



James Wilson Institute
On Natural Rights and the American Founding

Annual Report

2025

www.jameswilsoninstitute.org

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A Message From Our Co-Directors

When we shared with you our first annual report last year, we focused on the prospect of adding new programs and growing our existing core programs in 2025 to meet the burgeoning “Natural Law Moment.” Now, one year later, we have seen these efforts blossom with more attendees, applicants, and interest in our work than ever before.



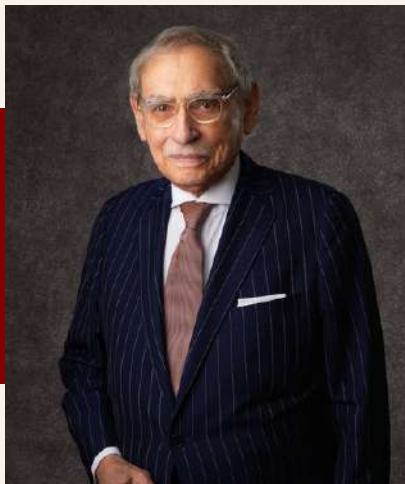
One of our favorite additions of last year was the Natural Law Moment Podcast. The new podcast, featuring the two of us discussing both timeless topics in the Natural Law tradition and how a Natural Law “lens” could illuminate current events, allows us to reach those who cannot fit around a seminar table in our usual programs. Another addition was a program on Natural Law for Legislative Staff on Capitol Hill. Further, we were delighted to spend a year in close collaboration with our Senior Fellow Justin Dyer, newly added in 2025.

These were only some of the highlights of the past year we are pleased to share. Like the Natural Law Moment Podcast, this annual report is also an invitation to experience what we teach wherever you may be. We hope this summary of our work will leave you feeling much the same as the young lawyers and law students we teach: part of a community dedicated to restoring the first principles of our law and the moral ground of our rights.

Our recent advancements would not be possible without our supporters’ dedication to our mission; for this, we are so grateful. With your support, we are certain that a bright future lies ahead.

Gratefully,

Hadley Arkes & Gerry Bradley | JWI Co-Directors



Our Mission

To restore the American Founders' understanding of the moral grounds of our rights by bringing back a commonsense foundation to the study of law to inspire a new generation to discover anew our Nation's absolute truths.



James Wilson Bust at
Penn Law School

Our Vision

In that remarkable era of the American Founding, lawyers of the caliber of James Wilson, Alexander Hamilton, and John Marshall sought to explain their judgments by drawing their readers back to those deep axioms of law, those principles of natural right, that underlay the Constitution. Years later, Lincoln would be compelled to state those principles anew and give them an even deeper resonance as he brought them to bear on the gravest crisis in the American regime, the crisis of our “house divided.” The purpose of the James Wilson Institute is to restore to students, of all ages, the furnishings of mind of those uncommon men who established and preserved this regime—and with the hope that a new generation, in the convulsions of our own day, will be able to preserve it once again.

