SCOTUS: Year in Review

Leading Constitutional experts will present in-depth analysis of the most significant U.S. Supreme Court decisions from the past year. This session will examine the legal reasoning, broader constitutional implications, and potential societal impacts of landmark rulings. Join your colleagues in examining how the Court's jurisprudence is evolving and what it means for judicial decision-making at all levels.

Learning Objectives:

1. **Understand the Key Supreme Court Decisions from the Past Year:**
   Attendees will be able to summarize and explain the most significant rulings issued by the U.S. Supreme Court over the past year, including their legal reasoning and broader societal impact.
2. **Analyze Trends in Judicial Philosophy and Voting Patterns:**
   Attendees will identify and evaluate shifts in the Court's ideological balance, interpretive approaches (e.g., textualism, originalism), and voting alignments among the justices.
3. **Assess the Legal and Policy Implications of SCOTUS Rulings:**
   Attendees will critically assess how recent Supreme Court decisions affect current and future policy, legislation, and civil liberties across the United States.

Speakers:

Dean Erwin Chemerinsky

Erwin Chemerinsky is Dean and Jesse H. Choper Distinguished Professor of Law, University of California, Berkeley School of Law. Prior to assuming this position he was the founding dean of the University of California, Irvine School of Law, and a professor at Duke Law School, University of Southern California Law School, and DePaul Law School. He is the author of 20 books and over 200 law review articles. His most recent major book, No Democracy Lasts Forever: How the Constitution Threatens the United States, was published in August 2024. He frequently argues appellate cases, including in the United States Supreme Court. In 2022, he was the President of the Association of American Law Schools.

Professor Francesca L. Procaccini

Francesca Procaccini researches and writes about constitutional law and theory. Her scholarship focuses in particular on providing a panoptic view of constitutional rights jurisprudence. By linking up doctrinal moves across a range of rights, her work offers new insights into the nature of rights, the power of judicial review, and the role of courts in constructing and protecting rights.

Professor Procaccini joined the Vanderbilt Law faculty in 2022 after teaching at both Harvard Law School and Yale Law School, where her scholarship primarily focused on the First Amendment freedoms of speech and press. Prior to entering the legal academy, Professor Procaccini was an appellate attorney in the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice, where she litigated civil rights cases in the U.S. Courts of Appeals and the U.S. Supreme Court.

Professor Procaccini earned her law degree cum laude at Harvard Law School, and she is a summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Barnard College. After law school, she was a law clerk for Judge Jerome Farris, then of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Her scholarly articles have been published or are forthcoming in the Virginia Law Review, Cornell Law Review, Duke Law Journal, Fordham Law Review, and Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review. Additionally, her legal analysis appears in media outlets including the New York Times, CNN, NPR, the LA Times, and The Atlantic. In both her first and second years teaching at Vanderbilt, Professor Procaccini won the Hall-Hartman Outstanding Professor award.