

**Reid Kress Weisbord**  
Distinguished Professor of Law & Judge Norma L. Shapiro Scholar  
Rutgers Law School

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**ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

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**RUTGERS LAW SCHOOL**

2023-Present: Distinguished Professor of Law, Judge Norma L. Shapiro Scholar  
2014-2023: Professor of Law, Judge Norma L. Shapiro Scholar  
2013- 2019: Vice Dean  
2013-2014: Associate Professor of Law  
2010-2013: Assistant Professor of Law

**COLUMBIA LAW SCHOOL:**

Fall 2023: Visiting Professor of Law

Research Interests: Wealth Transfer (Trusts & Estates), Property, Charitable Nonprofit Organizations and Philanthropy, Corporate Governance, Entertainment Law, Criminal Law

**LEGAL EXPERIENCE**

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UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE THIRD CIRCUIT Law Clerk to the Honorable Jane R. Roth	2009–2010
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA Law Clerk to the Honorable Norma L. Shapiro	2008–2009
DECHERT LLP, Philadelphia, PA Litigation Associate	2006–2008

**EDUCATION**

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UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA LAW SCHOOL, Philadelphia, PA

Juris Doctor, *cum laude*, May 2006

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA, WHARTON SCHOOL OF BUSINESS, Philadelphia, PA  
Bachelor of Science in Economics, May 2002

## SCHOLARSHIP AND PUBLISHED WORKS

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### Books and Treatises:

1. ESTATE PLANNING (Wolters Kluwer CCH 2023) (with the late James Casner and Jeffrey N. Pennell)
2. WILLS, TRUSTS & ESTATES: THE ESSENTIALS, THIRD EDITION (Aspen Casebook Series, 2024) (with David Horton and Stephen K. Urice) (700+ pages)
3. WILLS, TRUSTS & ESTATES: THE ESSENTIALS, THIRD EDITION – TEACHER’S MANUAL (Aspen Casebook Series, 2024) (with David Horton and Stephen K. Urice) (330+ pages)
4. WILLS, TRUSTS & ESTATES: THE ESSENTIALS, SECOND EDITION (Wolters Kluwer Aspen Casebook Series, 2020) (with David Horton and Stephen K. Urice) (700+ pages)
5. WILLS, TRUSTS & ESTATES: THE ESSENTIALS, SECOND EDITION – TEACHER’S MANUAL (Wolters Kluwer Aspen Casebook Series, 2020) (with David Horton and Stephen K. Urice) (330+ pages)
6. WILLS, TRUSTS & ESTATES: THE ESSENTIALS (Wolters Kluwer Aspen Casebook Series, January 2018) (with David Horton and Stephen K. Urice) (650+ pages)
7. WILLS, TRUSTS & ESTATES: THE ESSENTIALS – TEACHER’S MANUAL (Wolters Kluwer Aspen Casebook Series, January 2018) (with David Horton and Stephen K. Urice) (300+ pages)

### Law Review Articles:

1. *Oscar Law* (under submission) (with Jordan Bondurant)
2. *Heirs Property: An Examination of Probate Costs and the Costs of Postmortem Probate Avoidance*, 49 ACTEC LAW JOURNAL (forthcoming 2024)
3. *The New Undue Influence*, UTAH LAW REVIEW (forthcoming 2024) (with David Horton)
  - Reviewed by Tom Simmons on JOTWELL (<https://lex.jotwell.com/ultramodern-undue-influence/>)
4. *A New Framework for Condominium Structural Safety Reforms*, UC IRVINE LAW REVIEW (forthcoming 2024) (with Stewart Sterk)
5. *Trust Law's Public Policy Doctrine: Major Policy Fault Lines, Aggressive Home Rule Legislation, and Implications for Conflicts Reform*, 97 TULANE LAW REVIEW 1147 (2023)

