American Legal History, History and Law of American Policing (seminar).
2025– Associate Professor of History, University of Colorado (by courtesy)

Publications

Academic Publications

Works in Progress

Legalizing the Counter Revolution of Property
Police Takeovers
Studying Policing from a Law and Political Economy Perspective
Redemption and the Attack on Local Democracy in the South
POLICING THE RURAL SOUTH, 1850–2020 (Preliminary research stage).

Published Articles and Book Chapters

A New Satanic Panic, 36 YALE J. L. & FEMINISM 102 (2025)
Policing after Slavery: Race, Crime, and Resistance in Atlanta, 96 COLO. L. REV. 1 (2025)
The Cycle of Delegitimization: Lessons From Dred Scott *on the Relationship Between the Supreme Court and the Nation*, 51 UC CONST. Q. 5 (2024).
Ending Forced Labor in ICE Detention Centers: A New Approach, 34 GEO. IMMIGR. L.J. 573 (2020).
The Impact of the American Civil War on Political Writing in Jamaica and Cuba, in CARIBBEAN LITERATURE IN TRANSITION, vol. 1, (EVELYN O'CALLAGHAN AND TIM WATSON, eds., Cambridge University Press, 2020).
Capitalism, Anti-Blackness, and the Law: A Very Short History, 35 HARV. BLACKLETTER L.J. 5 (2019).

Reviews

Religious Police Forces with Public Powers (Reviewing Grace Watkins, Piety Police*, 134 YALE L.J. 2645 (2025)*), JOTWELL, Nov. 24, 2025.
Review of Policing Empires: Militarization, Race, and the Imperial Boomerang in Britain and the US *by Julian Go*, CRIMINAL LAW AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE BOOKS, April 2024.
Post-industrial Property Law: Review of A Detroit Story: Urban Decline and the Rise of Property Informality by Claire W. Herbert, 8 J. L. PROP. & SOC'Y 1 (2023).
Review of Between Fetters and Freedom: African American Baptists since Emancipation edited by Edward R. Crowther and Keith Harper, 102 J. AFRICAN AMERICAN HIST. 556 (2017).
Review of To Render Invisible: Jim Crow and Public Life in New South Jacksonville by Robert Cassanello, 99 J. AFRICAN AMERICAN HIST. 308 (2014).

Review of Encountering Revolution: Haiti and the Making of the Early Republic by Ashli White. 7 NEOAMERICANIST (2014).

Other Publications

Stop Cop City's Deep Roots, INQUEST, Nov. 6, 2025, https://inquest.org/stop-cop-citys-deep-roots/. (Republished in SCALAWAG).

Regulating Freedom in Georgia's County Court, *SHGAPE BLOG*, April 19, 2023, https://blog.shgape.org/regulating-freedom-in-georgias-county-court/.

New Sheriff in Town, THE DRIFT, Issue 3, February 3, 2021, https://www.thedriftmag.com/new-sheriff-in-town/.

How Private Prisons Profit from Forced Labor, CURRENT AFFAIRS, October 26, 2020, https://www.currentaffairs.org/2020/10/how-private-prisons-profit-from-forced-labor.

Amicus Briefs and Expert Witness Work

Police History Expert Witness, *Rogers v. Missouri*, 25AC-CC04798, 19th Circuit Court, Cole Cnty., Missouri (May 2026) (Recognized as expert witness in American Police History).

Policing Scholar Amicus Brief, *SMB Advertising Inc. v. City of Boulder, Colorado*, 2025CA26, Colorado Court of Appeals (2025).

Historians Amicus Brief, *Feet Forward v. City of Boulder*, 2025CA110, Colorado Court of Appeals (2025) (co-authored with Phoebe S. K. Young and Trevor Egerton).

Education

2021 Harvard University, Ph.D., History
Dissertation: Dethroning Justice: Race, Law, and Police after Slavery.
Committee: Vincent Brown (chair), Annette Gordon-Reed, Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, Walter Johnson, Stephen Hahn.

