

OREGON LAW

Faculty Impact Report | 2024



UNIVERSITY OF
OREGON

School of Law

#MightyDifferent

#1 Legal Research & Writing
#1 (*U.S. News & World Report*)

#7 Environmental & Natural Resources Law
#7 (*U.S. News & World Report*)
A (*PreLaw Magazine*)

#11 Appropriate Dispute Resolution
#11 (*U.S. News & World Report*)
A- (*PreLaw Magazine*)

A Business Law
A (*PreLaw Magazine*)

A- Child & Family Law
A- (*PreLaw Magazine*)

Centers and Programs

Business Law Program
Andrea Coles-Bjerre, Faculty Director
Kristie Gibson, Managing Director

Environmental and Natural Resources Center
Mary C. Wood, Faculty Director
Heather Brinton, Executive Director

Legal Research and Writing Program
Suzanne E. Rowe, Director

Legal Studies
Jasmine Samara, Faculty Director
Noah Glusman, Managing Director

LLM Program
Erik Girvan, Executive Director

Oregon's ADR Center
Jennifer W. Reynolds, Faculty Director

Oregon Law Commission
Amy Zubko, Executive Director

Oregon Consumer Justice
Patrick Sponsler, Administrator

Portland Program
Mohsen Manesh, Faculty Director
Emily Wanner, Managing Director

Public Service and Policy Program
Jennifer Geller, Managing Director

Resolution Oregon
Patrick Sponsler, Administrator

Summer Sports Law Institute
Ryan Gauthier, Director

Wayne Morse Center for Law and Politics
Rebecca Dinwoodie, Codirector
Dan Tichenor, Codirector

What does it mean to be Mighty Different?

It means thinking broadly about the **impact** that law faculty can have—not only in law reviews but also inside the classroom and outside of the law school.

It means being thoughtful about our **values** and **focus**. Excellence in scholarship *and* teaching *and* service are central to the mission of Oregon Law.

It means seeing our colleagues in the greater legal academy as **partners**, not as competitors in a zero-sum game. Rankings may sell magazines but they do not capture the creativity and richness of the work that law schools are doing.

To be mighty is to be strong. Being mighty also means being steady and persistent within the world, even in the face of disruptive change. The redwoods are mighty because they stand tall forever. For lawyers, being mighty means upholding our responsibility to do justice, to work for peace, and to preserve the rule of law.

To be different is to be radically inclusive. To be different is to take another path, hear a competing perspective, and embrace an unfamiliar mindset. The conventional approach cannot accept alternative ways of thinking. Being different means taking risks and reaching across the divide.

To be Mighty Different is centering the core commitments of the legal profession—integrity, fairness, ethics, problem-solving, conciliation, and engagement—within rigorous scholarship, innovative teaching, and effective service.

We are Mighty Different. We are Oregon Law.



Jennifer W. Reynolds
Interim Dean
Orlando John and Marian H. Hollis Professor of Law

Oregon Law's 140-year legacy as a leader in legal education continues as the only law school in the Pacific Northwest to boast three top-ranked specialty programs. Our faculty's commitment drives the University of Oregon School of Law's continued excellence.

IMPACT: Confronting Inequalities in College Admissions



STUART CHINN

Professor Stuart Chinn offers a critical analysis of the Supreme Court’s recent decision on race-based affirmative action in **“Selective Egalitarianism in Elite University Admissions: A Look at SFFA v. Harvard College.”** He argues elite universities, despite their strongly stated commitment to egalitarian admissions, engage in a questionable practice of “selective egalitarianism.” While these schools have demonstrated an admirable commitment to promoting equality and access to underrepresented racial groups, they continue to perpetuate other social hierarchies worthy of critique from both members of the Court majority in SFFA and the broader public.

In particular, Chinn elaborates on Harvard’s problematic treatment of Asian American applicants and discusses the relatively low concern elite institutions have historically demonstrated toward enhancing socioeconomic diversity. The latter is illustrated most prominently by a longstanding commitment to legacy admissions—a practice that seems impossible to defend on egalitarian grounds.

Chinn’s analysis offers a nuanced critique of elite institutions and questions the broad deference universities have generally enjoyed in their admissions practices. The article reveals how this broad deference may advance egalitarian goals but might also work to undermine them. By exposing contradictions within elite admissions practices, Chinn’s work invites a broader reevaluation of merit and fairness in higher education, pushing the conversation beyond race-based affirmative action to address systemic disparities across the entire admissions landscape.

Chinn, Stuart, **“Selective Egalitarianism in Elite University Admissions: A Look at SFFA v. Harvard College,”** *Marquette Law Review* 108 (forthcoming 2024).

IMPACT: Leveling the Field of NIL Governance

Professor Bryan Dearinger tackles the growing tension between state NIL laws, the NCAA, and the Constitution in **“UnconstitutioNIL: Name, Image, and Likeness State Laws in the Post-Amateurism World of College Sports.”** Dearinger argues recent state laws that aim to shield universities from NCAA enforcement violate the dormant Commerce Clause and the Contracts Clause. He proposes a litigation-based solution that reframes the NCAA as a necessary plaintiff to force long-overdue federal intervention, creating a more stable NIL landscape.

The article draws attention to how the lack of a coordinated federal NIL policy has led to a chaotic “commons dilemma,” where individual states pursue competitive advantages to the detriment of the broader system. Dearinger’s analysis suggests while these state laws aim to protect local universities, they ultimately undermine fair competition and economic rights by creating conflicting legal regimes. He offers a path forward where the NCAA plays a key role in reshaping NIL governance—arguing that litigation could not only resolve constitutional conflicts but also push Congress to create uniform rules.

Dearinger’s research provides a blueprint for resolving NIL law chaos; supporting fair competition; and balancing the interests of athletes, universities, and regulators. By bridging constitutional law with practical sports governance, Dearinger begins a new body of scholarship that addresses one of the most pressing challenges in collegiate athletics and paves the way for a more equitable and legally sound NIL framework.

Dearinger, Bryan, **“UnconstitutioNIL: Name, Image, and Likeness State Laws in the Post-Amateurism World of College Sports,”** *American University Law Review* 74 (forthcoming 2025).



BRYAN DEARINGER

IMPACT: Exposing Patterns in Judicial Decision Making

Professor Orli Oren-Kolbinger offers a fresh empirical lens on the phenomenon of judicial specialization in her forthcoming article, “Do Tax Judges Favor the Tax Authority?” While prior debates on specialization have remained largely theoretical, Oren-Kolbinger assembles a unique dataset comparing rulings by specialized tax judges with those of generalist judges, uncovering patterns not previously documented. Her study reveals specialized judges are more likely to side with the Tax Authority, providing empirical evidence that specialization shapes judicial outcomes in favor of government agencies.

The study offers intriguing insights into how judges’ backgrounds and repeated decision-making processes in tax disputes influence their decisions. For example, it finds that specialized judges may develop unconscious biases toward the government due to familiarity with its representatives or the repetitive nature of tax disputes. Additionally, judges with private-sector experience and women judges also showed a surprising tendency to favor the Tax Authority, complicating assumptions in the theoretical literature.

By exposing the subtle ways specialization can impact fairness, Oren-Kolbinger’s research raises important questions for policymakers and courts alike. Her work exemplifies how empirical legal scholarship can shed light on structural biases, offering valuable insights for those seeking reforms that better serve justice and the public interest.

Oren-Kolbinger, Orli, “Do Tax Judges Favor the Tax Authority?” Florida Tax Review 27 (forthcoming 2024).



ORLI OREN-KOLBINGER

IMPACT: Moving Past #MeToo Headlines

Professor Elizabeth Tippett and her coauthors provide a timely exploration of how states have responded to workplace harassment in the wake of the #MeToo movement in “Mind the Gap(s): Mitigating Harassment in a Post-#MeToo Workplace.” The research constructs the first comprehensive database of state legislation, including over 3,000 bills introduced between 2016 and 2022, and offers a rare empirical assessment of whether legal reforms are addressing the deeper gaps in harassment protections, particularly for vulnerable workers.

The study finds while some states have enacted meaningful reforms such as enhanced harassment training and pay equity laws, significant gaps remain especially for low-wage workers and women of color. Moreover, progress may be stagnating. The authors argue that many reforms overlook the intersectional nature of harassment, leaving marginalized groups vulnerable to both economic and gendered abuses. The article suggests tackling workplace harassment requires adopting a multi-layered or “Swiss Cheese Model” approach to risk reduction, including addressing power imbalances and strengthening protections beyond sexual misconduct alone.

By emphasizing the importance of moving beyond headline-grabbing reforms to address the complex realities of harassment, Tippett’s research offers policymakers and advocates a data-driven guide to responding more holistically to the changing realities of modern workplaces and ensures the legal system better serves those most at risk.

