

# AUDRA LYN SAVAGE

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## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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**Wake Forest University**, Winston-Salem, NC **2022–Present**

*Assistant Professor*, School of Law (Appointed 2022)

*Affiliated Faculty*, School of Divinity (Appointed 2024)

*Research Fellow*, Georgetown Center for the Constitution, Georgetown Law (2024-2026)

*Courses:* *Business Organizations; Freedom of Religion; Race & the Law; Mergers & Acquisitions*

*Service:* *Clerkship Committee (arranged the Fourth Circuit Visit, Oct. 2023); Academic Rules and Discipline Committee; University Capital Projects Committee; Faculty Adviser*

**Emory University School of Law**, Atlanta, GA **2018–2021**

Senior Lecturer and McDonald Distinguished Fellow (postdoctoral fellowship with promotion)

*Courses:* *Law & Religion of American Slavery (seminar); Business Associations; Mergers & Acquisitions; Race, Climate Change and Corporate Accountability (seminar)*

## JUDICIAL CLERKSHIPS

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**The Honorable James A. Wynn, Jr.**, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit (2021–22)

## EDUCATION

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**Emory University School of Law (Center for the Study of Law & Religion)**, Atlanta, GA

SJD, 2018 (*High Honors*) / LLM, 2014

**Columbia University School of Law**, New York, NY

JD, 2004, *Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar*, 2002–2004

*Journal:* Editor-in-Chief, *Columbia Business Law Review*

**Northwestern University**, Evanston, IL

BS Speech, 1998, *Dean's List; Vinson & Elkins Scholarship Foundation Award*

## SCHOLARSHIP

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### ~ *Law Review Articles* ~

*Slavery and the Forgotten History of Religious Liberty*, \_\_ BYU LAW REVIEW \_\_ (*forthcoming 2025-26*)

The Supreme Court's current religious liberty jurisprudence of history and tradition ignores the Black experience with law and religion in America's early history.

*Aunt Jemima's Resignation Letter*, 121 COLUMBIA LAW REVIEW FORUM 186 (2021)

Public corporations have a responsibility to counter systemic racism and there should be a new system of accountability measures built on metrics, actions and enforcement.

*The Religion of Race: The Supreme Court as Priests of Racial Politics*, 2021 UTAH LAW REVIEW 569

The Founders created a national civil religion of racism. The Supreme Court's resistance to dismantling it after Reconstruction ushered in a contest shaping American racial politics.

*Turning the Other Cheek: The Persecution of the Christian Minority*, 26 FLORIDA JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL LAW 373 (2014)

The persecution of Christians in the Middle East and North Africa region is a violation of norms under international human rights laws protecting religious rights.

~ *Essays, Book Chapters, & Book Reviews* ~

*Corporate Personhood as a Badge and Incident of Slavery*, in THE OXFORD HANDBOOK OF AFRICAN AMERICAN PHILOSOPHY (Timothy J. Golden, PhD, ed., *forthcoming* 2025–26)) (peer-reviewed, work in progress)

Corporations have a responsibility to remediate racial justice because the personhood status of corporations, and their attendant constitutional rights, is a badge and incident of slavery.

*The Corporate Religion of Race*, POLITICAL THEOLOGY (*forthcoming* 2024–25) (peer-reviewed, work in progress)

Dr. M. L. King's critique of racialized capitalism is the foundation for a political theology of the corporation. By adopting his philosophy, the corporation can move towards justice.

*A Rock and a Hard Place: Interest Convergence for the Racial-Religious Minority*, in RACISM AND RESISTANCE: ESSAYS ON DERRICK BELL'S RACIAL REALISM (Timothy J. Golden, PhD, ed., 2022) (peer-reviewed)

The history of denying Free Exercise rights to the racial-religious minority was reversed not on legal and moral grounds but on pragmatic considerations benefitting the majority.

*Race and Secularism in America*, 33 JOURNAL OF LAW & RELIGION 519–522 (2018) (book review) (peer-reviewed)

This collection of essays probes the secularization project of sanitizing religion in the public square and managing the religious practices, bodies and power of the racialized other.

*The Religious Freedom Waltz: Going Forward While Moving Back*, 8 CONLAWNOW 33 (2016–2017) (book review)

The effectiveness of the principle of neutrality in Establishment Clause adjudication is analyzed by comparing the works of legal scholars Andrew Koppelman and Steven D. Smith.

~ *Dissertation* ~

*The Religion of Race: Disestablishing Racism from the American Experience* (Apr. 16, 2018) (unpublished SJD dissertation, Faculty of the School of Law of Emory University (Atlanta, GA)) (on file with the Hugh F. MacMillan Law Library, Emory University) [*Advisers*: J. Witte, Jr.; M. Broyde; R. Franklin]

The growth and establishment of a national civil religion built on white supremacy explains the continued racism in this country, and only a true reformation will end it.

