

BENJAMIN L. CAVATARO
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENT

Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law
Visiting Assistant Professor of Law (2022–present)

Courses Taught: Torts; Products Liability; Administrative Law; Business Aspects of Law

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Primary: Torts, Civil Procedure, Administrative Law, Products Liability, Consumer Law
Additional: Remedies, Evidence, Legislation & Regulation

SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS

[*Regulating Guns as Products*](#), 92 GEO. WASH. L. REV. ___ (forthcoming 2024) (job talk)
• Profiled in the Duke Center for Firearms Law’s “[Scholarship Highlight](#)” (June 1, 2023)

[*Interstate Groundwater Law in the Snake Valley: Equitable Apportionment and a New Model for Transboundary Aquifer Management*](#), 2013 UTAH L. REV. 1553 (with Noah Hall)

EXPERIENCE

Covington & Burling LLP Washington, DC
Associate (2016–2022) and Special Counsel (2022)

Law Clerk to Judge John M. Walker, Jr.
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, New Haven, CT (2015–2016)

Law Clerk to Justice Beth Robinson¹
Vermont Supreme Court, Montpelier, VT (2014–2015)

EDUCATION

University of Michigan Law School J.D. *magna cum laude* (2014)
Editor, *Michigan Law Review*
Order of the Coif
President, American Constitution Society for Law & Policy
Irving Stenn, Jr. Award (presented to a graduating student for leadership and contributions to the strength of the Law School)
Best Brief, Henry M. Campbell Moot Court Competition

University of Florida B.A. in Political Science *cum laude* (2011)
Anderson Scholar of High Distinction

¹ Now-Judge Robinson serves on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

Portrait of a Federal Safety Regulator

- [9th Annual Michigan Junior Scholars Conference](#), Ann Arbor, MI (Apr. 2023)
- 9th Annual Shawnee Trail Regional Conference on American Politics and Constitutionalism, Columbia, MO (Apr. 2023) (invited—declined due to schedule conflicts)

Regulating Guns as Products

- Saint Anselm College, Center for Ethics in Society, [Workshop on the Ethics, Law, and Social Science of Self-Defense and Firearms](#), Manchester, NH (Nov. 2022)
- Penn Injury Science Center, Firearm Research Interest Group, Philadelphia, PA (May 2023)

ADMISSIONS TO PRACTICE

Florida

District of Columbia

U.S. Supreme Court

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit

U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida

U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Florida

SELECTED MEMBERSHIPS

American Constitution Society for Law and Policy

International Consumer Product Health and Safety Organization

ICPHSO Diversity & Inclusion Committee (2022–2023)

SELECTED COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT & HONORS

Glass Leadership Institute, Anti-Defamation League (2017–18 class)

Pro Bono Team of the Year Award, Covington & Burling LLP (2022)

Tilden Gardens, Inc. co-operative (Secretary and Deputy Director) (2020–22)

SELECTED OTHER PUBLICATIONS

[Former Clerks' Letter to U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee in Support of Confirmation of Beth Robinson to U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit](#) (Sept. 9, 2021)

[Shutting Down Safety?: CPSC, NHTSA, and EPA Compliance During the U.S. Government Shutdown](#), Covington Alert (Jan. 4, 2019)

[Prison and Jail Grievance Policies: Lessons from a Fifty-State Survey](#) (Oct. 2015), Michigan Law Prison Information Project (with Priyah Kaul et al.)

SELECTED CLES AND OTHER PRESENTATIONS

- “Product Safety in an Era of Connected Products and AI: EU and US Perspectives” (panelist), ICPHSO Annual Meeting, Orlando, FL (Feb. 2023)
- “Litigation Nuts & Bolts: Summary Judgment,” CLE for Covington & Burling LLP (May 2022)

SELECTED CLES AND OTHER PRESENTATIONS (CONTINUED)

- “New Directions in Recall Effectiveness” (panelist), ICPHSO Annual Symposium, National Harbor, MD (Feb. 2022)
- “Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Law,” CLE for Hino Motors, Novi, MI (Nov. 2021)
- “Safety Regulation of Connected/Automated Products,” CLE for TE Connectivity (Sept. 2021)
- “Innovation in the Car Rental Industry: A Discussion of Current Regulatory and Commercial Legal Developments,” CLE for Hertz, Estero, FL (Sept. 2019)

SELECTED REPRESENTATIONS

Florida State Conference of NAACP v. Lee (N.D. Fla.)

Represented civil-rights, voting-rights, and disability-rights organizations in challenge to Florida’s voter suppression law; obtained injunctive and declaratory relief after 14-day trial.

Harding v. Ardoin (5th Cir.)

Represented Louisianans to protect access to vote-by-mail and early voting during pandemic.

City of Los Angeles v. Sessions (later *City of Los Angeles v. Barr*) (C.D. Cal./9th Cir.)

Represented city in successful challenge to conditions unlawfully imposed on local criminal justice grants.

Bread for the City (D.C. Super. Ct., Civ. Div., Landlord-Tenant Branch)

Represented 20+ low-income Washingtonians in landlord-tenant and housing-conditions litigation as “associate on loan” to D.C.-based nonprofit.

Veterans’ Representation (Naval Discharge Review Board)

Obtained discharge-characterization upgrade for former U.S. Marine (an Iraq War veteran), allowing him to obtain vital VA benefits.

Voter Protection Efforts (various jurisdictions)

Drafted anticipatory “rapid response” filings to safeguard voting rights in 2020 election.

HEALTHeSTATE, LLC v. United States & ASM Research, LLC (Ct. Fed. Cl./Fed. Cir.)

Represented third-party defendant in interlocutory appeal.

In re Amazon.com, Inc. (CPSC Docket No. 21-2)

Represented logistics provider in rare CPSC ALJ adjudication on issue of first impression.

Other Product Safety Matters

- Represented manufacturers and distributors before CPSC in 40+ voluntary recalls and defect/noncompliance reports across a range of industries, including life sciences, apparel, consumer electronics, connected devices, household goods, and children’s products.
- Represented automakers and OEMs in NHTSA recalls and investigations.
- Represented clients in congressional inquiries, notice-and-comment rulemaking proceedings, and DOJ civil investigations.
- Led teams of 20+ lawyers and staff in cross-border internal investigations.
- Counseled clients on developing industry-leading compliance programs.