

Dr. Mark W. Denniston

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Education

Ph.D., University of Colorado at Boulder (2012), Political Science
Fields: American Politics, Political Theory, International Relations
M.A., University of Colorado at Boulder (2007), Political Science
J.D., University of Iowa College of Law (2000)
B.A., Simpson College, Indianola, Iowa (1997)
Majors: Political Science, History, German; Minor: Economics

Academic Appointments

Associate Professor, Weber State University, 2019 – present

Assistant Professor, Weber State University, 2013 – 2019

Teaching undergraduate criminal justice classes in Constitutional Rights, State CJ Rights, Laws of Evidence, Criminal Law and Courts, and Introduction to Criminal Justice as well as several Master's level courses. I am also an academic and pre-law advisor.

Visiting Lecturer, University of Denver, 2012 – 2013

Implemented Constitutional Convention simulations in my American Politics classes and U.S. Supreme Court simulations for my Constitutional Law classes to promote student engagement with timely political and legal issues.

Instructor, University of Colorado, 2007 – 2013

Taught courses across a variety of American politics topics.

Instructor, Colorado State University, 2011 – 2012

Taught classes including Constitutional Law, American Political Theories, History of Political Thought, and Current World Problems while assisting two GTAs prepare their first lectures for my Current World Problems class.

Lecturer, Regis University, 2010 – 2011

Taught courses on U.S. Elections, Constitutional Law and Civil Liberties, as well as Courts and Judicial Process.

Professional Experience

Attorney, Stuyvesant & Benton Law Firm, Carlisle, Iowa, 2002 – 2005

Practiced law primarily in criminal defense, domestic relations and probate areas. Responsible for prosecuting violations of city ordinances as Assistant City Attorney for the cities of Pella, Knoxville, Carlisle, and Pleasantville.

Law Clerk, Justice Jerry L. Larson of the Iowa Supreme Court, 2000 - 2002

Researched cases and authored memoranda synthesizing my research and the arguments from the parties' briefs. Edited opinions drafted by Justice Larson. Screened applications for further review from decisions of the Iowa Court of Appeals.

Teaching

Weber State University

Master's level:

- Legal Foundations of Criminal Justice (2014-2022)
- Contemporary Legal Issues (2020-2022)
- Judicial Administration (2020)
- Supreme Court in 2019 (2019)

4000 level:

- Constitutional Rights (2013-2022)
- State Criminal Justice Rights (2017-2022)

2000 level:

- Laws of Evidence (2014-2022)

1000 level:

- Criminal Law and Courts (2013-2022)
- Introduction to Criminal Justice (2013-2016)

University of Denver

- Constitutional Law & Politics (2013)
- Political Inquiry (2013)
- Courts and Judicial Process (2013)
- Civil Rights and Liberties (2012)
- Introduction to American Politics (2012-2013)

University of Colorado at Boulder

- Introduction to Legal Process (2013)
- Campaigns and Elections (2007, 2008, 2010)
- State Government and Politics (2008, 2011)
- The American Political System (2009, 2010)

Colorado State University, Ft. Collins

- American Constitutional Law (2012)
- History of Political Thought (2012)
- American Political Theories (2011)
- Current World Problems (2011)

Regis University, Denver

- Courts and Judicial Process (2011)
- Constitutional Law: Civil Rights and Liberties (2011)
- U.S. Elections and Political Behavior (2010)

University of Colorado at Boulder (assisted with these courses as a Teaching Assistant)

- Survey of Western Political Thought (2012)
- Constitutional Law (2006-11)
- Environment and Public Policy (2007)
- American Presidency (2006)

Certificate in College Teaching, Graduate Teacher Program at CU Boulder (2012)

Publications

Denniston, Mark, Bruce Bayley, Molly Sween, and David R. Lynch. (2021). *Seven Deadly Sins: Constitutional Rights and the Criminal Justice System*. (2nd ed). Durham: Carolina Academic Press.

Denniston, Mark and Christoffer Binning. (2019). The Role of State Constitutionalism in Determining Juvenile Life Sentences. *Georgetown Journal of Law and Public Policy*, 17(2) (Summer).

