

SYMPOSIUM EDITION

In conjunction with this event, a Symposium Edition of *The University of Memphis Law Review* will be dedicated to “The Ripple Effect: Examining the Supreme Court’s Impact on the Public’s Confidence in the Judicial Branch.” If you would like to subscribe to *The University of Memphis Law Review* or receive the Symposium Edition, please return the subscription form in the attendee folder to the registration table. For further subscription inquiries, please contact the Law Review Business Editor Ethan Pfister at rpfister@memphis.edu.

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The RIPPLE EFFECT:

Examining the Supreme Court’s Impact on the
Public’s Confidence in the Judicial Branch



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2025

University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law
LAW REVIEW 2025 SYMPOSIUM

The RIPPLE EFFECT:

Examining the Supreme Court’s Impact on the Public’s Confidence in the Judicial Branch

The University of Memphis Law Review’s 2025 symposium will explore public trust in state and federal courts. Discussions will focus on the following topics and their impact on practitioners: judicial transparency, *stare decisis* and religious liberty jurisprudence. This year’s keynote presentation includes a panel of federal and state judges and justices to provide a view from the bench.

SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE

*All times in Central Time

8–8:30 AM	Registration and Breakfast
8:30–9 AM	Welcome Address and Opening Remarks
9–9:50 AM	<p>Professor Daniel Kiel, Professor of Law at the University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Professor Kiel will present his article on Supreme Court transitions. Prof. Kiel’s article identifies several instances where changes in a judge’s personnel impacted the outcome on the other side of a Court transition. Ultimately, Prof. Kiel posits that the significance of the Court’s staff is oversized and threatens to reduce the Court’s legitimacy.
9:50–10:40 AM	<p>Professor Asma Uddin, Research Fellow at Georgetown University Law Center; Fellow at Freedom Forum Institute and the Aspen’s Institute Religion and Society Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Professor Uddin will discuss her scholarship that maps depolarization strategies for the U.S. Supreme Court through judicial rhetoric. Prof. Uddin’s scholarship aims to build more public trust and prevent rulings that fuel cultural divides.
10:40–10:50 AM	Break

10:50AM–NOON	<p>Stare Decisis: Historical Overview and Future Application with Nneka Ewulonu and James Bernstein</p> <p>Nneka Ewulonu, Attorney with the ACLU Georgia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nneka Ewulonu will present their article entitled <i>Welcome to the Supreme Court Where the Rules are Made Up and the Precedents Don’t Matter</i>. This article explores the Supreme Court’s history of overturning precedent, from the Court’s first instance in <i>Wilson v. Daniels</i> to the present-day example in <i>Dobbs</i>. <p>James Bernstein, Corporate Associate Attorney</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• James Bernstein will present his article entitled <i>The Rule of Law’s Lack of Rules</i>, which critiques the Supreme Court’s reliance on judge-made standards. Bernstein’s article argues that the Supreme Court should adopt clear rules that are faithful to the Constitution’s text and result in consistency and better protection of individual rights.
NOON–1 PM	Lunch Break
1–2:30 PM	<p>View from the Bench</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Chief Justice Holly Kirby Tennessee Supreme Court■ Judge Andre Mathis United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit■ Judge Mark Norris United States District Court of the Western District of Tennessee
2:30–2:40 PM	Break
2:40–3:20 PM	<p>Clark Hildabrand, Attorney with Cooper & Kirk, PLLC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clark Hildabrand will present his article entitled <i>Judging Values: Public Confidence in the Federal Courts’ Approach to Religion and Morality</i> which explores federal courts’ impact on society through the lens of the Supreme Court’s COVID-19 docket, with an emphasis on its decisions impacting religious liberties.
3:20–4 PM	<p>Michael Gallagher, Attorney with Morgan & Morgan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Michael Gallagher will present his article entitled <i>Snap Removal and the Absurdity Doctrine</i> which argues that the Supreme Court should apply the absurdity doctrine to end snap removal.
4–4:40 PM	<p>Professor Kenneth Kellner, Visiting Professor of Law at the University of the District of Columbia School of Law; Former Senior Counsel at the United States Department of Justice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Professor Kellner will address the history of ethics and anti-corruption laws in the United States by comparing the three federal branches’ different ethics rules and enforcement mechanisms and examining new models and reforms that the judicial branch could adopt.
4:40–5 PM	Closing Remarks
5–6 PM	Reception and Cocktail Hour