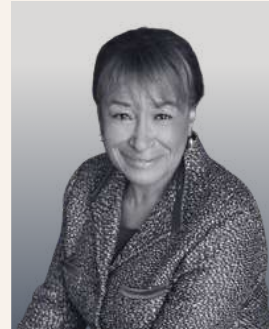
Board of Trustees



Douglas Neff
Board Chairman



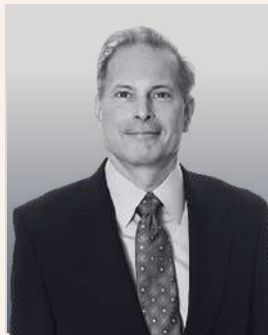
Mary Ellen Bork



**Fmr. Judge Janice
Rogers Brown**



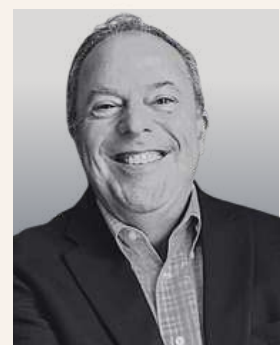
Michael Crofton



Joseph Nesler



Michael Petrino
Board Treasurer



Matthew Spalding

Nonvoting Members



Hadley Arkes
JWI Founder & Co-Director

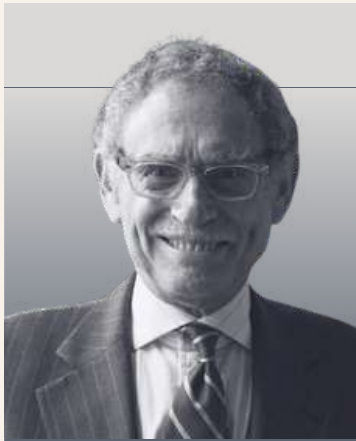


Gerry Bradley
JWI Co-Director



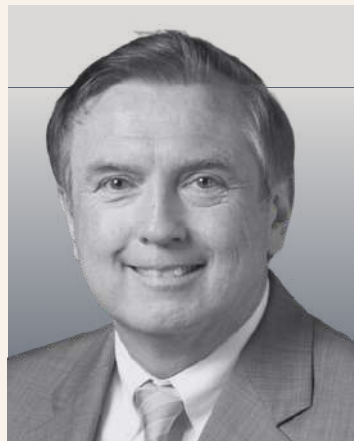
Michael Maibach
JWI Managing Director

The JWI Team



Hadley Arkes

Founder & Co-Director



Gerry Bradley

Co-Director



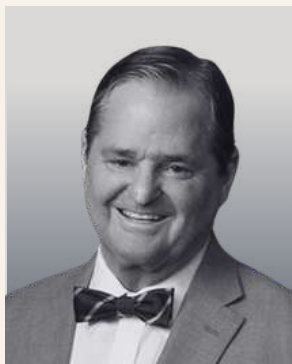
Joseph Collins

Engagement Associate



Justin Dyer

Senior Fellow



Michael Maibach

Managing Director



Daniel Osborne

Programs Director



Garrett Snedeker

Executive Director

Our New Board Member

Dr. Matthew Spalding

The James Wilson Institute proudly welcomed Dr. Matthew Spalding to our Board of Trustees in 2025. A renowned scholar, gifted teacher, and institution builder, he brings immense talents to our Board. Doug Neff, JWI Board Chairman, praised Dr. Spalding's joining the Board. "As Dean of Hillsdale College's graduate school in Washington, D.C., we have witnessed Matthew build a world-class educational program that has become the gold standard for thoughtful, politically minded students across America. His knowledge, expertise, and the particular care he takes to build intellectual communities will be an asset to our growing organization." Professor Arkes joined this sentiment, saying "We are so pleased to welcome Matthew to the Board of Trustees. I have known Matthew from his earliest days in the academy; he has become the dearest friend, and a colleague I'd always want to bring to my side. His advent on the Board marks an exciting new chapter for the organization. Welcome, Matthew—we are honored and grateful to have you with us."

Meet Dr. Spalding



Matthew Spalding is the Kirby Professor in Constitutional Government and Dean of the Van Andel Graduate School of Government at Hillsdale College and oversees the Allan P. Kirby, Jr. Center for Constitutional Studies and Citizenship at Hillsdale's Washington, D.C. campus. His new book, *The Making of the American Mind: The Story of Our Declaration of Independence*, was released in December 2025. Spalding is also the best-selling author of *We Still Hold These Truths: Rediscovering Our Principles, Reclaiming Our Future* and the original executive editor of *The Heritage Guide to the Constitution*, the first line-by-line analysis of each clause of the U.S. Constitution.

He is a senior fellow at the Claremont Institute for the Study of Statesmanship and Political Philosophy and serves on the boards of The Steamboat Institute, Faith & Law, the James Wilson Institute, and New College of Florida. He received his BA from Claremont McKenna College and his MA and PhD from the Claremont Graduate School.

2025 Leadership and the Law Awards Gala

September 8, 2025



On September 8th, JWI hosted its third Leadership and the Law Awards Gala which celebrated the career of Professor Hadley Arkes, the founder and co-director of JWI. In an intimate setting fitting for honoring our own founder, the gala was held at the historic Anderson House in Washington D.C. The Anderson House is also home to the Museum of the American Revolution, an appropriate venue for JWI as we are named after one of the premier minds among the American Founders. Generous co-sponsors of the gala included The Diana Davis Spencer Foundation, Ross and Mary Read, Doug Neff, and Michael Maibach. Graduates of Professor Arkes's classes at Amherst, James Wilson Fellowship Alumni, and scores of supporters filled the room for an evening commemorating Arkes's lasting contributions to teaching first principles and the American Constitution.

Inaugurated in 2021, the Leadership & the Law Award is designed to recognize those who have dedicated their lives to enriching the jurisprudence of the United States. Previous awardees include former Attorney General William Barr and Judge Janice Rodgers Brown.

Two former students of Prof. Arkes, Doug Neff and Jed Doty, delivered moving testimonials when they spoke of his impact on their lives. Jed Doty said that "I firmly believe that your (Hadley's) voice has never been more important, more necessary than it is right now." Professor Arkes's legacy at Amherst has carried forward into his work at leading JWI for its first thirteen years.



2021 Awardee Former Attorney General William Barr



2023 Awardee Judge Janice Rodgers Brown



“ I am proud to celebrate Hadley tonight. Proud of what he has built at the James Wilson Institute, proud of what that means for future generations, and proud that I’ve been along for the ride.”

-Abbey Moffat, CEO of the Diana Davis Spencer Foundation



James Wilson Fellowship

Winter & Summer Sessions

The James Wilson Institute Fellowship is a one-week seminar designed for law students and young lawyers. One of the most sought-after, competitive legal education programs in the country, the Fellowship offers a rigorous exploration of the central points of Natural Law jurisprudence, such as the connection between morality and the law, the properties of moral truths and principles of judgement, and the vision our Founders had for this Nation as they drafted the Constitution.

This Fellowship is unique, presenting critically important instruction found in neither law schools nor the program offerings of the conservative legal movement. A jurisprudence of Natural Law offers the intellectual and moral framework necessary to counter the crisis of incoherence in the law we see today. As Fellowship Alumni, these young lawyers will influence the most important debates of our time.

By concentrating our focus on the future appellate lawyers and law clerks, we are able to have an outsized influence on the future of American Law. Particularly in the course of the last year, our fellow alumni have gone on to serve in the administration at an astonishing rate, with two of our alumni now serving on the federal bench.

"If you are practicing law in the American legal space, you have to have some training in the Natural Law because that is how our Founders thought of the law, that is how many of our great early jurists thought of the law, and it is present whether you realize it or not."

