

Pei “Leo” Yu

972-876-9823 · peiy@smu.edu · Dallas, Texas

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENT

Southern Methodist University, Dedman School of Law

Dallas, TX

Clinical Professor of Legal Research, Writing and Advocacy (long-term contract), July 2021 ~ Present

Courses Taught at SMU: Civil Rights Litigation, Perspectives of the American Legal System, Legal Writing & Research for International LL.Ms, Asian American Jurisprudence.

Selected University and Law School Service: Graduate Studies Committee (Member), Diversity Committee (Member); Public Service Committee (Member); University Asian American Faculty Association (Treasurer); American Constitution Society (Faculty Advisor); Asian American and Pacific Islander Law Students Association (Faculty Advisor).

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS & WORKS IN PROGRESS

From Criminalizing China to Criminalizing the Chinese (55 COLUMBIA HUMAN RIGHTS L. REV. __, forthcoming 2024) (job talk paper).

- *Selected Workshops:* The Equality Law Scholars’ Forum (reviewers: Angela Onwuachi-Willig, Robert Chang), AALS/ACS Junior Scholars’ Forum (reviewers: Sahar Aziz, Lisa Heinzerling), Law & Society Convention (reviewer: Angela Harris).

Piercing the Procedural Veil of Qualified Immunity: From the Guardians of Civil Rights to the Guardians of States’ Rights (WASHINGTON & LEE LAW REVIEW, forthcoming 2024, SSRN Top Ten List of Young Law Scholars).

The Revival of the Alien Land Laws: When Interests No Longer Converge (work-in-progress, selected for presentation at the 2023 Biennial LatCrit Conference and the Equality Law Scholars Forum of 2023).

Much More Foreign, and Much More Black: A New Racial Triangulation of Asian Americans (work-in-progress).

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

[*Banning Chinese from Buying Land Has a Racist Past*](#), Op-Ed, HOUSTON CHRONICLE (January 2023).

[*Proposed Texas Ban on Chinese Home Ownership Grounded in Nothing but Hate*](#), Op-Ed, SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST (Hong Kong) (February 2023).

[*TikTok Is Targeted in The US For Being Chinese. Not for What It Has or Has Not Done*](#), Op-Ed, SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST (Hong Kong), (March 2023).

[*Home Is Where We Unite – A Look at a Classic Fourth Amendment Issue*](#), Texas Bar Journal, Vol. 84, No. 11 (December 2021).

TEACHING INTERESTS

Primary: Civil Procedure, Civil Rights Litigation, Criminal Law, Critical Race Theory, Asian American Jurisprudence, Citizenship & Immigrants’ Rights.

Secondary: Constitutional Law, International Comparative Law, Legislation & Regulation, Evidence, Introduction to the American Legal System (for Int’l LL.Ms), Professional Responsibility.

EDUCATION

Southern Methodist University, Dedman School of Law

Dallas, TX

Juris Doctor, December 2015

Southern Methodist University, Dedman School of Law

Dallas, TX

LL.M – International Comparative Law, May 2013

University of Central Oklahoma

Edmond, OK

Graduate Studies Exchange Program (Political Science), January 2011 ~ December 2011

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Dongguan University of Technology
Bachelor of Laws, LL.B., July 2010

Dongguan, China

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES

City Attorney’s Office of Dallas

Sr. Assistant City Attorney – Litigation Unit, March 2019 ~ June 2021

Dallas, TX

Constitutional Law Center for Muslims in America (CLCMA)

Attorney, March 2016 ~ March 2019

Dallas, TX

The Honorable Jane J. Boyle, United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas

Judicial Extern, January 2015~May 2015

Dallas, TX

Reign Private Wealth Management – Legal Department

Associate, March 2012~July 2012

Shanghai, China

MEDIA & PRESENTATIONS

Creator, *Plead the Fifth (Cir.) (Podcast)* (April 2021 – Present, monthly release regarding the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals).

Panelist, *Affirmative Action: What’s Ahead for Higher Education and Other Sectors?* Southern Methodist University. Co-panelists: Darren Hutchinson, Kimberly Robinson, Dale Carpenter, Jeffery Kahn.

Organizer/Panelist, *The Revival of the Alien Land Laws*, National Asian Pacific Americans Bar Association (NAPABA) Annual Convention (November 2023).

Workshop, *From Criminalizing China to Criminalizing the Chinese*, Southeast Association of Law School (SEALS) (July 2023).

Panelist, *The Law and Political Economy of Colonialism, Racism and Nationalism*, moderated by Angela Harris, Law & Society Annual Conference (June 2023).

