

JOHN F. COYLE

University of North Carolina School of Law
160 Ridge Road, Chapel Hill NC 27599
jccoyle@email.unc.edu

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA SCHOOL OF LAW

Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Associate Dean for Research

2022-present

Reef C. Ivey II Distinguished Professor of Law

2020-present

Associate Professor of Law (with tenure)

2016-2020

Assistant Professor of Law

2010-2016

Courses: Business Associations, Conflict of Laws, Contracts, International Business Transactions

Awards: Frederick B. McCall Award for Teaching Excellence (2015, 2021)

Charles E. Daye Award for Excellence in Service (2019)

James H. Chadbourne Award for Excellence in Scholarship (2014)

HARVARD LAW SCHOOL

2008-2010

Cambridge, Massachusetts

Climenko Fellow

COVINGTON & BURLING LLP

2006-2008

Washington, D.C.

Corporate Associate

REENA RAGGI, U.S. COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE SECOND CIRCUIT

2005-2006

Brooklyn, New York

Law Clerk

EDUCATION

YALE LAW SCHOOL, J.D., 2005

New Haven, Connecticut

Yale Law Journal, Symposium Editor

Yale Journal of International Law, Articles Editor

William K.S. Wang Prize (superior performance in introductory course in corporate law)

Jewell Prize (outstanding writing by a second-year law student)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY, M.Phil in European Studies, 2001

Cambridge, England

High Honors

HARVARD COLLEGE, A.B. *magna cum laude* in History and Literature, 2000

Cambridge, Massachusetts

Phi Beta Kappa

Barrett Wendell Prize (departmental essay prize)

PUBLICATIONS

MAJOR PUBLISHED ARTICLES

- Erie and Forum Selection Clauses*, 2023 ILLINOIS L. REV. (forthcoming) (with Andy Hessick)
- “Contractually Valid” Forum Selection Clauses*, 108 IOWA L. REV. 127 (2022)
- The Mystery of the Missing Choice-of-Law Clause*, 56 U.C. DAVIS L. REV. 707 (2022)
- Forum Selection Clauses, Non-Signatories, and Personal Jurisdiction*, 97 NOTRE DAME L. REV. 189 (2021) (with Robin Effron)
- Enforcing Outbound Forum Selection Clauses in State Court*, 96 IND. L.J. 1174 (2021) (with Katherine Richardson)
- Enforcing Inbound Forum Selection Clauses in State Court*, 53 ARIZ. ST. L.J. 65 (2021) (with Katherine Richardson)
- A Short History of the Choice-of-Law Clause*, 91 COLO. L. REV. 1147 (2020)
- Interpreting Forum Selection Clauses*, 104 IOWA L. REV. 1791 (2019)
- The Canons of Construction for Choice-of-Law Clauses*, 92 WASH. L. REV. 631 (2017)
- The Role of the CISG in U.S. Contract Practice: An Empirical Study*, 38 U. PA. J. INT’L L. 195 (2016)
- The Case for Writing International Law into the U.S. Code*, 56 B.C. L. REV. 433 (2015)
- Contractual Innovation in Venture Capital*, 66 HASTINGS L.J. 133 (2014) (with Joseph Green)
- Rethinking Judgments Reciprocity*, 92 N.C. L. REV. 1109 (2014)
- Acqui-hiring*, 63 DUKE L.J. 281 (2013) (with Gregg Polsky)
- The Treaty of Friendship, Commerce and Navigation in the Modern Era*, 51 COLUM. J. TRANSNAT’L L. 302 (2013)
- Business Courts and Interstate Competition*, 53 WM. & MARY L. REV. 1915 (2012)
- Rethinking the Commercial Law Treaty*, 40 GA. L. REV. 656 (2011)
- Incorporative Statutes and the Borrowed Treaty Rule*, 50 VA. J. INT’L LAW 655 (2010)

WORKS IN PROGRESS

- Choice-of-Law Clauses in Wills* (with David Horton and Reid Weisbord)
- Financial Hardship and Forum Selection Clauses*
- Dangerous Foreign Courts*

BOOKS AND BOOK CHAPTERS

United States, in PUBLIC POLICY AND PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL LAW: A COMPARATIVE GUIDE (Olaf Meyer, ed., 2022)

Corporations and Other Business Enterprises: Cases and Materials (Fifth Edition) (2021) (with Thomas Lee Hazen and Jerry Markham)

The SPEECH Act and the Enforcement of Foreign Libel Judgments in U.S. Courts, in 18 YEARBOOK OF PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL LAW 245 (A. Bonomi & G. Romano eds., 2017)

OTHER WORK

The Canon of Evolving Law, 60 WILLAMETTE L. REV. (forthcoming 2024) (invited symposium)

Choice of Law in the American Courts in 2022: Thirty-Sixth Annual Survey, 71 AM. J. COMP. L. 318 (forthcoming 2023) (with William Dodge and Aaron Simowitz)

Choice of Law in the American Courts in 2021: Thirty-Fifth Annual Survey, 70 AM. J. COMP. L. 318 (2022) (with William Dodge and Aaron Simowitz)

Boilerterms, 16 CAPITAL MARKETS L. J. 1 (2021) (peer reviewed)

Cruise Contracts, Public Policy, and Foreign Forum Selection Clauses, 75 U. MIAMI L. REV. 1087 (2021) (special issue devoted to legal issues in the Eleventh Circuit)

Contract as Swag, 124 PENN. ST. L. REV. 353 (2020) (with Joseph Green)

The Role of the CISG in Canadian Contract Practice, 39 J.L. & COM. 65 (2019) (invited symposium)

Party Autonomy and the Presumption Against Extraterritoriality, 55 WILLAMETTE L. REV. 559 (2019) (invited symposium)

The Butterfly Effect in Boilerplate Contract Interpretation, 82 LAW & CONTEMPORARY PROBLEMS i (2019) (introductory essay to symposium volume)

Contracting Around the Hague Service Convention, 53 UC DAVIS L. REV. ONLINE 53 (2019) (with Robin Effron & Maggie Gardner)

An Empirical Study of Dispute Resolution Clauses in International Supply Contracts, 52 VAND. J. TRANSNAT'L L. 323 (2019) (with Christopher Drahozal)

Interpreting Contracts Without Context, 67 AM. U. L. REV. 1673 (2018) (with Mark Weidemaier)

Choice-of-Law Clauses in U.S. Bond Indentures, 13 CAPITAL MARKETS L. J. 152 (2018) (peer reviewed)

The SAFE, the KISS, and the Note: A Survey of Startup Seed Financing Contracts, 103 MINN. L. REV.

HEADNOTES 42 (2018) (with Joseph Green)

Reviving the Treaty of Friendship: Enforcing International Investment Law in U.S. Courts, 49 ARIZ. ST. L.J. 61 (2017) (with Jason Yackee)

Friendly and Hostile Deals in the Market for Sovereign Control, 66 DUKE L.J. ONLINE 37 (2017)

Startup Lawyering 2.0, 95 N.C. L. REV. 1403 (2017) (with Joseph Green) (invited symposium)

The Great Vanishing: International Trade Agreements in U.S. Courts, 95 N.C. L. REV. ADDENDUM 70 (2017)

Altering Rules, Cumulative Voting, and Venture Capital, 2016 UTAH L. REV. 595 (2016) (invited symposium)

Crowdfunding and the Not-So-Safe SAFE, 102 VA. L. REV. ONLINE 168 (2016) (with Joseph Green)

Friendship Treaties ≠ Judgments Treaties, 112 MICH. L. REV. FIRST IMPRESSIONS 49 (2013)

