CURRICULUM VITAE

Yonathan A. Arbel

University of Alabama, School of Law, 101 Paul Bryant Dr., Tuscaloosa, Alabama, 35401
yarbel@law.ua.edu • Last updated: 10.8.26

CURRENT APPOINTMENT

The University of Alabama, School of Law, Tuscaloosa, AL 2017–
Teaching: Contracts, AI & the Law, Sales, Secured Transactions, Defamation; Contract Theory, Law, Economics, and Society

Rose Professor of Law · Director, AI Studies 2024–

Associate Professor of Law 2020–2024

Assistant Professor of Law 2017–2020

CLAIR, the Center for Law & AI Risk 2024–
Co-Director & Founder
Raised $500,000 in philanthropic contributions to support the mission of the organization

Law & AI Institute 2026–
Senior Research Fellow

EDUCATION

Harvard Law School 2015
Doctoral Degree (SJD) | Cambridge, MA

- Dissertation: The Execution and Enforcement of Private Legal Obligations
- Committee: Steven Shavell, Louis Kaplow, Duncan Kennedy

Stanford Law School 2009
JSM Degree in Law | Palo Alto, CA
SPILS fellow, focus on empirical methods

Hebrew University, Faculty of Law 2008
Joint LL.B. in Law and the Humanities ("Amirim") | Jerusalem, IL

- Summa Cum Laude, Salutatorian
- Member of a university-wide honors program, full scholarship. Various merit awards
- Articles Editor, MISHPATIM LAW REVIEW

JOURNAL ARTICLES & ESSAYS

- *Generative Gap Filling*
  cornell law review (Forthcoming, 2026) (with David A. Hoffman)

♦ *AI Revealed Preferences*
SSRN (2026) (with Sam Wang, Sofiia Lobanova, Simon Goldstein, and Peter Salib)

♦ *Why Law Needs a New Entity to Govern AI Agents*
CLS BLUE SKY BLOG (2026) (with Simon Goldstein and Peter Salib)

♦ *Letter: What Happens Once You Give AI Agents Legal Identity*
FINANCIAL TIMES (2026) (with Simon Goldstein and Peter Salib)

♦ *Racing to Safety: Tax Policy for AI Safety-by-Design*
SMU LAW REVIEW (Forthcoming, 2026) (with Mirit Eyal)

♦ *How to Count AIs: Individuation and Liability for AI Agents*
BOSTON COLLEGE LAW REVIEW (Forthcoming, 2026) (with Peter Salib and Simon Goldstein)
— Featured on Legal Theory Blog: "Highly recommended. Download it while it's hot!"
— Response article: *The Static Agent Assumption: Dynamic Intentionality Classification and the Limits of the Algorithmic Corporation*, Ignacio Adrián Lerer (Zenodo, March 4, 2026)

♦ *The Generative Reasonable Person*
BYU LAW REVIEW (Forthcoming, 2026)

♦ *Artificial Intelligence and Existential Risk*
CONNECTICUT LAW REVIEW (Forthcoming, 2026) (with Matthew Tokson)

♦ *The AI Race Isn't Real*
LAWFARE (2026) (with Matthew Tokson)

♦ *Catalytic Regulation: Incentivizing Safety During a Regulatory Drought*
AI FRONTIERS (2026)

♦ *Governing AI Beyond the Grave*
FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY LAW REVIEW (Forthcoming, 2025) (with Alberto Lopez)

♦ *Judicial Economy in the Age of AI*
96 COLORADO LAW REVIEW (2025)
— Legal Theory Blog: "Very cool. Highly recommended. Download it while it's hot!"

♦ *Time and Contract Interpretation: Lessons from Machine Learning*
in RESEARCH HANDBOOK ON LAW AND TIME (Edward Elgar) (2025)

♦ *How Smart are Smart Readers?*
in CAMBRIDGE HANDBOOK ON EMERGING ISSUES AT THE INTERSECTION OF COMMERCIAL LAW AND TECHNOLOGY (2025) (with Samuel Becher)

♦ *The Readability of Contracts: Big Data Analysis*
21 JOURNAL OF EMPIRICAL LEGAL STUDIES 927 (2024)
— Featured in JOTWELL by Shawn Bayern (November 2024)

- *Generative Interpretation*
  99 NYU Law Review 451 (2024) (with David Hoffman)
  — "A profoundly important article... Must Read... Download it while it is incandescent!" - Lawrence Solum, Legal Theory Blog
  — Selected for review in JOTWELL (2023)
  — Cited in Snell v. United Specialty Insurance Company, No. 22-12581 (11th Cir. 2024)

- *Systemic Regulation of AI*
  56 Arizona State Law Journal 545 (2024) (with Matthew Tokson and Albert Lin)

- *The False Choice in the Debate Over Artificial Intelligence Regulation*
  Lawfare (2024) (with Matthew Tokson and Albert Lin)

- *Open Questions in Law and AI Safety: An Emerging Research Agenda*
  Lawfare (2024) (with multiple authors)

- *Thinking the Unthinkable: AI in the Service of Justice*
  capstone lawyer (2024)

- *A Status Theory of Defamation Law*
  14 UC Irvine Law Review 2327 (2024)
  — Selected for Yale Freedom of Expression Forum

- *Truth Bounties: A Market Solution to Fake News*
  102 North Carolina Law Review 509 (2024) (with Michael Gilbert)
  — Selected for ALEA 2022

- *On the Scales of Private Law: Nano Contracts*
  37 Harvard Journal of Law & Technology 151 (2023)
  — Selected for Stanford/Penn/Northwestern Law & Stem (2022)

- *The Credibility Effect: Defamation Law and Audiences*
  52 Journal of Legal Studies 417 (2023)
  — Selected for Yale Freedom of Expression Conference, ALEA 2022, CLEA 2022, CELS 2022

- *Defamation Law & Bayesian Audiences*
  52 Journal of Legal Studies 445 (2023) (with Murat Mungan)

- *Contracts in the Age of Smart Readers*
  george washington law review (2021) (with Samuel Becher)
  — Selected for review in JOTWELL (2022)
  — Featured essay: The Regulatory Review

- *ALL-CAPS*
  17 Journal of Empirical Legal Studies 862 (2020) (with Andrew Toler)
  — Reviewed in JOTWELL by Nancy Kim (2020)

- *Payday*
  98 Washington University Law Review 1 (2020)
  — Winner, American College of Consumer Financial Services' Annual Writing Competition 2021
  — Reviewed in JOTWELL by Tom C.W. Lin (2020)
  — Featured: Business Law Podcast

- *Slicing Defamation by Contract*
  Chicago Law Review Online (2020)

- *Theory of the Nudnik: The Future of Consumer Activism and What We Can Do to Stop It*
  73 Vanderbilt Law Review 929 (2020) (with Roy Shapira)
  — Selected for the Stanford Junior Forum for Law & STEM
  — Featured: Marginal Revolution, Marker, Ipse Dixit Podcast

- *Consumer Activism: From the Informed Minority to the Crusading Minority*
  69 DePaul Law Review 233 (2020) (with Roy Shapira)
  — Invited symposium contribution, Rising Stars in Legal Academia

- *The Case Against Expanding Defamation Laws*
  71 Alabama Law Review 453 (2019) (with Murat Mungan)
  — Selected for the Stanford/Yale/Harvard Junior Faculty Forum

- *Reputation Failure: Market Discipline and its Limits*
  54 Wake Forest Law Review 1239 (2019)

- *Adminization: Gatekeeping Consumer Contracts*
  71 Vanderbilt Law Review 121 (2018)
  — Selected for the Stanford/Yale/Harvard Junior Faculty Forum

- *Book Review: Reconsidering Civil Justice*
  37 Civil Justice Quarterly 509 (2018)
  — Invited

- *Tort Reform through the Backdoor: A Critique of Law and Apologies*
  90 Southern California Law Review 1199 (2017) (with Yotam Kaplan)

- *Shielding of Assets and Lending Contracts*
  48 International Review of Law & Economics 26 (2016)
  — Peer reviewed

- *Contract Remedies in Action: Specific Performance*
  118 West Virginia Law Review 100 (2015)
  — Reviewed in JOTWELL by Caprice Roberts (2017)

LEGAL AND PRACTICE EXPERIENCE

Lexidale, Legal Policy Consulting 2009–2015
Co-Founder and Managing Partner

- Co-founded international legal policy consulting firm advising EU institutions, national governments, and top firms.
- Led studies covering over 28 countries worldwide.
- Successful exit in 2015.

