THE LAW SCHOOL’S CURRICULUM places the history of law and the ongoing story of the Constitution in context so that students can better understand both the past and present legal landscape.

With more than 25 faculty members in constitutional law and legal history, Virginia offers an unparalleled variety of lecture courses, seminars and clinics in the field.

J.D.-M.A. PROGRAM IN HISTORY
In cooperation with the University of Virginia’s Corcoran Department of History, the Law School allows students to obtain a J.D. and an M.A. in history in three years. Several veterans of the dual-degree program have gone on to successful careers in legal academia, and recent graduates have clerked for U.S. Supreme Court justices.

MORE: bit.ly/uvalawhistory

CHARLES W. MCCURDY FELLOWSHIP IN LEGAL HISTORY
Offered through a partnership between the Miller Center and the Law School, the yearlong McCurdy Fellowship allows scholars to work in residence at the Law School while completing dissertations in legal and political history. The fellowship, which carries a $32,000 stipend, includes a mentorship program and the opportunity to coordinate and present work at the Law School’s legal history workshop and the Miller Center’s Spring Fellowship Conference.

EVENT PROGRAMMING
The program sponsors a series of monthly legal history lunch workshops in which scholars and Virginia faculty members present works in progress. Advanced J.D.-M.A. candidates participate in these workshops and even present drafts of their own M.A. theses. The program also sponsors a series of lectures and panel discussions in which authors of recent important books are invited to engage in discussions of their work with students and faculty participating in the Colloquium in American Legal History. An informal legal history writing group allows faculty, law students and graduate history students to present works-in-progress over dinner at the homes of faculty members.

VIRGINIA’S PROGRAM ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL HISTORY creates a rich intellectual community of scholars and students with shared historical interests.

Students in PROFESSOR A. E. DICK HOWARD’S Supreme Court Justices and the Art of Judging seminar recently traveled to Washington, D.C., to hear oral arguments and meet with JUSTICE CLARENCE THOMAS. Howard takes his class to the court to visit with a justice every year.

CLINICS
APPELLATE LITIGATION CLINIC
Working in teams, students in this yearlong clinic engage in appellate litigation through actual cases before various federal circuit and/or state appellate courts of appeals.

FIRST AMENDMENT CLINIC
Run in conjunction with the Thomas Jefferson Center for the Protection of Free Expression and the law firm Baker Hostetler, the yearlong First Amendment Clinic gives students practical legal experience involving timely free speech and press issues.

SUPREME COURT LITIGATION CLINIC
Students in this yearlong clinic handle actual cases, from seeking Supreme Court review to briefing on the merits.
These courses represent the 2012-15 school years. Not all courses are offered every year.

FACULTY Virginia’s faculty members have a broad range of expertise in constitutional law and legal history. Many are experts on the decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court and several have argued before the court, including three full-time faculty members since 2010. OUR FACULTY INCLUDE:

PROFESSOR FREDERICK SCHAUER is one of the nation’s leading legal scholars and the author of numerous books on constitutional law, free speech and legal theory.

PROFESSOR RISA GOLUBOFF has received several prestigious fellowships and recognition for her scholarship in legal history, including for her book “The Lost Promise of Civil Rights.”

PROFESSOR LESLIE KENDRICK is an expert on the freedom of expression who teaches courses in torts, property and constitutional law.

PROFESSOR SAIKRISHNA PRAKASH is an expert in presidential power and separation of powers. He is author of a new book on the American presidency.

PROFESSOR G. EDWARD WHITE, a Pulitzer Prize finalist, is working on a three-volume series, “Law in American History.”

DAHLIA LITHWICK, a senior editor at Slate who covers the SUPREME COURT, recently spoke at the Law School about gender representation and the four women who have been justices. Lithwick is writing a book on the subject.

PROFESSOR DOUGLAS LICHTER frequently returns to the SUPREME COURT to argue religious liberty cases. His most recent win was in Holt v. Hobbs, a case in which he represented an Arkansas prisoner who sought to wear a beard per his religious beliefs, but in contrast to prison policy. The justices decided unanimously in Holt’s favor.

COURSES AND SEMINARS

CONSTITUTIONAL LAW

Advanced Campaign Finance
Advanced Topics in the First Amendment (Religion Clauses)
American Constitutional Development
Business and Governmental Tort Liability
Citizenship and Group Identity
Civil Liberties Survey
Civil Rights Litigation
Civil War and the Constitution
Comparative Constitutional Design
Comparative Constitutional Law
Constitutional Law II: Church and State
Constitutional Law II: Freedom of Speech and Press
Constitutional Law II: Law and Theory of Equal Protection
Constitutional Law II: Parents, Children and Reproduction

Constitutional Law and the Scholarly Process
Constitution-Making
Constitutional Rights of Corporations
Constitutional Theory
Constitutionalism: History and Jurisprudence
Criminal Law in the Supreme Court
Criminal Procedure Survey
Defamation
Environmental Law and Federalism
Federal Lawyer
Federal Sentencing
First Amendment and the Scholarly Process
Habeas Corpus and Wrongful Convictions
Innocence Cases: How Much Is Enough?
Judicial Review
Land Use Law
Law and Higher Education
Law of the Police
Law of War
Laws of War: Contemporary Debates

Legislation
Lochner Era
Monetary Constitution
Money and Rights
Poverty and the Constitution
Presidential Powers
Profiling
Race and Law
Readings in Constitutional Law
Regulation of the Political Process
Right to Education in U.S.: Real or Hollow?
Special Education Law
State-Level Individual Income Taxation: U.S. and EU
Supreme Court Decisionmaking
Supreme Court from Warren to Roberts
Supreme Court Justices and the Art of Judging
Supreme Court: October Term Virginia and the Constitution

CLINICS

Appellate Litigation Clinic
First Amendment Clinic
Supreme Court Litigation Clinic

LEGAL HISTORY

American Legal Realism
An American Half-Century
Civil War and the Constitution
Constitutional History I: Articles of Confederation Through the Civil War
Constitutional History II: From Reconstruction to Brown
Crime and Punishment
Global Legal History
International Ifs in the Mid-20th Century
Judicial Role in American History
Learning from the Holocaust: Law, History and Responsibility
Legal History Colloquium
Race and Law: Landmark Cases
Slavery and the Constitution
Stocks to Cellblocks: American Punishment Since 1776

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