-Naomi Franklin, Winter '25





With twenty-four intensive seminars over the course of six days, our Fellows engage with the timeless thought of the preeminent minds of the American Founding and the classical legal tradition. Readings include primary source material from James Wilson, John Marshall, Alexander Hamilton, Aristotle, St. Thomas Aquinas, and Abraham Lincoln, to name a few. The first half of the week-long fellowship aims to provide a Natural Law basis for understanding our constitutional order, a framework often ignored by the academy. The second half delves into the practical

application of Natural Law Jurisprudence. Given the amount of material covered, each of the sessions - five per day and seventy-five minutes in length - is rigorous. Following a thirty minute lecture led by faculty, students engage with the readings, the faculty, and other members of the cohort. This portion of the session proceeds in the Socratic style, frequently inciting intense discussion. The Fellows consistently find novel presentations of timeless subjects incredibly insightful. In this regard, our 2025 classes were no different.

2025 FELLOWS BY THE NUMBERS

33	<u>Fellows</u>
28	<u>Past, Present, or Future Federal Judicial Clerks</u>
9	<u>Past, Present, or Future State Judicial Clerks</u>
17	<u>Top Fourteen Law School Attendees & Graduates</u>

Winter 2025 Fellowship



Back row, L to R : Conor Harvey, Tyler Shannon, Nathaniel Fouch, Tierney Gill, Nate Wertjes, Fabio Leonardi, Grant Strobl, Peter Allevato, Gerry Bradley, Alfonso Gamboa, Jacob Weaver and Connor Fraley. Front row, L to R : Naomi Franklin, Adie Schlenker, Hadley Arkes, Brady Marzen, Halle Kissel, and William Olmstea.

On January 4, 2025, our second James Wilson Winter Fellowship commenced. Despite a blizzard on the second day of the Fellowship blanketing Old Town Alexandria, our class of 16 fellows energetically braved the elements to partake in the Fellowship throughout the week.

JWI Co-Directors Hadley Arkes and Gerry Bradley led the majority of the seminar sessions, but we were thrilled to again welcome the irreplaceable contributions of Professor David Forte (Cleveland State Law), Justin Dyer (University of Texas at Austin), and Dr. Ryan Anderson (Ethics & Public Policy Center).

A highlight of the week was a joint session held in conjunction with First Liberty Institute's Center for Religion Culture and Democracy. On the second day of the Fellowship, the James Wilson Fellows and undergraduate fellows from the CRCDD enjoyed an afternoon seminar led by Professor Arkes. To cap the day, the two fellowship cohorts bonded over food and drink during a social hour.

Among our special guests, we were particularly excited to welcome Judge Edith Jones of JWI's Board of Jurists, who offered remarks on her experience as an appellate court judge. Her presence was particularly meaningful as two of her former clerks were in our Winter 2025 class. We were also privileged to host Michael Frago, Chief Counsel in the Office of the Senate Republican Leader, David Rosenthal and Conor Woodfin, two of our Fellowship Alumni now at Consovoy McCarthy, and Jeff Wall, the former Acting Solicitor General of the United States and current Partner at Sullivan & Cromwell.

"The James Wilson Institute Fellowship changes how you see the law, and it will change in the long term how you practice the law: both for the better."

-Brady Marzen, JWI '25





Summer 2025 Fellowship



Top row, left to right: *Gary Dunn, Professor Gerry Bradley, Walker Fortenberry, Eric Heigis, Olivia Lyons, Tim Longfield, Will Baker, Jennifer Psirogiannis, Ashley McWilliam, Kerry Hunt.* Bottom row, left to right: *Sean Tehan, Dalton Davis, Caleb Morrison, Razi Lane, Professor Hadley Arkes, Ken Lee, Christian McGuire, Gerald Sharpe, Tyler Dobbs.*

The 2025 Summer session marked our fourteenth fellowship class. Co-sponsored again with the Center on Religion, Culture & Democracy of First Liberty Institute, this cohort gelled more quickly than any group in memory. We sensed this cohesiveness from the very first seminar and it lasted throughout the week.

We were privileged to reconvene our esteemed faculty, whose dedication to our Nation's founding principles and profound knowledge of the Natural Law continues to inspire. The faculty who were veterans of previous fellowships were joined by a newcomer, Professor Adam MacLeod, senior research fellow at the Center for Religion, Culture & Democracy.

Special events and guest speakers included former Solicitor General of the United States and legendary Supreme Court advocate Paul Clement (Clement and Murphy) and James Burnham (King Street Legal, former General Counsel to the Department of Government Efficiency and Clerk for Justice Neil Gorsuch). We also were pleased to welcome back Prof. Rob Luther of the Scalia Law School and one-time associate White House Counsel. Each speaker shared stories from their work in the private and public sphere.

Our “late night” offerings included a walking tour of Old Town Alexandria, an ice cream social, a cocktail hour with alumni and friends, and a discussion of *Free Speech Coalition vs. Paxton* led by Professor Bradley while enjoying drinks and light fare. The week concluded with a joyful dinner at storied Gadsby's Tavern.

“The Fellowship reminded me as a young lawyer that I am not alone in believing in the application of natural law. I feel strongly encouraged to defend natural law both in practice and in my ultimate goal of academia.”

