

2022 Joseph Story Award: Story Chair Remarks

The Joseph Story Award is given annually to a young academic who has demonstrated excellence in legal scholarship, a commitment to teaching, a concern for students, and who has made a significant public impact in a manner that advances the rule of law in a free society. This year's Story Award recipient, Professor Christopher Walker, has all of these qualities in spades.

Professor Walker's administrative law scholarship has extraordinary depth and breadth. It uses a wide range of methodologies, from empirical studies to doctrinal analysis to interdisciplinary approaches. He writes solo pieces as well as pieces with an extraordinary range of coauthors. In addition to a forthcoming book on "Constraining Bureaucracy Beyond Judicial Review", to be published by Cambridge University Press, his work has appeared in several journals, including the California Law Review, the Duke Law Journal, the George Mason Law Review, the Journal of Empirical Legal Studies, the Notre Dame Law Review, the Ohio State Law Journal, and the Stanford Law Review, just to name a few.

His work has also had a broad impact. His article *Legislating in the Shadows* received the 2016 American Association of Law Schools' Scholarly Papers Competition Award. For the period 2016-2020, he is tied for the twelfth most-cited administrative law scholar – and everyone ranked ahead of him is a decade or more older than he is.

The substance of his work is equally impressive. Professor Walker has conducted a number of empirical studies on the role of agencies in rulemaking and legislating that have reshaped the theoretical and doctrinal debates in the field. His coauthored work on judicial deference doctrines has shed important empirical light on the roles of deference doctrines in constraining agencies and judges. His latest work charting the new world of agency adjudication has been relied on and cited by the U.S. Supreme Court, lower courts, Congress, and agencies—in addition to legal scholars. A general theme in his research is that the field of administrative law fixates too much on courts. Because the vast majority of regulatory actions never make it to court, he argues the field should pay more attention to the various other actors in the system that can constrain and empower administrative action.

Professor Walker's leadership extends outside of his writing. In 2014, he helped the *Yale Journal on Regulation* launch the Notice and Comment blog, which has published nearly 3,000 posts since its launch, receives more than 200,000 unique visitors per year, and has introduced so many new voices and ideas to the field of administrative law and regulatory practice. He also serves as co-editor of Jotwell's Administrative Law Section, which reviews the best scholarship in the field each year, and helped launch the Administrative Law New Scholarship Roundtable, where emerging scholars can present their research and receive feedback from more senior academics. And last year he chaired the American Bar Association's

Section of Administrative Law and Regulatory Practice, an organization of thousands of administrative law scholars, practitioners, and agency lawyers.

Professor Walker also seeks to advance the rule of law and serve the public. In 2017, for instance, he took a leave of absence to work for Senator Orin Hatch on the Senate Judiciary Committee for now-Justice Gorsuch's confirmation hearing. Shortly thereafter, Senator Rob Portman appointed Professor Walker to chair the Ohio Senators' bipartisan judicial advisory commission to help fill federal district court vacancies in Ohio. During his service, ten district court judges were appointed based on the commission's recommendations. Finally, since 2016, Professor Walker has served as one of forty appointed Public Members of the Administrative Conference of the United States—a federal agency that conducts research and makes recommendations to improve the federal administrative state.

In addition to his scholarly achievements and leadership, Professor Walker is beloved by his students. Since 2013, he has served as the faculty advisor for The Ohio State University's Federalist Society chapter—a vibrant chapter that received the James Madison Chapter of the Year in 2017. He also directs Ohio State's Washington DC summer program, in which he has placed more than 150 students in internships in DC. Professor Walker truly cares about student learning in class, and students laud his ability to balance doctrinal learning with Socratic debate. Students describe Professor Walker as “spectacular,” “extremely dedicated,” “deeply engaging,” and the “best prepared professor [that I have had] in my entire academic Career.” As one of them summed it up: “Professor Walker, more than any professor I've ever had, wants his students to succeed—as lawyers, as advocates, as lifelong learners, and, most importantly, as people. ... [H]e devotes the majority of his time to the cause of helping his students in and out of the classroom, from the moment he meets them until long after they graduate. He's a terrific professor and an even better person.”

I am honored to present the 2022 Joseph Story Award to Professor Christopher Walker.