

John M. Bickers

Chase College of Law, Northern Kentucky University, Associate Dean for Faculty Development: 2022-Present

I endeavor to help faculty improve their scholarship and teaching by locating opportunities for faculty presentations and organizing pedagogical resources.

Chase College of Law, Northern Kentucky University, Professor: 2006-Present

I teach classes in Constitutional Law, Professional Responsibility, Legal History, and National Security.

United States Military Academy, U.S. Army, Executive Officer and Assistant Professor: 2003-2006

I served as the assistant to the Head of the Department of Law for academic affairs, the equivalent of an Associate Dean of Academics. My responsibilities included course scheduling, resource access, professional development, and teaching assignments for twenty professors. I also taught classes in constitutional law, the law of armed conflict, and ethics.

The Judge Advocate General's Corps, U.S. Army: 1991-2003

I had a range of assignments including working in the Pentagon on the original set of procedures for the military commissions in the war against al Qaeda; supervising a legal center with American and German attorneys; managing an administrative law office responsible for labor, environmental, and contract matters; prosecuting soldiers in courts-martial, including a series of pre-trial hearings conducted in Mogadishu, Somalia; and defending soldiers in courts-martial and other tribunals, including a full trial in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

Armor Branch, U.S. Army: 1985-1988

I led soldiers in tanks in Texas, California, and Germany. I also served as an adjutant, supervising all administrative matters for a battalion of six hundred soldiers.

Education

Georgetown University Law Center, LL.M. with Distinction, Washington, D.C. (2003)

The Judge Advocate General's School, Army, LL.M., Charlottesville, Virginia (1999)

University of Michigan Law School, J.D., Magna Cum Laude, Ann Arbor, Michigan (1991)

Cornell University, A.B., History, Ithaca, New York (1985)

Publications

“The Cartoon Physics of the Court-Martial,” in progress.

“Greenbacks, Consent, and Unwritten Amendments” 73 Arkansas Law Review 669 (2021).

“False Facts and Holy War: How the Supreme Court’s Establishment Clause Cases Fuel Religious Conflict” 51 Indiana Law Review 305 (2018).

“Asculum Defeats: Prosecution Losses in the Military Commissions and How They Help the United States” 4 National Security Law Journal 201 (2016).

“Two Figures in the Picture: How an Old Legal Practice Might Solve the Puzzle of Lost Punitive Damages in Legal Malpractice” 35 Northern Illinois University Law Review 35 (2014).

“Standing on Holy Ground: How Rethinking Justiciability Might Bring Peace to the Establishment Clause” 60 Cleveland State Law Review 415 (2012).

“Too Little, Too Late? Why President Obama’s Well-Intentioned Reforms of the Military Commissions May Not Be Enough to Save Them” 31 Whittier Law Review 381 (2010).

“Of Non-Horses, Quantum Mechanics, and the Establishment Clause,” 57 Kansas Law Review 371 (2009).

“The Power to Do What Manifestly Must Be Done: Congress, The Freedmen’s Bureau, and Constitutional Imagination,” 12 Roger Williams University Law Review 70 (2006).

“Military Commissions are Constitutionally Sound: A Response to Professors Katyal and Tribe,” 34 Texas Tech Law Review 899 (2003) *cited with approval in* Hamdan v. Rumsfeld, 126 S.Ct. 2749, 2776 (2006), and Hamdan v. Rumsfeld, 415 F.3d 33, 38 (D.C. Cir. 2005).

Sample Presentations

- With Wiest, C. "Constitutional Rights in Post-Covid America" – NKU Federalist Society (September 2022)
- "Our Money is Legal Tender—A Constitutional Tale" NKU – Scripps Howard Virtual Six@Six Series (April 2020)
- "From Foe to Friend: The Law of War and Slavery," Common Cause: Synthesizing the Work of Human Rights and Civil Rights Scholars and Practitioners, NKU Symposium (April 2019)
- "Voting and the Constitution," Northern Kentucky Votes, Newport, KY (November 2017)
- "Whose Lawyer Are You, Anyway?" International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation Continuing Legal Education, Lexington, KY (October 2017)
- "Using a Wok: How Non-Bar Tested Electives Can Teach Lawyering," LegalED Conference, American University, Washington, D.C. (April 2014) available at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7agGZoQAoi2685A&t=27s>
- "Foreign Policy and the 2016 Presidential Election," *Kentucky Tonight*, KET (August 2016) among other appearances
- With Lt. Gov. Abramson and County Commissioner Hayden, "Testimony on HB 190," Kentucky House Judiciary Committee, Frankfort, KY (March 2013)
- "Forever Free: The Constitutionality of the Emancipation Proclamation" NKU – Scripps Howard Six@Six Series, Cincinnati Mercantile Library, OH (September 2012)
- With Meyers, D., and Tenkotte, P., "The Constitution's Greatest Challenge: The Civil War," Scripps Howard Center for Civic Engagement, NKU (September 2011)
- With Wilcher, L., Van Stockum, R., Schworer, P., and Carroll, S., "Ethics, the Environment, and the Law," Kentucky Bar Association Convention (July 2010)
- With Warren, V., Casey, L., Bravin, J., and Brig. Gen. Hartmann, "U.S. Seeks Death Penalty for Six Men Held at Guantanamo," *The Diane Rehm Show* (February 2008)
- With Silliman, S., Hutson, J., and Isikoff, M., "Guantanamo Six" on Trial, *On Point with Tom Ashbrook* (February 2008)
- With Heymann, P., Turner, R., and Rona, G. "The Constitution and the War Against Terrorism," Federalist Society, Boston, MA (2006)
- "Applicability of the Constitution Overseas," Constitutional Law Conference, Hamilton College, NY (2004)
- "*Posse Comitatus* Act: Problems on the Horizon," Association of the Bar of the City of New York, (2004)
- With Sayles, A. "The Supreme Court and the University of Michigan," Diversity Symposium, U. S. Military Academy, NY (2003)
- With Vagts, D., Welton, M., and Stock, M. "The History and Constitutionality of Military Commissions," New York State Appellate Judges' Annual Conference, U. S. Military Academy (2003)
- With Drinan, R., Eisenberg, H., and Baldwin, G. "Current Issues in the War on Terrorism," Wisconsin Law Foundation Symposium, Marquette University, WI (2002)

Honors and Memberships

- Robert O. Lukowsky Award of Excellence, Chase College of Law Teacher of the Year, 2010, 2016, 2018, 2020
- Northern Kentucky University Faculty Excellence Award, Sustained Excellence in Teaching, 2013
- Order of the Coif (Michigan Chapter)
- Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal