

# MICHAEL A. FRANCUS

University of Virginia School of Law, 580 Massie Road, Charlottesville, VA 22903  
(412) 667-2979 • mfrancus@law.virginia.edu

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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**University of Virginia School of Law**

*Associate Professor*

Courses Taught: Contracts, Bankruptcy

Charlottesville, VA

2025 – Present

**University of Virginia School of Law**

*Visiting Professor*

Courses Taught: Contracts, Bankruptcy

Charlottesville, VA

2024 – 2025

**Notre Dame Law School**

*Associate Professor*

Courses Taught: Contracts, Bankruptcy

South Bend, IN

2023 – 2025

**Harvard Law School**

*Climenko Fellow and Lecturer in Law*

Course Taught: First-Year Legal Research and Writing

Cambridge, MA

2021 – 2023

## EDUCATION

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**Stanford Law School, J.D., June 2017**

*Class Awards*

Gerald Gunther Prize for Bankruptcy; Gerald Gunther Prize for Constitutional Law: Speech and Religion

*Moot Court Awards*

Semifinalist, Best Oralist Team, Moot Court Board

*Journal*

*Stanford Law Review*, Articles Editor (Vol. 69)

**University of Chicago, B.A., Political Science & Philosophy, June 2013**

*Awards*

Phi Beta Kappa (elected Junior Year); Solomon-Manaster Scholarship (merit-based)

## PUBLICATIONS

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- *A Municipal Finance Theory of Local Government*, 101 IND. L.J. \_\_ (forthcoming 2026)
- *Too Essential to Fail*, 42 YALE J. REG. \_\_ (forthcoming 2025)
- *Designing Designer Bankruptcy*, 102 TEX. L. REV. 1205 (2024)
- *Death, Bankruptcy, and the Public Hospital*, 41 YALE J. REG. 524 (2024)
- *Disaggregating State Bankruptcy*, 171 U. PA. L. REV. 1589 (2023)
- *Texas Two-Stepping Out of Bankruptcy*, 120 MICH. L. REV. ONLINE 38 (2022)
  - Cited in *In re Bestvall*, 658 B.R. 348 (Bankr. W.D.N.C. 2024)

- Reviewed by Sergio J. Campos, *Cutting Into the Texas Two-Step*, 2022 JOTWELL 1 (Nov. 22, 2022)
- *The Law of Clarity and the Clarity of Law*, 2020 U. CHI. L. REV. ONLINE 1
- *Digital Realty, Legislative History, and Textualism After Scalia*, 46 PEPP. L. REV. 1 (2019)
- *In Defense of Corruption: CNN Debates, the Press Clause, and Campaign Finance Regulation*, 68 STAN. L. REV. ONLINE 92 (2016)

## CLERKSHIP

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### United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit

*Law Clerk to the Honorable Stephanos Bibas* (first clerk class)

Philadelphia, PA

2018

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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### Kirkland & Ellis LLP

*Associate*

Washington, DC

2018 – 2021

- Conducted legal research, wrote memoranda, and drafted filings in a variety of matters
- Restructuring matters included a coal company bankruptcy, an international bank resolution, and a bond workout

### Mayer Brown LLP

*Summer Associate; Associate*

Washington, DC

2016, 2017

- Researched and drafted an excessive-force brief and motion in limine on antitrust defenses

### Federal Election Commission

*Law Clerk*

Washington, DC

2015

- Researched evolution of campaign finance disclosure rules and drafted memoranda on Matters and Advisory Opinions

## BAR ADMISSIONS

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- New York, District of Columbia
- United States Courts of Appeals for the Third, Fourth, Sixth, and Ninth Circuits, and the United States District Court for the District of Columbia

## PRESENTATIONS

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### “A Municipal Finance Theory of Local Government”

- UVA Faculty Workshop (2025)
- State and Local Government Works in Progress (2024)

### **“Too Essential to Fail”**

- Corporate Restructuring and Insolvency Workshop (2024)
- Northwestern Local Government Law Conference (2023)
- Notre Dame Junior Scholars Colloquium (2023)

### **“Designing Designer Bankruptcy”**

- Notre Dame Law School Faculty Colloquium (2023)
- Wharton-Harvard Insolvency and Restructuring Conference (2023)
- American Law & Economics Association Annual Conference (2023)
- Civil Procedure Workshop (2023)
- Harvard Law & Economics Workshop (2023)
- Michigan Law Conference honoring Hansmann & Kraakman’s *The Essential Role of Organizational Law* (2022)
- Featured on the [Oxford Business Law Blog](#) (Feb. 16, 2024)

### **“Death, Bankruptcy, and the Public Hospital”**

- Northeastern Junior Scholars Conference (2024)
- Michigan Junior Scholars Conference (2024)
- Notre Dame Law School Law & Economics Workshop (2023)
- Featured on the [Harvard Bankruptcy Roundtable](#) (July 5, 2023)

### **“Disaggregating State Bankruptcy”**

- Notre Dame Law School Faculty Workshop (2022)
- Northwestern Law School Faculty Workshop (2022)
- Emory Law School Faculty Workshop (2022)
- National Business Law Scholars Conference (2022)
- Richmond Law Junior Faculty Forum (2022)
- Harvard Law & Economics Workshop (2022)
- Yale Law Seminar on the Structure of Organizational Law (2021)

### **Miscellaneous**

- Panelist, Wharton Roundtable, “Conceptualizing the ‘Bankruptcy Fresh Start’: Theory and Evidence” (2025)
- Panelist, Wharton Roundtable, “The Outrageous Fortune of Puerto Rico in Crisis” (2025)
- Panelist, Hoover Institution, Public Pensions: Past, Present, and Future, “Pension Politics and Law” (2024)
- Panelist, AALS Hot Topic Panel, “Opioids, Bankruptcy, and Public Health” (2024)
- Presenter, Financial Restructuring Roundtable, “Mass Torts, From the Ground Up” (selected as the junior scholar call for papers winner) (2024)
- Moderator, Notre Dame Panel, “The Opioid Bankruptcy” (2023)