

W. ROBERT (WILL) THOMAS

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

- 2019– Assistant Professor of Business Law, Stephen M. Ross School of Business
2023– Assistant Professor of Philosophy (by courtesy)

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

- 2017–19 Climenko Fellow & Lecturer in Law, Harvard Law School
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EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

- 2015 PhD in Philosophy
2012 JD *magna cum laude*

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

- 2006 BA *cum laude* in Philosophy, Economics
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PUBLICATIONS

- 2023 *Branding Corporate Criminals* (w/ Mihailis E. Diamantis)
92 FORDHAM L. REV. __ (forthcoming) ([SSRN](#))
- 2023 *A Marketing Pitch for Corporate Criminal Law* (w/ Mihailis E. Diamantis)
2 STETSON BUS. L. REV. 1 (inaugural symposium issue) ([SSRN](#))
coverage on CLS BLUE SKY BLOG (Aug. 25, 2022) ([link](#))
- 2022 *But We Haven't Got Corporate Criminal Law!* (w/ Mihailis E. Diamantis)
46 J. CORP. L. 991 (symposium issue) ([pdf](#))
- 2021 *Corporate Criminal Law Is Too Broad—Worse, It's Too Narrow*
53 ARIZ. ST. L.J. 199 ([pdf](#)), reprinted in 70 DEF. L.J. (2022)
- 2021 *The Conventional Problem with Corporate Sentencing (and One Unconventional Solution)*
24 NEW CRIM. L. REV. 397 (symposium issue) ([pdf](#))
- 2019 *Incapacitating Criminal Corporations*
72 VAND. L. REV. 905 ([pdf](#))
- 2019 *Making Sense of Corporate Criminals: A Tentative Taxonomy*
45 GEO. J.L. & PUB. POL'Y 775 (symposium issue) ([pdf](#))

- 2018 *How and Why Corporations Became (and Remain) Persons Under the Criminal Law*
45 FLA. ST. U. L. REV. 479 ([pdf](#))
- 2017 *The Ability and Responsibility of Corporate Law to Improve Criminal Fines*
78 OHIO ST. L.J. 601 ([pdf](#))
- 2012 *On Strict Liability Crimes: Preserving Criminal Intent in an Intent-Free Moral World*
110 MICH. L. REV. 647 (student note) ([pdf](#))

WORKS IN PROGRESS

The Shameful Foundations of Corporate Criminal Law

White-Collar Crime, in *THE PALGRAVE HANDBOOK ON THE PHILOSOPHY OF CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY* (Ken Levy & Raff Doneslon eds., (w/ Mihailis E. Diamantis)

Empirical Corporate Crime (w/ Jamie McLeod)

Revisiting Corporate Sanctions for Bank Executives (w/ Kyle Logue and Jeff Zhang)

Taxing Artificial Intelligence (w/ Reuven Avi-Yonah and Lucas Brasil Salama)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & INVITED TALKS

RECENT SERVICE ROLES

- SEP 2023 Commentator for Karen Woody, *The Overlap of 10b5-1 Plans and Shadow Trading*; Michigan State University College of Law
- JUN 2023 Commentator for NICO CORNELL, *WRONGS AND RIGHTS COME APART* (book manuscript); University of Michigan Law School
- JUN 2023 Commentator for MIRIAM BARR, *MYTHS AND MISUNDERSTANDINGS IN WHITE-COLLAR CRIME* (Cambridge Press 2023); Law & Society Association Annual Conference
- JUN 2023 Co-Organizer of Legal Philosophy Workshop; Trinity College Dublin
- JUN 2023 Commentator for MIRIAM BARR, *MYTHS AND MISUNDERSTANDINGS IN WHITE-COLLAR CRIME* (Cambridge Press 2023); Law & Society Association Annual Conference
- JUN 2023 Commentator for J.S. NELSON, *BUSINESS ETHICS: WHAT EVERYONE NEEDS TO KNOW* (Oxford Press 2022); Law & Society Association Annual Conference
- MAY 2023 Participant (by invitation) in Analytic Legal Philosophy Conference, King's College
- JUN 2022 Co-Organizer of Big Ten & Friends Colloquium; Michigan Ross School of Business

“Corporate Shame and Criminal Punishment”

- JUN 2023 Corporate and Securities Law Section; Law & Society Association Annual Conference
- AUG 2022 Academy of Legal Studies in Business Annual Conference
- JUL 2022 Crimfest! Annual Conference; Cardozo School of Law
- JUL 2022 Junior Scholars in Legal Studies Series; University of Georgia Terry College of Business *
- JUN 2022 National Business Law Scholars Conference; University of Oklahoma College of Law
- MAY 2022 Marquell Memorial Criminal Justice Colloquium; New York Law School

“Branding Corporate Criminals”

- AUG 2023 Society for Business Ethics Annual Conference

JUN 2023 ComplianceNet Annual Conference, ComplianceNet
 APR 2023 Legal Theory Workshop, University of Iowa College of Law
 SEP 2022 Chicagoland Junior Scholars Conference; Loyola University Chicago School of Law
 JUN 2022 Big Ten & Friends Colloquium; Michigan Ross School of Business (co-organizer)
 JUN 2022 National Business Law Scholars Conference; University of Oklahoma College of Law
 APR 2022 Faculty Workshop; University of Iowa College of Law
 FEB 2022 Symposium: White Collar Crime: A Look into The Past, Present, and Future; Stetson College of Law *
 JAN 2022 Young Scholars Legal Research Workshop *

“But We Haven’t Got Corporate Criminal Law!”

MAR 2023 Corporate Governance Seminar, Richmond Law School
 FEB 2022 Hosmer-Hall Interdisciplinary Research Presentation; Ross School of Business
 OCT 2021 Symposium: Imagining a World Without Corporate Criminal Law; Georgetown Law & the Wharton School of Business

“Stakeholder Governance Through Corporate Punishment”

JUL 2023 Summer Stakeholder Series, University of Virginia Darden School of Business
 JUN 2020 Junior Scholars in Legal Studies Series; University of Georgia Terry College of Business *
 JUN 2020 National Business Law Scholars Conference; University of Tennessee Law School *
 AUG 2019 Academy of Legal Studies in Business Annual Conference
 JUL 2019 Criminal Law and Theory Workshop; University of Toronto Faculty of Law

“Is Shareholder Wealth Maximization a Decision-Making Procedure?”

AUG 2022 Young Scholars Legal Research Workshop *

“Corporate Punishment and the Limits of Stigma”

AUG 2022 Legal Philosophy Workshop; Southeastern Association of Law Schools Annual Conference
 JUL 2021 Crimfest! Annual Conference; Brooklyn Law School *
 JAN 2021 Symposium: New Topics in Sentencing Theory; New Criminal Law Review *

“What is the SEC Doing If Not Punishing Bad Actors?”

AUG 2021 Academy of Legal Studies in Business Annual Conference *
 JUN 2021 National Business Law Scholars Conference; University of Tennessee Law School *

“Corporate Criminal Law is Too Broad—Worse, It’s Too Narrow”

JAN 2021 Works in Progress Panel; Criminal Justice Section, American Association of Law Schools *
 OCT 2020 Normative Business Ethics Workshop; Carol and Lawrence Zicklin Center for Business Ethics Research, Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania *
 AUG 2020 Academy of Legal Studies in Business Annual Conference *
 JUL 2020 Crimfest! Annual Conference; Cardozo School of Law *
 JUN 2020 National Business Law Scholars Conference; University of Tennessee Law School *
 FEB 2020 Big Ten & Friends Colloquium; University of Indiana Kelley School of Business
 JAN 2020 Blue Bag Lunch Series; University of Michigan Center on Finance, Law, and Policy
 AUG 2019 Legal Philosophy Workshop; Southeastern Association of Law Schools Annual Conference

* *Virtual event*

- “Towards a Political Philosophy of Corporate Crime”
- JUL 2019 Crimfest! Annual Conference; Brooklyn Law School
- JUL 2019 Criminal Law and Theory Workshop; University of Toronto Faculty of Law
- “Incapacitating Criminal Corporations”
- JAN 2019 Faculty Workshop; University of Michigan Ross School of Business
- DEC 2018 Faculty Workshop; University of South Carolina Law School
- DEC 2018 Criminal Law and Corporate Theory Workshop; University of Iowa Law School
- NOV 2018 Faculty Workshop; University of Wyoming School of Law School
- AUG 2018 Prospective Faculty Workshop; Southeastern Association of Law Schools Annual Conference
- JUN 2018 National Conference of Business Law Scholars; University of Georgia Law School
- JAN 2018 Junior Faculty Law Workshop; New England School of Law
- “Criminal Persons and Moral Agents”
- NOV 2018 Symposium: Ethics of Corporate Moral Agency; Institute for Study of Markets and Ethics, Georgetown University McDonough School of Business
- “Fictionalism About Corporations”
- JUL 2022 Legal Philosophy Workshop; Southeastern Association of Law Schools Annual Conference
- MAY 2018 Symposium on Multinational Entities; American Society of International Law
- OCT 2017 Corporate Personhood Workshop; University of Iowa Law School
- JUN 2017 National Conference of Business Law Scholars; University of Utah Law School
- “How and Why Corporations Became Persons Under the Criminal Law”
- DEC 2016 Faculty Workshop; Boston University School of Law
- NOV 2016 Faculty Workshop; Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law
- AUG 2016 Workshop, Institute for the Study of Markets and Ethics; Georgetown University McDonough School of Business
- “The Ability and Responsibility of Corporate Law to Improve Criminal Fines”
- JUN 2016 National Conference of Business Law Scholars; University of Chicago Law School
- DEC 2015 Faculty Workshop; Wharton School of Business
- “Does the State Have an Obligation Not to Obey the Law?”
- OCT 2015 IPSA/SciencesPo Joint Conference; Paris Institute of Political Studies

