

MARTIN W. SYBBLIS
Associate Professor of Law
Emory University School of Law
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Emory University School of Law, Atlanta, GA

Associate Professor of Law, September 2022 – Present (tenure granted 2024)

Assistant Professor of Law, June 2019 – August 2022

Associate Director, Center for International and Comparative Law, July 2024- January 2025

Courses: Contracts; Secured Transactions; Law, Institutions, and Growth (Seminar)

Princeton University, School of Public & International Affairs, Princeton, NJ

Visiting Fellow, July 2022 – June 2023

Princeton University, Department of Sociology, Princeton, NJ

Postgraduate Research Associate, February 2019 – May 2019

University of California, Berkeley School of Law, Center for the Study of Law and Society (CSLS), Berkeley, CA

Visiting Scholar, May 2016 – July 2018

EDUCATION

Princeton University, Department of Sociology, Princeton, NJ

PhD, Sociology, April 2019

Dissertation Committee: Kim Lane Scheppele (Sociology/Law) (Chair); Miguel A. Centeno (Sociology); Kevin E. Davis (Law (New York University School of Law))

MA, Sociology, September 2016

General Exam Areas: Sociology of Law; Political Sociology; Urban Sociology

Distinction in General Exams

Princeton University, Princeton School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton, NJ

MPP (Master in Public Policy), Development Studies, June 2013

University of Michigan Law School, Ann Arbor, MI

JD, December 2003

University of Connecticut, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Storrs, CT

BA, *magna cum laude*, Honors Scholar, Phi Beta Kappa, December 2000

JUDICIAL CLERKSHIP

Hon. Marcia G. Cooke, U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida, Miami, FL, 2004-2005

PUBLICATIONS

- *Banking on Civil Rights* (forthcoming 74 UCLA LAW REVIEW __ (2026) (with H. Timothy Lovelace)
- *Corporate Law as Decolonization* (forthcoming 71(3) UCLA LAW REVIEW __ (2024)) ([Link](#)).
- *Offshore Entanglements*, 57(1) U.C. DAVIS LAW REVIEW 577 (2023) ([Link](#)).
- *Equality Offshore*, 63(8) BOSTON COLLEGE LAW REVIEW 2669 (2022) ([Link](#)).
- *Regulatory Competition and State Capacity*, 13 WILLIAM & MARY BUSINESS LAW REVIEW 189 (2021) ([Link](#)).
- *Law, Growth, and the Identity Hurdle: A Theory of Legal Reform*, 95(4) TULANE LAW REVIEW 867 (2021) ([Link](#)).
- *Introductory Essay: Sub-Nationalism*, 61(8) AMERICAN BEHAVIORAL SCIENTIST 799 (2017) (with Miguel Centeno).
- *A Cross-National Comparison of Sub-National Variation*, 61(8) AMERICAN BEHAVIORAL SCIENTIST 908 (2017) (with Elaine Enriquez and Miguel Centeno).
- *The Functional Threshold of Modern Heritage: Form Versus Function and the Struggle Over Tel Aviv's Concert Hall*, 22(2) INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF HERITAGE STUDIES 145 (2016) (with Nir Mualam).

Edited Volume

- (Co-edited with Miguel Centeno) Special Issue: *The "Sub-National Turn": The Growing Importance and Utility of "Scaling Down"* (61(8) AMERICAN BEHAVIORAL SCIENTIST 799-959 (2017)).

Blog Posts

- *Commercial Law as Freedom Promoting*, Law and Political Economy Blog (February __, 2025), <https://lpeproject.org/authors/martin-w-sybbilis/>.

Future Projects/Works in Progress

- Re-Taking the Measure of Law: Legal Heterodoxy and the World Bank's Business Ready Project (with Kevin E. Davis)
- Banking While Black: The Freedman's Savings and Trust and African American Women's Economic Independence (with H. Timothy Lovelace & Atinuke Adediran)
- Section 1981 of the Civil Rights Act of 1866 and the Pursuit of African American Prosperity
- Theorizing Post-Colonial Responsibility for Former Colonies
- Law, Development, and the African American Business Enterprise in the Early Post-Reconstruction Era

