

Thomas J. McSweeney

Associate Professor

William & Mary Law School

P.O. Box 8795, Williamsburg, Virginia 23187-8795

•(757) 221-3829 •tjmcsweeney@wm.edu

EMPLOYMENT

Associate Professor, William & Mary Law School, August 2016-present

Assistant Professor, William & Mary Law School, June 2013-August 2016

Visiting Assistant Professor, Cornell Law School, July 2011-June 2013

EDUCATION

Ph.D., History, Cornell University, 2011

M.A., History, Cornell University, 2009

LL.M., International and Comparative Law, *cum laude*, Cornell Law School, 2005

J.D., *cum laude*, Cornell Law School, 2005

B.A., History and Government, *magna cum laude*, College of William and Mary, 2002

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

Fiction in the Code: Reading Legislation as Literature, 34 GA. ST. U. L. REV. 581 (2018), available [here](#).

Salvation by Statute: Magna Carta, Legislation, and the King's Soul, 25 WM. & MARY BILL RTS. J. 455 (2016), available [here](#).

Creating a Literature for the King's Courts in the Later Thirteenth Century: Hengham Magna, Fet Asaver, and Bracton, 37 J. OF LEG. HIST. 41 (2016), available [here](#).

The King's Courts and the King's Soul: Pardoning as Almsgiving in Medieval England, 50 READING MEDIEVAL STUD. 159 (2014 Special Issue, LAW'S DOMINION: MEDIEVAL STUDIES FOR PAUL HYAMS), available [here](#).

Property Before Property: Romanizing the English Law of Land, 60 BUFF. L. REV. 1139 (2012), available [here](#).

English Judges and Roman Jurists: The Civilian Learning Behind England's First Case Law, 84 TEMP. L. REV. 829 (2012), available [here](#).

Book Chapters

Magna Carta and the Right to Trial by Jury, in MAGNA CARTA: MUSE AND MENTOR (Randy J. Holland ed., 2014) (companion volume to the Library of Congress' exhibit of the same name): 139-157, available [here](#).

Magna Carta, Civil Law, and Canon Law, in MAGNA CARTA AND THE RULE OF LAW (Reb Brownell et al. eds., 2014) (American Bar Association's volume celebrating the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta), available [here](#).

Between England and France: A Cross-Channel Legal Culture in the Late Thirteenth Century, in LAW, JUSTICE, AND GOVERNANCE: NEW VIEWS ON MEDIEVAL ENGLISH CONSTITUTIONALISM (Richard Kaeuper ed., 2013).

Other

With Michèle K. Spike, *The Significance of the Corpus Iuris Civilis: Matilda of Canossa and the Revival of Justinian's Body of Roman Law*, in MATILDA OF CANOSSA AND THE ORIGINS OF THE RENAISSANCE 21 (Michèle K. Spike ed., 2015)(Catalogue for an art exhibit of the same name at the Muscarelle Museum of Art at the College of William & Mary), available [here](#).

Translated into Italian as *L'importanza del Corpus Iuris Civilis: Matilda di Canossae la riscoperta del diritto romano* in MATILDA DI CANOSSA, 1046-1115: LA DONNA CHE MUTÒ IL CORA DELLA STORIA 29 (Michèle K. Spike ed., 2016)(Catalogue for the same exhibit at the Casa Buonarroti in Florence, Italy).

Review of JOHN HUDSON, THE OXFORD HISTORY OF THE LAWS OF ENGLAND, VOLUME II: 871-1216 (2013), 34 LAW & HIST. REV 227 (2016).

Review of LAW AS PROFESSION AND PRACTICE IN MEDIEVAL EUROPE: ESSAYS IN HONOR OF JAMES A. BRUNDAGE (2011), for THE MEDIEVAL REVIEW, available [here](#).

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Plumeri Award for Faculty Excellence, College of William & Mary, 2018

Hurst Fellow, Hurst Summer Institute in Legal History, University of Wisconsin Law School, 2015

Selected for the American Society for Legal History's pre-conference workshop, 2014

Selected for Law and Humanities Junior Scholar Workshop, USC Law School, 2014

Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship, 2011 (One of 65 selected out of approximately 1000 applicants, Declined)
Buttrick-Crippen Teaching Fellowship, Cornell University, 2011 (Declined)
Dean's Prize for Distinguished Teaching, College of Arts and Sciences, Cornell University, 2010
Erika and Kenneth Riley Fellowship, Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, 2010
Michele Sicca Research Grant, Cornell Institute for European Studies, 2010
Walter and Sandra LaFeber Research Grant, Cornell University, 2010
Bibliographical Society of America Research Grant, 2010
James F. Slevin Assignment Sequence Prize, Knight Institute, Cornell University, 2009
James Monroe Scholar, College of William & Mary, 1998-2002

PRESENTATIONS

"A New Plea Roll for a New Audience," Medieval and Renaissance Studies Colloquium, College of William & Mary, May 11, 2018.