Tippett, Elizabeth, Jamillah Williams, and Anu Ramdin, “Mind the Gap(s): Mitigating Harassment in a Post-#MeToo Workplace,” Southern California Law Review 98, no. 4 (forthcoming 2025).



ELIZABETH TIPPETT

IMPACT: Rethinking Enforcement and Legal Firewalls

Professor Joel Sati makes a compelling case that borders are fundamentally incompatible with a meaningful conception of privacy in his article “**Privacy and the Impossibility of Borders.**” Blending legal analysis and autoethnography, Sati argues the surveillance required for immigration enforcement undermines the ability of illegalized individuals to exercise the rights to which they are entitled. His philosophical challenge to borders reframes privacy as not merely a right but a necessary condition for human dignity and autonomy.

Sati critiques the concept of “firewalls”—legal mechanisms designed to shield individuals from immigration enforcement while protecting access to basic rights—as ultimately insufficient in a world of pervasive state surveillance. He introduces the concept of the egalitarian demand, a philosophical framework that argues firewalls can only protect individuals if everyone, regardless of immigration status, can fully exercise their rights. Without meeting this demand, firewalls offer superficial protections, as state surveillance continues to strip illegalized individuals of meaningful privacy and autonomy. For Sati, privacy is not just a safeguard for dignity but a necessary precondition for exercising rights—one that immigration enforcement inherently violates.

Sati’s work presents a bold vision for rethinking immigration enforcement, ultimately arguing that upholding fundamental rights requires dismantling the current system of borders. By positioning privacy as core to both personal autonomy and the tenants of liberalism, Professor Sati offers legal scholars and policymakers new conceptual frameworks for addressing systemic inequalities in immigration and basic human rights.

Sati, Joel, “**Privacy and the Impossibility of Borders,**” *UCLA Law Review* 72. (forthcoming 2025).

JOEL SATI

IMPACT: Charting a Path to Climate Recovery

Professor Mary C. Wood presents an ambitious meta-strategy to address two of the planet’s most pressing, interrelated crises—excess atmospheric carbon and biodiversity collapse—in her article “**Sky Carbon Cleanup and Biodiversity Restoration: Devising Regional Frameworks.**” Wood advocates for the widespread implementation of Natural Climate Solutions (NCS)—protocols of land management that boost nature’s own capacity for storing carbon—organized through regional Frameworks for Atmospheric Recovery (FARs). Wood’s approach integrates science, local governance, and scalable land management practices, moving beyond problematic carbon-offset programs to promote long-term ecological and climate recovery.

The article outlines a “three-gear” strategy that includes developing regional FARs to organize carbon sequestration efforts, securing financing through atmospheric natural resource damages, and establishing Regional Sky Trusts to implement and manage NCS projects. Wood highlights the vast potential of forests, farmlands, grasslands, and wetlands to sequester atmospheric carbon, while also fostering biodiversity and addressing socioeconomic needs. A key component of this strategy is incorporating tribal and community leadership to help guide the restoration of ecosystems and sustain long-term recovery.

By offering a path toward large-scale carbon sequestration and biodiversity restoration, Wood’s work provides a model for regions worldwide to adapt in the face of climate change. Her vision not only addresses the urgency of carbon sequestration but also empowers local communities to take charge of ecological regeneration, bridging the gap between global scientific consensus and on-the-ground action. Through this framework, policymakers, land managers, and Indigenous leaders can collaborate to create durable solutions that contribute to planetary recovery and long-term environmental justice.

Wood, Mary C., “**Sky Carbon Cleanup and Biodiversity Restoration: Devising Regional Frameworks,**” *Vermont Journal of Environmental Law* 25 (forthcoming 2024): 209.

MARY WOOD

In the Classroom



KRISTEN BELL
Mercy and the Rule of Law

Professor Kristen Bell's *Mercy and the Rule of Law* course is a new offering in Oregon Law's undergraduate Legal Studies Program and the University of Oregon's Prison Education Program. Using an Inside-Out model, the course fosters the critical thinking skills and empathy necessary for students to not only grasp the complexities of the law while confronting difficult legal and philosophical questions, but also understand their profound impact on individuals and communities.

Each week, thirteen "outside" students travel to the Oregon State Correctional Institution to meet with thirteen "inside" incarcerated classmates. Together, they critically examine texts, such as Bryan Stevenson's *Just Mercy*, and engage in lively class, small group, and one-on-one discussions on justice, mercy, and forgiveness. They also debate how these broader philosophical concepts interact with the law. As "outside" students interact and learn directly with their "inside" peers, they see each other as classmates and connect on a human level.

