

## SEAN HANNON WILLIAMS

Earl E. Sheffield Regents Chair • University of Texas School of Law  
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### ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

#### University of Texas School of Law. Austin, TX

<i>Earl E. Sheffield Regents Chair</i>	2024- present
<i>F. Scott Baldwin Research Professor in Law</i>	2017-2024
<i>Professor of Law</i>	2013-2017
<i>Assistant Professor</i>	2008-2013

#### Courses:

Torts, Family Law, Behavioral Law and Economics, Contracts

#### Major Committee Service:

Appointments Committee (2024-25, 2023-24, 2017-18, 2014); Budget Committee (2022-23, 2018-19); Emerging Scholars Program Fellowship (2008-09, 2009-10 Co-Chair).

#### Duke University School of Law. Durham, NC

Fall 2021

*Visiting Professor: Contracts*

#### Harvard Law School. Cambridge, MA

2007-2008

*Research Fellow, Center on Lawyers & the Professional Services Industry*

#### Harvard Law School. Cambridge, MA

2005-2007

*Climenko Fellow and Lecturer on Law*

### EDUCATION

#### University of Chicago Law School. JD

High Honors, Order of the Coif, *University of Chicago Law Review*

Beale Prize for Outstanding Written Work, Best Advocate Award for Appellate Brief

#### Haverford College. BA, Sociology

### PUBLICATIONS

FAMILY LAW (with June Carbone & Rachel Rebouché) (8th Edition, forthcoming).

*Privatized Pluralism: Branded Relationship Contracts as Non-Governmental Family Law*, 18 HARV. L. & POL. REV. 345 (2024).

*Sacred Children, Taboo Tradeoffs, and Distorted Discourses*, 57 MICH. J. L. REF.163 (2023).

*Divorcing Your Parents*, 57 U.C. DAVIS L. REV. 665 (2023).

Reviewed by Dara E. Purvis, in *The Journal of Things We Like (Lots)*, *Family Law Exit Rights: A Provocatively Slippery Slope*, JOTWELL (August 15, 2024), at <https://family.jotwell.com/family-law-exit->

rights-a-provocatively-slippery-slope/ (“[I]t is rare that a single article prompts so many open-ended questions in my mind. Professor Williams described his goal as “begin[ning] a conversation,” (P. 712) and he has succeeded many times over.”)

*Conscription, Consent, and the Meaning of “Family”*, 72 WASH. U. J. L. & POL. 103 (2023).

*DNA Dilemmas*, 40 YALE L. & POL’Y REV. 536 (2022).

Reviewed by Ayelet Blecher-Prigat in *The Journal of Things We Like (Lots)*, *Parentage, Identity and DNA*, JOTWELL (May 25, 2022), at <https://family.jotwell.com/parentage-identity-and-dna/> (“DNA Dilemmas [is] a bold example of scholarship that goes beyond criticism and lays out a concrete normative proposal for reform. It sheds new and refreshing light on debates in existing scholarship on parentage and ... it forces us to revisit and rethink normative conventions on these issues.”).

*Advice*, 2021 UTAH. L. REV. 385 (2021).

*AI Advice: The Irony of Big Data Disclosures and the New Advice Paradigm*, 46 FLA. ST. L. REV. 761 (2021).

*Gossip and Gore: A Ghoulish Journey into a Philosophical Thicket*, 116 MICH. L. REV. 1187 (2018).

*Divorce All the Way Down: Local Voice and Family Law’s Democratic Deficit*, 98 B.U. L. REV. 579 (2018).

Reviewed by Kaipo Matsumura in *The Journal of Things We Like (Lots)*, *Family Law’s Democratic Foundations*, JOTWELL (May 25, 2018), at <https://family.jotwell.com/family-laws-democratic-foundations/>

*Wildflowers in the Swamp: Local Rules and Local Family Law*, 65 DRAKE L. REV. 781 (2017).

*Sex in the City*, 43 FORDHAM URBAN L. J. 1107 (2016).

Reviewed by Richard Briffault.

*Dead Children*, 67 ALABAMA L. REV. 739 (2016).

*Probability Errors: Over-Optimism, Ambiguity Aversion, and the Certainty Effect*, in *THE OXFORD HANDBOOK ON BEHAVIORAL ECONOMICS AND THE LAW* (2014).

*Statistical Children*, 30 YALE J. REG. 63 (2013).

*Lost Life and Life Projects*, 87 INDIANA L. J. 1745 (2012).

