

JUSTIN L. SIMARD

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EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA, Philadelphia, PA

Ph.D., History, 2016

Honors: Annenberg History Fellow, Rothberg Scholar

Dissertation: “Legal Economy: Lawyers and the Development of American Commerce, 1780-1870”

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA LAW SCHOOL, Philadelphia, PA

J.D., *magna cum laude*, May 2011

Honors: Articles Editor and Symposium Coordinator, *University of Pennsylvania Law Review*

RICE UNIVERSITY, Houston, TX

B.A. in History, *magna cum laude*, January 2006

Honors: Phi Beta Kappa

PROFESSIONAL AND TEACHING EXPERIENCE

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LAW, East Lansing MI

Associate Professor of Law, 2023-Present

Assistant Professor of Law, 2020-2023

Adjunct Assistant Professor of History, 2021-Present

Core Faculty, DH@MSU, 2025-Present

Director, Citing Slavery Project, 2020-Present

Director, Frank J. Kelley Institute of Ethics and the Legal Profession, 2022-Present

WILLAMETTE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LAW, Salem, OR

Visiting Assistant Professor, 2019-2020

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR LEGAL STUDIES, Evanston, IL

Jack Miller Teaching and Researching Post-Doctoral Fellow, 2017-2019

AMERICAN BAR FOUNDATION, Chicago, IL

Visiting Scholar, 2017-2019

BALDY CENTER FOR LAW AND SOCIAL POLICY, Buffalo, NY

Post-Doctoral Fellow, 2015-2017

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS THIRD CIRCUIT, Philadelphia, PA

Law Clerk to the Honorable Dolores K. Sloviter, 2012-2013

PUBLICATIONS

Forward *from Kirksey: Slavery, Legal Education, and the Doctrine of Consideration*, in Edward ELGAR RESEARCH HANDBOOK IN GLOBAL LEGAL EDUCATION (Swethaa Balakrishnan & Bryant Garth, eds., forthcoming 2026)

Enslavement and the Courts: A Dataset of Northern Legal Decisions from 1784 to 1875, J. SLAVERY & DATA PRESERVATION (forthcoming 2025) (with Anna Maxwell and Nina Jeffries) (peer reviewed)

Slavery, Self-Help, and Secured Transactions, 113 CALIF. L. REV. 219 (2025)

Citing Slavery Project, 1 J. DIGITAL L. HIST. 1 (2023) (with Audrea Dakho, Morgan Henry, and Ilinia Krishen) (peer reviewed)

The Precedential Weight of Slavery, 47 N.Y.U. REV. L. & SOC. CHANGE 167 (2023)

"In Reference to the Death of Isham": Slavery, Law, and their Afterlives (article with Julia Bernier), 88 J. S. HIST. 615 (2022) (peer reviewed)

The Recurrent Current Crisis in Legal Education, 56 WILLAMETTE L. REV. 407 (2020) (invited symposium contribution)

Citing Slavery, 72 STAN. L. REV. 79 (2020)

Lawyers as Trusted Agents in Nineteenth-Century American Commerce: The Influence of Fiduciary Norms and Equity on Economic Development (article with Michael Halberstam), 44 L. & SOC. INQUIRY 132 (2020) (peer reviewed)

Slavery's Legalism: Lawyers and the Commercial Routine of Slavery, 37 L. & HIST. REV. 571 (2019) (peer reviewed)

The Birth of a Legal Economy: Lawyers and the Development of American Commerce, 65 BUFF. L. REV. 1059 (2016)

WORKS IN PROGRESS

"Through the Agency of Mr. Neal's Slaves": Reimagining Enslaved Legal Thought in the Nineteenth Century U.S. (with Julia Bernier) (under review)

Contractual Failure and Contractual Resilience (with Taylor Hall) (under review)

AGENTS OF COMMERCE: TRANSACTIONAL LAWYERING IN AMERICA, 1780-1870 (book manuscript)

Mapping the Canon: Case Selection in Law School Casebooks (article in progress with John Forrest)

Bad Citations? Race in Case Names (article in progress)

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Donald F. Campbell Outstanding Teaching Award, May 2025