COURT CITATIONS

1. *Javice v. JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.*, 2023 Del. Ch. LEXIS 173, *3 (citing *Forum Selection Clauses, Non-Signatories, and Personal Jurisdiction*)
2. *Franlink Inc. v. Bace Servs.*, No. 21-20316, 2022 U.S. App. LEXIS 27234, at *16 (5th Cir. Sep. 28, 2022) (citing *Forum Selection Clauses, Non-Signatories, and Personal Jurisdiction*)
3. *Delta Pegasus Management LLC v. Netjets Sales, Inc.*, No. 221CV00393RJSDAO, 2022 WL 4536757, at *10 (D. Utah Sept. 28, 2022)
4. *Rolls-Royce Solutions America Inc. v. ACS Manufacturing, Inc.*, 2022 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 137943, at *15 n.6 (E.D. Mich. Aug. 3, 2022) (citing *Enforcing Inbound Forum Selection Clauses in State Court*)
5. *McM Mgmt. Corp. v. Jenkins Envtl.*, No. 21-CV-10970, 2022 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 26617, at *7-8 (E.D. Mich. Feb. 14, 2022) (citing *Forum Selection Clauses, Non-Signatories, and Personal Jurisdiction*)
6. *Certain Underwriters at Lloyd's v. Expeditors Int'l of Wash., Inc.*, No. 8:20-cv-00809-JWH-PJWx, 2022 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 23677, at *12 (C.D. Cal. Feb. 9, 2022) (citing *The Canons of Construction for Choice-of-Law Clauses*)
7. *LCA 6493/21 Shmuel Lagziel v. R S Design Ltd* (Israel Supreme Court 2022) (citing *Forum Selection Clauses, Non-Signatories, and Personal Jurisdiction*)
8. *Eckhardt v. Idea Factory*, 2021 IL App (1st) 210813 (citing *Interpreting Forum Selection Clauses*)
9. *Bajwa v. United States Life Ins. Co.*, No. 1:19-cv-00938-, 2021 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 121477, at *17 (E.D. Cal. June 28, 2021) (citing *The Canons of Construction for Choice-of-Law Clauses*)
10. *Bridgewell Res. Ltd. Liab. Co. v. Tanamera Constr., Ltd. Liab. Co.*, No. 3:20-cv-00518-YY, 2021 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 165294, at *51 (D. Or. June 1, 2021) (citing *Enforcing Inbound Forum Selection Clauses in State Court*)
11. *Lamar Cty. Elec. Coop. Ass'n v. McInnis Bros. Constr.*, 2021 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 51869, at *23 (E.D. Tex. Mar. 19, 2021) (citing *Interpreting Forum Selection Clauses*)
12. SEC v. Liberty, 2021 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 31296, at *3 (D. Me. Feb. 19, 2021) (citing *Contractual Innovation in Venture Capital*)
13. Cramton v. Grabbagreen Franchising Llc, 2020 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 183519, at *57 n.17 (D. Ariz. Oct. 2, 2020) (citing *Interpreting Forum Selection Clauses*)

14. Almeida v. BOKF, NA, 2020 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 119661, *18 (N.D. Okla. July 8, 2020) (citing *The Canons of Construction for Choice-of-Law Clauses*)
15. Enven Energy Corp. v. Dunwoody, 2020 Del. Ch. LEXIS 195, at *11 (Ch. May 28, 2020) (citing *Interpreting Forum Selection Clauses*)
16. Desage v. AW Financial Group, LLC, 2020 Nev. Unpub. LEXIS 432, at *5 (Apr. 22, 2020) (citing *The Canons of Construction for Choice-of-Law Clauses*)
17. Volvo Grp. N. Am., Ltd. Liab. Co. v. Forja De Monterrey S.A. de C.V., 2019 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 172435, at *6-7 (M.D.N.C. Oct. 4, 2019) (citing *The Canons of Construction for Choice-of-Law Clauses*)
18. Neurvana Med. v. V., 2019 Del. Ch. LEXIS 995, at *8 (Ch. Sep. 18, 2019) (citing *Interpreting Forum Selection Clauses*)
19. Catlin Specialty Ins. Co. v. J.J. White, Inc., 2018 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 31189, at *19-20 (E.D. Pa. Feb. 26, 2018) (citing *The Canons of Construction for Choice-of-Law Clauses*)
20. Danganan v. Guardian Prot. Servs., 2018 Pa. LEXIS 955, at *11 n.7 (Feb. 21, 2018) (citing *The Canons of Construction for Choice-of-Law Clauses*)
21. Midwest Neurosciences Assocs., LLC v. Great Lakes Neurosurgical Assocs., LLC, 2018 WI App 8 n.2 (citing *The Canons of Construction for Choice-of-Law Clauses*)
22. CompoSecure, LLC v. CardUX, LLC, 2018 Del. Ch. LEXIS 41, at *52 n.271 (Ch. Feb. 1, 2018) (citing *The Canons of Construction for Choice-of-Law Clauses*)
23. B.E. Capital Mgmt. Fund LP v. Fund.com Inc., 171 A.3d 140, 147 n.34 (Del. Ch. 2017) (citing *The Canons of Construction for Choice-of-Law Clauses*)
24. Menezes v. WL Ross & Co., LLC, 403 S.C. 522, 534 n.5, 744 S.E.2d 178, 185 (2013) (citing *Business Courts and Interstate Competition*)

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

“Inconvenient Forum Selection Clauses,” Summer Private International Law Roundtable, Fordham Law School, New York, New York, June 2023

“The Canon of Evolving Law,” Brooklyn Law School, New York, New York, September 2022

“*Erie*, Empiricism, and Forum Selection Clauses,” Duke Law School, Durham, NC, August 2022

“Contractually Valid Forum Selection Clauses,” Summer Private International Law Roundtable, Stanford Law School, Palo Alto, California, June 2022

“The Mystery of the Missing Choice-of-Law Clause,” BYU Winter Deals Conference, Park City, Utah, March 2022

“Enforcing Inbound Forum Selection Clauses in State Court,” Faculty Workshop, University of North Carolina School of Law, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, September 2020 (virtual)

“Enforcing Inbound Forum Selection Clauses in State Court,” Summer Private International Law Roundtable, UC Davis School of Law, Davis, California, June 2020 (virtual)

“A Short History of the Choice-of-Law Clause,” Faculty Workshop, Arizona State University, Phoenix, Arizona, February 2020

“A Short History of the Choice-of-Law Clause,” Summer Private International Law Roundtable, University of North Carolina School of Law, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, June 2019

“A Short History of the Choice-of-Law Clause,” National Business Law Scholars Conference, University of California at Berkeley Law School, Berkeley, California, June 2019

“The Role of the CISG in Canadian Contract Practice,” The CISG at Middle Age, University of Pittsburgh School of Law, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, March 2019

“Contract as Swag,” BYU Winter Deals Conference, Park City, Utah, March 2019

“Party Autonomy and the Presumption Against Extraterritoriality,” Symposium on the Extraterritorial State, Willamette Law School, January 2019

“The Hague Judgments Convention,” Association of American Law Schools Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana, January 2019

“Using Contract Drafting Software to Prepare Choice-of-Law Clauses and Forum Selection Clauses,” 8th Conference on Teaching Transnational Commercial Law, Madrid, Spain, October 2018

“Interpreting Forum Selection Clauses,” Society of Legal Scholars Annual Conference, London, England, September 2018

“Interpreting Forum Selection Clauses,” Law, Economics, and Politics Colloquium, Duke Law School, Durham, North Carolina, August 2018

“Interpreting Forum Selection Clauses,” Faculty Workshop, Wake Forest Law School, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, April 2018

“The Safe, the Kiss, and the Note: A Survey of Seed Financing Contracts,” BYU Winter Deals Conference, Park City, Utah, March 2018

“Interpreting Forum Selection Clauses,” Faculty Workshop, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, November 2017

“Reviving the Treaty of Friendship: Enforcing International Investment Law in U.S. Courts,” International Law Workshop, William & Mary Law School, Williamsburg, Virginia, May 2017

“Interpreting Contracts Without Context,” Conference on Contractual Black Holes, Duke Law School, Durham, North Carolina, April 2017 (with Mark Weidemaier)

“The Canons of Construction for Choice-of-Law Clauses,” Brooklyn Law School, New York, New York, February 2017

“The Canons of Construction for Choice-of-Law Clauses,” Association of American Law Schools Annual Meeting, San Francisco, California, January 2017

“The Role of the CISG in U.S. Contract Practice: An Empirical Study,” 8th Conference on Teaching Transnational Commercial Law, International Law Institute, Washington D.C., November 2016

“Startup Lawyering 2.0,” Duke Law School, Durham, North Carolina, November 2016

“Startup Lawyering 2.0,” Symposium on the Role of Law in Promoting Entrepreneurship, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, October 2016.

“The Canons of Construction for Choice-of-Law Clauses,” Summer Faculty Workshop, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, July 2016

“The Canons of Construction for Choice-of-Law Clauses,” Junior Business Law Conference, University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado, July 2016

“The Domestic Implementation of Private International Law Treaties,” American Society of International Law Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., April 2016

“Altering Rules, Cumulative Voting, and Venture Capital,” Wake Forest Law School, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, January 2016

“Transactional Lawyering and Contractual Innovation,” Association of American Law Schools Annual Meeting, New York, New York, January 2016

“Altering Rules, Cumulative Voting, and Venture Capital,” Symposium on Legal Innovation and Modern Entrepreneurship, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, October 2015

“The Role of the CISG in U.S. Contract Practice: An Empirical Study,” Colloquium on Private International Law, Economics, and Development, sponsored by the Federalist Society, Los Angeles, California, October 2015

“Cumulative Voting in the Twenty-First Century,” National Business Law Scholars Conference, Seton Hall Law School, Newark, New Jersey, June 2015

“The Role of the CISG in U.S. Contract Practice,” Duke Law School, Durham, North Carolina, January 2015

“Law and Entrepreneurship,” William & Mary Law School, Williamsburg, Virginia, October 2014

“Contractual Innovation in Venture Capital,” presentation to the faculty of the University of North Carolina School of Law, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, September 2014

“The Case for Writing International Law into the U.S. Code,” Duke Law School, Durham, North Carolina, August 2014

“The Art of the Acqui-hire,” Stephanie K. Seymour Distinguished Lecture in Law, University of Tulsa College of Law, Tulsa, Oklahoma, February 2014

“Rethinking Judgments Reciprocity,” presentation to the Southeast Junior-Senior Faculty Workshop, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia, November 2013

“Rethinking Judgments Reciprocity,” presentation to the faculty of the University of North Carolina School of Law, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, October 2013

“Rethinking Judgments Reciprocity,” presentation to the Duke Law School Summer Workshop Series, Durham, North Carolina, June 2013.

“Acqui-hiring,” presentation to the Entrepreneurial Unit at Harvard Business School, Cambridge, Massachusetts, September 2012.

“Acqui-hiring,” presentation to the Duke Summer Workshop Series, Durham, North Carolina, June 2012.

“The Decline of the Treaty of Friendship, Commerce, and Navigation,” presentation to the faculty of Arizona State Law School, Tempe, Arizona, March 2012.

“Business Courts and Interstate Competition,” presentation to the faculty of the Chicago-Kent School of Law, Chicago, Illinois, January 2012.

“Reviving the Treaty of Friendship, Commerce, and Navigation,” presentation to the Annual Workshop of the International Law in Domestic Courts Interest Group of the American Society of International Law, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, December 2011.

“Reviving the Treaty of Friendship, Commerce, and Navigation,” presentation to the Faculty Colloquium on International Law and Theory at Washington University School of Law, St. Louis, Missouri, November 2011.

“Competition, Innovation, and the Future of the Business Court,” presentation to the Midwest Corporate Law Scholars Conference, Ohio State University. Columbus, Ohio, June 2011.

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

TRANSNATIONAL LITIGATION BLOG

Co-Founding Editor, March 2022-present

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN LAW SCHOOLS

Chair, Conflict of Laws Section, 2019-2020

Executive Committee Member, Conflict of Laws Section, 2018-2019

UNIFORM LAW COMMISSION

Reporter for the International Legal Developments Committee, 2021-present

Reporter for the Joint Editorial Board for International Law 2021-present

Reporter for the Study Committee on the Hague Judgments Convention, Final Non-Monetary Judgments, and Interim Relief, 2022-present

AMERICAN LAW INSTITUTE

Advisor, RESTATEMENT (THIRD) OF CONFLICT OF LAWS

LAW SCHOOL SERVICE

Associate Dean for Research	2021-present
Appointments Committee	2023-2024 2020-2021 2019-2020 (chair) 2018-2019 (chair) 2017-2018 (chair) 2016-2017 2012-2013
Faculty Speakers Committee	2021-2022 2015-2016 2010-2011
Mentorship Committee	2022-2023 (chair)
Planning Task Force – Law and Entrepreneurship Institute	2018-2019
Strategic Planning Committee	2016-2017
LLM Program, Faculty Supervisor	2014-2015
Curriculum Reform Committee	2014-2015
Self-Study Committee	2013-2014
Student Employment Committee	2011-2012
Transactional and Corporate Law Association, Faculty Advisor	2011-present
North Carolina Journal of International Law, Faculty Advisor	2014-present
Corporate Law Appellate Advocacy Team, Faculty Advisor	2014-present
International Law Organization, Faculty Advisor	2016-present

BAR ADMISSIONS

New York (2006)
District of Columbia (2007) (inactive)