

REILLY S. STEEL
reilly.steel@columbia.edu

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Columbia Law School	New York, NY
<i>Associate Professor of Law</i>	2025 – Present
<i>Academic Fellow and Lecturer in Law</i>	2024 – 2025
<i>Postgraduate Research Fellow, Millstein Center</i>	2024 – 2025

EDUCATION

Princeton University	Princeton, NJ
Ph.D., Politics, received 2025	
M.A., Politics, received 2023	
Subfields:	American Politics, Formal Theory and Quantitative Methods
Affiliations:	Fellow, Program on Quantitative and Analytical Political Science Graduate Student Affiliate, Center for the Study of Democratic Politics
Dissertation:	<i>Essays on Business, Law, and Politics</i>
Committee:	Nolan McCarty (chair), John Kastellec, Gleason Judd

Columbia Law School	New York, NY
J.D., received 2017	
Honors:	James Kent Scholar (for outstanding academic achievement) Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar (for superior academic achievement) Powell Student Research Fellow
Activities:	Articles Editor, <i>Columbia Law Review</i> Research Assistant, Professor Zohar Goshen President, American Civil Liberties Union

Middlebury College	Middlebury, VT
B.A., Philosophy and Theatre, <i>magna cum laude</i> , received 2011	
Thesis:	<i>Drinking in America</i> (Honors, Department of Theatre)

PUBLICATIONS

[*Systematic Corruption*](#), 127 COLUM. L. REV. (forthcoming 2027)

[*Lobbying Against Enforcement*](#), 44 YALE J. ON REG. (forthcoming 2027)

[*Electoral Competition with Targeted Voting Costs*](#), J. POLS. (forthcoming) (with Gleason Judd and Greg Sasso)

[*The Political Transformation of Corporate America, 2001–2022*](#), 120 AM. POL. SCI. REV. 582 (2026)

[*Partisan Bias in Securities Enforcement*](#), 42 J.L. ECON. & ORG. 34 (2026)

[*Political Threads in Legal Tapestry: A Computational Analysis of Executive Branch Legal Interpretation, 1934–2022*](#), 27 U. PA. J. CONST. L. 407 (2025)

[*Barbarians Inside the Gates: Raiders, Activists, and the Risk of Mistargeting*](#), 132 YALE L.J. 411 (2022) (with Zohar Goshen) (named as one of the Top 10 Corporate and Securities Articles of 2023 in the annual *Corporate Practice Commentator* survey of corporate and securities law professors)

[*Caremark and ESG, Perfect Together: A Practical Approach to Implementing an Integrated, Efficient, and Effective Caremark and EESG Strategy*](#), 106 IOWA L. REV. 1885 (2021) (with Leo E. Strine, Jr. and Kirby M. Smith) (reprinted in 52 ENV'T L. REP. 10631)

[*Proxy Access and Optimal Standardization in Corporate Governance: An Empirical Analysis*](#), 23 FORDHAM J. CORP. & FIN. L. 1 (2017)

Note, [*The Underground Rulification of the Ordinary Business Operations Exclusion*](#), 116 COLUM. L. REV. 1547 (2016) (second place, Association of Securities and Exchange Commission Alumni Writing Competition)

WORKING PAPERS

“[The Political Economy of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion](#)” (with Nolan McCarty)

PRESS

The Political Economy of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

- [The Washington Post](#) (Editorial by Editorial Board)
- [The Washington Post](#) (Letter to the Editor by Authors)

Systematic Corruption

- [The New York Times](#)
- [Financial Times](#)
- [The Chancery Daily](#)

Lobbying Against Enforcement

- [The Dig](#)

The Political Transformation of Corporate America, 2001–2022

- [The New York Times](#)
- [Financial Times](#)
- [CNN](#)
- [Axios](#)
- [Semafor](#)
- [Marginal Revolution](#)
- [The Chancery Daily](#)
- [Business Chief](#)
- [The Dig](#)
- [Edward Conard](#)

Political Threads in Legal Tapestry: A Computational Analysis of Executive Branch Legal Interpretation, 1934–2022

- [*Law & Humanities Blog*](#)

BLOG POSTS

[“Systematic Corruption,” *Harvard Law School Forum on Corporate Governance* \(Mar. 3, 2026\)](#)

[“Lobbying Against Enforcement,” *Harvard Law School Forum on Corporate Governance* \(Nov. 7, 2024\)](#)

[“The Political Transformation of Corporate America, 2021–2022,” *Oxford Business Law Blog* \(Oct. 30, 2024\)](#)

[“The Political Transformation of Corporate America, 2001–2022,” *CLS Blue Sky Blog* \(Oct. 22, 2024\)](#)

[“Partisan Bias in Securities Enforcement,” *Harvard Law School Forum on Corporate Governance* \(Sept. 11, 2024\)](#)

[“Raiders, Activists, and the Risk of Mistargeting,” *CLS Blue Sky Blog* \(Oct. 19, 2021\)](#)

[“Caremark and ESG,” *CLS Blue Sky Blog* \(Aug. 3, 2020\)](#)

[“Proxy Access and Optimal Standardization in Corporate Governance,” *CLS Blue Sky Blog* \(Jan. 31, 2018\)](#)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Contracts, Columbia Law School (Fall 2025, Fall 2026)

Politics and the Corporation, Columbia Law School (Fall 2025)

Legal Writing, Columbia Law School (Fall 2024)

Political Economy of the United States, Princeton University (Head Preceptor, Professor Nolan McCarty) (Spring 2024)

Corporations, Columbia Law School (Teaching Fellow, Professor Eric Talley) (Fall 2015)

LSAT Preparation Course, Blueprint Test Preparation (Spring 2014)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP
Associate

New York, NY
2019 – 2021

Chief Justice Leo E. Strine, Jr., Delaware Supreme Court
Law Clerk

Wilmington, DE
2018 – 2019

U.S. Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs <i>Millstein Public Service Fellow</i>	Washington, DC 2017 – 2018
Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP <i>Summer Associate</i>	New York, NY Summer 2016
Judge Stephen V. Wilson, U.S. District Court, Central District of California <i>Judicial Extern</i>	Los Angeles, CA Summer 2015
O’Melveny & Myers LLP <i>Administrative Research Assistant</i>	New York, NY 2013 – 2014
Fifth Wall Records LLC <i>Cofounder & Chief Executive Officer</i>	Brooklyn, NY 2012 – 2013

PRESENTATIONS

Systematic Corruption

- Winter Deals Conference, BYU Law School (2026)
- Wharton Legal Studies Seminar, University of Pennsylvania (2026)
- LSE Political Economy of Law and Finance Workshop (2026)
- Political Science Speaker Series, Emory University (2026)
- Faculty Workshop, Columbia Law School (2026)
- American Law and Economics Association Annual Meeting (2026)

Principles over Profits? Change and Continuity in the Politics of Corporate America

- Cardozo–Fordham Metropolitan Junior Scholars Forum (2025)
- American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (2025)
- Northwestern Law & Economics Colloquium (2025)

Common Ownership and Political Competition

- CBS–Princeton Money in Politics Conference, Copenhagen Business School (2025)
- Conference on Empirical Legal Studies, Georgetown University Law Center (2025)

The Political Transformation of Corporate America, 2001–2022

- American Political Institutions Working Group, Princeton University (2024)
- American Politics Graduate Research Seminar, Princeton University (2024)
- Business and Politics Workshop, INSEAD (2024)
- Contemporary Corporate Law Scholarship Workshop, Columbia Law School (2025)

Lobbying Against Enforcement

- Political Economy Workshop, Princeton University (2024)
- CBS–Princeton Money in Politics Conference, Copenhagen Business School (2024)
- Conference on Empirical Legal Studies, Emory University School of Law (2024)