MSU COLLEGE OF LAW

Awarded for continued excellence in the classroom over a sustained period

GLISA Small Grants Program, March 2024

GREAT LAKES INTEGRATED SCIENCES & ASSESSMENTS

Grant provides funding to build partnership with Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians to help build climate resilience through technology

Mary L. Dudziak Legal History Prize, October 2023

AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR LEGAL HISTORY

Reward for outstanding digital legal history projects

Research Activities Grant, June 2022

ENGAGEMENT SCHOLARSHIP CONSORTIUM

Grant will fund pilot for the Citing Slavery Project's pilot high school education program

Vital Projects Grant, July 2022

PROTEUS FUND

Grant will fund work on the Citing Slavery Project

Humanities and Arts Research Program Development Grant, February 2022

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Grant will fund development work on the Citing Slavery Project.

Program in Early American Economy and Society Short-term Fellowship, January 2016

LIBRARY COMPANY OF PHILADELPHIA

Received grant to research nineteenth century business manuals.

Morris L. Cohen Essay Competition Winner, Spring 2010

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES

“‘The Citadel Must Open Its Gates to the People:’ Judicial Reform at the 1821 New York Constitutional Convention”

Research Grant, Winter 2009

WILLIAM NELSON CROMWELL FOUNDATION

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

“Mapping the Canon: Case Selection in Law School Casebooks,”

Conference on Data Science and Law, August 5, 2025 (with John Forrest)

“Bad Citations: Race in Case Names,”

Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, May 23, 2025

- “The Legal Profession Must Confront its Role in Slavery,”
Case Western Reserve University School of Law, April 14, 2025
- “Race in Case Names,”
Case Western Reserve University School of Law Faculty Workshop, April 14, 2025
- “Collaborating to Build Climate Resilience with the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians,”
Fate of the Earth: Our Waters, March 20, 2025 (with Wenona Singel)
- “Uncovering Slavery’s Legal Legacy Through Critical Legal Research,”
Critical Legal Research Seminar, Boston University, *March 18, 2025*
- “Slavery, Self-Help, and Secured Transactions,”
Berkeley Law and History Workshop, *February 27, 2025*
- “The Citing Slavery Project,”
Oregon Office of State Court Administrators Meeting, **November 11, 2024**
- “Citing Slavery Project”
American Society for Legal History Annual Meeting, *October 24-26, 2024*
- “Echoes of Slavery: A Deep Dive into the Citing Slavery Project”
Integrating Doctrine and Diversity (November 6, 2024) (with Citing Slavery Project Team)
- “Digitalizing Flawed Legal Doctrines: Legal Citation to Slavery and its Meaning for Legal Technology”
International Legal Ethics Conference, *July 17-19, 2024* (with Audrea Dakho)
- “Slavery’s Legal Legacy and its Meaning for Law Librarians and Legal Research Professors,”
Mid-America Association of Law Libraries *June 26, 2024* (with Citing Slavery Project Team)
- “Citing Slavery Cases: Why Acknowledgment Matters”
National Association of Women Judges, *June 20, 2024* (with Citing Slavery Project Team)
- “Commerce as Calling: Lawyers, Kinship, and the Development of Economic Trust in Nineteenth Century New York”
Fifth Biennial Richard Robinson Workshop on Business History, May 23-25, 2024
- “Slavery’s Legal Legacy and its Meaning for Michigan Lawyers”
Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society, *April 11, 2024* (with Citing Slavery Project Team)
- “Slavery’s Legal Legacy and its Meaning for Missouri Lawyers”

Law Library Association of St. Louis, *February 21, 2024* (with Citing Slavery Project Team)

“Citing Slavery: Slavery’s Persistent Legal Legacy”
University of Michigan—Dearborn, *February 7, 2024* (with Citing Slavery Project Team)

“Slavery’s Legal Legacy and its Meaning for Florida Lawyers”
Weiss Serota Helfman Cole + Bierman, *February 5, 2024* (with Citing Slavery Project Team)

“Slavery, Self-Help, and Secured Transactions”
AALS 2024 Annual Meeting, *January 3-6, 2024*