Supreme Court of Israel 2007–2008
Clerk, Justice Ayala Procaccia

Supreme Court of Israel 2007
Research Assistant to Retired Chief Justice Aharon Barak

Minister of Interior, Israel 2005–2007
Special Anti-Corruption Unit

HONORS

Award Winner, American College of Consumer Financial Services' Annual Writing Competition 2021

Selected for "Rising Stars in Legal Academia", 25th Annual Clifford Symposium on Civil Justice

Affiliate, Google Research Innovators 2023

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Governing X-Risk (with Matthew Tokson)

Governing AGI (with Peter Salib)

The Silicon Reasonable Person

The Failed Quest for Misinformation Institutions: On Law Reviews

SELECTED MEDIA APPEARANCES

- CNN Newsroom, Winning the AI Race Requires Safety
- Tuscaloosa Thread, AI and children's online safety (2026)
- Alabama Reflector, AI, children, and age-verification policy (2026)
- Business Scholarship Podcast, Payday (2020)
- Broadband Breakfast, AI Regulation (2025)
- ABC 3340, Covid and contracts (2020)
- Financial Times, Defamation (2023)
- Broadband Breakfast, Generative AI (2024)

TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

Contracts

AI and the Law

Commercial Law

Torts

Consumer Law

Law & Economics

Empirical Methods

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Villanova School of Law 2016–2017
Visiting Assistant Professor of Law, Contracts, Advanced Contracts Seminar | Villanova, PA

Harvard Law School 2015–2016
Postdoctoral Private Law Fellow | Cambridge, MA

Harvard Law School 2015–2016
Teaching Fellow, Inside Government (Professor Cass Sunstein) | Cambridge, MA

Harvard Law School 2011, 2014, 2015
Teaching Fellow, LL.M. Writer's Workshop, Private Law Section | Cambridge, MA

Harvard Law School 2013–2014
Lecturer, Byse Workshop: Debt, Contracts, and Default | Cambridge, MA

Harvard Economics Department 2010–2016
Instructor, Economic Analysis of Contract Law | Cambridge, MA
Five Distinction-in-Teaching awards

GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS, RESEARCH, AND TEACHING

Harvard Law School 2011–2015
Olin & Considine Fellow in Law and Economics | Cambridge, MA

Harvard Law School 2012–2013
Project on Predatory Student Lending, clinical fellowship | Cambridge, MA

Harvard Law School 2010
Summer Public Interest Program, research fellowship | Cambridge, MA

Israel Democracy Institute 2005–2007
Research fellow | Jerusalem, IL

Hebrew University 2004–2006
Teaching Fellow, Torts, Criminal Law, Jurisprudence | Jerusalem, IL

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- *Why Law Needs a New Entity to Govern AI Agents*
  CLS BLUE SKY BLOG (June 2026) (with Simon Goldstein and Peter Salib)

- *Letter: What Happens Once You Give AI Agents Legal Identity*
  FINANCIAL TIMES (June 2026) (with Simon Goldstein and Peter Salib)

- *New Private Law Blog*
  Contributor and Managing Editor (2016)

- *Asset Freezing in Israel*
  in ASSET FREEZING (2016, Kluwer, with Elad Peled)

- *The Execution and Enforcement of Private Legal Obligations (May 25*
  2015) (SJD Dissertation, Harvard Law School)

- *STUDY ON THE APPLICATION OF THE CROSS BORDER MERGERS DIRECTIVE*
  for the European Union, Directorate-General for the Internal Market and Services (project leader, professional report, empirical analysis in 28 countries) (2012)

- *INFORMATION WANTS TO BE FREE (2010). Co-authored with Tehila Altshuler. (232 pp*
  policy paper)

REFEREE & REVIEW

Journal of Legal Studies, Northwestern University Law Review, Law & Social Inquiry, Tenure Review (Boston University

Hebrew University), Israel ISF Grant Funds, European Law and Economics Association, International Review of Law & Economics

Law, Technology, and Humans (Queensland)

Journal of Empirical Legal Studies

The Theory and Practice of Legislation

CM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency (FAcCT)

The Theory and Practice of Legislation

Journal of Economic Psychology.