MEDIA COVERAGE & APPEARANCES

- COMMENTARY ON TRUMP ORGANIZATION, PRESIDENT TRUMP
- OCT 2023 Lauren Aratani, *The Art of the Fraudulent Deal? Trump Organization Trial Set to Begin*, THE GUARDIAN, Oct. 1, 2023 ([link](#))
- SEP 2023 Brian Mann, *Trump’s N.Y. Business Empire is ‘Greatly at Risk’ From Judge’s Fraud Ruling*, NAT’L PUB. RADIO, Sep. 29, 2023 ([link](#))
- SEP 2023 Lindsay Whitehurst & Bernard Condon, *A Judge Found Trump Committed Fraud in Building His Real-Estate Empire*, ASSOCIATED PRESS, Sep. 29, 2023 ([link](#))
- SEP 2023 *Trump’s Business Empire Threatened By Judge’s Ruling*, AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, Sep. 29, 2023 ([link](#)) ([French version](#))

- SEP 2023 *Judge Rules Donald Trump Defrauded Banks and Insurers While Building Real Estate Empire*, ASSOCIATED PRESS, Sep. 27, 2023 ([video link](#))
- AUG 2023 James Politi, *The Donald Trump Show: Will the Chaos Help or Hinder?*, FIN. TIMES, Aug. 4, 2023 ([link](#))
- JUN 2023 Faculty Q&A, *Trump Criminal Case Holds Twists, Turns and Potential Links to Other Major News Events*, MICH. NEWS, Jun. 19, 2023 ([link](#))
- APR 2023 Faculty Q&A, *Trump Indictment Highlights Challenges of Prosecuting White-Collar Crime*, MICH. NEWS, Apr. 6, 2023 ([link](#))
- SEP 2022 Michael R. Sisak & Larry Neumeister., “*Art of the Steal*”: *Trump Accused of Vast Fraud in NY Suit*, ASSOCIATED PRESS, Sep. 22, 2022 ([link](#))
- SEP 2022 Rick Newman, *Why New York State is Suing Trump Instead of Charging Him With Crimes*, YAHOO! FINANCE, Sep. 23, 2022 ([link](#))
- JAN 2022 Michael R. Sisak et al., *A Fraud Case Against Trump? Not a Slam Dunk, Experts Say*, ASSOCIATED PRESS, Jan. 20, 2022 ([link](#))
- JUL 2021 Katherine Bang, *Trump Organization & Allen Weisselberg Indicted on Tax Fraud Charges*, PUBLIC RADIO BUSAN, July 6, 2021 ([link](#))
- JUL 2021 Chris Megerian et al., *Prosecutors: Trump Organization and CFO Allen Weisselberg Dodged Taxes for 15 Years*, L.A. TIMES, July 1, 2021 ([link](#))
- JUL 2021 Rebecca Jarvis, *Trump Organization, CFO Facing Criminal Charges*, ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT, July 1, 2021
- JUL 2021 Kris Reyes, *Trump Organization and Its Chief Financial Officer Indicted on Tax Fraud Charges*, CBC NEWS: THE NATIONAL, July 1, 2021 ([link](#))
- JUN 2021 Chris Megerian & Del Wilber, *What Could Happen to Donald Trump’s Company If It’s Indicted?*, L.A. TIMES, June 30, 2021 ([link](#))
- JAN 2021 Mihailis Diamantis & Will Thomas, Opinion, *The Impeachment Trial Doesn’t Have to Be Pointless—Provided It’s Not All About Trump*, THE HILL, Feb. 9, 2021 ([link](#))

