

Spencer Williams

California Western School of Law
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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

California Western School of Law

Professor of Law, 2025-present

Associate Professor of Law, 2024-2025

Golden Gate University School of Law

Associate Professor, 2019-2024

Stanford Law School

Fellow and Lecturer in Law, Program on Corporate Governance and Practice, 2016-2019

EDUCATION

Stanford Law School

Juris Doctor, 2014

- Class Prizes for Outstanding Performance in Corporations, Contracts, Property, and Federal Litigation
- *Student Attorney*, Stanford Youth and Education Law Project

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Bachelor of Science, Economics and Management Science, 2011

- The Phi Beta Kappa Society, GPA: 5.0/5.0

ACADEMIC WORKS

After Work: Productivity and Purpose in a Future Without Jobs (work in progress book)

Measuring Legal Reasoning (work in progress)

Earnout Advisor (work in progress with Frank Partnoy and Robert Bishop)

AI Boilerplate (work in progress)

Automating Exam Grading (work in progress)

Proceedings of the 2025 Workshop on Law-Following AI, co-authored with O’Keefe et al., Institute for Law & AI, Lawfare (May 8, 2026)

Algorithmic Price Gouging in THE CAMBRIDGE HANDBOOK OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND THE LAW (Cambridge University Press, forthcoming 2026)

Layered Alignment, 23 UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE LAW REVIEW 301 (2025)

Contractual Complexity, 48 DELAWARE JOURNAL OF CORPORATE LAW 325 (2025)

Generative Contracts, 56 ARIZONA STATE LAW JOURNAL 1503 (2024)

LegalBench: A Collaboratively Built Benchmark for Measuring Legal Reasoning in Large Language Models, co-authored with Guha et al., 37th Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS 2023)

Edge Contracts, 25 UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA JOURNAL OF BUSINESS LAW 839 (2023)

Contract Maps, 91 UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-KANSAS CITY LAW REVIEW 343 (2022)

Contracts as Systems, 45 DELAWARE JOURNAL OF CORPORATE LAW 219 (2021)

Predictive Contracting, 2019 COLUMBIA BUSINESS LAW REVIEW 621

Venture Capital Contract Design: An Empirical Analysis of the Connection Between Bargaining Power and Venture Financing Contract Terms, 23 FORDHAM JOURNAL OF CORPORATE & FINANCIAL LAW 105 (2017)

- Cited in *Basbo Technologies Holdco B LLC v. Georgetown Basbo Investors LLC*, C.A. No. 11802-VCL (Del. Ch. July 6, 2018)

COURSES

Contracts, 2019-Present

Business Organizations, 2020-Present

Corporate Governance and Practice, Stanford Law School, 2016-2019

Private Equity Investing and Quantitative Methods, Stanford Law School, 2014

Deals, Stanford Law School, 2012-2013

Molecular Biology, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 2010-2011

ACCOLADES

2023 Justice Jesse W. Carter Faculty Scholarship Award, Golden Gate University School of Law

Nominee, American Law Institute Early Career Scholars Award (2022)

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati

Associate (Palo Alto), Corporate and Securities, 2014-2016

Summer Associate (Palo Alto), 2012, 2013

PRESENTATIONS

2026 Workshop on Law-Following AI, Participant, Institute for Law & AI, Jesus College, University of Cambridge

After Work

- First Annual Writers' Retreat, Center for Law & AI Risk, 2026

Measuring Legal Reasoning, SparkAI Consortium Community Roundtable, San Diego Supercomputer Center, University of California San Diego, 2026

Regulating the Future: Jobs, National Security, and Reskilling, Moderator, San Diego Global AI Regulation Workshop, California Western School of Law, 2026

2025 Workshop on Law-Following AI, Participant, Institute for Law & AI, Christ's College, University of Cambridge

AI Boilerplate

- Contracts and Business Law Panel, Panelist, National Business Law Scholars Conference, University of California Los Angeles, 2025

Governance of AI Panel, Panelist, Law and Entrepreneurship Association Conference, UC Law San Francisco, 2024

Layered Alignment

- Contract Law Panel, Panelist, National Business Law Scholars Conference, University of California Davis, 2024
- Cocktail Napkin Series, Presenter, California Western School of Law, 2024

Contractual Complexity

- New Approaches to Contract Theory Panel, Panelist, 16th International Conference on Contracts, Texas A&M University School of Law, 2023
- Faculty Scholarship Series, Presenter, Golden Gate University School of Law, 2023

