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Students love my Torts class. One fall 2019 student raved: “Professor Russell teaches the most practical course I’ve ever had in my entire life.” Students voted me best teacher in 2019-20. My teaching, like my scholarship, concerns the real world. This year, I am teaching a hybrid Torts class in our part-time J.D. program. I’m synchronous, asynchronous, and live.

Like my teaching, my research draws upon my practice. My forthcoming article, [Frivolous Defenses](#), is an empirical analysis of 298 complaints and 355 answers in Colorado car-crash lawsuits. In under two months, this path-breaking piece earned spots (mostly #1) on 20 SSRN top-ten lists including two all-time lists. A cross-over between practice and academia, attorneys are citing the piece in motions. A follow-on piece titled Disrupting Frivolous Defenses will offer tools for responding to insurance defense answers. Another piece, Defending Frivolous Defenses, will canvass defense explanations and justifications for their answers and analyze data concerning a Colorado Rule change that the defense has ignored. Another part of this research project will include interviews of personal injury defendants about their experience within the insurer-attorney-insured relationship.

An active member of Colorado and California’s bars, I practice what I teach. While a law professor, I have handled and litigated small and big personal injury cases and other matters involving banks, hospitals, and regulated industries while running a small firm. I enrich my Torts class using fee agreements, disclosure statements, demand letters, insurance policies, motions, orders, exhibits, and appellate opinions. I also have taught a live-client litigation practicum. I also teach American Legal History and Contracts including UCC Article 2.

I serve the public interest as a litigator. In 2013, I co-counseled Colorado’s first-filed marriage equality lawsuit. (We won!) *Rebecca Brinkman and Margaret Burd v. Karen Long and The State of Colorado*, 2014 WL 3408024 (Colo. Dist. Ct.). Some other reported cases are *Marchant v. Boulder Cmty. Health, Inc.*, 2018 COA 126M, ¶ 1, *as modified* (Oct. 18, 2018), *cert. denied*, 18SC671, 2019 WL 92352 (Colo. Feb. 25, 2019) (Case of first impression interpreting amendments to Colorado hospital lien statute. Denver law students assisted with the litigation and appeal. We lost!) *Mile High Cab, Inc. v. Colo. Pub. Utils. Comm’n*, No. 11SA312, slip op. 2013 WL 1715473 (Colo., Apr. 22, 2013) (Multi-year representation of startup taxi company that 150 East African immigrants formed culminating in unanimous decision overturning Colorado Public Utility Commission’s denial of operating authority.) *Wycoff v. Grace Community Church of Assemblies of God*, 251 P.3d 1260 (Colo. App., 2010). (Won \$4 million at trial for child with spinal cord injury, defeated recreational release, and preserved judgment on appeal.)

I write (and teach) about systemic racism. My 2010 study of institutional racism helped spearhead building renaming. "‘Keep Negroes Out of Most Classes Where There are a Large Number of Girls’: The Unseen Power of the Ku Klux Klan and Standardized Testing at the University of Texas, 1899-1999," 52 *South Texas Law Review* 1 (Fall 2010). I have examined slave property and law’s central role in slave sales and family disruption. "A New Image of the Slave Auction: An Empirical Look at the Role of Law in Slave Sales and a Conceptual Reevaluation of the Nature of Slave Property," 18 *Cardozo Law Review* 473. "Articles Sell Best Singly: The Disruption of Slave Families at Court Sales," 1996 *Utah Law Review* 1161-1209 (1996). "South Carolina's Largest Slave Auctioneering Firm," in Symposium on the Law of Slavery, 68 *Chicago-Kent Law Review* 1241-82 (1993). At the start of Torts, I talk about race and damages.

I have written about the history of torts, too, including a co-authored piece with Lawrence M. Friedman. "Historical Study of Personal Injury Litigation: A Comment on Method," 1 *Georgia Journal of Southern Legal History* 109-33 (Spring/Summer 1991). Lawrence M. Friedman and Thomas D. Russell, "More Civil Wrongs: Personal Injury Litigation, 1901-1910," 24 *American Journal of Legal History* 296-314 (July 1990). I have an unpublished, very fun manuscript titled Blood on the Tracks.

I earned tenure at The University of Texas at Austin School of Law, where I was a full professor with a courtesy appointment in History. I taught Contracts, History of American Law, and a seminar on the legal history of California as a visitor at the University of California’s Hastings College of the Law. I taught legal history at Berkeley Law. While a PhD candidate, I co-taught History of American Law with Lawrence Friedman at Stanford.

My international experience includes teaching the Irish law of Torts and the Irish law of Contracts to 175 undergraduate and 12 Masters students at Maynooth University in the Republic of Ireland. I taught the Caribbean’s first Restorative Justice seminar as a Fulbright Senior Specialist at the University of the West Indies in St. Augustine, Trinidad & Tobago.

At the University of Denver, I serve on the COVID-19 Planning Committee and have served on the Appointments Committee; Policy Committee; Admissions and Financial Aid Committee; Budget Committee; National Fundraising Campaign Committee; Library Committee. At UT, I served on the Faculty Council Executive Committee; Budget Advisory Committee of the General Faculty; and was a University Hearing Officer. At UT law school, I was a member of the Curriculum; Standards and Rules; and Computer Services Committees.

I hold a Ph.D. in history and J.D. from Stanford University and a B.A. from Northwestern University. I have considerable political experience and have given many talks. I like to garden, ride my bicycle, and run. I speak decent Italian and French, and I can provide a longer, more complete c.v. and the names of references on request.

Last edit: October 18, 2020.