SELECTED ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOPS

- Presenter, *The Impact of Constitutional Frameworks on Crisis Response Capacity: A Comparative Study of the United States and South Africa* (June 27, 2025).
- Presenter, *Colonialism, Public Law, and Private Law*, University of the West Indies—Mona Campus, Kingston, Jamaica, June 17, 2025.
- Presenter, *Corporate Law Forums Outside of Delaware*, University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, Baltimore, Maryland, March 24, 2025.
- Presenter, *Corporate Governance in the Global South*, Panel, George Washington University School of Law, Washington, DC, March 21, 2025.
- Presenter, *Regulatory Competition and State Capacity*, International Business Transactions Seminar, University of Virginia School of Law, Charlottesville, VA, November 11, 2024.
- Commentator, *Cops, Robbers, and Regulators*, Culp Colloquium, Harvard Law School, Cambridge MA, May 30, 2024.
- Presenter, *Corporate Law as Decolonization*, Faculty Workshop, Boston College Law School, Newton, MA, September 18, 2023.
- Presenter, *Corporate Law as Decolonization*, Law & Inequality Workshop, University of Virginia School of Law, Charlottesville, VA, September 7, 2023.
- Presenter, *Corporate Law as Decolonization*, Center for International and Comparative Law, Emory University, Atlanta, GA, September 5, 2023.
- Presenter, *Autonomy & Decolonization*, Law@Princeton Retreat, Princeton University, University Center for Human Values, Princeton, NJ, May 16, 2023.
- Presenter, *Autonomy & Decolonization*, Culp Colloquium, Duke Law School, Durham NC, May 15, 2023.
- Organizer and speaker, *Law, Identity, and Economic Development in the Post-Colonial Era Symposium*, Princeton School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton, NJ, April 21, 2023 (<https://law.emory.edu/news-and-events/releases/2023/05/emory-law-professor-convenes-princeton-university-symposium.html>).
- Presenter, *Autonomy & Decolonization*, University of Georgia School of Law, Athens, GA, March 27, 2023.
- Presenter, *Colonialism, Law, and Economic Identity*, Temple University Beasley School of Law, Philadelphia, PA, November 30, 2022.
- Presenter, *Equality offshore*, Race, Power and Inequality Panel, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, August 25, 2022.
- Presenter (Virtually), *Equality offshore*, Law & Society Annual Conference, Lisbon, Portugal, July 16, 2022.
- Presenter, *Consciously Disadvantaged*, John Mercer Langston Writing Workshop, Emory University School of Law, Atlanta, GA, July 8, 2022.
- Presenter, *Consciously Disadvantaged*, Culp Colloquium, University of Chicago Law School, Chicago, IL, June 13, 2022.
- Presenter (Virtually), *Equality Offshore*, Temple University, Law & Global Development Seminar, Philadelphia, PA, March 2, 2022.

- Presenter (Virtually), *Equality Offshore: The Case Against the Offshore Hatchet*, University of Florida Faculty Workshop, Gainesville, FL, January 31, 2022.
- Presenter, *Regulatory Competition and State Capacity*, Duke University Law School's Law, Identity and Politics Seminar/Workshop, Durham, NC, July 1, 2021.
- Presenter, *Law, Development and Offshore Financial Services*, Culp Colloquium and Emerging Scholars Workshop, Stanford Law School, Stanford, CA, June 8, 2020.
- Presenter, *Context and the Standardization of Commercial Law*, Culp Colloquium and Emerging Scholars Workshop, Stanford Law School, Stanford, CA, June 5, 2018.
- Presenter, *Context and the Standardization of Commercial Law*, Law and Economics Workshop, University of Toronto Faculty of Law, Toronto, ON (Canada) April 10, 2018.
- Presenter, *Context and the Standardization of Commercial Law*, Center for the Study of Law and Society, Visiting Scholars Speakers Series, University of California, Berkeley School of Law, Berkeley, CA, November 17, 2017.
- Commentator, *Law and the Doing Business Indicator*, Eighth Annual John Mercer Langston Writing Workshop, Drexel University School of Law, Philadelphia, PA, July 7, 2017.
- Presenter, *Law and the Doing Business Indicators*, Culp Colloquium and Emerging Scholars Workshop, Duke Law School, Durham, NC, May 19, 2017.
- Presenter, *Global Governance, Indicators, and the Legal Complex: Commercial Law Practice in the British Post-Colonies of Barbados, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago*, University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Faculty of Law's 15th Annual Caribbean Commercial Law Workshop: Celebrating Caribbean Commercial Law, Bridgetown, Barbados, July 24, 2016.
- Presenter, *A Cross-National Comparison of Subnational Variation*, the American Sociological Association Meeting, Chicago, IL, August 24, 2015.
- Presenter, *Embedded Capacity: Territorial Inclusion in a Cross-National Comparison of Sub-National State Capacity*, American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, August 29, 2014.
- Presenter, *Law and Local Government*, Princeton School of Public and International Affairs (SPIA) (formerly the Woodrow Wilson School), Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, May 10, 2013.