“Citing Slavery Project”
CLC Inaugural Convening, *November 10-11, 2023*

“Slavery, Self-Help, and Secured Transactions”
The Spirit of the Law: New Legal Histories in Honor of Sarah Barringer Gordon,
October 26, 2023

“The Citing Slavery Project: Documenting Slavery’s Persistent Legacy”
Columbia University Social and Cognition Lab, *October 13, 2023*

“Race and Commercial Legal Consciousness” (with Taylor Hall)
Chicagoland Junior Scholars Conference, *October 6, 2023*

“Slavery’s Legal Legacy and Its Meaning for Ohio Lawyers”
Cleveland Metro Bar Association, *October 6, 2023*

“Legal Precedent for Change: The Citing Slavery—Ferndale High School Project”
Engagement Scholarship Consortium Conference, *October 4-5, 2023* (with Hannah Gates)

“Slavery’s Legal Legacy and Its Meaning for North Carolina Lawyers”
North Carolina Association of Women Attorneys, *September 12, 2023*

“Slavery’s Ongoing Legal Legacy”
Oregon Court of Appeals, *August 14, 2023*

“Citing Slavery: A Surprising Legal Legacy and Its Ongoing Meaning for Washington Lawyers”
King County Law Library CLE Series, *September 13, 2023*

“Slavery’s Legal Legacy and its Presence in Modern Courts”
Philadelphia Law Department, *July 28, 2023*

Roundtable: “The Citing Slavery Project”
Midwestern People of Color Conference, *April 20-23, 2023*

“Routine Debt Collection and the Making of the Early American Legal Profession”
& Roundtable: “Legal History as Business History (and Business History as Legal History)”
Business History Conference Annual Meeting, March 16-18, 2023

“Slavery, Law, and Refusal: Reimagining Enslaved Legal Thought in the Nineteenth Century”
(with Julia Bernier)
African American Intellectual History Society Annual Conference, March 9-11, 2023

“Slavery’s Legal Legacy and its Meaning for Modern Lawyers”
Hennepin County Law Library CLE Series, February 17, 2023

“Documenting the Legacy of Slavery in Private Law”
McGill University Faculty of Law, December 1, 2022

“Slavery, Law, and Refusal: Reimagining Enslaved Legal Thought in the Nineteenth Century”
(with Julia Bernier)
The Southern Historical Association Annual Meeting, November 10-13, 2022

“Addressing the Precedential Weight of Slavery”
University of North Texas Dallas College of Law, September 28, 2022

“Addressing the Precedential Weight of Slavery”
University of North Texas College of Information Discovery Series, September 28, 2022

“The Precedential Weight of Slavery”
International Legal Ethics Conference, August 14, 2022

Roundtable: Empire, Slavery, and American Legal Development: Erasure, Reckonings, Strategies
Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, July 13-16, 2022

“Legal Citation and the Precedential Weight of Slavery”
Keynote Address, Law Librarians of New England / Southern New England Law Librarians Association Spring Meeting, June 17, 2022

“Uncovering the Precedential Weight of Slavery”
Legal Studies Law in Motion Lecture, Northwestern University, May 12, 2022

“The Citing Slavery Project: Reckoning with the Law of Slavery and Its Legacy” (with Citing Slavery Project Team)
Global Digital Humanities Symposium, May 3, 2022

“The Citing Slavery Project: Reckoning with the Law of Slavery and Its Legacy” (with Citing Slavery Project Team)
Michigan State University, February 10, 2022

“CitingSlavery.org: An Introduction” (with Citing Slavery Project Team)

The Early Americas Online, November 12, 2021

“Not Citing Slavery”

University of Pennsylvania Law School Writer’s Bloc, November 22, 2021

“In Reference to the Death of Isham: Slavery, Law, and Their Afterlives” (with Julia Bernier)

American Society for Legal History Annual Meeting, November 4-6, 2021

“Not Citing Slavery”

Northern Illinois University Law School Faculty Workshop, October 14, 2021

“Not Citing Slavery”