~ *Unpublished Work* ~

*Defining the True Meaning of Racism: The Law & Religion of Colonial America, Parts I–III, Canopy Forum* (Mar. 23, 2020) (digital publication)

The twin institutions of law and religion were influential in creating and maintaining the slave system, and thus provided the historical foundation for racism in America.

## **AWARDS AND PRIZES**

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2020 Innovation, Business and Law Center Prize, University of Iowa College of Law, Fall 2020  
Speaker Series: “Examining Institutional Structures: Race, Business, and the Law”: *Beyond Aunt Jemima: Holding Public Companies Accountable for Dismantling Systemic Racism*

The Gertie & John Witte Prize in Law & Religion, Center for the Study of Law and Religion, Emory University School of Law (2018)

First Place Team, First Annual International Moot Court Competition in Law and Religion, Fondazione Studium Generale Marcianum, Venice, Italy (2015)

First Place Award, 2014 Religious Liberty Student Writing Competition, Washington D.C. Chapter of the J. Reuben Clark Law Society and the International Center for Law and Religion Studies

## **RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS**

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~ *Race and Religious Liberty Jurisprudence* ~

*Bringing Race and Slavery Back into American Church-State History*

Junior Faculty Exchange, University of Georgia School of Law, Athens, GA (Feb. 5, 2025)

Nootbaar Fellows Workshop, Nootbaar Institute on Law, Religion & Ethics, Pepperdine Caruso School of Law (Dec. 10, 2024) [online]

Fifteenth Annual Constitutional Law Colloquium, Florida State University College of Law, Tallahassee, FL (Nov. 15–16, 2024)

Lutie A. Lytle Black Women Law Faculty Workshop & Writing Retreat, Duke University School of Law, Durham, NC (Jun. 29, 2024) [early-stage work presentation]

Annual Law & Religion Roundtable, University of Alabama School of Law, Tuscaloosa, AL (Jun. 20, 2024) [early-stage work presentation]

*Black Religious Liberty Law: Religious Liberty & Slavery*

Video Curriculum co-presented with Kelly Brown Douglas, Law, Rights and Religion Project, Columbia University School of Law, New York, NY (May 2024)

*What Happened to the Wall Separating Church and State?*

Nootbaar Fellows Program Annual Conference, Pepperdine University Caruso School of Law, Malibu, CA (Feb. 9, 2024) [panel]

*The Future of the Establishment Clause and the Court's Shadow Docket*

Law and Religion Section & Constitutional Law Section, AALS Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C. (Jan. 5, 2020) [panel]

*Crafty Beliefs: Hobby Lobby and a Test for Sincerity*

2014 Conference of the Association for Politics and the Life Sciences, Emory University, Atlanta, GA (Oct. 17, 2014)

*Turning the Other Cheek: The Persecution of the Christian Minority in the Middle East and North Africa*

Fourth International Conference on Religion and Spirituality in Society, Universidad Nacional Costa Rica, Heredia, Costa Rica (Apr. 29–30, 2014)

2014 Research in Religious Studies Conference, University of Calgary, Canada (May 8–9, 2014)

International & Interdisciplinary Conference, University of Vaasa, Finland (May 21–23, 2014)

~ *The Religion of Race* ~

*The Corporate Religion of Race*

Junior Faculty Exchange, Georgia State University School of Law, Atlanta, GA (Feb. 22, 2024)

*Journal of Law & Religion/Political Theology* Symposium: “Law, Christianity, and Racial Justice: Shaping the Future,” Center for the Study of Law and Religion, Emory University School of Law, Atlanta, GA (Mar. 29, 2023)

McDonald Distinguished Fellows Video Series, Center for the Study of Law & Religion, Emory University School of Law, Atlanta, GA (March 2023)  
[available at: <https://youtu.be/SaJ8xIjApwU>]

*The Religion of Race: The Supreme Court as Priests of Racial Politics*

McDonald Distinguished Fellows Summer Workshop Series, Center for the Study of Law and Religion, Emory University School of Law, Atlanta, GA (Jul. 20, 2020) [online]

*Defining Racism: Christianity's Role in the Legacy of Slavery*

Conference on Racism and Religion 2019, Centre for Multidisciplinary Studies on Racism (CEMFOR), Uppsala University, Sweden (Nov. 6–8, 2019)

*The Religion of Race: America's First Religion*

Second Annual Political Theology Network Conference, Union Theological Seminary, New York (Oct. 17–18, 2019)

CSLR Talks, Center for the Study of Law & Religion, Emory University School of Law, Atlanta, GA (Apr. 9, 2019) [available at: <https://youtu.be/ff1FoI3epYk>]

*Constitution of Slavery*

Slavery Past, Present & Future: 4th Global Meeting, University of Innsbruck, Austria (Jun. 17–19, 2019)

*Defining Racism: Religion's Enduring Legacy*

Religion, Racism, and Religious Racism: The Color of Faith Discrimination, 17th Annual Africana Studies Department Symposium, UNC Charlotte, North Carolina (Apr. 25–26, 2019)

*The Religion of Race*

Colloquium for the Center for the Study of Law and Religion, Emory University School of Law School, Atlanta, GA (Nov. 12, 2018)

~ *Race and Corporate Law* ~

*Beyond Aunt Jemima: Corporations & Race*

Faculty Development Talk, University of Arkansas at Little Rock William H. Bowen School of Law, Little Rock, AR (Mar. 25, 2024)

*Beyond Aunt Jemima: Holding Public Companies Accountable for Dismantling Systemic Racism*

University of Iowa College of Law Innovation, Business and Law Center, Fall 2020 Speaker Series: “Examining Institutional Structures: Race, Business, and the Law” (Oct. 1, 2020) [available at: [https://youtu.be/65v\\_6XMXKvs](https://youtu.be/65v_6XMXKvs)]

*Purpose, Promise & Potential: Holding Corporations Accountable for Newly-Discovered Commitment to Racial Justice*

National Business Law Scholars Conference, University of Tennessee, Knoxville (Jun. 18–19, 2020) [online]

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**OTHER PRESENTATIONS**

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LECTURES

Guest Lecturer, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, Race, Law & Literature (Prof. Richard Schneider), Wake Forest University School of Law (Jan. 24, 2023)

Guest Lecturer, *Beyond Aunt Jemima: Holding Public Companies Accountable for Dismantling Systemic Racism*, Business Associations (Prof. Da Lin), University of Richmond School of Law (Nov. 5, 2020) [online]

Co-Lecturer, *Law as Framework for Entrepreneurial Business* (with Prof. Rebecca Purdom), University of Vermont Grossman School of Business, Burlington, VT (Summer 2020) [online]

Guest Lecturer, *The Constitution of Slavery/Religion of Race*, Christianity and Politics (Dr. Robert Franklin), Emory University Candler School of Theology (Feb. 15, 2018)

Guest Lecturer, *Religious Coalitions For & Against Gay Marriage*, Introduction to Sociology (Dr. Jonathan Grant), Kennesaw State University (Mar. 29, 2017)

Guest Lecturer, *Race and the Injustice System*, Race and Ethnic Relations (Dr. Jonathan Grant), Georgia State University (Mar. 24, 2016)

## ACADEMIC COMMUNITY EVENTS

Speaker, *Separation of Church and State*, The Federalist Society (co-hosted with the Jewish Law Students Association and the Christian Legal Society), Wake Forest University School of Law, Winston-Salem, NC (Jan. 27, 2025)

Moderator, *Discussion with NC Supreme Court Justice Anita Earls*, American Constitution Society, Wake Forest University School of Law, Winston-Salem, NC (Oct. 8, 2024)

Panelist, NCBA Event on Research Assistant Positions, Wake Forest University School of Law, Winston-Salem, NC (Apr. 16, 2024)

Panelist, Business Law Society Professor Panel, Wake Forest University School of Law, Winston-Salem, NC (Apr. 11, 2024)

Speaker, *Women in Me&A*, Women in Law Speaker Series, Wake Forest University School of Law, Winston-Salem, NC (Nov. 14, 2023)

Host, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit School Visit, Wake Forest University School of Law, Winston-Salem, NC (Oct. 31, 2023)

Speaker, *Women in Me&A*, Women in Law Speaker Series, Wake Forest University School of Law, Winston-Salem, NC (Nov. 9, 2022)

Panelist, *Navigating the 2021–2022 Law Faculty Hiring Process (Preparing for the AALS Faculty Recruitment Conference)*, The University of Denver Sturm College of Law’s Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, the Society of American Law Teachers (SALT), and LatCrit (Latina and Latino Critical Legal Theory Inc.) (Aug. 4, 2021) [online]

Moderator, *Business Law and Inequality*, National Business Law Scholars Conference, University of Tennessee, Knoxville (Jun. 18–19, 2020) [online]

Facilitator, *Responding to Challenging Rhetoric*, hosted by the American Constitution Society, Emory University School of Law (Feb. 12, 2020)