-Gary Dunn, Summer '25





Law School Seminars

Spring & Fall Semesters

2025 was notable for the dramatic expansion of JWJ's Law School Seminars. For the first time, JWJ brought its seminars to six different campuses in a single year: Yale, Duke, Brigham Young, Michigan, Cornell, and Texas. This growth is thanks to the generosity of the Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation whose investment in JWJ has powered the flourishing of this program.

Students have begun to notice the unique education that JWJ provides, and we now have a waiting list of over ten schools whose students have asked us to put on a seminar on their campus.

While some of the interest in our seminars is from students asking us to return to schools we have visited in the past, in 2025 we visited multiple schools for the first time, including Duke, Michigan, and Cornell. Successful visits to these new campuses will augur a return in the future..

The interest in our seminars is organic, coming from the students themselves. At their core, the seminars provide students with commonsense principles of moral judgement; principles that are unfortunately ignored by the academy and underappreciated by many -- even in the conservative legal movement.

BOARD OF SCHOLARS

Hadley Arkes

JWI Founder & Co-Director

Francis Beckwith

Prof. of Philosophy & Church-State
Studies at Baylor University

Gerry Bradley

JWI Co-Director

Josh Craddock

Attorney

Paul DeHart

Associate Prof. at Texas State University

Robert Destro

Prof. of Law at the Catholic University
of America

Justin Dyer

Dean & Jack G. Taylor Regents Prof. at
the University of Texas at Austin

Mark David Hall

Prof. of Government at Regent
University

David Forte

Prof. of Law Emeritus at Cleveland
State University

Adam MacLeod

Prof. of Law at St. Mary's University
School of Law

Daniel Mahoney

Prof. of Political Science Emeritus at
Assumption University

Julia Mahoney

John S. Battle Prof. of Law at the
University of Virginia Law School

Daniel Mark

Assistant Prof. of Political Science at
Villanova University.

Robert Miller

Prof. of Law at Antonin Scalia Law
School

Michael Pakaluk

Prof. of Ethics & Social Philosophy at
the Catholic Univ. of America

"This was the best seminar I have ever attended. The setting was so intimate, the arguments crisp and the wisdom precise."

- Onyeka Aralu, NYU Law Student Seminar Participant

Duke & University of North Carolina Law Schools | Spring 2025



University of Michigan Law School | Fall 2025



Brigham Young University | Spring 2025



University of Texas at Austin | Fall 2025



Yale Law School | Spring 2025



Cornell University | Fall 2025



BOARD OF JURISTS

Alice Batchelder

U.S. Court of Appeals - 6th Cir.

Janice Rogers Brown

Former Federal Judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals - D.C. Cir.

John Bush

U.S. Court of Appeals - 6th Cir.

Robert Conrad Jr.

Former U.S. District Court Judge for the Western District of N.C.

William Griesbach

U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Wisc.

Edith Jones

U.S. Court of Appeals - 5th Cir.

Paul Matey

U.S. Court of Appeals - 3rd Cir.

James Morrison

Chief Judge of the Marinette County Cir. Court of Wisc.

Diarmuid O'Scannlain

U.S. Court of Appeals - 9th Cir.

George O'Toole

U.S. District Court for the District of Mass.

The Senior Seminar

Spring & Fall

Beyond our work with the next generation of lawyers, JWJ hosts a bi-annual Senior Seminar program which brings together established leaders in American jurisprudence. JWJ's longest running program, there is no program in the American legal world akin to our Senior Seminars: they serve as a vital epicenter for the study and reinforcement of our Nation's founding truths.

In 2025, we were pleased to host seminars in both the spring and fall. Each two-day seminar was accompanied by an opening lecture on the first evening. In the spring, "Uncle Sam's Art and Architecture" featured art critic Catesby Leigh's reflections on President Trump's memorandum to promote "beautiful Federal civic architecture." In the fall, JWJ Founder and Co-Director Hadley Arkes and Senior Fellow Justin Dyer shared the stage for a timely and eloquent reflection titled "A Proposal for a New Understanding of Free Speech on University Campuses and the Charlie Kirk Moment."

Sadly, we lost one of the founding members of the Senior Seminar in 2025, Prof. John Baker. A teacher of Natural Law to law students, lawyers, and judges for nearly four decades, John attended nearly every meeting until his health prevented him from doing so. We honored his presence in the group by holding a seminar session remembering his contributions last fall.



2025 Spring Senior Seminar Participants



From Left to Right, Prof. Dyer, Judge Griesbach & Judge Batchelder at the Fall 2025 Senior Seminar



New Natural Law for Legislative Staff Seminar Series



Beginning in Fall 2025, we were happy to expand our program offerings for those in Article III to those in Article I. In collaboration with the Conservative Partnership Institute, we started a seminar series titled “Natural Law for Legislative Staff.” Over the span of four luncheon seminars, JWI and CPI held a successful “pilot program,” featuring a select class of congressional lawyers and lawyers adjacent to the Hill. CPI played host for the seminars at its conveniently located offices on Capitol Hill. Faculty included Fellowship alumni, a member of the judiciary, and lawyers with past Hill experience. At the end of this program, our cohort gained valuable tools to draft legislation in accordance with the principles that the Founders enshrined in America’s earliest laws and expected their successors to follow. Early 2026 will feature the next seminar session, with plans for more seminars year-round.