Denniston, Mark W. (2014) *Dialogue Among State Supreme Courts: Advancing State Constitutionalism*. LFB Scholarly Publishing: El Paso.

Conference Presentations

Denniston, Mark W., Jennifer Noble, Stephanie Mizrahi and Ryan Getty. (2019). "Coming Soon: the 2019-2020 U.S. Supreme Court Term." Panel Discussion at the Western Association of Criminal Justice Conference, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

Schurbush, Kim, Mark Denniston, Ryan Getty, Jennifer Noble and Stephanie Mizrahi. (2018). "Coming Soon: the 2018-2019 Term of the U.S. Supreme Court." Panel Discussion at the Western Association of Criminal Justice Conference, Las Vegas, Nevada.

Mizrahi, Stephani, Mark W. Denniston, Jennifer Noble and Ryan Getty. (2017). "Coming Soon: the 2017-2018 U.S. Supreme Court Term." Panel Discussion at the Western Association of Criminal Justice Conference, Spokane, Washington.

Denniston, Mark W. and David R. Lynch. (2016). "The Supreme Court and Criminal Justice Reform 2015-2016 Term" Panel Discussion at the Western Association of Criminal Justice Conference, Las Vegas, Nevada.

Denniston, Mark W. (2011). "When the U.S. Supreme Court is Not the Last Word: Dialogue Between State Supreme Courts and its Role in State Constitutionalism." Presented at the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, Illinois.

Denniston, Mark W. (2010). "A Dialogue of Equals: The Role of State Supreme Courts in Defining the Meaning of our American Constitutional Structure." Presented at the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, Illinois.

Dissertation

Denniston, Mark W. (2012). "When the U.S. Supreme Court is Not the Last Word: Dialogue Between State Supreme Courts and Its Role in State Constitutionalism." Committee: John P. McIver (Advisor and Committee Chair), Vanessa A. Baird, Kenneth Bickers, Frank Colucci, Scott A. Moss.

Law Review Note

Denniston, Mark W. (2000). "Correcting Past Mistakes: the Blaine Amendment, Stare Decisis, and the Supreme Court's Parochial School Funding Decisions."

Awards

Robert S. Hunt Legal History Award, University of Iowa, 2000

Campus Talks and Speeches

Panel discussion commenting on the law and implications of the events depicted in the play *Judgment at Nuremberg* on stage prior to its performance. (2016, Oct. 15). Weber State University, Browning Center Auditorium.

Introductory remarks at Amnesty International meeting regarding “Human Rights, Structural Injustice and Activism” prior to performance by poet Hakim Bellamy (2015, Sept. 9). Weber State University, Wildcat Theater.

Interviews

Interviewed for KSL NewsRadio segment regarding, regarding qualified immunity and Supreme Court vacancy, conducted Friday, September 25, 2020.

Interviewed for *Wildcat* alumni magazine article. (Fall 2019): “Free Speech, Hate Speech and a History of the First Amendment.” Pages 22-26.

Interviewed for *Standard-Examiner* article dated February 10, 2017: "Hoping to Fire Trump? Don't Hold Your Breath, Political Scientists Say."

Interviewed for *Standard-Examiner* article dated May 23, 2016: "What is the Definition of Porn in Utah? It is Not Exactly Clear."

Interviewed for *Standard-Examiner* article June 26, 2015 “WSU Scholar Points to ‘Dignity’ References in Ruling.”

Interviewed for *Signpost* article June 26, 2015 “U.S. Supreme Court Legalizes Same-Sex Marriage.”

Academic Service

WSU Admissions, Standards and Student Affairs Committee. Chair 2016 – 2018; 2022 – present. Member 2015 – 2021; 2022 – present.

WSU University Planning Committee. August 2021 – present.

WSU Faculty Senate. August 2016 – Dec. 2021.

WSU Pre-Law Association. Advisor. August 2015 – present.

College of Social and Behavior Sciences Strategic Planning Committee. 2015 – 2017

Criminal Justice Department Advising and Outreach Committee. March 2018 – present

Criminal Justice Department Assessment Committee. Aug. 2014 – May 2019.

Criminal Justice Department Concurrent Enrollment Liaison. Fall 2013 – May 2021.