"Roman Law and Royal Justices," Conference "Land, Law, and Governance," Graduate Association of Medieval Studies, University of Wisconsin, Madison, April 6, 2018 (invited by the graduate students to be the keynote speaker for their annual medieval studies conference and to give a workshop on a work-in-progress).

"The Origins of the Common Law," Middle Plantation Club, Williamsburg, VA, March 27, 2018 (invited by John Donaldson, an emeritus professor at William & Mary law school, to speak to his community group).

"Bracton's Colleagues: The Literary Culture of the Royal Courts in the Later Thirteenth Century," Medieval Academy of America Annual Conference, Emory University, March 2, 2018.

"The Church in Medieval England," Canterbury Association, College of William & Mary, February 2, 2018 (invited by the Episcopal campus ministry to talk to students about the medieval English Church to prepare them for their spring break pilgrimage to Canterbury).

"Roman Law in the Wolf Law Library's Collections," Wolf Law Library, William & Mary Law School, January 24, 2018 (gallery talk for an exhibit of the library's Roman law collection).

"After *Bracton*: Redefining the Audience for Legal Literature in the Later Thirteenth Century," British Legal History Conference, University College London, July 7, 2017

"Writing Like a Jurist: Justices of the Thirteenth Century and the Learned Approach to Law," American Society for Legal History Conference, Toronto, Canada, October 2016.

"Collecting Cases in the Thirteenth Century," Saint Louis University Law School Faculty Speaker Series, September 21, 2016.

“Salvation by Statute: Magna Carta, Legislation, and the King’s Soul,” William & Mary Bill of Rights Journal 2016 symposium, “After Runnymede: Reissuing, Revising, and Reinterpreting Magna Carta in the Middle Ages,” March 18, 2016.

“Magna Carta and the King’s Soul,” Empire Salon, Washington, D.C., December 10, 2015.

“Magna Carta After 1215,” Center for Public History, Christopher Newport University, November 18, 2015.

“A New Plea Roll for a New Audience: Henry of Bratton and his Assize Rolls,” Law and Governance in Pre-Modern Britain, University of Western Ontario, October 2015 (by invitation).

“Magna Carta, 1225-2015,” Delaware Office and Trial Practice 2015, October 2015 (keynote speaker, at invitation of Justice Randy Holland of the Delaware Supreme Court).

“Salvation by Statute: Magna Carta, Legislation, and the King’s Soul,” Faculty Speaker Series, University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Law, October 2015.

“Magna Carta, The Fourth Lateran Council, and the Right to Trial by Jury,” Medieval and Renaissance Studies Brown Bag Series, College of William & Mary, September 2015.

“A New Plea Roll for a New Audience,” William & Mary Legal History Seminar, September 2015.

“A New Plea Roll for a New Audience,” Hurst Summer Institute in Legal History, Madison, Wisconsin, June 2015.

“Happy 790th, Magna Carta,” Hillsborough County Bar Association Law Day Meeting, Tampa, Florida, May 2015 (keynote speaker).

“Imagining an Ideal World through a Legal Text: *Konungsbók* and the Medieval Icelandic Commonwealth,” American University Washington College of Law, April 2015.

“Magna Carta as England’s First Statute,” State Bar of Georgia’s Magna Carta 800th Anniversary Symposium, Atlanta, Georgia, March 2015.

“Magna Carta: 800 Years After Runnymede,” Panel with A.E. Dick Howard, University of Virginia Law School, March 25, 2015, video available [here](#).

“Magna Carta, 1225” Panel with A.E. Dick Howard and Sir Robert Worcester, William & Mary Law School, January 2015.

“Writing Fiction as Law: The Story in *Grágás*,” American Society for Legal History Pre-Conference Workshop, Denver, Colorado, November 2014 (One of three papers selected through a paper competition).

“Property before Property: Romanizing the English Law of Land,” Emory Law School faculty workshop series, October 15, 2014.

“Writing Fiction as Law: The Story in the *Grágás* Manuscripts,” Law and Humanities Interdisciplinary Junior Scholars Workshop, University of Southern California, June 2014 (One of seven papers selected through a juried paper competition).

“Priests of the Law: Royal Justices and Legal-Literary Culture in 13th-Century England,” London Legal History Seminar, Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, University of London, May 2014 (by invitation).

“The King’s Courts and the King’s Soul: Pardoning as Almsgiving in Medieval England,” American Society for Legal History Conference, Miami, Florida, November 2013.

