

Adam B. Sopko

Associate Professor of Law
University of Colorado Law School
Wolf Law Building
2450 Kittredge Loop Drive
Boulder, Colorado 80309

adam.sopko@colorado.edu
Office 481B
303-492-9322
[Faculty profile](#)
[SSRN page](#)

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

University of Colorado Law School

Associate Professor of Law

2025 – present

Courses: State Constitutional Law; State and Local Government; Evidence

University of Wisconsin Law School

Staff Attorney, State Democracy Research Initiative

2022 – 2025

EDUCATION

Northwestern Pritzker School of Law

J.D., cum laude, 2021

- *Northwestern University Law Review*, Editor in Chief, Volume 115
- Barnet & Scott Hodes Prize

Manhattan College

B.S., 2010

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

State Constitutionalism's Fragile Wall

121 NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY LAW REVIEW (forthcoming 2026)

State Courts and the Power Model of Precedent

74 UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS LAW REVIEW (forthcoming 2026)

[The Supervisory Power of State Supreme Courts](#)

98 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LAW REVIEW (forthcoming 2025)

- Cited in BULMAN-POZEN & SEIFTER, STATE CONSTITUTIONAL LAW: CASES, MATERIALS, AND QUESTIONS (2025)

[Invisible Adjudication in State Supreme Courts](#)

102 NORTH CAROLINA LAW REVIEW 1449 (2024)

- Discussed in *Operating in the Shadows Not Limited to High Court*, [Chicago Daily Law Bulletin](#) (Mar. 18, 2024)
- Featured on *State Court Report's* [Scholarship Roundup](#) and Solum's [Legal Theory blog](#)

[Standing for Elections in State Courts](#)

2024 UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS LAW REVIEW 1571 (with Miriam Seifter)

[Catalyzing Judicial Federalism](#)

109 VIRGINIA LAW REVIEW ONLINE 144 (2023)

[Catch and Release Jurisdiction](#)

121 MICHIGAN LAW REVIEW ONLINE 39 (2023)

- Featured by [Center for the Study of Federalism](#)

[Swift Removal](#)

13 FEDERAL COURTS LAW REVIEW 1 (2021)

- Cited in WRIGHT & MILLER, FEDERAL PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE

[Second Amendment Background Principles and Heller's Sensitive Places](#)

29 WILLIAM & MARY BILL OF RIGHTS JOURNAL 161 (2020)

- Cited in INSTITUTE FOR CONSTITUTIONAL ADVOCACY & PROTECTION'S [PROTESTS & PUBLIC SAFETY: A GUIDE FOR CITIES & CITIZENS](#); featured on Solum's Legal Theory [blog](#)

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Gerryshopping (with Emily Lau)

State Supreme Court Policymaking From The Inside Out

REPORTS & WHITE PAPERS

[Election-Litigation Data: 2018, 2020, 2022, 2024 State and Federal Court Filings](#), STATE DEMOCRACY RESEARCH INITIATIVE (Feb. 17, 2025)

[Shadow Shadow Dockets](#), STATE DEMOCRACY RESEARCH INITIATIVE (April 12, 2024)

[Election-Litigation Data: 2018, 2020, 2022 State and Federal Court Filings](#), STATE DEMOCRACY RESEARCH INITIATIVE (Mar. 21, 2023) (with Miriam Seifter)

[Constitutional Norms and State Judicial Confirmations](#), STATE DEMOCRACY RESEARCH INITIATIVE (Jan. 19, 2023)

- Cited in BULMAN-POZEN & SEIFTER, STATE CONSTITUTIONAL LAW: CASES, MATERIALS, AND QUESTIONS (2025)

[Supreme Court of Pennsylvania: 2022 Review and 2023 Preview](#), STATE DEMOCRACY RESEARCH INITIATIVE (Jan. 6, 2023)

COMMENTARY

[Democracy and Election Law at The Pennsylvania Supreme Court](#), PENNSYLVANIA LAWYER (May 2025)

[State Supreme Court 'Shadow Dockets': More Power with Less Transparency](#), STATE COURT REPORT (May 10, 2024)

- Discussed on *Exploring Procedural Justice*, [Texas Appellate Podcast](#) (May 30, 2024)

[Pennsylvania Supreme Court Election Could Shape Direction of State Law](#), STATE COURT REPORT (Oct. 17, 2023)

[A Judiciary by and For the Politicians](#), NEW JERSEY MONITOR (Feb. 27, 2023)

[State Courts Are Fielding Sky-High Numbers of Lawsuits Ahead of The Midterms – Including Challenges to Voting Restrictions and to How Elections Are Run](#), THE CONVERSATION (Oct. 26, 2022) (with Miriam Seifter)

- Syndicated in over a dozen outlets, including *Salon* and *Talking Points Memo*

[The Necessity of Firearm Stores During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#), NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY LAW REVIEW: OF NOTE (Apr. 22, 2020)

[Misguided 'Second Amendment Protection Acts' Have the Opposite Effect of Their Intent](#), BRENNAN CENTER FOR JUSTICE (June 18, 2019) (with Eric Ruben)

CLERKSHIP

Chief Justice Stuart J. Rabner, New Jersey Supreme Court
Law Clerk, September Term 2021

CONFERENCES & PRESENTATIONS

Northwestern Pritzker School of Law, *The Future of State Constitutional Rights*, Nov. 6, 2025
Presenting *State Constitutionalism's Fragile Wall*

University of Kansas, *University of Kansas Law Review Symposium*, Oct. 17, 2025
Presenting *State Courts and The Power Model of Precedent*

Texas A&M School of Law, *Center on the Structural Constitution's Annual Conference*, Sep. 26, 2025
Presenting *State Constitutionalism's Fragile Wall*

University of Pennsylvania Carey School of Law, *State and Local Courts Workshop*, Apr. 10, 2025
Presented *State Supreme Court Policymaking from the Inside Out*

University of Texas–Austin, *Emerging Scholars in Public Law Conference*, Mar. 5, 2025
Presented *The Supervisory Power of State Supreme Courts*

Brennan Center for Justice, *State Constitutions Lab*, Feb. 27, 2025
Presented *The Supervisory Power of State Supreme Courts*

Rutgers University, *Rutgers University Law Review Symposium*, Oct. 24, 2024
Moderated symposium on role of state constitutions and criminal punishments

Case Western Reserve University *Case Western Reserve Law Review Symposium*, Nov. 3, 2023
Presented *Invisible Adjudication in State Supreme Courts*

University of Illinois, *University of Illinois Law Review Symposium*, Mar. 3, 2023
Co-presented *Standing for Elections in State Courts*

Civil Procedure Podcast, August 1, 2020
Discussed *Swift Removal*

EXPERIENCE

State Democracy Research Initiative, 2022 – 2025
Staff Attorney

MacArthur Justice Center, 2019 – 2021
Student Attorney, Supreme Court and Appellate Program

American Civil Liberties Union, Summer 2020
Legal Intern, Program on Freedom of Religion and Belief

Brennan Center for Justice, Summer 2019
Legal Intern, Second Amendment Project

FTI Consulting, 2010 – 2017

BAR ADMISSION

New Jersey (2021)