Symposium (invited), *Asian, Asian American, and Pacific Islander Voices in Higher Education Symposium*, Southern Methodist University (May 2023).

Workshop, *Piercing the Veil of the Burden of Proof: An Honest Conversation About Qualified Immunity*, Richmond Junior Scholars Forum (May 2023).

Workshop, *Piercing the Veil of the Burden of Proof: An Honest Conversation About Qualified Immunity*, Richmond Junior Scholars Forum (May 2023).

Speaker, *MetLife Asian American Heritage Month Series–The Revival of the Alien Land Laws* (April 2023).

PHOENIX NEWS (Hong Kong), Quoted, *Hundreds of Chinese Poured into The Texas State Capitol to Overwhelmingly Oppose Two Proposals Targeting Asians* (March 2023).

Texas State Legislature Testimony (invited), *Senate Bill 147 (Restrictions on Foreign Nationals’ Right to Purchase Property)*, (March 2023).

THE STRAITS TIMES (Singapore), Quoted, *When Sino-US Acrimony Spills Over to Home Ownership in Texas* (February 2023)

SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST (Hong Kong), Quoted, *Citing Security Risks, US States Move to Bar Chinese Land Purchases and Projects with China Ties* (February 2023).

SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST (Hong Kong), Quoted, *Citing security risks, U.S. States Move to Bar Chinese Land Purchases and Projects with China Ties* (February 2023).

Workshop, *From Criminalizing China to Criminalizing the Chinese*, The AALS/ACS Public Law Scholars Forum, commentators: Sahar Aziz, Lisa Heinzerling (January 2023).

Workshop, *From Criminalizing China to Criminalizing the Chinese*, The Equality Law Scholars Forum, commentators: Robert Chang, Angela Onwuachi-Willig (November 2022).

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Workshop, *From Criminalizing China to Criminalizing the Chinese*, The Society of American Law Teachers (October 2022).

Panelist, *From Korematsu to China Initiative*, ACS Constitutional Law Scholars Forum, Barry & Texas A&M Law School (February 2022).

Moderator, *Workplace Discriminations Against Asians*, Dallas Asian American Bar Association (April 2021).

Moderator, *Supreme Court Review and Preview – Criminal Law Issues*, American Constitution Society (November 2020).

Moderator, *Death Penalty in the Shadow of COVID-19*, American Constitution Society (October 2020).

Moderator, *Supreme Court Review – Immigration Issues*, American Constitution Society (September 2020).

SELECTED CASES

HUSSAM F. V. SESSIONS, 897 F.3d 707 (6TH CIR. 2018)

- Successfully reversed the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA)’ ruling and clarified the Six Circuit’s standard on BIA’s discretionary power in denying asylum applications.
- Advocacy Capacity: Chief briefing attorney.

JAFARZADEH V. NIELSEN, 321 F. SUPP. 3D 19 (D.D.C. 2018).

- Defeated the DOJ’s 12 (b)(6) motion and challenged the constitutionality of the Controlled Application Review and Resolution Program (CARRP).
- Advocacy Capacity: First Chair.

DALLAS V. SHELLEY LUTHER, 2020 WL 2095518 (TEX. DIST. 2020) (THE TEXAS SALON CASE).

- Defended the city’s COVID-19 ordinance and obtained a contempt order against a salon owner who refused to comply with the court order.
- Advocacy Capacity: First Chair.

SKILLS, INTERESTS & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Fully trilingual in English, Mandarin, and Cantonese.

Chair of the American Constitution Society–Dallas/Fort Worth Chapter 2018-2021.

Director of the Texas Young Lawyers Association 2021-2023.

Member of the American Constitution Society Path to Bench Committee.

State Bar of Texas Leadership Class 2018-2019; Dallas Young Lawyers Association Leadership Class 2019-2020.

Member of the Rules of Evidence Committee of the State Bar of Texas 2019-2021.

Chair of the Connections Committee for the Dallas Asian American Bar Association 2020-2021.

Member of the Dallas LGBT Bar Association and the Texas LGBT Bar Association.

REFERENCES

Seema Mohapatra (SMU Law)
MD Anderson Foundation Endowed
Professor in Health Law and
Professor of Law
407-375-6230
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Robert S. Chang (Seattle Law)
Executive Director of the Fred T. Korematsu
Center for Law and Equality and Professor of
Law
206-398-4025
changro@seattleu.edu

Angela Onwuachi-Willig (BU Law)
Dean of the Law School and Ryan Roth
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Society)
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Assistant Dean for Graduate and
International Programs
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Joel Page (Federal Public Defender’s Office)
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District of Texas
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Office)
Former Sr. Assistant City Attorney
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