“A Decretal Collection for English Law: Bracton’s Note Book Reconsidered,” British Legal History Conference, Glasgow, Scotland, July 2013.

“It Will Not be Absurd to Call English Laws ‘Laws’”: English and European Legal Culture in the Thirteenth Century,” Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, June 2013.

“For the Sake of the King’s Soul: Pardoning for Poverty in Medieval English Courts,” 48th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2013.

“It Will Not Be Absurd to Call English Laws ‘laws’”: England on the Edge of European Legal Culture in the Thirteenth Century,” 33rd Annual Conference of the Center for Medieval Studies, Fordham University, New York, NY, March 2013.

“Property before Property: Inventing a Roman-Law Past for Anglo-Norman Land Law,” Association for the Study of Law, Culture, and the Humanities Conference, March 2012.

“Property Before Property: Romanizing the English Law of Land,” Cornell Law School Faculty Retreat, January 2012.

“The Mythology of Property: The State of Nature from Greek Poetry to Law and Economics,” University of Maine Honors College, October 2011.

“A New Plea Roll for a New Audience: Writing Administrative Texts as Law in the Thirteenth Century,” European History Colloquium, Cornell University, March 2011.

“Constructing the Jurist-Judge in the Bracton Treatise,” American Society for Legal History Conference, Philadelphia, PA, November 2010.

“Courts, Judges, and Lawyers in Thirteenth-Century England,” McGill University Law School, as part of class “Medieval Law,” October 2010.

“Case Law in Thirteenth-Century England: What the Bracton Author Learned from Roman and Canon Law,” International Medieval Congress, Leeds, England, July 2010.

“Sagas and Law Codes: Reading *Grágás* as Literature,” Fiske Conference on Medieval Icelandic Studies, Cornell University, June 2010.

“Between England and France: The English Channel as the Center of a Thirteenth-Century Legal Culture,” International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, May 2009.

“Treatise Writers and Roman Law: Possession and Property in post-1204 England and France,” conference “Law, Justice, and Governance: New Views on Medieval English Constitutionalism,” University of Rochester, April 2009.

“The King's Dishonorable Champions: Approvers and the Role of Honor in the Judicial Duel, ca. 1150-1250,” European History Colloquium, Cornell University, February 2008.

“Roman Law, French Custom, and English Folklore: The Bracton Treatise and its Sources,” Charles Homer Haskins Society Conference, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C., November 2007.

MEDIA

Quoted in article *Magna Carta: Revered by founders, 'Great Charter' is still relevant today* by Jim Breig, 38 COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG JOURNAL (Summer 2015), available [here](#).

Interviewed about the significance of Magna Carta by John Hockenberry on WNYC radio's *The Takeaway*, a syndicated show with two million listeners jointly sponsored by Public Radio International and the New York Times, June 15, 2015, audio available [here](#).

Interviewed about the significance of Magna Carta by Sarah McConnell on *With Good Reason*, a radio show sponsored by the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities that is carried on over 60 NPR stations, March 25, 2015, audio available [here](#).

Guest Blogger, *Concurring Opinions*, “Happy 790th, Magna Carta!”, April 15, 2015, available [here](#).

Quoted in article *Two Magna Cartas in D.C.*, by Geoff Edgers, WASHINGTON POST, October 31, 2014, available [here](#).

SERVICE

Faculty Adviser to Doctors' Commons Legal History Society, William & Mary Law School, Spring 2016-present

Faculty Adviser to Alpha Delta Gamma, Medieval and Renaissance Studies Honor Society, College of William & Mary, Spring 2016-present

Leadership Council, Institute for Pilgrimage Studies, College of William & Mary, Spring 2017-present

Selection Committee for Snell Prize in European History, given by the European History Section of the Southern Historical Association to the best paper by a graduate student on a European History subject, 2017-present

Law School Dean's Advisory Committee on Diversity and Inclusion, Spring 2017 and 2017/2018

Law School Curriculum Committee, 2015/2016

Law School Dean's Advisory Committee, 2014/2015

Review Committee for Virginia Ambler, Vice President for Student Affairs, 2015/2016

Program Committee for the Annual Meetings of the American Society for Legal History, Toronto, 2016 and Denver, 2014.

Anonymous Peer Reviewer for the JOURNAL OF LEGAL HISTORY, the STANFORD LAW REVIEW, and the JOURNAL OF LAW, CULTURE, AND THE HUMANITIES.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Society for Legal History

American Bar Association (Real Property, Trusts, & Estates Section)

Selden Society (English Legal History)

Medieval Academy of America

European History Section of the Southern Historical Association

Admitted to the Practice of Law in New York

Admitted to the Bar of the United States Supreme Court