6. *Trust Alteration and the Dead Hand Paradox*, 48 ACTEC LAW JOURNAL 147 (2023) (with Jeffrey Pennell)
  - Reviewed by David Horton on JOTWELL (<https://trustest.jotwell.com/trust-alteration-in-the-twenty-first-century/>)
7. *The Future of Testamentary Capacity*, 79 WASHINGTON & LEE LAW REVIEW 609 (2022) (with David Horton)
  - Reviewed by Solangel Maldonado on JOTWELL (<https://trustest.jotwell.com/guardianship-reform-lessons-for-reforming-testamentary-capacity-laws/>)
8. *The Commodification of Public Land Records*, 97 NOTRE DAME LAW REVIEW 507 (2022) (with Stewart Sterk)
9. *Probate Litigation*, 2022 ILLINOIS LAW REVIEW 1149 (2022) (with David Horton)
10. *Probate Lending: Data from San Francisco*, 169 UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA LAW REVIEW ONLINE 293 (2022) (with David Horton)
11. *Inheritance Crimes*, 96 WASHINGTON LAW REVIEW 561 (2021) (with David Horton)
12. *Heir Hunting*, 169 UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA LAW REVIEW 383 (2021) (with David Horton)
  - Reviewed by Gerry Beyer on JOTWELL (<https://trustest.jotwell.com/the-double-edged-sword-of-hunting-heirs/>)
13. *COVID-19 and Formal Wills*, 73 STANFORD LAW REVIEW ONLINE 18 (2020) (with David Horton)
14. *Fiduciary Authority and Liability in Probate Estates: An Empirical Analysis*, 53 UC DAVIS LAW REVIEW 2561 (2020)
15. *Inheritance Forgery*, 69 DUKE LAW JOURNAL 855 (2020) (with David Horton)
  - Cited in *Arsenio v. Serpa*, 2023 WL 240011 (Cal. Ct. App. Jan. 18, 2023)
  - Quoted by *In re Estate of Shaffer*, 171 N.E.3d 281, 286 (Ohio 2020)
  - Reviewed by Sarah Waldeck on JOTWELL (<https://trustest.jotwell.com/dont-forget-about-the-fakes/>)
16. *Boilerplate No Contest Clauses*, 82 LAW & CONTEMPORARY PROBLEMS 69 (2019) (with David Horton)
  - Reviewed by Mitu Gulati on Credit Slips (<https://www.creditslips.org/creditslips/2019/06/the-mad-mad-world-of-no-contest-provisions-in-wills.html>)
17. *Postmortem Defamation in a Society without Truth for the Living*, 71 RUTGERS UNIVERSITY LAW REVIEW 667 (2019)

18. *The Governmental Stake in Private Wealth Transfer*, 98 BOSTON UNIVERSITY LAW REVIEW 1229 (2018)
  - Cited by *Salce v. Cardello*, 2023 WL 6205881 (Conn. 2023)
19. *Postmortem Austerity and Entitlement Reform*, 71 STANFORD LAW REVIEW ONLINE 132 (2018)
  - Reviewed by Ariel Jurow Kleiman on TaxProf Blog ([http://taxprof.typepad.com/taxprof\\_blog/2018/08/weekly-ssrn-tax-article-review-and-roundup-kleiman-reviews-weisbords-postmortem-austerity-and-entitl.html](http://taxprof.typepad.com/taxprof_blog/2018/08/weekly-ssrn-tax-article-review-and-roundup-kleiman-reviews-weisbords-postmortem-austerity-and-entitl.html))
20. *Boilerplate and Default Rules in Wills Law: An Empirical Analysis*, 103 IOWA LAW REVIEW 663 (2018) (with David Horton)
  - Quoted by *Shirley v. Dawkins*, --- So.3d ----, 2022 WL 2286416 (Ala. June 24, 2022)
  - Essay responses by Danaya C. Wright and Mark Glover
21. *A Catharsis for U.S. Trust Law: American Reflections on the Panama Papers*, 116 COLUMBIA LAW REVIEW ONLINE 93 (2016)
22. *Judicial Sentencing Error and the Constitution*, 96 BOSTON UNIVERSITY LAW REVIEW 1617 (2016) (with George C. Thomas)
  - Quoted by the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts: *Martin v. Commonwealth*, 209 N.E.3d 488 (Mass. 2023)
  - Cited by the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals: *Carr v. Tennessee*, No. M201701389CCAR3PC, 2019 WL 6220966 (Tenn. Crim. App. Nov. 21, 2019)
23. *A Copyright Right of Publicity*, 84 FORDHAM LAW REVIEW 2803 (2016)
  - Exclusive first-person narrative contributed by Olympic figure skating champion Brian Boitano
  - Recognized as one of the best law review articles in the areas of entertainment, publishing and/or the arts of 2016; republished in the *Entertainment, Publishing and the Arts Handbook* by Thomson Reuters (West)
24. *The Advisory Function of Law*, 90 TULANE LAW REVIEW 129 (2015)
25. *Trust Term Extension*, 67 FLORIDA LAW REVIEW 73 (2015)
  - Recognized as one of the top 5 Gift & Estate Tax articles of 2015, 75 Tax Prac. 274
  - Reviewed by Sergio Pareja on JOTWELL (<http://trustest.jotwell.com/reviving-the-dead-hand-after-repeal-of-the-rule-against-perpetuities/>)
  - Essay responses by Daniel B. Kelly and Alexander A. Boni-Saenz
26. *Anatomical Intent*, 124 YALE LAW JOURNAL FORUM 117 (2014)
  - Reviewed by Gerry W. Beyer on JOTWELL (<http://trustest.jotwell.com/organ-izing-your-estate/>)

27. *Federalizing Principles of Donative Intent and Unanticipated Circumstances*, 67 VANDERBILT LAW REVIEW 1871 (2014)
28. *Charitable Insolvency and Corporate Governance in Bankruptcy Reorganization*, 10 U.C.-BERKELEY BUSINESS LAW JOURNAL 305 (2014)
  - Cited in the Restatement of the Law of Charitable Nonprofit Organizations
29. *Social Security Representative Payee Misuse*, 117 PENN STATE LAW REVIEW 1257 (2013)
  - Proposal presented by request to the United States House Ways and Means Committee
30. *Wills for Everyone: Helping Individuals Opt Out of Intestacy*, 53 BOSTON COLLEGE LAW REVIEW 877 (2012)
  - Recognized as one of the top ten 2012 noteworthy trusts & estates articles, 2013 TNT 90-7
  - Reviewed by Browne Lewis on JOTWELL (<http://trustest.jotwell.com/linking-the-certainty-of-death-and-taxes/>)
  - Proposal under consideration by the New Jersey Law Revision Commission
31. *The Connection between Unintentional Intestacy and Urban Poverty*, RUTGERS LAW REVIEW COMMENTARIES (August 22, 2012)
32. *The Effects of Donor Standing on Philanthropy: Insights from the Psychology of Gift-Giving*, 45 GONZAGA LAW REVIEW 225 (2010) (with Peter DeScioli, Ph.D.)
  - Cited in the Restatement of the Law of Charitable Nonprofit Organizations
33. *Reservations About Donor Standing: Should the Law Allow Charitable Donors to Reserve the Right to Enforce A Gift Restriction*, 42 REAL PROPERTY PROBATE AND TRUST JOURNAL 245 (2007)
  - Cited in the Restatement (Third) of Trusts

Book Chapters, Peer Reviewed Publications, and Other Shorter Works:

1. *Inheritance Law for Centenarians*, JOTWELL (July 20, 2023) (reviewing Naomi Cahn, Clare Huntington, & Elizabeth Scott, *Family Law for the One-Hundred-Year Life*, 132 YALE L.J. 1691 (2023))
2. *New Developments in Fifteenth-Century Ottoman Trust Law and the Fate of the Hagia Sophia*, JOTWELL (May 16, 2022) (reviewing *The Hagia Sophia Case, Recent Case: Daniştay, Onuncu Daire [Council of State, Tenth Chamber] Matter No. 2016/16015, Decision No. 2020/2595, July 2, 2020*, 134 HARV. L. REV. 1278 (2021))

3. *Beneficial Ownership Disclosure Mandates and the Legitimate Privacy Interest in Anonymously-Owned Real Estate*, THE GLOBAL ANTICORRUPTION BLOG (Oct. 13, 2021), <https://globalanticorruptionblog.com/2021/10/13/beneficial-ownership-disclosure-mandates-and-the-legitimate-privacy-interest-in-anonymously-owned-real-estate/>
4. *Are There Really 'Plenty of Shapiros Out There'? A Comment on the Courage of Norma L. Shapiro*, UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA LAW REVIEW ONLINE (2021)
5. *Essay Response to "Asymmetries in the Generation and Transmission of Wealth" by Felix Chang*, 78 OHIO STATE LAW JOURNAL FURTHERMORE (2019) (invited reply)
6. *Sham and Remedial Doctrines*, 22 TRUSTS & TRUSTEES 850 (Oxford University Press, 2016) (with Alexander Boni-Saenz)
7. *Facilitating Homemade Wills* in BEYOND ELITE LAW: ACCESS TO CIVIL JUSTICE FOR AMERICANS OF AVERAGE MEANS (Cambridge University Press, 2016)
8. Statement to United States House Ways and Means Committee regarding Social Security Representative Payee Misuse (June 5, 2013)
9. *Book Review: "Immortality and the Law,"* 34 JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN TAXATION ASSOCIATION 176 (2012)
10. Contributing Author, Columbia Law School Blue Sky Blog, <http://clsbluesky.law.columbia.edu/contributors/#W>
11. Contributing Author, ABA Section of Antitrust Law, Pharmaceutical Industry Antitrust Handbook (2009)

#### **HONORS AND PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

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- Elected Academic Fellow of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel (2021)
- Distinguished Service Award, Rutgers Law School (2019)
- Greg Lastowka Memorial Award for Scholarly Excellence (2017)
- International Institute of Education Award for Outstanding Service (2017)
- Rutgers Community Award, Rutgers Law School LGBTQ Law Caucus (2015)
- Nominee: Nominated candidate of Rutgers School of Law-Newark for the American Law Institute Young Scholars Medal (2015)
- Order of the Coif, Member
- American Inns of Court, Member
- Licensed Attorney in Pennsylvania and New Jersey

#### **GRANTS**

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- Pratt Bequest Fund (\$30,000): “Empirical Study of Real Estate Transfer Transparency and Money Laundering Regulation” (2018)

## PRESENTATIONS

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Presenter: 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Tax & Estate Planning Forum, *The New Undue Influence* (October 17, 2023) (virtual)

Presenter: American Bar Association Section of Real Property, Trust & Estate Law, Professor’s Corner, *Heirs Property: The Costs of Probate Avoidance* (July 11, 2023) (virtual)

Presenter: 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Tax & Estate Planning Forum, *Trust Alteration and the Dead Hand Paradox* (October 27, 2022) (virtual)

Presenter: Tulane University / American College of Trust and Estate Counsel Symposium on Conflict of Laws in Trusts & Estates, *Trust Law’s Public Policy Doctrine: Major Policy Fault Lines, Aggressive Home Rule Legislation, and Implications for Conflicts Reform* (October 21, 2022) (New Orleans, LA)

Presenter: American Bar Association Section of Real Property, Trust & Estate Law, Professor’s Corner, *The Commodification of Public Land Records* (August 10, 2021) (virtual)

Presenter: New Jersey Institute for Continuing Legal Education, Estate Planning Institute, *Probate Litigation* (July 29, 2021) (virtual)

Presenter: American College of Trust and Estate Counsel, 2021 Summer Meeting, *Probate Litigation* (June 14, 2021) (virtual)

Presenter: Law and Society, 2021 Annual Meeting, *Probate Litigation* (May 29, 2021) (virtual)

Panelist: Southeastern Association of Law Schools (SEALS), Trusts & Estates Scholarship Panel (Aug. 4, 2020) (virtual)

Panelist: Southeastern Association of Law Schools (SEALS), Trusts & Estates Pedagogy Panel (Aug. 5, 2020) (virtual)

Presenter: University of California – Davis, American College of Trusts & Estates Council Symposium, *Fiduciary Authority and Liability in Probate Estates: An Empirical Study* (Oct. 11, 2019) (Davis, CA)

Presenter: University of North Carolina, Faculty Workshop, *Inheritance Forgery* (Sept. 12, 2019) (Chapel Hill, NC)

Presenter: Rutgers Law School, Faculty Colloquium, *Inheritance Forgery* (April 1, 2019) (Camden, NJ)

Presenter: Rutgers Law School, Faculty Colloquium, *The Governmental Stake in Private Wealth Transfer* (March 8, 2018)

Presenter: American Association of Law Schools, Trusts and Estates Panel, *Boilerplate and Default Rules in Wills Law: An Empirical Analysis* (January 4, 2018; San Diego, CA)

Presenter: The Centre for Cross-Border Commercial Law in Asia, Singapore Management University, York Law School and the Singapore Academy of Law Conference on The Use and Abuse of Trusts and Other Wealth Management Devices, *A Catharsis for U.S. Trust Law: American Reflections on the Panama Papers* (July 27-28, 2017; Singapore)

Presenter: University of Miami School of Law, Faculty Speakers Series, *Boilerplate and Default Rules in Wills Law: An Empirical Analysis* (April 24, 2017; Coral Gables, FL)

Presenter: Rutgers Law School, Faculty Colloquium, *Boilerplate and Default Rules in Wills Law: An Empirical Analysis* (April 19, 2017; Camden and Newark, NJ)

Presenter: DePaul College of Law, Hosier Intellectual Property Series, *A Copyright Right of Publicity* (March 2, 2017; Chicago, IL)

Presenter: American Association of Law Schools, Trusts and Estates Panel, *The Advisory Function of Law* (January 5, 2017; San Francisco, CA)

Moderator/Facilitator: New York University, Beyond Elite Law: Access to Civil Justice in America (April 29, 2016; New York, NY)

Presenter: Fordham Law Review Colloquium, *A Copyright Right of Publicity* (January 27, 2016; New York, NY)

Presenter: Rutgers Law School Colloquium, *A Copyright Right of Publicity* (September 24, 2015; Newark, NJ)

Commentator: Vanderbilt Law Review Symposium, The Role of Federal Law in Private Wealth Transfer (February 21, 2014; Nashville, TN)

Presenter: DePaul School of Law, Faculty Colloquium: *Wills for Everyone: Helping Individuals Opt Out of Intestacy* (February 27, 2012; Chicago, IL)

Presenter: Rutgers School of Law-Newark, Faculty Colloquium: *Wills for Everyone: Helping Individuals Opt Out of Intestacy* (November 3, 2011; Newark, NJ)

Moderator: McCarter & English LLP, Panel Presentation on Law Firm Practice and Pro Bono Work (April 7, 2011; Newark, NJ)

Moderator / Panelist: Rutgers Women's Law Forum: International Women's Day – Spotlight on Human Trafficking (March 23, 2011; Newark, NJ)



Instructor: Rutgers Institute for Professional Education: Introduction to the New Jersey Wills Act (March 2, 2011; Newark, NJ)

### **Professional Service**

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2024-26	Associate Editor, ACTEC Law Journal
2024-25	Chair-Elect, American Law Schools' Trusts & Estates Section
2023-24	Treasurer, Association of American Law Schools' Trusts & Estates Section
2022-23	Secretary, Association of American Law Schools' Trusts & Estates Section
2021- Present	Co-Editor of JOTWELL's Trusts & Estates Section

### **University Committee and Institutional Service**

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2023-24	Academic Policy Committee (member) Peer Evaluation Committee (elected member)
2022-23	Academic Policy Committee (member)
2021-22	Bar Passage Committee (chair)
2020-21	Faculty Appointments Committee (chair)
2019-20	Committee of Review (member)
2018-19	Chair: Undergraduate Legal Studies Program; Academic Policy Committee (member)
2017-18:	Chair: Undergraduate Legal Studies Program; Academic Policy Committee (member); University Committee on Instructional Technology (member); University Teaching Evaluation Council (member)
2016-17:	Chair: Undergraduate Legal Studies Program; Ad Hoc Promotion and Tenure Committee for LAWRS Faculty (chair); Academic Policy Committee (member); University Committee on Instructional Technology (member); Curriculum Committee for the Rutgers Newark Honors Living and Learning Community (member)
2015-16:	Budget & Planning Committee (chair); Promotion and Tenure Committee (member responsible for promotion file); Academic Policy Committee (member); University Committee on Instructional Technology (member); Curriculum Committee for the Rutgers Newark Honors Living and Learning

Community (member); Dean Search Committee for the Camden Co-Dean (member)

2014-15: Scholastic Standing Committee (member); Faculty Development Committee (member); University Committee on Instructional Technology (member)

2013-14: Budget & Planning Committee (member); Curriculum Committee (ex officio); Clerkship Committee (ex officio); Co-author of ABA sabbatical self-study report

2012-13: Budget & Planning Committee (member)

2011-12: Appointments Committee (member); Scholastic Standing Committee (ad hoc member)

2010-11: Curriculum Committee (member); Clerkship Committee (member)

Updated: January 2024