Edge Contracts

- Contract Law at the Edge of Technology Panel, Panelist, 16th International Conference on Contracts, Texas A&M University School of Law, 2023
- Blockchain Litigation Update – Improving Access to Justice?, Panelist, Blockchain Law for Social Good Conference, Golden Gate University School of Law, 2022
- Faculty Scholarship Series, Presenter, Golden Gate University School of Law, 2022

Doctrinal Explorations Panel, Moderator, 16th International Conference on Contracts, Texas A&M University School of Law, 2023

Social Equity 3.0: Using Oracles, Digital Wallets, NFTs and Smart Contracts to Deliver Restitution for Equal Protection Violations During Cannabis Prohibition, Panelist, Using Blockchain to Build a Decentralized, Self-Regulating, and Equitable Cannabis Economy, Practising Law Institute, San Francisco, 2023

The DAO of Cannabis Reform: Can the Cannabis Industry Regulate Itself through Smart Contracts?, Panelist, Using Blockchain to Build a Decentralized, Self-Regulating, and Equitable Cannabis Economy, Practising Law Institute, San Francisco, 2023

Contract Maps

- Law, Accounting and Business Workshop, Presenter, University of California Berkeley, 2021
- Contract Law Panel, Panelist, National Business Law Scholars Conference, University of Tennessee College of Law, 2021
- Bay Area Transactional Scholars Workshop, Presenter, UC Law San Francisco, 2021
- Faculty Scholarship Series, Presenter, Golden Gate University School of Law, 2021

Algorithmic Price Gouging

- Cambridge University Press Research Handbook on Artificial Intelligence and the Law Symposium, Panelist, 2021
- Algorithms Panel, Panelist, National Business Law Scholars Conference, University of Tennessee College of Law, 2021
- Northern California Junior Faculty Workshop, Presenter, University of California Davis, 2021
- Bay Area Transactional Scholars Workshop, Presenter, UC Law San Francisco, 2021
- Consumer Protection and Finance Panel, Panelist, Business Scholarship Podcast Annual Symposium “Financial and Corporate Regulation in the Biden Administration,” Online, 2020
- Faculty Scholarship Series, Presenter, Golden Gate University School of Law, 2021

Emerging Issues with Technology and the Law Panel, Moderator, National Business Law Scholars Conference, University of Tennessee College of Law, 2021

GameStop’s Rise to Fortune 500, Panelist, Golden Gate University School of Law, 2021

Contracts as Systems

- Business Scholarship Podcast, Guest, Episode 72, Online, 2020
- Business and Contract Law Panel, Panelist, National Business Law Scholars Conference, Online, 2020
- Faculty Scholarship Series, Presenter, Golden Gate University School of Law, 2020

Business Law and Technology Panel, Moderator, National Business Law Scholars Conference, Online, 2020

Contracts Panel, Moderator, National Business Law Scholars Conference, University of California Berkeley, 2019

Northern California Junior Faculty Workshop, Discussant, UC Law San Francisco, 2019

Predictive Contracting,

- Contract Design Seminar, Presenter, University of California Berkeley, 2019
- Bay Area Transactional Scholars Workshop, Presenter, Stanford Law School, 2018

The Changing Legal Landscape of Cannabis, Panelist, UC Law San Francisco, 2016

COMMITTEES & INITIATIVES

Co-Director, Business Law Concentration, California Western School of Law, 2025-Present

Secretary, Faculty Executive Committee, California Western School of Law, 2025-Present

Member, Faculty Development Committee, California Western School of Law, 2024-2025, 2026-Present

Member, Academic Affairs Committee, California Western School of Law, 2025-Present

Member, Finance Committee, California Western School of Law, 2025-Present

Member, Appointments Committee, California Western School of Law, 2025

Faculty Director, Business Law Specialization, Golden Gate University School of Law, 2022-2024

Member, Law Library Committee, Golden Gate University School of Law, 2022-2024

Member, JD Flex Committee, Golden Gate University School of Law, 2020-2024

Faculty Advisor, Students for Sensible Drug Policy, Golden Gate University School of Law, 2020-2024

Member, Appointments Committee, Golden Gate University School of Law, 2021-2022

Member, Vice President of Institutional Advancement Search Committee, Golden Gate University, 2020-2021

Member, Hybrid Online Education Committee, Golden Gate University School of Law, 2019-2020