"In this course, I'm a facilitator, not a lecturer," Bell explains. "Witnessing students challenge each other to think differently and consider multiple perspectives is one of the most rewarding aspects."

Many students characterize the course as a rare safe space to discuss values and learn through healthy disagreement. Students take the lead in dialogue-based classes, challenging each other to examine legal concepts from both theoretical and lived perspectives. Bell sees the course as invaluable experiential learning for undergraduate students interested in pursuing careers related to law.



ERIK GIRVAN
1L Civil Procedure

Professor Erik Girvan takes an integrated approach to formative assessments in his 1L Civil Procedure course, advancing student academic success while aligning with proposed amendments to ABA Standard 314 requiring feedback in all first-year courses.

Girvan's formative assessments begin with basic foundations for legal reasoning, such as identifying and comparing key language of legal rules, before advancing to more complex exercises like crafting issue statements and synthesizing case law. Through these increasingly challenging, low-stakes exercises, students gain a foundation for final exam success, a deeper command of Civil Procedure's core principles, and the rigor and analytical demands of legal practice. About 90% of students receive standardized feedback on common areas for improvement. Girvan provides tailored guidance to the remaining 10% whose work reveals unique needs or approaches—a strategy that ensures students have both timely and targeted information necessary for improvement.

Girvan explains, "I am particularly interested in formative assessments as a diagnostic tool for both predicting final exam success and overall mastery of learning outcomes."

By dedicating 40% of the course grade to formative assessments alongside traditional summative evaluations, Girvan's research-driven approach has reshaped his Civil Procedure course into a student-centered experience focused on iterative learning.



ELIZABETH FROST
1L Legal Research and Writing

Professor Liz Frost is leading the way by using generative AI tools in her first-year Legal Research and Writing course. Students learn through hands-on exercises to see how AI-generated text can support their work without substituting for expertise.

Frost's new AI-focused exercises center on critical reading, strategic thinking, and developing precision, teaching students to prompt, engineer, and critique AI-generated text. In one assignment, students use AI to produce a draft statement of facts, which they then analyze, revise, and adjust to meet legal standards.

Frost's approach encourages students to view AI as an imperfect aid rather than a shortcut. This innovative course design equips students with the rigorous writing skills fundamental to legal practice and the critical insight to responsibly leverage new technologies in a rapidly evolving profession.

"Students must already know the purpose of a statement of facts and understand their client's case intimately," Frost explains. "AI might provide a draft, but it cannot replace the critical thinking and contextual understanding students must develop."

Inspired by the work of Oregon Law Professor Rebekah Hanley, Stetson Law's Kristen Davis, and other leaders in this area, Frost believes that law schools must engage with AI's implications for the profession. "I'm convinced we have to embrace AI in the law school classroom, and my colleagues have given me the courage to experiment," she notes.



MICHAEL MOFFITT
Searching for the Cayuse Five

Professor Michael Moffitt unites deep research with experiential learning in an ongoing project to uncover the burial site of the Cayuse Five, five Indigenous men wrongfully hanged in 1850.

In Moffitt's undergraduate honors course, *Searching for the Cayuse Five*, the trial and execution of the five men serve as a starting point for students to analyze historical trial records, land ownership documents, and oral histories while working closely with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. Each class builds on the findings from the previous class, with "veteran" students helping new students get up to speed to maximize the impact of the courses' collective work.

Students travel to key sites, including where the men were hanged, and meet with tribal elders, cultural anthropologists, and historians. They collaborate with the Tamástslikt Cultural Institute, engaging with generational oral histories and tribal archives. By combining historical analysis with the tribe's cultural knowledge, the students have made significant strides in narrowing down potential burial sites of the Cayuse Five.

"[My students] weren't motivated because of an exam," says Moffitt. "They were motivated because someone out there was counting on them to deliver their very best."

By merging historical research, legal analysis, and direct action, Professor Moffitt transforms education into a hands-on experience where students confront the real-world impact of legal proceedings on communities. Moffitt will teach the course for the fourth time in Spring 2025.

Faculty Scholarship



Sarah Adams-Schoen

Assistant Professor
BA, Sarah Lawrence College
MA, London School of Economics
JD, Lewis & Clark Law School

Adams-Schoen, Sarah, Alison Rieser, Donna R. Christie, and Annie Brett, *Ocean and Coastal Law: Cases and Materials*. 6th ed. West Academic Publishing, 2024.

Adams-Schoen, Sarah, "The White Supremacist Structure of American Zoning Law," *Brooklyn Law Review* 88 (2023): 1225.

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BA, Fisk University
JD, University of Arizona
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Addae, Angela, "Booze, Bars, and Bias: Anti-Blackness in Liquor Licensing Enforcement," *Washington and Lee Law Review* (forthcoming 2025).

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Adell Amos

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BA, Drury College
JD, University of Oregon

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Kristen Bell

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BA, Stanford University
JD, Stanford Law School
PhD, University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill

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Carl Bjerre

Wallace L. & Ellen A. Kaapcke Professor of Business Law
BA, University of California - Berkeley
JD, Cornell Law School

Bjerre, Carl, "Investment Securities: Contours of an Adverse Claim," *Business Lawyer* 78 (2023): 1263.

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Bjerre, Carl, Sandra M. Rocks, Edwin E. Smith, and Steven O. Weise, "Missing an Opportunity: Cryptocurrency Exchanges and Their Customers Should Consider Using UCC Article 8," *Business Law Today* (2023).

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Chinn, Stuart, "Selective Egalitarianism in Elite University Admissions: A Look at SFFA v. Harvard College," *Marquette Law Review* 108 (forthcoming 2024).



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Coles-Bjerre, Andrea, and Peter Marchetti, "Annual Survey of Judicial Developments Pertaining to Business Bankruptcy," *Business Lawyer* 79 (forthcoming 2024).



Bryan Dearing
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BA, University of Portland
JD, Drake University

Dearing, Bryan, "**UnconstitutionIL: Name, Image, and Likeness State Laws in the Post-Amateurism World of College Sports**," *American University Law Review* 74 (forthcoming 2025).

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Greg Dotson
Associate Professor
BA, Virginia Tech University
JD, University of Oregon School of Law

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BS, University of Western Ontario
LLB, Queens University
LLM, Harvard Law School
SJD, University of Toronto

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Hanley, Rebekah, "**The Pocket Prof: A Composition Handbook for Legal Writing Students, a Creative Commons Open Educational Resource**." Forthcoming 2024.

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Hauber, Laurie, "**Criminalization of the Unhoused: Alternatives to a Punitive System**," *Georgetown Journal on Poverty Law and Policy* 31, no. 2 (2024).



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BS, University of Arkansas
JD, Georgetown University

Manesh, Mohsen, "**The Corporate Contract and The Private Ordering of Shareholder Proposals**," *Journal of Corporation Law* 50 (forthcoming 2024): 1.

Manesh, Mohsen, and Joseph A. Grundfest, "**The Corporate Contract and Shareholder Arbitration**," *NYU Law Review* 98 (2023): 1106.

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BS, Western Oregon State University
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McAlpin, Megan, "**Impact Beyond the Classroom: Teaching for Transfer to Improve Student Success**," *The Journal of Legal Education* (forthcoming 2024).

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Michelle McKinley
Bernard B. Kliks Professor of Law
BA, Wellesley College
MA, Oxford University
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McKinley, Michelle, "**Financing Freedom: Self-Purchase and Re-enslavement in Seventeenth Century Andalusia**," *William and Mary Quarterly*, 3rd ser., 81, no.4 (2024).

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Michael Moffitt
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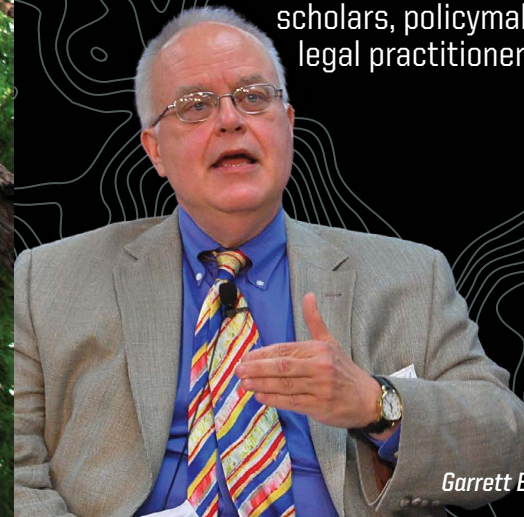


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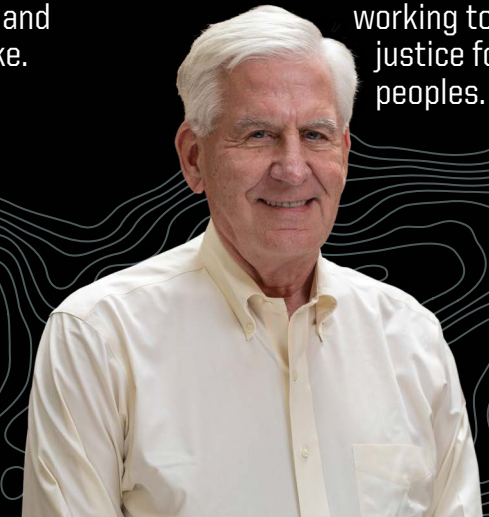
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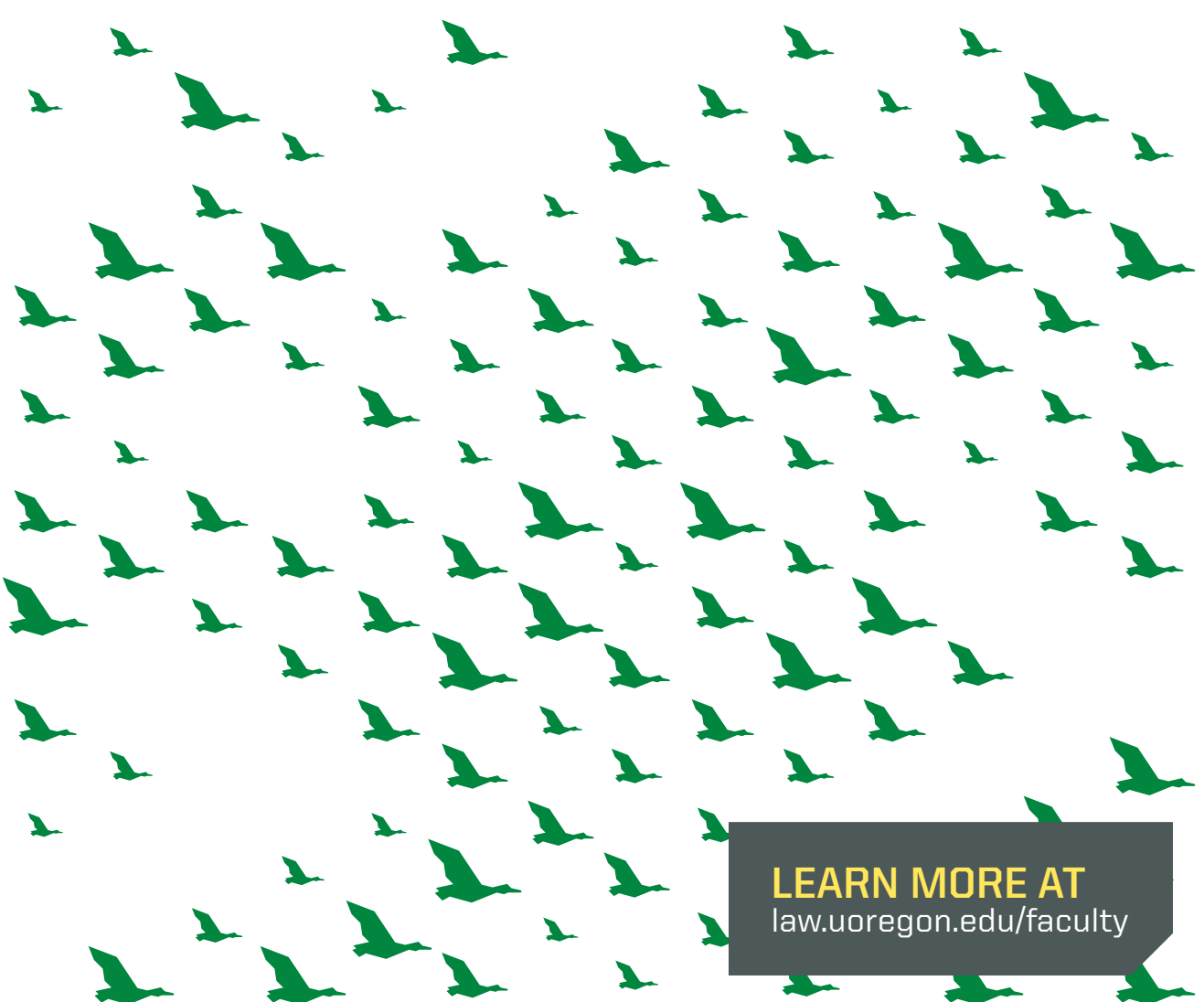
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