COMMENTARY ON CORPORATE AND WHITE-COLLAR CRIME

- FEB 2023 Nick Muscavage, *SEC Clarifies Clawback Rule, But PvP Remains Vague*, FIN. TIMES AGENDA, Feb. 10, 2023 ([link](#))
- FEB 2023 Featured Guest, *Is a Crackdown Coming on Corporate Crime?*, ROSS BUSINESS & SOCIETY PODCAST, Feb. 6, 2023 ([link](#))
- DEC 2022 Nick Muscavage, *Boards Bracing for Final Rules on ESG, Cybersecurity*, FIN. TIMES AGENDA, Dec. 2, 2022 ([link](#))
- OCT 2022 Nick Muscavage, *DOJ Talks Tough After Enforcement Ticks Down*, FIN. TIMES AGENDA, Oct. 3, 2022 ([link](#))
- AUG 2022 Lateshia Beachum, *Visa Could Be Liable in Suit Over Child Sexual Abuse Material on Pornhub, Other Sites*, WASH. POST, Aug. 1, 2022 ([link](#))
- MAR 2022 Aaron Pressman, *Bizarre Harassment of Natick Couple by eBay was ‘Clearly Criminal,’ Company Admitted*, BOSTON GLOBE, Mar. 17, 2022 ([link](#))
- JUN 2020 Will Thomas, Opinion, *PG&E’s Conviction Takes Corporate Crime Seriously—Its Punishment Doesn’t*, THE HILL, June 20, 2020 ([link](#))
- MAR 2020 Katherine Blunt, *PG&E to Plead Guilty to Involuntary Manslaughter Charges in Deadly California Wildfire*, WALL ST. J., Mar. 23, 2020 ([link](#))
- FEB 2020 Michael Hobbs, *The Golden Age of White-Collar Crime*, HUFFINGTON POST, Feb. 10, 2020 ([link](#))

COVERAGE OF ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP

- NOV 2022 Russell Mokhier, *Can You Name Ten Corporate Criminals?*, CORPORATE CRIME REPORTER, Nov. 7, 2022 ([link](#))

- SEP 2022 Jeff Karoub, *Allegations in NY Civil Suit Against Trump Detailed, Though Delays Likely*, MICH. ROSS FACULTY NEWS & RESEARCH, Sep. 29, 2022 ([link](#))
- AUG 2022 Featured Guest, IN LIEU OF FUN PODCAST, Aug. 1, 2022 ([link](#))
- OCT 2021 *There's No Such Thing as Corporate Criminal Law, Michigan Ross Professor Says*, MICH. ROSS FACULTY NEWS & RESEARCH, Oct. 21, 2021 ([link](#))
- OCT 2021 *Corporate Criminal Law Doesn't Exist*, CORPORATE CRIME REPORTER, Oct. 12, 2021 ([link](#))
- JUL 2021 Russell Mokhier, *To Strengthen Corporate Criminal Law, Get Rid of the Doctrine of Respondeat Superior*, CORPORATE CRIME REPORTER, July 26, 2021 ([link](#))
- MAR 2021 Bob Needham, *We Need a New Approach to Corporate Crime, Ross Professor Argues*, MICH. ROSS FACULTY NEWS & RESEARCH, Mar. 9, 2021 ([link](#))
- APR 2020 Australian Law Reform Commission, Final Report: Corporate Criminal Responsibility, Apr. 1, 2020 ([link](#))
- FEB 2019 Russell Mokhier, *William Robert Thomas on Rehabilitating Corporate Retribution and Incapacitation*, CORPORATE CRIME REPORTER, FEB. 5, 2019 ([link](#))

ACADEMIC SERVICE

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

- 2023 Member, Teaching Excellence & Innovation Taskforce
- 2022-24 Area Representative, Community Values Committee
- 2021- Course Coordinator, Business Law & Ethics (BL 300)
- 2021- RIS Representative, Business Law & Ethics (BL 300)
- 2021 Keynote Speaker, Ross All Access Weekend
- 2019- Affiliated Research Fellow, University of Michigan Center on Finance, Law, and Policy

EXTERNAL SERVICE

- 2022- Organizing Committee, Legal Philosophy Workshop ([link](#))
- 2021- Founder & Lead Organizer, Junior Scholars Legal Research Workshop ([link](#))
- recurring *Ad hoc* Reviewer, CRIMINAL LAW AND PHILOSOPHY (2021), ISRAEL LAW REVIEW (2022), JOURNAL OF MANAGEMENT REVIEW (2019, 2020), SYNTHESIS (2021)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, STEPHEN M. ROSS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

- 2022- Business Law and Ethics (BL 533), OMBA Program
- 2019- Business Law and Ethics (BL 300), BBA Program

HARVARD LAW SCHOOL

- 2018 Theories of Punishment (reading group)
- 2017-19 First Year Legal Research & Writing

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT

- 2014 Contemporary Moral Problems: The Corporation and Society
- 2014 Types of Philosophy (graduate student instructor w/ V. Caston)
- 2012 Introduction to Moral Principles and Problems
- 2010 Introduction to Informal Logic (graduate student instructor w/ D. Jacobson)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

CLEARY GOTTLIEB STEEN & HAMILTON LLP

2015-17 Associate, Corporate and White-Collar Investigations

OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER

2013-15 Appellate Litigation Fellow to the Northern District of Ohio

U.S. COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE SIXTH CIRCUIT

2012-13 Law Clerk to the Honorable Karen Nelson Moore

THE HUFFINGTON POST

2007-08 Political Reporter; Associate Editor

TALKING POINTS MEMO

2006-07 Front Page Editor; Investigative Researcher

BAR MEMBERSHIPS

MARYLAND

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA