

~ CURRICULUM VITAE ~

**Dominic Francis DeBrincat**

Department of Social Sciences and Humanities  
Missouri Western State University  
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**CURRENT EMPLOYMENT**

Missouri Western State University, Assistant Dean of Liberal Arts; Chair, Department of Social Sciences and Humanities; Chair, School of Fine Arts; Associate Professor of History

**EDUCATION**

*Graduate*

Ph.D. in History (2012), University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut  
Major Field: United States History through 1877  
Concentration: United States Legal and Constitutional History  
Dissertation: “Yankee Jurisprudence: The Court and Legal Culture of Colonial New London County, Connecticut”  
Advisor: Cornelia Hughes Dayton  
Associate Advisors: Richard D. Brown, R. Kent Newmyer

M.A. in History (2000), Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan  
Major Field: United States History  
Concentration: United States Legal and Constitutional History

*Professional*

J.D. (2000), Wayne State University Law School, Detroit, Michigan

*Baccalaureate*

B.A., with Distinction and Honors (1996), University of Michigan–Dearborn, Dearborn, Michigan  
Majors: History, Political Science  
University of Michigan–Dearborn Honors Program

## **PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS/TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

Missouri Western State University, Associate Professor of History, Department of Social Sciences and Humanities (2020—); Assistant Professor of History, Department of History and Geography (2015-2020)

- American History to 1865 (Face-to-Face and Online)
- American History since 1865 (Face-to-Face and Online)
- American Colonial History
- The American Revolution
- Early National Period, 1783-1840
- U.S. Civil War and Reconstruction
- U.S. Constitutional History
- Military History (Online)
- The Historian's Craft
- Honors Colloquium: Great American Trials of the Twentieth Century
- Honors Colloquium: Seven Glasses—The Chemistry and History of Beverages
- Understanding the Missouri Constitution (Online)
- College Writing and Rhetoric

Eastern Connecticut State University, Department of History, Visiting Assistant Professor (2013-2015, 2007-2009); Adjunct Professor (2009-2012, 2003-2007)

- Early American Experience, 1607-1877
- Recent American Experience, 1877-Present
- Revolution and Early Republic
- Cross-Cultural Encounters in Early America
- Great Issues: Survey of American History (Theme: Constitutional History)
- Women's Legal History in America
- Great American Trials of the Twentieth Century
- Women, Minorities, and the Law
- Law and Body in American History
- Constitutional History of the United States
- American Legal History
- Landmark Legal Cases in American History
- Legal History of Connecticut
- Introduction to Modern World History

Southern Connecticut State University, History Department, Visiting Assistant Professor (2011-2013)

- United States History I
- United States History II
- Critical Thinking through Historical Biography
- History of U.S. Criminal Justice
- American Roots
- Great American Trials of the Twentieth Century
- Modern Western Traditions

## PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS/TEACHING EXPERIENCE (cont.)

University of Connecticut, Department of History, Graduate Assistant/Lecturer (2000-2012)  
United States History to 1877 (also as Writing Intensive)  
United States History since 1877  
The Historian's Craft  
Senior Seminar: Legal History of the Underrepresented in America  
Constitutional History of the United States  
Topics in American Legal History (also as Writing Intensive)  
United States Coast Guard Academy, Humanities Department, Visiting Lecturer (2009)  
Leaders in United States History  
Manchester Community College, Social Sciences & Hospitality Division, Adjunct Lecturer (2003)  
United States History through 1877  
United States History since 1877  
University of Connecticut, Department of English, Graduate Assistant/Lecturer (2000-2003)  
English Composition  
Basic Composition

## PUBLICATIONS

### As Author

- “Solomon in the Wilderness: Colonial Connecticut’s Judges and their Qualifications,” *Law, Culture and the Humanities* (Accepted and Forthcoming).
- “The Long, Salty Arm of the Law: Colonial Connecticut’s Litigated Maritime Economy and the Origins of Modern Contracts,” *The International Journal of Maritime History* 33 (November 2021): 690-706.
- “The Spanish Ship Affair: Wreck, Salvage, and Contested Legal Authority in Colonial Connecticut,” *Early American Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal* 19 (Fall 2021): 699-734.
- “Boo-Boo’s Big Day Out: A Boy’s Bear as a Fictional Future Artifact,” *Detours: Social Science Education Research Journal* 2 (2021): 4-5.
- “‘All Dregs of the said Distemper’: Containing Smallpox and Religious Dissent in Colonial Connecticut,” *Connecticut History Review* 58 (Fall 2019): 3-35.
- “Yes, No, Wait, What?: The Benefits of Student Mistakes in the Classroom,” *The History Teacher* 49 (November 2015): 9-34.
- “Lift, Sift, Peel, and Tunnel: Empowering Undergraduates to Embrace Judicial Opinions,” *Teaching History: A Journal of Methods* 40 (Spring 2015): 13-27.
- “Discolored Justice: Blacks in New London County Courts, 1710-1750,” *Connecticut History* 44 (Fall 2005): 183-204.

## **PUBLICATIONS (cont.)**

### **As Author (In Progress)**

Article: Untitled Study of Alcohol Regulation in Colonial Connecticut

### **As Contributing Writer or Editor**

*CourseReader: U.S. History*, Cengage Learning (2013-2014). Selected primary source entries as Subject Matter Expert.

Encyclopedia of American Civil Liberties, 4 vols., ed. Paul Finkelman. New York: Routledge (2006). Selected entries.

*Court Rules of Michigan Annotated*, 4 vols., ed. Daniel D. Kopka. Ann Arbor, Michigan: Institute of Continuing Legal Education (Printed and Online). Various annotations published 1998-2005.

### **Book Reviews**

Paul DeForest Hicks, *The Litchfield Law School: Guiding the New Nation* (Westport, Conn.: Prospecta Press, 2019), *Connecticut History Review* 59 (Spring 2020): 114-116.

Richard Rabinowitz, *Curating America: Journeys through Storyscapes of the American Past* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2016), in *Connecticut History Review* 57 (Fall 2018): 183-185.

Michael J. Klarman, *The Framers' Coup: The Making of the United States Constitution* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2016), for H-Teach, H-Net Reviews. August, 2017.

Lea VanderVelde, *Redemption Songs: Suing for Freedom before Dred Scott* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2014), for H-Teach, H-Net Reviews. March, 2017 (<http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=47384>).

Margaret Ellen Newell, *Brethren by Nature: New England Indians, Colonists, and the Origins of American Slavery* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2015), in *Connecticut History Review* 55 (Fall 2016): 229-230.

Catherine Armstrong, *Using Non-Textual Sources: A Historian's Guide* (New York: Bloomsbury, 2016), *The History Teacher* 49 (August 2016): 607-608.

Justin Buckley Dyer, *Natural Law and the Antislavery Constitutional Tradition* (Cambridge, Mass.: Cambridge University Press, 2012), for H-Law, H-Net Reviews. February, 2014 (<https://www.h-net.org/reviews/showpdf.php?id=40040>).

Francis J. Bremer, *First Founders: American Puritans and Puritanism in an Atlantic World* (Durham: University of New Hampshire Press, 2012), in *Connecticut History* 52 (Spring 2013): 118-120.

John Phillip Reid, *Legislating the Courts: Judicial Dependence in Early National New Hampshire* (DeKalb: Northern Illinois Univ. Press, 2008), for H-Law, H-Net Reviews. October, 2011 (<https://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=31501>).

## **PUBLICATIONS (cont.)**

### **General Contributions**

“Take Note!: A Guide to Studying Court Opinions,” in *Dimensions*, newsletter for the British Columbia Social Studies Teachers’ Association (August 2016).

## **HONORS, AWARDS, and GRANTS**

MoExcels Workforce Development Grant, “Digital Solutions for a Modern Missouri,” \$2.46 Million for renovations, equipment, and software for Cinema, Digital Animation, and Graphic Design programming at MWSU’s School of Fine Arts (2024-2025).  
Advisor Shout-Out, Academic Advising, Missouri Western State University (2020)  
Most Influential Professor Award, Alpha Chi National Honor and Scholarship Society, Missouri Lambda Chapter, Missouri Western State University (2019 2x)  
Faculty Mentor Award, Student-Athlete Advisory Council, Missouri Western State Univ. (2017)  
Compass Award, Alpha Chi National Honor and Scholarship Society, Missouri Lambda Chapter, Missouri Western State University (2016)  
Outstanding Faculty Service, Eastern Connecticut State University History Department (2015)  
J. Phillip Smith Award for Outstanding Teaching, Southern Conn. State Univ. (Nominee 2013)  
Educator of the Year, Univ. of Connecticut Undergraduate Student Government (Nominee 2006)  
Graduate Excellence Award for Teaching, Univ. of Connecticut History Department (2005)  
Littleton-Griswold Legal Research Grant, American Historical Association (2005)  
Albert E. & Wilda E. Van Dusen Scholarship, Univ. of Connecticut History Department (2003)  
Alfred Kelly History Research Award, Wayne State University History Department (1999)  
Wayne State University Graduate/Professional Scholarship (1998, 1999)  
David Adamany Constitutional Writing Award (Nominee 1998)  
Detroit Diesel Academic Scholarship (1994, 1997)  
Wayne-Westland Builders’ Association Academic Scholarship (1992)

## **CONFERENCE OR INVITED PAPERS/PARTICIPATION**

“Combating the Willful Decline of Memory: Class Notes as an Assessment Alternative to Exams.” Presented at New England Historical Association Fall Conference (Southern Connecticut State University, New Haven, Connecticut, October 21, 2023).  
“The Many Colors of Justice: Black New Englanders in Connecticut’s Colonial Courts.” Presentation for Connecticut Old State House (Hartford, CT, via Facebook Live and broadcast on Connecticut Old State House’s YouTube Channel, February 23, 2023).  
“Landmark Legislation: In the Case of Sickness.” Presentation for Connecticut Old State House Landmark Legislation Program with The Connecticut Democracy Center (Hartford, CT, via Facebook Live and broadcast on Connecticut Old State House’s YouTube Channel and Connecticut Network [CT-N], August 27, 2020).

## CONFERENCE OR INVITED PAPERS/PARTICIPATION (cont.)

- “A Pox on Their Blasphemous Houses: Isolating Disease and Religious Dissent in Colonial New London.” Presented at New England Historical Association Fall Conference (Roger Williams University, Bristol, Rhode Island, October 26, 2019).
- “A Homecoming of Sorts: One UConn Cohort Discusses Graduate School, the Marketplace, and Employment.” Coordinator and Participant at New England Historical Association Fall Conference (University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT, October 27, 2018).
- “Selling and Saving Spirits: Regulating Strong Drink in Colonial New England.” Presented at New England Historical Association Spring Conference (Saint Anselm College, Manchester, NH, April 14, 2018).
- “The Qualities for Common Sense: County Court Judges in Colonial Connecticut.” Presented at New England Historical Association Fall Conference (Eastern Connecticut State University, Willimantic, CT, October 28, 2017).
- “Learning Right from Wrongs: Benefitting from the History Student’s Errors.” Presented at New England Historical Association Spring Conference (Saint Anselm College, Manchester, NH, April 14, 2018).  
Presented at 2017 Teaching History Conference at UC Berkeley (Berkeley, CA, May 5-6, 2017).
- “Imperial Claims, Local Justice: The Spanish Ship Affair in a Colonial Connecticut Court.” Invited presentation for University of Missouri Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy’s History Colloquium Series (University of Missouri, Columbia, MO, January 29, 2016).
- “The Body of Law: Adjudicating Physical Assaults in Eighteenth-Century New England.” Presented at New England Historical Association Fall Conference (Southern Connecticut State University, New Haven, CT, October 24, 2015).
- “Wrecking Ambivalence: The *St. Joseph and St. Helena* Crisis in 1750s Connecticut.” Presented at “Making History: A Connecticut State University Conference” (Southern Connecticut State University, New Haven, CT, March 27, 2015).
- “Staying Afloat: Colonial Connecticut and the Litigated Maritime Economy.” Presented at New England Historical Association Fall Conference (Franklin Pierce University, Rindge, NH, October 18, 2014).
- “Dirty Deeds and Filthy Words: Sex, Punishment, and Character in Colonial Connecticut.” Presented at New England Historical Association Spring Conference (Westfield State University, Westfield, MA, April 20, 2013).
- “Discolored Justice: Blacks in New London County Courts, 1710-1750.” Presented at “African American Experience in Connecticut,” annual conference of the Association for the Study of Connecticut History (Manchester, CT, November 6, 2004).

## **INVITED CONFERENCE AND SEMINAR COMMENTS**

- “Case Studies in African American History from Three Different Centuries.” Panel Chair and Commentator, New England Historical Association Spring Conference (Springfield College, Springfield, MA, April 22, 2023).
- “War, Frontier, and the Construction of Identity.” Panel Chair and Commentator, New England Historical Association Fall Conference (Virtual Meeting, October 23, 2021).
- “Contours of Slavery and Resistance.” Panel Chair and Commentator, New England Historical Association Fall Conference (Virtual Meeting, April 10, 2021).
- “Black Freedom Struggles.” Panel Chair and Commentator, New England Historical Association Fall Conference (Virtual Meeting, October 17, 2020).
- “Teaching and Writing History in the Modern World: Challenges and Opportunities.” Panel Chair and Commentator, New England Historical Association Fall Conference (Roger Williams University, Bristol, RI, October 26, 2019).
- “Perceptions of War and Terror from Habsburg Austria to the United States in the Twentieth Century.” Panel Chair and Commentator, New England Historical Association Fall Conference (Eastern Connecticut State University, Willimantic, CT, October 28, 2017).
- “The Five Pound Act and Its Enemies,” by Dr. Sung Yup Kim. Paper Commentator and Interlocutor, Missouri Regional Seminar on Early American History (University of Missouri, Columbia, MO, October 7, 2016).
- “Eighteenth-Century Political Economy.” Panel Chair and Commentator, New England Historical Association Spring Conference (Westfield State University, Westfield, MA, April 20, 2013).

## **CAMPUS OR DEPARTMENTAL TALKS**

- “A Roundtable Discussion: Ukraine Crisis,” Panelist, MWSU, Department of Criminal Justice and Legal Studies and Department of Social Sciences and Humanities (2022)
- “The Electoral College: A Constitution Day Discussion.” Presented at MWSU (2020)
- “100 Years of Women’s Suffrage: A Discussion of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment,” Presenter with Dr. Evan E. Hart, Constitution Day, MWSU (2019)
- “Family and Medical Leave Act Panel: A History of Balancing Work and Family,” Panelist, MWSU Women’s History Month (2017)
- “Presidential ‘Greatness’: An MWSU on the American Presidency,” Panelist, Departments of History & Geography and Political Science (2016)
- “Women in the Workplace: National Women’s History Month Panel,” Panelist, ECSU NOW and History Club (2015)
- “Is There Life with a History Major? How to Make it Work for You at School, at Home, and in the Marketplace.” Presented at ECSU (2014)
- “Careers in History,” Panelist on Law, SCSU History Club (2013)
- “Keys to Successfully Managing Your History Graduate Career,” Panelist, UConn Department of History (2010)

## **CAMPUS OR DEPARTMENTAL TALKS (cont.)**

- “So You Think You Want to Go to Grad School or Law School?” Panelist, ECSU (2009)
- “Paternalizing Peace: Indians in Colonial Connecticut Courts.” Presented at HiGSA Box Lunch Series, UConn Department of History (2008)
- “The Graduate School Experience,” Panelist, ECSU Department of History (2007)
- “The Value of Studying History as a Pre-Law Major.” Presented at UConn History Career Workshop (2004)

## **INVITED PROFESSIONAL AND PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS**

- “Donkeys, Elephants, and All the Drama: Political Polarization in the United States,” Liberal Arts Panel Presentation for the East Hills Public Library (St. Joseph, MO, October 21, 2024)
- “Validating the Revolution: The Independence Movement’s Influence on the Bill of Rights.”
  - Invited presentation for the Alexander Doniphan Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (Liberty, MO, September 7, 2023).
  - Invited presentation for the William C. Corum Chapter of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (Liberty, MO, December 9, 2023).
- “The United States’ Electoral College.” Invited presentation for The Friends of the American Library in Nancy, France (Nancy, France, December 14, 2020).
- “A Doubtful but Expedient Policy: The Living Presidents and the Missouri Question.” Invited presentation for the Harris-Kemper Historic District Neighborhood Association Presidents’ Day Meeting (St. Joseph, MO, February 12, 2019).
- “The Accidental Model: The Importance of John Tyler, His Presidency, and His National Vision.” Invited presentation for the St. Joseph Historical Society’s Annual Presidents’ Day Dinner (St. Joseph, MO, April 28, 2018).
- “Managing Trainees’ Classroom Mistakes.” Invited presentation for Blue Care Network of Michigan’s Training and Quality Review Departments (Southfield, MI, December 22, 2016).

## **TEACHING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS**

- “Teaching History to Undergraduates: A Regional Conversation,” University Representative, sponsored by American Historical Association Tuning Project, St. Francis College, Brooklyn, New York (May 20, 2014)
- ECSU Title III Faculty Development Course, Fellow, sponsored by Center for Educational Excellence (Summer 2013)



## **RESEARCH IN PROGRESS**

Alcohol Regulations in Colonial Connecticut  
The Legal Life of Justice of the Peace Isaac Huntington  
History of Early American Lawyers

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

Graduate and Undergraduate Student Paper Prize Coordinator, New England Historical Association (2018-)  
National Advisory Council Member, Law School Transparency (2015-2020)  
Book Review Editor, *American Journal of Legal History* (2005-2009)  
Victim's Advocate, Wayne County Clerk's Office, Detroit, Michigan (1997)

## **UNIVERSITY/DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE**

Member, Academic Advising Council (2024-), Missouri Western State University  
Assistant Dean of Liberal Arts (2022-), Missouri Western State University  
Chair (2022-), School of Fine Arts, Missouri Western State University  
Chair (2021-), Department of Social Sciences & Humanities, Missouri Western State University  
Member (2021), University Search Committee for Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs, Missouri Western State University  
Investigator (2021-2022), Title IX Office, Missouri Western State University  
Co-Director (2020-2021), Center for Teaching and Learning, Missouri Western State University  
Member (2020-2022), Center for Teaching and Learning Steering Committee, Missouri Western State University  
Coordinator (2019-2022), Missouri Secretary of State Local Records Project, Missouri Western State University  
Chair (2019-2020)/Secretary (2018-2019), Fringe Benefits Committee, Faculty Senate, Missouri Western State University  
Member (2018-2020), Disrupted Attendance Resource Team, Missouri Western State University  
Faculty Mentor (2018-2020), FYE Griffon Edge Program, Missouri Western State University  
Chair (2018-2019), Best Practices Subcommittee, Center for Teaching and Learning Planning Committee, Missouri Western State University  
Member (2018), General Studies Assessment Academy, Missouri Western State University  
Member (2018), Strategic Planning Workgroup on "People," Missouri Western State University  
Coordinator (2017-2020), Annual HGPR Scholars' Day, History and Geography/Philosophy and Religion Departments, Missouri Western State University  
Chair (2017-2020), Recruitment and Retention Committee, History and Geography Department, Missouri Western State University