Moderator, *Evening Discussion with Jonathan L. Walton: “Freedom for What? The Underside of Religious Protections in the Black Freedom Struggle,”* 2019 Harold J. Berman Forum in Law and Religion, Emory University School of Law (Mar. 26, 2019)

Moderator, *International Corporate Law Panel*, Emory International Law Society & Emory Corporate and Business Law Society, Emory University School of Law (Feb. 27, 2019)

Moderator, *Faculty Panel*, Emory Law 2nd Annual Graduate Student Conference, Emory University School of Law (Oct. 26, 2018)

Judge, *Civil Rights and Liberties Moot Court Competition*, Emory University School of Law (2015)

## PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Presenter, *The Christian Nation Debate: A Historical Review of Religious Liberty in America*, Religious Liberty Congress, Atlanta, GA (Oct. 26, 2019)

Presenter, *Evangelicals and Women: What's Going on with Our Sisters?*, 2019 Conscience and Justice Council, Atlanta, GA (Sept. 27, 2019)

## **CORPORATE PRACTICE EXPERIENCE**

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**Transurban (USA) Inc.**, Alexandria, VA **2009–2013**  
*Associate Legal Counsel*

Served as lead attorney and member of management team responsible for on-budget, early opening in 2012 of 495 Express Lanes, a \$2 billion Virginia public-private partnership transportation project in Northern Virginia with state, federal, bond and equity financing.

**Hogan Lovells US LLP**, McLean, VA **2008–2009**  
*Corporate Associate*

Advised private equity clients on a variety of corporate matters, including drafting and negotiating transaction documents. Managed deal teams.

**Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP**, Washington, DC **2004–2007**  
*Corporate Associate* **Summer 2003**

Member of deal teams for Sony Corporation, Bank of America, American Express Company, McDonald's Corporation and Texas Pacific Group. Successful representation of *pro bono* asylum clients from the Democratic Republic of Congo. Employed in various capacities in the New York, Washington, Hong Kong, and Tokyo offices.

## **OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE**

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**General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists**, Silver Spring, MD (Fall 2013)  
*Department of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Intern*

Analyzed arguments in key religious freedom cases involving legislative prayer (*Town of Greece v. Galloway*) and employer religious accommodation (*EEOC v. Abercrombie & Fitch Stores, Inc.*).

**Prisoners and Families Clinic**, New York, NY (Spring 2004)  
*Student Participant*

Assisted incarcerated imam with religious discrimination claims.

**Matsuo & Kosugi Law Offices**, Tokyo, Japan (Summer 2002)  
*Summer Associate*

Selected as the Columbia Law student to work directly with high-profile Japanese attorney.

**Baker Botts L.L.P.**, Houston, TX (2000–2001)  
*Legal Assistant Clerk to Irv Terrell*

Provided support to the *Bush v. Gore* litigation teams in Florida.

**Livingston & Livingston, P.C.**, Houston, TX (1999–2000)  
*Legal/ Administrative Assistant*

Trained with partners to learn the business of law firm management.

## **Japan Exchange and Teaching Program, Miyazaki, Japan (1998–1999)**

*Assistant English Teacher*

Co-taught English at two high schools in small, rural towns in southern Japan.

## **BAR ADMISSIONS**

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New York (2005); District of Columbia (2006)

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

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- *Member*, Society for American Law Teachers (Present)
  - Member, *Scholarship/Antiracist Development Institute Committee*
- *Member*, Lutie Legacy Society (2020–Present)
  - Co-Chair, *Inaugural Awards/Honors Organizing Committee* (Present)
- *Member*, Association of American Law Schools, various sections
  - Executive Committee, *Business Associations Section* (Present)
  - Wake Forest Law Delegate, House of Representatives (2024, 2025)
  - Program Committee, *Law & Religion Section* (2019–2021)
- *Member*, Nootbaar Fellows Program, Pepperdine University Caruso School of Law (2023–Present; 2020–2021)
- *Member*, McDonald Distinguished Fellows, Center for the Study of Law and Religion, Emory University School of Law (2019–Present)
- *Peer Reviewer*, POLITICAL THEOLOGY journal (Dec. 2023)
- *Member*, American Bar Association (2019–Present)

## **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

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- *Participant and Volunteer*, University of North Carolina School of Arts Preparatory Dance Program (2024–Present)
- *Mentor*, Law School Pathways Program, Columbia University School of Law (2021)
- *Member*, Northwestern University Black Alumni Association (2015–Present)
- *Community Development Lead & Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Director*, Decatur Seventh-day Adventist Church, Decatur, GA (2015–2020)
- *Board Member/Recording Secretary*, Decatur Adventist Junior Academy, Stone Mountain, GA (2016–2017)
- *Board Member*, Community Praise Church, Alexandria, VA (2012–2013)