

# Z. PAYVAND AHDOUT

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## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA SCHOOL OF LAW, July 2021 – Present

Associate Professor of Law

Courses: Federal Courts

Separation of Powers in the Federal Courts

Congress, Oversight, & the Separation of Powers

Public Law Colloquium

COLUMBIA LAW SCHOOL, January 2018 – June 2021

Academic Fellow

Columbia Fellow

NYU SCHOOL OF LAW, September – December 2016

Research Fellow

## CLERKSHIPS & GOVERNMENT SERVICE

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HON. RUTH BADER GINSBURG, SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

*Law Clerk*, October Term 2015

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR GENERAL

*Bristow Fellow*, October Term 2014

HON. DEBRA ANN LIVINGSTON, U.S. COURT OF APPEALS, SECOND CIRCUIT

*Law Clerk*, August 2013 – July 2014

## EDUCATION

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COLUMBIA LAW SCHOOL, J.D., 2013

Honors: Ruth Bader Ginsburg Prize for outstanding academic achievement in all three years

James Kent Scholar for outstanding academic achievement (2010–13)

Wilfred Feinberg Prize for academic excellence in an area related to federal courts

Activities: *Columbia Law Review* Vols. 112, 113

THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA, B.A. in Economics and Government, *Highest Distinction*, 2010

Honors: *Phi Beta Kappa*

Jefferson Scholar (full four-year, merit-based scholarship)

Echols Scholar (honors program)

Raven Society (honor society)

## PUBLICATIONS & WORKS IN PROGRESS

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*Political Mootness*, 111 VA. L. REV. 841 (2025)

*Layered Constitutionalism*, [124 COLUM. L. REV. 1295](#) (2024)

(with Bridget Fahey)

*Separation-of-Powers Avoidance*, [132 YALE L.J. 2360](#) (2023)

AALS Federal Courts Section Prize for best article by an untenured professor (2024)

Reviewed by Fred O. Smith, Jr., *Balancing Act: The Federal Judiciary as Both Arbiter and Participant Constitutional Structure*, JOTWELL (December 14, 2023)

*Enforcement Lawmaking and Judicial Review*, [135 HARV. L. REV. 937](#) (2022)

*Beyond The Notorious: A Tribute To My Justice*, [121 COLUM. L. REV. 577](#) (2021)

*Direct Collateral Review*, [121 COLUM. L. REV. 159](#) (2021)

Reviewed by Thomas Bennett, *Habeas, Hail Mary, and the Hook and Ladder*, JOTWELL (June 7, 2021)

Cited by *May v. Shinn*, 37 F.4<sup>th</sup> 552, 2022 WL 2092569 (9th Cir. 2022) (Block, J., concurring)

“Neutral” *Gray Briefs*, [43 FORDHAM INT’LL.J. 128](#) (2020) (invited contribution)

## SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

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### *Political Mootness*

- NYU Law Faculty Workshop (February 2025)
- UVa Law Faculty Workshop (January 2025)
- University of Chicago Law School, Public Law Colloquium (January 2025)
- Minnesota Law School, Public Law Colloquium (November 2024)
- Yale Law School, Public Law Colloquium (September 2024)
- Northwestern Public Law Colloquium (April 2024)
- Junior Federal Courts Workshop, GW School of Law (March 2024)
- Duke Law Bolch Institute Workshop (December 2023)
- Judicial Decisionmaking Symposium, Wash. U. (September 2023)

### *Layered Constitutionalism*

- Wisconsin State Democracy Research Initiative Roundtable (April 2024)
- NYU Constitutional Law Colloquium (October 2023)

*Managerial Judges @ 40*, Yale Law School, Commentator (November 2022)

### *Separation-of-Powers Avoidance*

- UT Austin Faculty Workshop (September 2022)
- UVa Law Faculty Workshop (September 2022)
- Roundtable on Federalism, the Courts & the Constitution, William & Mary Law School (July 2022)
- Civil Procedure Workshop, Cardozo Law School (May 2022)
- U.C. Berkeley Colloquium on Courts and Judicial Process (April 2022)
- National Conference of Constitutional Law Scholars, The Rehnquist Center at the University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law (online) (February 2022)

*Enforcement Lawmaking and Judicial Review* (previously titled *Separation-of-Powers Suits*)

- The University of Virginia School of Law (2020)
- Northwestern Pritzker School of Law (2020)
- Cornell Law School (2020)
- Iowa Law School (2020)
- Utah S.J. Quinney School of Law (2020)
- Cardozo Law School (2020)
- Brooklyn Law School (2020)
- St. John's Law School (2020)
- Columbia A&F Workshop (2020)
- New York Fellows Roundtable (2020)

*June Medical Services & Little Sisters of the Poor*, Public Law Workshop, Columbia Law School (2020)

*The Judicial Power & U.S. Foreign Affairs*, Fordham Law School (2020)

*Direct Collateral Review*

- Junior Federal Courts Conference, Arkansas Law School at Fayetteville (2019)
- Columbia Law School A&F Workshop (2019)

CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY

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Witness, Hearing on Examining Civil Rights Litigation Reform, Part 2: State and Local Government Employer Liability, House Judiciary Committee, Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties (June 9, 2022)

PROFESSIONAL HONORS & AWARDS

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AALS Federal Courts Section Prize for best Article by an untenured professor (2024)  
UVA Research Achievement Honoree (for outstanding research and scholarship) (2023)  
Yale Law Journal Emerging Scholar of the Year (2022)

SERVICE

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Jefferson Scholars Foundation, National Selection Committee  
Jefferson Scholars Foundation, Regional Selection Committee (New York City)  
Karsh Center for Law & Democracy, Affiliated Faculty  
Miller Center for Public Affairs, Faculty Senior Fellow

OTHER LEGAL EXPERIENCE

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KIRKLAND & ELLIS LLP  
*Of Counsel*, January 2019 – March 2021  
*Associate*, January 2017 – January 2019

WACHTELL, LIPTON, ROSEN & KATZ  
*Law Clerk*, September 2012 – May 2013  
*Summer Associate*, May 2012 – August 2012

OFFICE OF THE NEW YORK STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
*Antitrust Bureau Intern*, January 2012 – May 2012

DEWEY & LEBOEUF, LLP  
*Summer Associate*, June 2011 – July 2011

#### BAR ADMISSIONS

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New York State  
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit  
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit  
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit  
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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In 2006, MIT Lincoln Laboratory named a planet “Zimra Payvand Ahdout” for research on a new approach to blend two incompatible polymers.