RESEARCH GRANTS AND ACADEMIC AWARDS

- Emory University, Center for Faculty Development and Excellence, Scholarly Writing and Publishing Fund Award, 2022
- Princeton University's Dean's Dissertation Completion Fellowship, 2018-2019
- Princeton University's Harold W. Dodds Fellowship for distinguished academic work, 2017-18
- Princeton University Institute for International and Regional Studies (PIIRS), summer research grant, 2016
- Princeton University, Sociology Department, summer research grant, 2016
- University of Michigan Law School, Top 15%, Legal Research and Writing, 2001
- Connecticut Legislature, Outstanding Education Achievement Award, 2000

SELECTED LEADERSHIP, PUBLIC SERVICE & AWARDS

- Class Representative, Woodrow Wilson School, Master in Public Policy class (2012-2013)
- Mentor, College Advisor Program, University of Connecticut College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, 2011-2012
- Honoree, Pro Bono Recognition (for affordable housing representation), Lawyers Clearinghouse (20th Anniversary Ceremony), 2008
- Member, University of Connecticut Alumni Scholarship Committee, 2008
- Board Member, University of Michigan Club of Greater Boston, 2006-2007
- McCullough Student Leadership Award, University of Connecticut, 2000
- University of Connecticut Board of Trustees Leadership Award, University of Connecticut, 2000
- Black Law Students' Association Outstanding Faculty Member of the Year (2026)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

World Bank, (Short-Term) Consultant

Washington, DC (2012)

Served on Coordination Secretariat for the Caribbean Growth Forum (CGF), an initiative led by the World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), and other international financial institutions (IFIs) to identify laws, policies, and initiatives to induce economic growth and create jobs in the Caribbean region. Directed legal and procurement matters for Coordination Secretariat, including negotiations in connection with key Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) among IFIs regarding each institution's commitment and responsibility for CGF. Liaised with multiple IFIs to ensure involvement of appropriate private sector, civil society, and academic stakeholders for key discussions on Caribbean economic growth.

Miami-Dade County Attorney's Office, Assistant County Attorney

Miami, FL (2007-2011)

Served as in-house counsel for inter-governmental affairs, municipal finance and business transactions for Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners and Office of the Mayor. Provided legal advice on all aspects of the County's governance, including constitutional, administrative, procurement, property, real estate, civil rights, and tort law matters. Negotiated numerous leases and commercial agreements aimed at facilitating economic growth and community redevelopment. Liaised with members of the Florida House and Senate on behalf of the County, and prepared legislation for consideration by Florida State Legislature. Litigated torts and civil rights cases on behalf of County in state and federal court.

Bingham McCutchen LLP (now Morgan Lewis), Associate

Boston, MA (2005-2007)

Advised corporate clients on corporate governance and finance matters, including mergers and acquisitions, initial public offerings, special purpose acquisitions, and technology licensing transactions. Represented leading financial institutions and corporate borrowers in a variety of deals, including secured and unsecured single and multi-lender credit facilities and asset-based lending

facilities. Advised non-profit organizations on incorporation matters and the negotiation of credit agreements.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Emory Law School Service

- Clerkship Committee, 2019-2020
- Curriculum Committee, 2020-2022
- David J. Bederman Lecture Advisory Committee, 2022-2025
- Affiliated Faculty, Center for International and Comparative Law, 2022-Present
- Affiliated Faculty, William and Jane Carney Center for Business and Transactional Law, 2025-present
- Academic Standing and Student Success Committee, 2023-Present
- Dean's Advisory Committee (Elected Member), 2023-Present
- Teaching Awards Committee (Chair), 2024-2025
- Faculty Appointments (Committee Member), 2024-2025

Emory University Service

- Halle Institute for Global Research, Review Committee (Member), 2021-2022; 2023-2024; 2024-2025
- University Senate Budget Priorities Committee (Member) 2025-Present

Bar Admissions:

- State Bars: Florida, Massachusetts and Washington, DC
- Federal Bars: Southern District of Florida and Supreme Court of the United States

Academic & Professional Affiliations:

- Law and Society Association
- American Bar Association

Ad-Hoc Peer Reviewer:

- Journal of Law and Courts, 2017
- International Journal of Heritage Studies, 2016