## **UNIVERSITY/DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE (cont.)**

Chair (2017-2018)/Member (2016-2017), Academic Regulations and Standards and Honesty, Faculty Senate, Missouri Western State University

Member (2017-2018), 20th-Century Snapshots Film Series Committee, Missouri Western State University

Chair (2016-2017)/Member (2015-2016), Online Teaching Committee, History and Geography Department, Missouri Western State University

Coordinator (2016, 2017), Mary Boder History Speaker Series, History and Geography Department, Missouri Western State University

Liaison (2015-2021), Early College Academy, Missouri Western State University

Member (2015-2020), Syllabi/Peer Review Committee, History and Geography Department, Missouri Western State University

Member (2014-2015), Legal Studies Advisory Committee, Eastern Connecticut State University

Member (2014-2015), *Germina Veris* Editorial Board, Eastern Connecticut State University

Mentor (2014-2015), LEAP into Leadership Program, Eastern Connecticut State University

Faculty Advisor (2013-2015), Pre-Law Society, Eastern Connecticut State University

President (2001-2003)/Member (2000-2012), University of Connecticut History Graduate Student Association

Member, Faculty-Graduate Planning Committee (2003-2006), Carnegie Initiative on the Doctorate, University of Connecticut Department of History

Chair, Graduate Student Advisory Committee (2003), James L. and Shirley A. Draper Professor of Early American History Search, University of Connecticut Department of History

Member, Graduate Student Advisory Committee (2001), Nineteenth-Century American History Faculty Search, University of Connecticut Department of History

Student Representative (1995-1996), University of Michigan–Dearborn College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters Executive Committee

Speaker of the Senate (1995-1996)/Representative (1994-1995), University of Michigan–Dearborn Student Government

## **COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND SERVICE**

Oral Interpreter (2015-2019), Harris-Kemper Haunted Tour, Harris-Kemper Historic Neighborhood Association, St. Joseph, MO

University Liaison (2018), National Trails Project, St. Joseph City Planning & Community Department and Parks, Recreation, & Civic Facilities Department, St. Joseph, MO

## **SELECTED MEDIA APPEARANCES/COVERAGE**

Guest Host, *Have a Cup of Joe with Old Saint Jo* Podcast, Episode 3 (St. Joseph, MO, November 3, 2023).  
Interview, Importance of the Declaration of Independence, *St. Joseph Post/KFEQ 680 AM* (St. Joseph, MO, July 4, 2021)  
Interview, Abraham Lincoln's Thanksgiving Proclamation, *St. Joseph Post/KFEQ 680 AM* (St. Joseph, MO, November 27-28, 2019)  
Special Guest, "Trials of the Century," *The History Show*, WECS 90.1 FM (Willimantic, CT, June 2, 2010)

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION**

Attorney at Law, Connecticut State Bar (Juris Number 430448)

## **NON-ACADEMIC PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

Hire Counsel (Legal Research Assistant, 2011, 2013, 2014)  
Institute of Continuing Legal Education (Assistant Legal Editor, 1997-2005)  
Kelly Law Registry (Legal Research Assistant, 2001)  
Michael A. Bell & Associates (Legal Assistant, 1994-1995)  
Detroit Diesel Corporation (Assembly Worker, 1993, 1994)  
Central States Sales (Sales Manager, 1992-1994)

## **ACADEMIC, PROFESSIONAL, COMMUNITY MEMBERSHIPS (Past and Present)**

American Bar Association  
American Historical Association  
American Society for Legal History  
Association for the Study of Connecticut History  
Connecticut Bar Association  
New England Historical Association  
New London County Historical Association  
Organization of American Historians  
Society of Historians for the Early Republic  
Virginia Historical Association

*\*Revised October 2024*