2019 Harvard Law School, J.D., *cum laude*

2018 Harvard University, A.M., History

2014 McGill University, M.A., History

2013 McGill University, B.A., History and Economics First-Class Joint Honours
Dean's Honour List, 2012–13

Other Teaching and Advising

2026 Independent Study, Tristan Frakes, "Who's Afraid of Chesa Boudin?"

2025-2026 History MA Thesis Committee Member, University of Colorado
Casey Ringer, "The Order of Empires: Law and Administration in the Pacific World, 1880 to 1952"

2024–2025 Student Note Advisor, M.R. Dickey, University of Colorado Law School

2020–2021 Thesis Advisor, Harvard University
Chloe Lemmel-Hay, "The Politics of Haitian Asylum: The Right to Have Rights in an Imperial World"

2019 Teaching Fellow, Harvard University
The Northern Side of the Civil Rights Movement, Prof. Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, Fall 2019.

American Populisms: From Thomas Jefferson to Rush Limbaugh, Prof. Brett Flehinger, Spring 2019.

2017 Teaching Assistant, Harvard Law School
Civil Procedure, Professor William Rubenstein, Fall 2017
Thesis Advisor, Harvard University
Nicholas Barber, "The Court's Gotta Eat: Indigent Defense and the Rise of Mass Incarceration in Louisiana from *Gideon* to Katrina, 1963-2005."
Awards: Thomas T. Hoopes Prize
Kathryn Ann Huggins Prize (Most outstanding thesis relating to African American life, history, or culture)

2013–2014 Teaching Assistant, McGill University
Gilded Age and Progressive Era U.S., Prof. Shanon Fitzpatrick, Fall 2013.
United States History 1940-65, Prof. Leonard Moore, Winter 2014.

Other Employment

2024 Legal History Fellow, History Design Studio, Harvard University
2022–2023 Law Clerk, Hon. Barrington D. Parker, United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit (August 2022–December 2023)
2021–2022 Law Clerk, Hon. Kevin McNulty, United States District Court for the District of New Jersey
2019–2020 Research Assistant, Professor Morton Horwitz
2018 Summer Associate, Sidley Austin, LLP
2018–2019 Research Assistant, Professor Jeffry Frieden
2017–2018 Research Assistant, Professor William Rubenstein
2016 Research Assistant, Professor Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham
2013–2014 Vice President for Research Assistants, Association of McGill University Research Employees
2012–2014 Research Assistant, Professor Jason Opal

Conference and Workshop Presentations

"The Long Struggle for Police Home Rule in St. Louis," CrimFest, Fordham University Law School, July 13–14, 2026.
"The Place of Criminal Law in the Post-Reconstruction South," CrimFest, University of Pennsylvania Law School, July 14–15, 2025.
"The Legal Architecture of Emancipation," History Department Faculty Seminar, University of Colorado, Mar. 19, 2025.
"Race, Law, and Capitalist Development in the Post-Reconstruction South," Racial Capitalism Symposium, Tulane Law School, New Orleans, LA. Feb. 21–22, 2025.
"Policing after Slavery: Race, Crime, and Resistance in Atlanta," Markelloquium. New York Law School. New York, NY. March 22, 2024.
"The Legal Architecture of Emancipation," Junior Scholars Conference. Northeastern University School of Law. Boston, MA. March 1–2, 2024.
"Policing History: A Law and Political Economy Approach," Law and Political Economy Junior Scholar Workshop. New York, NY. February 18, 2024

"Policing Atlanta, 1865–1906: Crime, Race, and Resistance," CrimFest. Brooklyn Law School, Brooklyn, NY. July 18–19, 2023.
"The Legal Architecture of Emancipation," Law and Political Economy Junior Scholar Workshop. New York, NY. April 16, 2023.
"A New System of Restraint: Politics, Law, and Democracy in Post-Emancipation Jamaica," American Historical Association Annual Conference. Philadelphia, PA. January 5–8, 2023.
"The Birth of the Jamaican Police, 1832–1840," North American Conference on British Studies. Zoom. November 7–8, 2020.
"Policing Gun Ownership in Jamaica: 1833–1840," Northeast Conference on British Studies. Zoom. October 10, 2020.
"Learning the Law of Freedom: Legal Knowledge after Emancipation," American Society for Legal History Annual Meeting. Boston. November 22–24, 2019.
"The Birth of Policing in Post-Emancipation Jamaica," American Society for Legal History, Student Research Colloquium. Boston. November 20–21, 2019.
"Vagrancy Laws in Jamaica, 1833–1843," Northeast Conference on British Studies. Endicott College. October 14, 2017.
"The Legal Architecture of Post-Emancipation Jamaica," Fellow Presentation. American Antiquarian Society. August 9, 2016.
"Law, Labor, and Post-Emancipation Society in Jamaica," University Center for History and Economics Graduate Workshop. Harvard University. April 5, 2016.
"Dethroning Justice: Race, Space, and Criminalization in Jim Crow Atlanta," American Political History Institute Graduate Student Conference. Boston University. April 1–2, 2016.
"Crime, Injustice and the Origins of the Morant Bay Rebellion," The Terror Spread: The Morant Bay Rebellion and Jamaican History. University of the West Indies – Mona. October 22–24, 2015.
"The Haitian Revolution and the Formation of the Antebellum South," New Frontiers Graduate History Conference. York University. February 20–22, 2014.

Other Presentations

Guest Lecture on the Satanic Panic, Sexuality, Identity, and the Law, Salmon P. Chase School of Law, Northern Kentucky University, Highland Heights, Kentucky, Apr. 4, 2025.
"Limitations on 2nd Amendment Right to Bear Arms After Rahimi," Colorado Bar Association CLE, Feb. 14, 2025.
Guest Lecture on *Dred Scott*, HIST 203–Slavery, Industry, Empire, Holy Cross University, Worcester, MA, Nov. 14, 2024.
"United States v. Rahimi," University of Colorado Supreme Court Term Review, Sept. 18, 2024.

Awards, Prizes, and Fellowships

2024–2026 Dean's Faculty Fellowship, University of Colorado Law School
2020–2021 Josefina Cintron Tiryakian and Edward A. Tiryakian Graduate Student Dissertation Fellowship
2020 David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies Summer Research Travel Grant, $2,500
2020 Charles Warren Center for American History Summer Travel Grant for Dissertation Research, $3,000

2020 Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Merit Term Time Fellowship, $14,865
2020 American Historical Association Littleton-Griswold Research Grant for Research in U.S. Legal History, $800
2019–2020 Weatherhead Center for International Affairs Research Grant on Comparative Inequality and Inclusion, $10,000
2019 Harvard Law School Irving Oberman Memorial Prize: Legal History, $1,000.
2019 Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Spring 2019, Fall 2019
2017–2019 Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada - Doctoral Fellowship, $40,000
2016–2019 Harvard Law and Graduate Studies Full Tuition Fellowship, Harvard Law School
2014–2017 Fonds de recherche du Québec - Société et culture, Bourse de doctorat en recherche, $60,000
2017–2018 Law and History Program Fellow, Harvard Law School
2017 Harvard Law School Summer Academic Fellowship, $1,000
2016 The Jens Aubrey Westengard Fellowship for Summer Study, $1,500
2016 American Antiquarian Society, Kate B. and Hall J. Peterson Research Fellowship, $1,850
2016 David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies Predissertation Summer Research Travel Grant, $1,900
2015–2016 Graduate Student Affiliate, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs
2015 Weatherhead Center for International Affairs Predissertation Grant, $3,200
2015 Center for American Political Studies Seed Grant, $1,000
2013–2014 Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada M.A. Scholarship, $17,500
2014 McGill University, Schull Yang Graduate Travel Award, $1,000
2013 McGill Faculty of Arts Mobility Award, $2,000
2013 McGill University, Fred Victor Stone Memorial Prize, $260
2012 McGill University, Howard Weinroth Memorial Essay Prize, $80
2012 McGill University, The Senator Lazarus Phillips Scholarship in History, $950
2012 McGill Arts Research Internship Award, $4,000

Service and Pro Bono Work

2026– Admissions Committee, University of Colorado Law School
2025– Faculty Advisor, Public Defense Student Association
2024–2026 Pre-Tenure Scholarship Committee, University of Colorado Law School
2024– Peer reviewer, American Journal of Legal History
2025 Lateral Hiring Subcommittee, University of Colorado Law School
2024 Moot Court Judge, NJ Law and Education Empowerment Project
2016–2021 History House Advisor, Pforzheimer House, Harvard University.
2017–2019 Executive Editor, BlackLetter Law Journal, Harvard Law School.
2018–2019 Convener, Harvard Atlantic History Workshop.
2018 Intern, Fair Labor Division, Massachusetts Attorney General's Office.
2016, 2018 Judge, History, National Collegiate Research Conference.
2016–2017 Client Representative, Tenant Advocacy Project, Harvard Law School.