University of Baltimore Law School Faculty Workshop, October 7, 2021

“Unforgiven: A History of USDA Discrimination against African American Farmers, Federal Remedies, and White Backlash” (with Adam Wolkoff)

Chicagoland Junior Scholars Conference, October 1, 2021

“The Bluebook Confronts Slavery”

American Association of Law Librarians Conference, July 20, 2021

“Not Citing Slavery”

Slavery Past, Present & Future: 5th Global Meeting, July 1, 2021

“Not Citing Slavery”

Online Workshop on the Computational Analysis of Law (OWCAL) Conference, May 13, 2021

“The Law of Slavery and the Alumni of the Litchfield Law School”

Litchfield Historical Society, March 26, 2021

“In Reference to the Death of Isham” (with Julia Bernier)

MSU Long Nineteenth Century Workshop, March 5, 2021

“Not Citing Slavery”

MSU College of Law Faculty Workshop, January 27, 2021

“Citing Slavery”

Race and Property in Historical Perspective: A Series of Conversations about Research & Methods, University of Michigan School of Law, October 14, 2020

“Being Property and Litigating Property: Perspectives on the law of Slavery” (with Julia Bernier)

University of Pennsylvania Law School Writer’s Bloc, April 24, 2020

“Being Property and Litigating Property: Perspectives on the Law of Slavery” (with Julia Bernier)

African American Intellectual History Society Annual Meeting, March 6-7, 2020

“Convocation: Citing Slavery”

Willamette University, *February 20, 2020*

“The Thirteenth Amendment as a Failure of Transitional Justice”

The Thirteenth Amendment and Racial Justice, *November 9-10, 2019*

“An Education for Practice: Litchfield Law School and the Early American Commercial Lawyer”

Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, *May 30-June 2, 2019*

“Legal Economy: Lawyers and the Development of American Commerce, 1780-1870”

Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, *April 4-7, 2019*

“Trust Me, I’m a Lawyer: Lawyers as Commercial Agents in Nineteenth Century America”

Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, *June 7-10, 2018*

“Citing Slavery”

American Bar Foundation Legal History Seminar, *April 25, 2018*

“Financing Reunion: Lawyer Debt Collectors and the Post-War Economy”

The Southern Historical Association Annual Meeting, *November 9-12, 2017*

“Building Commercial Confidence: Legal Practice in Nineteenth Century America”

American Society for Legal History Annual Meeting, *October 26-28, 2017*

“Attorneys as Trusted Agents in Nineteenth Century American Commerce” (with Michael Halberstam)

Economic and Business History Conference, *May 25-27, 2017*

“The Legal Routine of Nineteenth Century New York Commerce”

Business History Conference Annual Meeting, *March 30-April 1, 2017*

“The Nineteenth Century American Legal Profession and the Market: Economic Trust in Theory and Practice” (with Michael Halberstam)

Law and Society Annual Meeting, *June 2-5, 2016*

“The Finance Factor: Southern Lawyers and Northern Money in the South”

Southern Capitalisms, *March 4-5, 2016*

“The Technocrats: Lawyers and Capitalism in Early National America, 1780-1870”

Buffalo History Department Works in Progress Series, *February 11, 2016*

“Frontier Property: Lawyers and the Development of a Capitalist Environment in the Connecticut Western Reserve”

Society for Historians of the Early American Republic Annual Meeting, *July 16-19, 2015*

“Responsible Lawyers: Commerce as Calling in the Nineteenth Century New York Bar”
Yale Doctoral Conference, November 14-15, 2014

“Litchfield Law School and the Triumph of Practical Legal Education in Early America”
McNeil Center Brown-Bag Works-in-Progress Seminar, November 6, 2013

““The Citadel Must Open Its Gates to the People:” Judicial Reform at the 1821 New York Constitutional Convention
American Association of Law Libraries Annual Meeting, July 10-13, 2010

“Law for Lawyers: Legal Training at America’s First Law School”
Ab Initio: Law in Early America, June 16-17, 2010

“Lessons from Litchfield: What America’s First Law School Can Teach Modern Legal Educators”
Law and Society Annual Meeting, May 27-30, 2010