- Association of American Law Schools Annual Meeting (2025)
- Law and Economics Colloquium, Notre Dame Law School (2025)
- Law and Business Workshop, Vanderbilt Law School (2025)
- Ribstein Law and Economics Seminar, George Mason Law School (2025)
- Winter Deals Conference, BYU Law School (2025)
- Program on Law and Normative Thinking Seminar, Princeton University (2025)
- Empirical Legal Studies Seminar, University of Florida Law School (2025)
- Midwestern Political Science Association Annual Meeting (2025)
- Law and Economics Workshop, University of Virginia Law School (2025)
- American Law and Economics Association Annual Meeting, New York University School of Law (2025)
- Business and Tax Roundtable for Upcoming Professors, UCLA Law School (2025)
- National Business Law Scholars Conference, UCLA Law School (2025)

Political Threads in Legal Tapestry: A Computational Analysis of Executive Branch Legal Interpretation, 1934–2022

- Law Engaged Graduate Students Seminar, Princeton University (2024)
- Bureaucracy and Interest Groups Conference, Princeton University (2024)
- American Law and Economics Association Annual Meeting, University of Michigan (2024)

Is There Politics in Money? Political Connections and M&A Contracting

- Corporate Law Roundtable, LSE Law School (2023)
- Bylaws, Bills, and Ballots Conference, Columbia Law School (2025)

Polarization and Judicial Review of Agency Rulemaking

- American Politics Graduate Research Seminar, Princeton University (2023)
- American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (2024)

Partisan Bias in Securities Enforcement

- American Politics Graduate Research Seminar, Princeton University (2023)
- Law Engaged Graduate Students Seminar, Princeton University (2023)
- National Business Law Scholars Conference, University of Tennessee Law School (2023)
- Center for Law and Social Science Workshop, USC Gould School of Law (2023)
- Conference on Empirical Legal Studies, University of Chicago Law School (2023)
- Winter Deals Conference, BYU Law School (2024)
- Midwestern Political Science Association Annual Meeting (2024)

Barbarians Inside the Gates: Raiders, Activists, and the Risk of Mistargeting

- Law Engaged Graduate Students Seminar, Princeton University (2022)
- American Law and Economics Association Annual Meeting, Columbia Law School (2022)

Caremark and ESG, Perfect Together: A Practical Approach to Implementing an Integrated, Efficient, and Effective Caremark and EESG Strategy

- Corporate and Capital Markets Law and Policy Seminar, Harvard Law School (2020)

Proxy Access and Optimal Standardization in Corporate Governance: An Empirical Analysis

- Conference on Empirical Legal Studies, Cornell Law School (2017)

SERVICE

Referee:

- *American Political Science Review*
- *American Journal of Political Science*
- *Journal of Empirical Legal Studies*
- *Management Science*
- *Journal of Law & Empirical Analysis*

Conference co-organizer or area organizer:

- Millstein Center Conference on Corporate Governance and M&A (Columbia Law School, 2025)
- Bylaws, Bills, and Ballots Conference (Columbia Law School, 2025)
- Blockchain Law and Regulation Workshop (Princeton University, 2025)
- Conference on Empirical Legal Studies (Northwestern University, 2026)

Discussant:

- Conference on Empirical Legal Studies (2023, 2024, 2025)
- American Politics Graduate Research Seminar, Princeton University (2022, 2024, 2024, 2025)

Panelist / Moderator:

- Center for Political Accountability Conference, NYU Stern (2026)
- Millstein Center Conference on Corporate Governance and M&A, Columbia Law School (2025)
- Consortium on the American Political Economy, “Plutocracy,” Virtual (2025)
- Legal Colloquium: The New Climate Fiduciaries, Columbia Law School (2025)

MISCELLANEOUS

Bar Admissions: New York (inactive)

Programming Skills: R, Python