Selected Media Appearances

Alex Dowd, *US Supreme court rules on birthright citizenship, transgender athletes*, DENVER7, June 30, 2026, https://www.denver7.com/news/local-news/us-supreme-court-rules-on-birthright-citizenship-transgender-athletes.

CU Boulder law professor breaks down Supreme Court's birthright citizenship ruling, 9NEWS, June, 30, 2026, https://www.9news.com/video/news/national/supreme-court/cu-boulder-law-professor-breaks-down-supreme-courts-birthright-citizenship-ruling/73-791c3216-5c32-4a5f-8dd4-a7516f5fe5c6.

Angeline McCall, *Supreme Court case may limit Americans' ability to sue for rights violations*, 9NEWS, June 23, 2026, https://www.9news.com/article/news/local/supreme-court-may-limit-ability-to-sue-for-rights-violations/73-d13d67ef-2d9c-47d5-8a14-3bb6e813c745.

Angeline McCall, *Denver City Council unanimously passes anti-masking ordinance despite concerns over enforceability*, 9NEWS, Mar. 2, 2026, https://www.9news.com/article/news/local/local-politics/denver-city-council-passes-anti-masking-ordinance/73-bce9bcc8-4f83-4966-ae6e-8c125a98924b.

Natalie Chuck, *"Legally illiterate": DHS responds to Denver mayor banning ICE from city property, legal experts weigh in*, DENVER7, Feb. 27, 2026, https://www.denver7.com/news/investigations/legally-illiterate-dhs-responds-to-denver-mayor-banning-ice-from-city-property-legal-experts-weigh-in.

Abigail Ankeney, *Louisville pair charged with helping woman kill herself made no attempt to follow aid-in-dying law, expert says*, DENVER POST, Feb. 9, 2026, https://www.denverpost.com/2026/02/09/assisted-suicide-louisville-balfour-boulder/ (also published in in DAILY CAMERA).

Micah Smith, *Concerns grow over federal agencies use of facial recognition technology on protesters*, DENVER7, Feb. 2, 2026, https://www.denver7.com/news/local-news/concerns-grow-over-federal-agencies-use-of-facial-recognition-technology-on-protesters.

Micah Smith, *Policing and protests: Colorado expert weighs in the public safety roles federal and local agencies play*, DENVER7, Jan. 29, 2026, https://www.denver7.com/news/politics/policing-and-protests-colorado-expert-weighs-in-the-public-safety-roles-federal-and-local-agencies-play.

Ava Kian, *Colorado Springs Planned Parenthood accused shooter dies in custody*, KRCC, Nov. 25, 2025, https://www.cpr.org/2025/11/25/planned-parenthood-accused-shooter-dies/.

Brandon Lowery, *Can States Prosecute ICE Agents? It Depends*, Law360, Nov. 7, 2025, https://www.law360.com/articles/2408508/can-states-prosecute-ice-agents-it-depends.

Caleb Stutman-Shaw, *The National Guard is stationed in Washington, D.C. Could federal troops come to Colorado?*, Aspen Public Radio, Sept. 11, 2025, https://www.aspenpublicradio.org/immigration/2025-09-11/the-national-guard-is-stationed-in-washington-d-c-could-federal-troops-come-to-colorado

Could President Trump send National Guard troops to Denver?, Denver7 News, Sept. 3, 2025, https://www.denver7.com/news/politics/could-president-trump-send-national-guard-troops-to-denver.

A New Satanic Panic, Ipse Dixit Podcast, No. 808 (2025), https://shows.acast.com/ipse-dixit/episodes/jonathon-booth-on-the-satanic-panic.

Colorado Springs police officer under investigation for felony-level allegations,
KKTV News, July 16, 2024, https://www.kktv.com/2024/07/16/colorado-springs-police-officer-under-investigation-felony-level-allegations/.

Emancipation & Regulation in Jamaica 1831-40, Ipse Dixit Podcast, No. 447 (2019), https://shows.acast.com/ipse-dixit/episodes/jonathon-booth-on-emancipation-regulation-in-jamaica-1831-40.

Bar Admission

Massachusetts (since 2019).