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Dissertation Review 2024–2025

Hebrew University

Committee Member 2023–
Israel National Science Fund

Director & Founder 2023–
AI Legal Safety Initiative

Mentor, SPAR 2026–
Research Program for AI Risks

AI Taskforce

Curriculum Committee, Chair 2022–2023
AALS, Defamation and Privacy Law, Secretary 2023–2024
AALS, Law & Economics Section Member 2022–2023
Textbook Committee, Member 2020–2022
Jones Chair Search Committee, Member 2021–2022
Business Student Association, Adviser 2019–2021
Curriculum Committee, Member 2019–2022
Dissertation Committee 2018–2020
Faculty Appointments Committee 2018, 2019
Co-Organizer, MLEA Conference

American Law & Economics Conference, Harvard Law School, Organizer

SELECTED CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

- Stanford Law School, Law & Econ Workshop
- Bar Association Fifth Circuit, New Orleans
- AI & Existential Risk, City University of Hong Kong
- Regulation of AGI, Harvard Law School
- Risk, Regulation, & Insurance, Nashville
- Law Following AI, Cambridge, UK
- Inaugural Roundtable AI Safety, Alabama Law
- Herzog Conference on AI, Hebrew University
- Fifth Circuit Judge Conference, Florida
- Privacy Forum, George Mason Law
- ALAJ Winter Sumit, Birmingham, AL
- Faculty workshop, Arizona University Law School
- Future of Contracts, University of Miami Law School
- The Demand for BS, University of Florida Law School
- Judicial Conference, US Virgin Islands
- Faculty workshop, Florida University Law School
- National Appellate Judge Conference, Nashville, NCIJ
- Law & Technology Seminar, Tel Aviv University
- AI Safety: Vista Fellows
- Empirical Contract Law, Carey Law School
- AI & Innovation, Seattle Law
- Zoom Lectures (Ono College, Israel, Tennessee, Howard Law)
- Constitutional Law & Economics, Maryland Law School
- AI Futures Fellows, Mexico City
- Law & Economics Seminar, Chicago Law School
- Empirical Contract Law, NYU University

- Law & Data Science, Fordham University
- American Law & Economics, Boston University
- Future of Disinformation Panel, Harvard Law School
- Law & Economics Seminar, Harvard Law School
- AALS, San-Diego
- Bar-Ilan, Law & Tech Seminar
- MLEA, Chicago Law
- Stanford/Penn/Nw Law & Stem, Northwestern
- American Law & Economics, Columbia Law School
- Society New Institutional Economics, Toronto, Canada
- Freedom of Expression X, Yale Law School
- Law & Society, Lisbon, Portugal
- Canadian Law & Economics, Ottawa, Canada
- Faculty Workshop, Boston University
- Law & Economics Workshop, Virginia Law School
- Faculty Workshop, Villanova Law School
- Faculty Workshop, Pepperdine Law School
- Virtual L&E Workshop, virtual
- L&E Workshop, Hebrew University
- Faculty Workshop, Haifa University
- Future of Legal Education, virtual
- Consumer Markets, Boston University
- AALS, Section on Contracts
- Faculty Workshop, IDC
- Constitutional Law & Economics, Virtual
- Private Law Workshop, Hebrew University
- Society New Institutional Economics, MIT
- American Law & Economics, Chicago (online)
- Law & Economics, GMU Scalia Law
- Law & Economics, Tel-Aviv University
- Private Law Workshop, Hebrew University
- Faculty Workshop, SMU Law School
- Colloquium on Contract and Economic Organization, Columbia Law School
- Consumer Law Conference, Berkeley Law School
- KCON XIV, McGeorge University
- Legal Scholarship Workshop, University of Chicago
- Conference on Empirical Legal Studies, Claremont College
- Law & Stem, Stanford Law School
- European Law & Economics, Tel-Aviv University
- Lumps and Slices Book Symposium, Chicago Law School
- Yale/Harvard/Stanford Junior Faculty, Yale Law School
- Clifford Symposium, Rising Stars, DePaul University
- Kcon XIV, Tulane University
- ASIL, Washington & Lee University
- American Law & Economics, New York University
- Faculty Workshop, BIU
- Legal Scholarship Workshop, University of Chicago
- Faculty Workshop, University of Alabama
- European Law & Economics, University of Milano, Italy
- Midwestern Law & Economics, University of Alabama
- American Law & Economics, Boston University
- KCon XIII, Barry University
- MLEA, Marquette Law School
- Southeastern Senior/Junior Workshop, University of Washington, St. Louis
- Society for Institutional Economics (SIOE), Columbia Law School
- Villanova Business Colloquium, Villanova Law School
- Law & Religion Meets Law & Economics, Villanova Law School
- Private Law & IP Conference, Harvard Law School, invited panel moderator
- New England Junior Faculty Workshop, New England School of Law
- American Law & Economics Conference, Columbia Law School
- North American Private Law Workshop, Toronto, Canada