Reviewed by Gregory Keating in *The Journal of Things We Like (Lots)*, *Redressing the Harm of Death*, JOTWELL (Sept. 27, 2013), at <http://torts.jotwell.com/redressing-the-harm-of-death/>

*Self-Altering Injury*, 96 CORNELL L. REV. 535 (2011).

*Sticky Expectations*, 84 NOTRE DAME L. REV. 733 (2009).

*Postnuptial Agreements*, 2007 WIS. L. REV. 827 (2007).

*The Parallel Trends of Increased Adult Content in Mainstream Media and Harder-Core Pornography: A Tale of Market Failure?*, in 1 CARCERAL NOTEBOOKS 61 (Bernard Harcourt ed., 2005).

*Comment: Non-Prevailing Parties Who Bring Successful Actions under Consumer Protection Statutes*, 71 U. CHI. L. REV. 311-332 (2004).

## PRESENTATIONS

*Fertility Fraud’s Theories of Harm*, Family Law Scholars and Teachers Conference, June 2024

*Branded Relationship Contracts*, Family Law Scholars and Teachers Conference, June 2023

*Taboo Children*, Taboo Trades Podcast, July 2022

*Divorcing Your Parents*, Family Law Scholars and Teachers Conference, June 2022

*DNA Dilemmas*, Wake Forest Law School Faculty Colloquium, Fall 2022

*DNA Dilemmas*, U.N.C. Law School Faculty Colloquium, Fall 2022

*Red Prenups, Blue Prenups*, Family Law Scholars and Teachers Conference, June 2021

*Identity Interests in Birth Certificates*, Family Law Scholars and Teachers Conference, June 2020

*More Legal Implications of NPE Discoveries*, Not Parent Expected (NPE) Conference, March 2020

*Legal Ramifications of Discovering You are not the Genetic Child of one of your Parents*, Not Parent Expected (NPE) Conference, April 2019

*Forum Shopping in Divorce*, Family Law Scholars and Teachers Conference, June 2018

*Marketing Marriage*, Family Law Scholars and Teachers Conference, June 2017

*Unconscious Bias in the Courtroom*, Harris County Bench/Bar Conference, May 2015

*Sex (and Money) in the City*, Georgetown Law School Faculty Colloquium, November 2014

*Dead Children: Parental Investments in Child Safety and Tort Damages*, Indiana University Maurer School of Law Faculty Colloquium, October 2014

*Judicial Decision-Making*, Harris Country District Judges Conference, August 2014

*Parental Investments in Child Safety and Tort Damages*, University of Washington, Olin Business School, February 2014

*Local Family Law*, University of Virginia Law School Faculty Colloquium, October 2013

*Local Family Law*, St. Louis University Law School Faculty Colloquium, September 2013

*Local vs. State Control over Family Law*, IASJF, The Jurisprudence of Family Relations: Privacy, Autonomy, and Whether States Should Regulate Family Relations, June 2013

*Probability Errors*, LAMB Conference: Behavioral Law and Economics: Substance and Methodology, Notre Dame Law School, April 2013

*Local Divorce Law*, Faculty Conference, Arizona State University, March 2013

*What's a Child Worth?*, Law & Society, June 2012

*Statistical Children*, Junior Faculty Conference, Arizona State University, March 2012

*Valuing Children in Tort Law*, Emerging Family Law Scholars Conference, June 2011

*Wrongful Death, Life Projects, and Individual Justice*, Junior Faculty Conference for South-Western Law Schools, Arizona State University, March 2011

*Happiness, Harm and Self-Altering Injury*, Junior Faculty Conference for South-Western Law Schools, Arizona State University, March 2010

*Same-Sex Child-Rearing Research and Theory*, A Federalist Society debate with Maggie Gallagher, University of Texas School of Law, January 2009

## OTHER RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**2015 AALS Mid-Year Meeting: Shifting Foundations in Family Law.** June 2015  
*Planning Committee.* Designed and organized conference as part of five-member committee.

**Concurring Opinions.** Dec. 2014  
*Guest Blogger.*

**Law Preview.** 2013-2019  
*Lecturer.* Taught Contracts to students about to start law school.

**BarBri.** 2012-2020  
*Lecturer.* Taught Family Law and Community Property for the Texas Bar Exam.

**Judge Cynthia Holcomb Hall.** U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit 2004-2005  
*Law Clerk.*

## BAR MEMBERSHIP

California