

CHRIS EDELSON
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Washington, D.C. 20015
(646) 704-2447 chredelson@gmail.com

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

American University , Washington, D.C. <i>Assistant Professor</i> , Department of Government (not tenure track)	Fall 2009-present
<i>Director</i> , Politics, Policy and Law Scholars program	Spring 2014-Spring 2018
<i>Fellow</i> , Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies	May 2015-present
<i>Awards:</i>	
University Faculty Award—Outstanding Teaching in a Term Appointment, 2015 (co-recipient)	
SPA 80 for 80 (one of 80 people honored to commemorate 80th anniversary for American University’s School of Public Affairs)	

EDUCATION

Harvard Law School, J.D., 1996

Brandeis University, B.A., History, 1993, *summa cum laude*, Phi Beta Kappa, National Merit Scholar.

PUBLICATIONS

No Watchman in the Night: How Presidential and Congressional Responses to the Coronavirus Pandemic Undermine the Madisonian-Hamiltonian Model of Accountability, Congress & the Presidency (2021).

Sounding the Alarm: Trump’s Emergency Declaration at the Southern Border and Constitutional Failure, Congress & the Presidency, 47:2, 224-254 (February 2020).

How to Keep the Republic (Before It’s Too Late), (book chapter in *Presidential Leadership and the Trump Presidency: Executive Power and Democratic Government*, eds. Charles M. Lamb and Jacob R. Neiheisel, Palgrave Macmillan, 2020).

The Hollowing Out of Youngstown: How Congress and the Courts Can Restore Limits on Presidential Power, Presidential Studies Quarterly, 47, no. 4: 816-830 (December 2017).

Could President Trump Rely on Legal Advice to Order the Offensive Use of Military Force At His Own Discretion? PS: Political Science (October 2017).

Power Without Constraint: The Post 9/11 Presidency and National Security, University of Wisconsin Press (May 2016).

Libya, Syria, ISIS and the Case Against the Energetic Executive, co-authored with Donna Starr-Deelen, *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, 45, no. 3: 581-601 (September 2015).

Emergency Presidential Power: From the Drafting of the Constitution to the War on Terror, University of Wisconsin Press, with foreword by Louis Fisher (October 2013) ([winner of 2014 Crader Family Book Prize in American Values](#)).

In Service to Power: Legal Scholars As Executive Branch Lawyers in the Obama Administration, *Presidential Studies Quarterly* 43, no. 3: 618-640 (September 2013).

Lies, Damned Lies, and Journalism: Why Journalists Are Failing to Vindicate First Amendment Values and How a New Definition of "The Press" Can Help, 91 OREGON LAW REVIEW 527, (December 2012).

Judging in a Vacuum, Or, Once More, Without Feeling: How Justice Scalia's Jurisprudential Approach Repeats Errors Made in Plessy v. Ferguson, 45 AKRON LAW REVIEW 513 (summer 2012).

SELECTED SHORTER WORKS

Book review of Dodds, Graham G. *The Unitary Presidency*, *Presidential Studies Quarterly* (2021).

Book review of Christenson, Dino P. and Douglas L. Kriner. *The Myth of the Imperial Presidency: How Public Opinion Checks the Unilateral Executive*, *Political Science Quarterly* (2021).

After the Chauvin Verdict, We All Must Speak Up Against Those Who Condone Racism and Police Violence, Marketwatch, April 21, 2021, available at https://www.marketwatch.com/story/after-the-chauvin-verdict-the-responsibility-to-speak-out-loudly-against-injustice-rests-with-all-of-us-11619040731?reflink=mw_share_twitter

Our Constitution Has Failed: It's Time for a New One, American Constitution Society, January 8, 2021, available at <https://www.acslaw.org/expertforum/our-constitution-has-failed-its-time-for-a-new-one/>

Impeachment: Two Quotes That Defined the First Day of Public Hearings (appearing with a separate piece by Kirsten Carlson), *The Conversation*, November 13, 2019, available at <https://theconversation.com/impeachment-two-quotes-that-defined-the-first-day-of-public-hearings-126900>

Book review of *Presidential Leadership and National Security: The Obama Legacy and Trump Trajectory*, *Presidential Studies Quarterly* (Spring 2019)

September 11 Through the Eyes of George W. Bush, by Emily O’Keefe, Abdo Publishing, January 2016 (I served as content consultant)

This Disturbing Presidential Election Shows That Democracy Needs Help, Marketwatch, November 8, 2016, available at <http://www.marketwatch.com/story/this-disturbing-presidential-election-shows-that-democracy-needs-help-2016-11-08>

It’s Now Clear Donald Trump Would Abuse the Powers of the Presidency, Marketwatch, October 8, 2016, available at: <http://www.marketwatch.com/story/its-now-clear-donald-trump-would-abuse-the-powers-of-the-presidency-2016-10-08>

Limiting Presidential Power, Baltimore Sun, July 12, 2016 (online), July 13, 2016 (print) available at <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/opinion/oped/bs-ed-presidential-power-20160712-story.html>

How the Next President Could Order the U.S. Into War, Marketwatch, June 1, 2016, available at <http://www.marketwatch.com/story/how-the-next-president-could-order-the-us-into-war-2016-06-01>

Book review of *Power Wars: Inside Obama’s Post-9/11 Presidency*, Congress and the Presidency 43(2): May 2016, available at: <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/07343469.2016.1176847>

Congress Must Weigh in on Sending Troops to Syria, MSNBC.com, April 30, 2016, available at <http://www.msnbc.com/msnbc/analysis-congress-must-weigh-sending-troops-syria>

How a President Trump or Clinton Could Upend the Constitution, Government Executive, April 22, 2016, available at <http://www.govexec.com/oversight/2016/04/how-president-trump-or-clinton-could-upend-constitution/127719/>

Congressional Dysfunction Raises Stakes for Supreme Court Vacancy, American Constitution Society blog, February 23, 2016, available at <http://www.acslaw.org/acsblog/congressional-dysfunction-raises-stakes-for-supreme-court-vacancy>

Election Cycle Creates Unrealistic Expectations for the Presidency, Baltimore Sun (online and in print), February 10 and 11, 2016, available at <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/opinion/oped/bs-ed-impossible-expectations-20160210-story.html>

THE 21ST CENTURY VOTER: WHO VOTES, HOW THEY VOTE, AND WHY THEY VOTE (Guido H. Stempel III and Thomas Hargrove, eds.), ABC-CLIO, Inc.,(2016), contributed entry on separation of powers.

Obama’s Guantanamo Paradox (co-authored with Bob Spitzer), US News & World Report, November 30, 2015, available at <http://www.usnews.com/opinion/blogs/world-report/2015/11/30/obama-should-not-try-to-close-guantanamo-bay-with-an-executive-order>

Expecting Any President to Handle ISIS is a Dangerous Proposition, National Constitution Center blog, November 17, 2015, available at <http://blog.constitutioncenter.org/2015/11/expecting-any-president-to-handle-isis-is-a-dangerous-proposition/>

Why Losing Gracefully Is Essential to Democracy, The Hill (online), July 7, 2015, available at <http://thehill.com/blogs/pundits-blog/the-judiciary/247019-why-losing-gracefully-is-essential-to-democracy>

Charleston, the Confederate Flag, and the States' Rights Myth, American Constitution Society blog, June 19, 2005, available at <https://www.acslaw.org/acsblog/charleston-the-confederate-flag-and-the-states%E2%80%99-rights-myth>

We Must Question the 2016 Candidates On Presidential Power, New Hampshire (Manchester) Union Leader, May 4, 2015, available at <http://www.unionleader.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20150505/OPINION02/150509708>

Election Coverage Shouldn't Just Be About Presidential Race, The Hill (online), April 14, 2015, available at <http://thehill.com/blogs/pundits-blog/presidential-campaign/238701-election-coverage-shouldnt-just-be-about>

Congress Must Limit Obama's Military Adventures, USA Today (online), March 16, 2015, available at <http://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2015/03/15/constitutional-powers-president-war-powers-isis-column/23507203/>

Zivotofsky and the Integrity of the Supreme Court, Constitution Daily (National Constitution Center blog), November 21, 2014, available at <http://blog.constitutioncenter.org/2014/11/zivotofsky-and-the-integrity-of-the-supreme-court/>

What It Means for Congress to Fail to Weigh in On Military Action Against ISIS, American Constitution Society blog, September 29, 2014, available at <https://www.acslaw.org/acsblog/what-it-means-for-congress-to-fail-to-weigh-in-on-military-action-against-isis>

Obama Can't Go It Alone in Iraq, U.S. News & World Report (online), June 20, 2014, available at <http://www.usnews.com/opinion/articles/2014/06/20/congress-shouldnt-let-obama-unilaterally-order-military-action-in-iraq?int=a3fa09>

Obama's Swap for Bergdahl: A Presidential Power Play? Los Angeles Times, June 6, 2014 (print), June 5, 2014 (on line), available at: <http://www.latimes.com/opinion/op-ed/la-oe-edelson-obama-bergdahl-executive-power-20140606-story.html>

President Obama and the Constitutional Power to Declare Peace, Constitution Daily (National Constitution Center blog), March 21, 2014, available at <http://news.yahoo.com/president-obama-constitutional-power-declare-peace-095807025--politics.html>

Obama and the Risk of Unchecked Presidential Power, Constitution Daily (National Constitution

Center blog), March 6, 2014, available at <http://blog.constitutioncenter.org/2014/03/obama-and-the-risk-of-unchecked-presidential-power/>

A Stronger Presidency Is Not the Solution, TPM Cafe, December 23, 2013, available at <http://talkingpointsmemo.com/cafe/book-club-a-stronger-presidency-is-not-the-solution>

Lincoln Comments from 1861 Relevant to Today's Government Shutdown, Constitution Daily (National Constitution Center blog), October 2, 2013, available at <http://blog.constitutioncenter.org/2013/10/lincolns-comments-from-1861-relevant-to-todays-government-shutdown/>

Obama and the Power to Go to War, Los Angeles Times, August 30, 2013, available at <http://articles.latimes.com/2013/aug/30/opinion/la-oe-edelson-obama-syria-military-action-20130830>

Book review of ERIC A. POSNER AND ADRIAN VERMEULE, *THE EXECUTIVE UNBOUND: AFTER THE MADISONIAN REPUBLIC*, in 127 *POLITICAL SCIENCE QUARTERLY* 311 (2012), available at <http://www.psqonline.org/article.cfm?IDArticle=18935> (password required).

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

*April 2007
through August 2009*

Human Rights Campaign

Washington, D.C.

State Legislative Director

Implemented state legislative strategy for largest national LGBT civil rights organization. Gave interviews to media regarding current legislative issues. Made presentations at conferences and events.

*February 2006
through April 2007*

Human Rights Campaign

Washington, D.C.

Open Society Institute Fellow

Created curriculum on courts and LGBT rights, including written guide and DVD, for use with high school and college students. Taught curriculum to classes of high school and college students.

*March 2002
through February 2006*

Chao & Edelson, L.L.C.

New York, N.Y.

Principal

Founding member of law firm with main practice area in employment discrimination litigation.

*March 2001
through March 2002*

Liddle & Robinson, L.L.P.

New York, N.Y.

Associate

Represented plaintiffs in employment litigation.

November 2000

Gebhardt & Associates, L.L.P.

Washington, D.C.

<i>through March 2001 and September 1996 through October 1997</i>	<i>Associate</i> Represented plaintiffs in employment discrimination litigation.
<i>November 1998 through November 2000</i>	Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld L.L.P. Washington, D.C. <i>Associate</i> Represented defendants in labor and employment litigation.
<i>October 1997 through November 1998</i>	Collier Shannon Rill & Scott, PLLC Washington, D.C. <i>Associate</i> Represented plaintiffs and defendants in employment litigation.

INVITED LECTURES/PRESENTATIONS

“The Authoritarian Challenge to Liberal Democracy in the United States”, Newton South High School (MA), February 23, 2021 (online)

“The Unaccountable Presidency: How the US Response to the Coronavirus Pandemic Reveals A Breakdown in the Constitutional System”, Southern Political Science Association, January 8, 2021 (online)

“Trump, Presidential Power and the Constitution” (discussant), American Political Science Association, September 12, 2020. (online)

“Power without Constraint: the post-9/11 Presidency and National Security”, Lafayette (LA) Public Library, May 1, 2019 (online)

“How to Keep the Republic (Before It’s Too Late): Why a New Constitution is Necessary to Strengthen Liberal Democracy in the United States,” American Political Science Association, August 31, 2018. (Boston).

“The Trump Administration’s Challenge to Constitutional Democracy,” Conference on Cultural Diplomacy in the UN, American University, February 26, 2018..

“The Trump Administration’s Challenge to Constitutional Democracy,” North Carolina Central University, February 15, 2018 (Durham, North Carolina).

“Trump is (Un)doing More Than You Think,” American University, November 29, 2017.

“The Trump Administration’s Challenge to Constitutional Democracy,” George Mason University, October 12, 2017 (Fairfax, Virginia).

“Trump’s Challenge to Constitutional Democracy,” American University, January 18, 2017.

“The Hollowing Out of Youngstown Sheet: How Congress and the Courts Can Restore Limits on Presidential Power,” Southern Political Science Association, January 12, 2017 (New Orleans).

“Can the Next President Unilaterally Take the United States to War? The Scope and Limits of Presidential National Security Power in the 21st Century,” American University, October 26, 2016.

“Breaking the Cycle of Unrestrained Presidential National Security Power,” American Political Science Association, September 1, 2016 (Philadelphia).

“Power without Constraint: The Post 9/11 Presidency and National Security,” Politics & Prose bookstore, Washington, D.C., May 14, 2016.

“Current Issues Involving the U.S. and War Power,” American University (presentation to group from Osher Institute), April 28, 2016.

“Assessing the Bush and Obama Post 9/11 Presidencies: Continuity, Change and the Future of National Security Power”, Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies, American University, March 3, 2016.

“The Obama Administration and the Use of Military Force: John Yoo By Another Name?”, American Political Science Association, September 6, 2015 (San Francisco).

“The Obama Administration: Legal Issues Involving the Use of Military Force.” Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies, American University, April 23, 2015.

“Immigration Reform Task Force Meeting—Reaction to U.S. District Court Decision on Executive Action Regarding Undocumented Immigrants,” National Association of Counties, February 23, 2015 (Washington, D.C.).

“Grand Illusion: Barack Obama, Presidential National Security Power, and the Rule of Law,” Southern Political Science Association annual meeting, January 15, 2015 (New Orleans).

“The Constitution, Immigration, and Executive Powers,” National Constitution Center (podcast with Lou Fisher and Jeff Rosen), November 2014 (online).

“Supreme Court Preview, 2014-15 Term”: American University (panel discussion sponsored by School of Public Affairs), October 2014.

“Presidential Policies on Terrorism: from Ronald Reagan to Barack Obama”: Residence of Belgian Ambassador, May 13, 2014 (Washington, D.C.)

“A Symposium on Privacy and Security”: UCLA Department of Political Science and School of Law, April 25, 2014.

“Emergency Presidential Power: From the Drafting of the Constitution to the War on Terror”: National Constitution Center, February 4, 2014 (Philadelphia).

“Emergency Presidential Power”: Politics & Prose, January 11, 2014 (Washington, D.C.).

“Emergency Presidential Power”: Brookings Institution, November 2013 (Washington, D.C.).

“Supreme Court Preview, 2013-14 Term”: American University (panel discussion sponsored by School of Public Affairs), October 2013.

“Emergency Presidential Power and the Constitution”: American University, Politics, Policy and Law program, October 2013.

Briefing on U.S. Constitution for members of Israeli delegation of youth activists visiting the U.S. at invitation of U.S. Department of State: Meridian International Center, June 2012 (Washington, D.C.).

Briefing on U.S. Constitution for members of Czech delegation of scientists visiting the U.S. at invitation of U.S. Department of State: Meridian International Center, April 2012 (Washington, D.C.).

Briefing on U.S. Constitution for members of Polish delegation of law enforcement officials visiting the U.S. at invitation of U.S. Department of State: Meridian International Center, February 2012 (Washington, D.C.).

“Moving Beyond Racial Blindsight? The Influence of Social Science Evidence After the North Carolina Racial Justice Act”: Michigan State University College of Law (presentation and panel discussion with other panelists), April 2011.

“Focus on Immigration: The Immigration Debate and SB 1070”: American University, (panel discussion sponsored by University Honors Program), October 2010.

“D.C. and Gay Marriage: ‘Til Congress Do Us Part”, American University, Washington College of Law (panel discussion with Prof. Nancy Polikoff), November 2009.

“Marriage Equality: An Update”, American Constitution Society (panel discussion with Ariela Dubler, Christopher Landau, Camilla Taylor), June 2009 (Washington, D.C.).

“State Same-Sex Marriage Amendments”, Howard University School of Law, March 2009.

“Hate Crimes Against Sexual Minorities: Tolerance, Legislative Policy and the Individual”, Washington and Lee University School of Law, September 2008.

“Justice for All: LGBT People and the Courts”, University of Baltimore, October 2007.

MANUSCRIPT REVIEWER

Congress and the Presidency
Cornell University Press

Georgetown University Press
Oxford University Press
NYU Press
Polity
Diplomacy and Statecraft
Presidential Studies Quarterly