The JWI Internship Program

Spring, Summer & Fall

Each spring, summer, and fall, JWI welcomes two to three interns to our office in Historic Old Town Alexandria as well as online as remote interns. Our interns are drawn from an impressive pool of candidates and demonstrate interests in law, philosophy, and America's founding principles. They perform critical work in helping to carry out our mission to transform the legal culture and have assisted with interviewing scholars and public figures, writing commentary pieces on court decisions, assisting in major fundraising initiatives, and designing publications.

Our three 2025 intern cohorts were remarkable groups of young, energetic students and recent college graduates. They demonstrated impressive commitment to the principles our Founders espoused. We are certain they will each go on to do great things. During their time with us, two of our interns successfully completed the LSAT - we look forward to watching them become excellent lawyers, and perhaps even James Wilson Fellowship Alumni!



Daniel Kulju, Fall 2025



Mateo Guillamont, Summer 2025



Elliot Jones, Summer 2025

“I consider the summer I interned at JWI to be one of the more deeply impactful times in my life. It helped me to appreciate that philosophical and practical reasoning need not - indeed, should not, cannot afford to - be treated as occupying distinct spheres.”

-Former JWI Intern



Fellowship Alumni Engagement

Conference, Family Day, & Reunion Breakfast

Our James Wilson Fellowship Alumni are essential to the mission and vision of our organization. With over 200 (and growing) Alumni, shaping opportunities for Fellows across classes to meet and reconnect with friends is a priority for us as we seek to build a robust community.

We continued in 2025 to foster engagement with an annual Alumni Conference, an annual Alumni & Friends Breakfast Reunion during the Federalist Society's National Lawyers Convention, and our second annual Alumni Family Day.



“If we’re going to get close to what we think is true, we need to reason together with friends. The logos, reason, words don’t matter unless you’re saying them to someone, and it has been fantastic to share these [fellowship] experiences and I think I’ve made some lifelong friends.”

-Nicholas Clifford, Winter ‘24



5th Annual Alumni Conference

Our fifth annual Alumni Conference, held in November, welcomed a group of eighteen alumni. The conference featured four thought-provoking alumni presentations and discussions on topics such as *“Liberalism and Human Flourishing? A Natural Law Defense of the Limited State”* and *“Transgenderism and Cross dressing: Separate Legal Categories”*. It was overwhelmingly clear that the Natural Law runs through the scholarship of our alumni and informs their assessment of today’s legal issues.



Second Annual Fellows Alumni Family Day

In June, we hosted our second Alumni Family Day as a celebration of our Alumni and their families. Spanning fellowship classes from 2014 to 2025, attendees were able to catch up with other Alumni and introduce their families to the JWI network. The now annual event was graciously hosted at the home of a local Alumni couple and was coordinated by a wonderful Alumni host committee.



Annual Alumni & Friends Breakfast Reunion

At the Federalist Society’s National Lawyers Convention

In November, we hosted over forty lawyers, judges, and scholars at our annual Alumni & Friends Breakfast Reunion, which featured remarks from JWI Founder Hadley Arkes and Co-Director Gerry Bradley. The reunion coincided with the Federalist Society’s National Lawyers Convention, allowing many of our out-of-town friends and colleagues the opportunity to join us. With a high alumni turnout, the breakfast served as a wonderful occasion for reflection and fellowship.



Alumni Spotlight: Alumni in the Administration

We are proud of all of our alumni who choose to devote themselves to public service at the federal, state, and local level. In recent months, we've been taken by the increasing numbers of our alumni joining the executive branch in particular. At present, the James Wilson Fellowship program has graduated 28 (and growing!) individuals who are currently serving in the second Trump Administration.

From the Department of Justice to the Department of State to the Office of Management and Budget, our Alumni are working tirelessly to ensure that our rights are protected by law and policy. We hope our highlight of the four alumni here give you an impression of the positions that our alumni have undertaken in the spirit of public service.



Caleb Orr (JWI '22)

Assistant Secretary of State (Economic and Business Affairs), Senate Confirmed



Jimmy Baehr (JWI '16)

General Counsel at the Department of Veterans Affairs, Senate Confirmed



Aaron Reitz (JWI '18)

Former Assistant Attorney General for the Department of Justice's Office of Legal Policy, Senate Confirmed



Ugonna Eze (JWI '22)

Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Chairman at the Securities and Exchange Commission; Former Associate White House Counsel.

From the James Wilson Fellowship to the Federal Bench

Among the many accomplishments of our alumni in 2025, the appointments of alumni Zachary Bluestone and Jordan Pratt to the federal bench particularly stand out. Our first alumni appointed to federal judgeships, we are confident Judges Bluestone and Pratt will draw upon their experiences as James Wilson Fellows to uphold their judicial duty faithfully. Congratulations to both of them for this immense honor.



Zachary Bluestone, JWF '17 and United States District Court Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri



Jordan Pratt, JWF '14 and United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida

"We can be sure the future of American jurisprudence is bright."

- Professor Gerry Bradley

Natural Law Moment Podcast

In the Summer of 2025, we launched Natural Law Moment, our podcast hosted by our Co-Directors Professors Hadley Arkes and Gerry Bradley. The podcast brings the wisdom and humor of our Co-Directors to bear on questions of law, politics and culture. With eight episodes recorded in 2025, Natural Law Moment caters to an online audience whose first and perhaps only engagement with our work is via the Podcast. Whether on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, or our most popular channel on YouTube, the Podcast reaches thousands if not tens of thousands with each episode.



Episodes:

The Natural Law Revival is Now

Abortion After Dobbs: A Precarious Moment

The Moral Framework of Parental Rights

Avoiding the Central Question: Post Skrametti Analysis

Seeking Truth and Speaking Truth featuring Professor Robert P. George

Charlie Kirk: Free Speech and His Legacy

The “Illegitimate Supreme Court?” Sorting Myth From Reality

Prosecutor as Moral Agent: Gerry Bradley’s Early Years in the Manhattan DA’s Office

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Most Popular Short

“Gender therapy: Permanent Cure or Temporary Placebo?” with Prof. Gerry Bradley

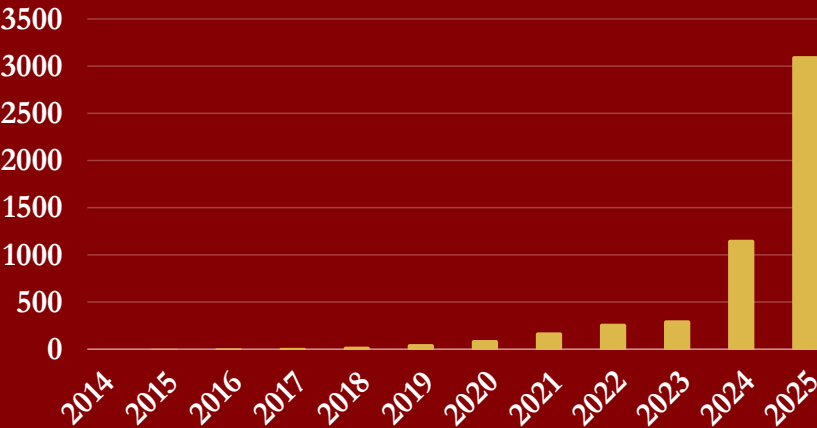
52,084 Views

Most Popular Video

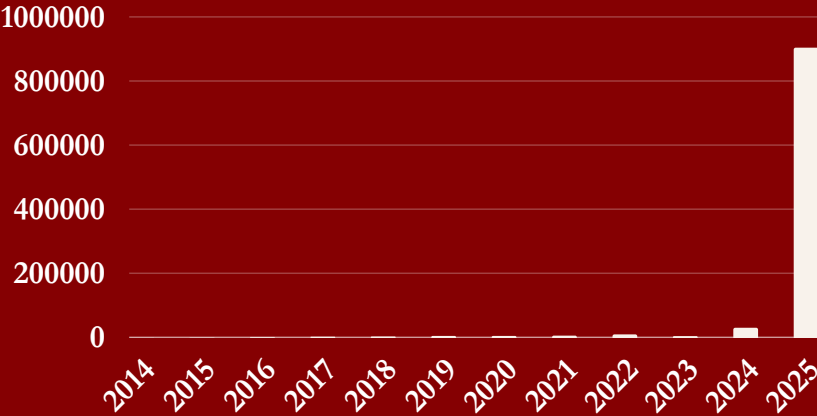
Prosecutor as Moral Agent: Gerry Bradley’s Early Years in the Manhattan DA’s Office

51,450 Views

Total YouTube Subscribers



Total YouTube Views



10% Follower Increase



11.83% Engagement Increase



16% Connection Increase



40% Subscriber Increase

Episode VII
The "Illegitimate" Supreme Court?
Sorting Myth from Reality



**NATURAL LAW
MOMENT**



EPISODE I
The Natural Law
Revival is Now



**NATURAL LAW
MOMENT**



EPISODE V
SEEKING TRUTH &
SPEAKING TRUTH
FTR. ROBERT P.
GEORGE



**NATURAL LAW
MOMENT**

Publications

- “Contra Koppelman: What Mere Natural Law Was About,” *Harvard Journal of Law and Public Policy Per Curiam*, February 11, 2025
- “Too Short—Trump's Address to Joint Session of Congress,” *Anchoring Truths*, March 6, 2025
- “The Light the Court’s Originalist Majority Must See,” *Civitas Outlook*, March 14, 2025
- “The Centrality of the Regime Question,” *Anchoring Truths*, March 20, 2025
- “What Might James Wilson Say to Today's Supreme Court?” *Anchoring Truths*, April 22, 2025
- “Justice Blacklock Brings Home Again the Moral Meaning of Marriage,” *Anchoring Truths*, May 1, 2025
- “Supreme Confusion: The Supreme Court ‘Does’ Transgenderism,” *Anchoring Truths*, June 23, 2025
- “Privileges & Immunities: Where Do Barnett & Bernick Lead Us?” *Texas Journal of Law & Politics*, August 7, 2025
- “Free Speech and the American University: A Proposal,” *Civitas Outlook*, October 7, 2025
- “The Supreme Court Dances Around Transgenderism,” *American Mind*, December 17, 2025
- “Tom Stoppard, In Loving Memory,” *City Journal*, December 29, 2025

Lectures

- “Should Judges Employ Natural Law Principles?” *Georgetown Law Debate*, The Federalist Society, March 19, 2025.
- “Benedict Leadership Institute Award Acceptance Speech,” *Anchoring Truths*, March 28, 2025
- “How the Justice System Lost its Soul - and How to Get it Back,” *The Conor Gallagher Show*, May 15, 2025
- “Natural Law, Originalism, and the Constitution,” *Simple Truth Podcast*, June 13, 2025
- “A Proposal for a New Understanding of Free Speech on University Campuses and the Charlie Kirk Moment,” *Anchoring Truths*, October 24, 2025

GERRY BRADLEY

Publications

- “Creating U.S. Catholicism,” *First Things*, June 19, 2025
- “Conversion, Abortion, and Stopping the Killing,” *Anchoring Truths*, July 10, 2025
- “The Disappointment of Skrmetti,” *Anchoring Truths*, July 14, 2025

Lectures

- “Address to the President’s Religious Liberty Commission,” *Anchoring Truths*, June 16, 2025
- “Two Leos on Church and State,” *University of Dallas*, October, 2025

Anchoring Truths Journal & Podcasts

For the past five years, Anchoring Truths has expanded JWT's reach to an ever growing online audience. Anchoring Truth's essays, videos, and webinars not only provide original commentary to current events but also serve as a legal library grounded in the Natural Law. The Anchoring Truths Podcast often hosts guest authors, with an accent on featuring alumni and affiliated scholars. In 2025, we featured twenty essays and thirty-three podcasts (including both the Anchoring Truths Podcast and Natural Law Moment). We also in 2025 welcomed Anchoring Truths's first writing fellow, Paul Cupp. A sampling of our offerings may be found on the following page.



24

Articles & Essays

25

Podcast Episodes

The Anchoring Truths Team



Hadley Arkes
Co-Founder



Garrett Snedeker
Co-Founder



Ted Hirt
Managing Editor



Josh Hammer
Contributing Editor



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More

- "Lawless: the Miseducation of America's Elites" with Ilya Shapiro, January 16
- "The Rights of Women: A Natural Law Approach" with Erika Bachiochi, January 23
- "Natural Law and Government by Consent" with Paul DeHart, January 30
- "Natural Law and Labor Law" with Alex MacDonald, February 6
- "Trump's Executive Orders on DEI & Sex" with Mary Rice Hasson, February 13
- "IVF & Future of Federal Policy" with Steve Aden, February 20
- "A More Luminous Beacon" with Prof. Will Kamin, February 27
- "Securitization and the Hungarian Experience," with Dan Whitehead March 13
- "Israel and Civilization: The Fate of the Jewish Nation and the Destiny of the West" with Josh Hammer, March 20
- "Restoring Congress to the Center of Politics & Law" at the Michigan Law Fed Soc Student Symposium, April 3
- "Combating Wokism & Utopianism" with Daniel Mahoney, April 17
- "Restoring the Classical Legal Tradition in Practice and Education with Julia Mahoney, May 1
- "Nationwide Injunctions and the Constitution" with Giancarlo Canaparo, May 13
- "Best of Times & Worst of Times for Pro-Life Movement?" with Jennie Bradley Lichter, May 29
- "Lincoln's Prophetic Statesmanship" with Edward Erler, June 12
- "Natural Property Rights" with Prof. Eric Claeys, June 26
- "Judicial Courage" with Judge Janice Rogers Brown, July 10
- "Our Natural Law Moment(s)" with Dennis Wieboldt, July 31
- "Judicial Nominations in President Trump's Second Term: Form and Substance" with Robert Luther, August 14
- "Everson Must Fall" with Timon Cline, August 28
- "The Golden Thread" with Prof. Allen Guelzo, September 25
- "From Professor Barrett to Justice Barrett" with Michael A. Fragoso, October 9
- "Parental Rights from the Natural Law Tradition to Skrametti and Mahmoud: Foundations and Applications" with Prof. Melissa Moschella, October 23
- "Can the President Remove Anyone from the Administrative State?" with Mark Chenoweth, November 6
- "Reforming the Judiciary" with Prof. Josh Blackman, December 4

ASSORTED ESSAYS

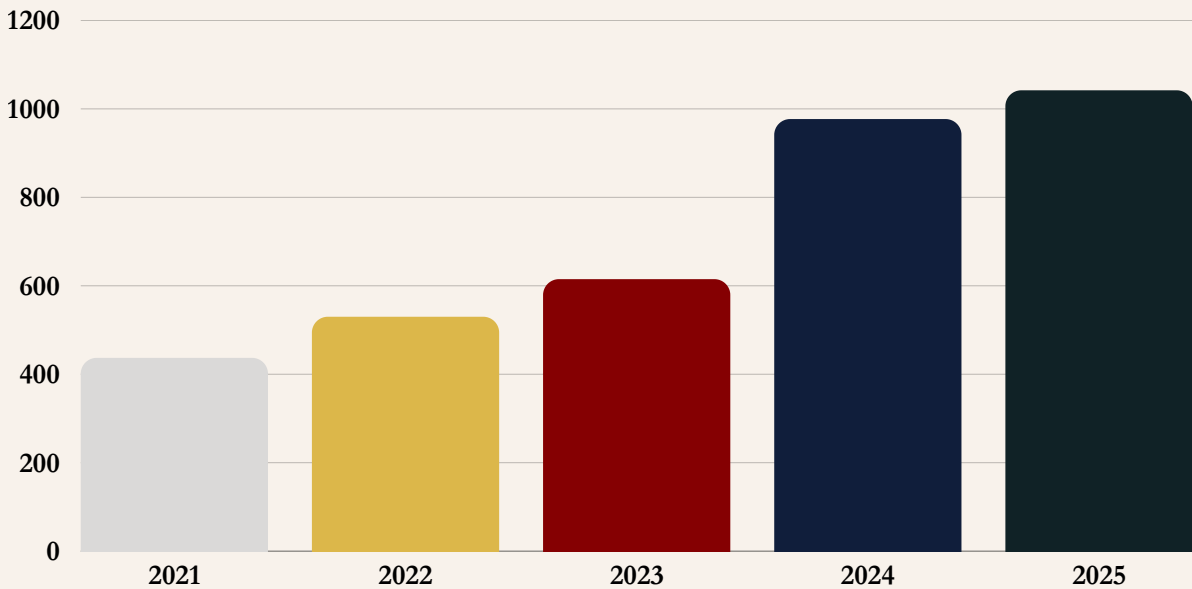
- "Originalism and Ancient Rabbinic Exegesis," by Nils A. Haug, January 9
- "Fabricated Identity and the Dilemma of Moral Authority - Parts 1 & 2" by Nils A. Haug, January 29 & February 6
- "Securitization: A Solution to the Migration Crisis in the United States," by Daniel Whitehead, January 29
- "Beyond Brennan's Blooper," by Steve Hayward February 20
- "A Violent Clash of Contrary Values - Parts 1 & 2," by Nils A. Haug, March 6 & March 12
- "Remembering Five Years Ago: COVID Closure of Churches," by Garrett Snedeker, March 31
- "Rahimi's Natural Law Moment - Parts 1 & 2," by Jamie G. McWilliam, April 1 & April 2
- "The Best Way to Fix Nationwide Injunctions," by GianCarlo Canaparo, April 9
- "Progressive Democracy' and the 'Totalitarian Temptation,'" by Daniel Mahoney, April 19
- "Four Tests for Trump's Judicial Nominees," by Josh Hammer, May 2
- "Legal Education: Due for a 'Classical' Reform," by Paul Cupp, May 8
- "The Commodification of the American Family," by Sherman Criner, May 21
- "Prof. Mark David Hall Addresses the President's Religious Liberty Commission," by Mark David Hall, June 18
- "The Preamble, Aristotle, and the Common Good," by Paul Cupp, July 24
- "The Justice as Teacher," by Michael A. Fragoso, September 16
- "Relentless/Loper Bright in the Lower Courts: Flare-Ups After Chevron's Fall," by Garrett Snedeker, October 17
- "Ages of Rage: Reviewing Jonathan Turley's 'The Indispensable Right,' by Paul Cupp & Ethan Mack, December 18

Finances

Expenditures, Revenue, & Foundations

In the past three years, the James Wilson Institute has seen remarkable growth across the board: we **doubled** our James Wilson Fellowship offerings; we **tripled** our Law School Seminar program; and we added **two new** Fellowship Alumni programs. To accommodate this programmatic development, we increased our staff, doubled our leadership, grew our Board, and created the new Senior Fellow position. These achievements would not have been possible without the generosity of our most loyal sponsors; the revenue and expenditure increases noted below are thanks entirely to their continued dedication to our mission.

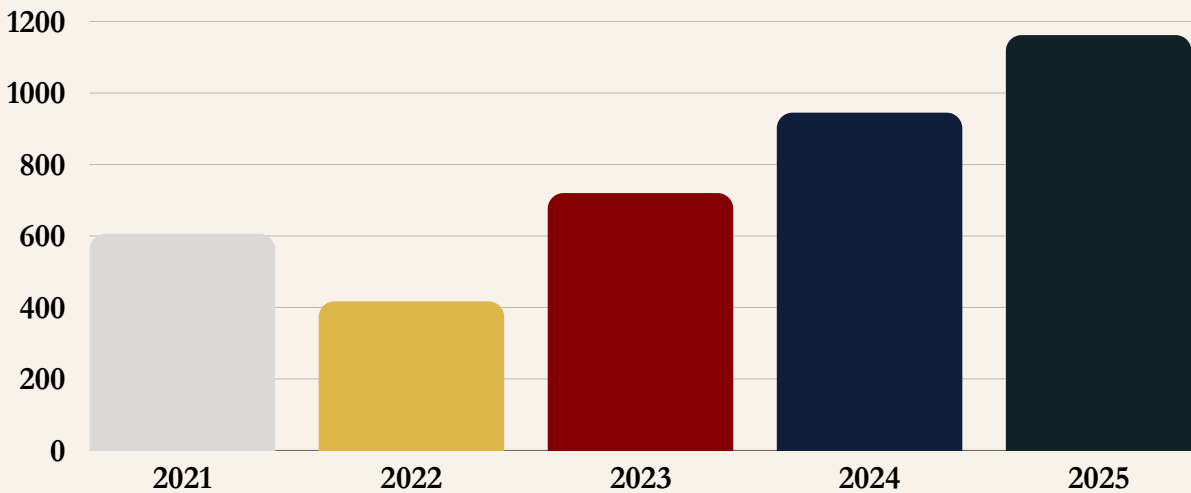
Expenditures



EXPENDITURES BETWEEN 2021 - 2025

In thousands of U.S. dollars

Revenue

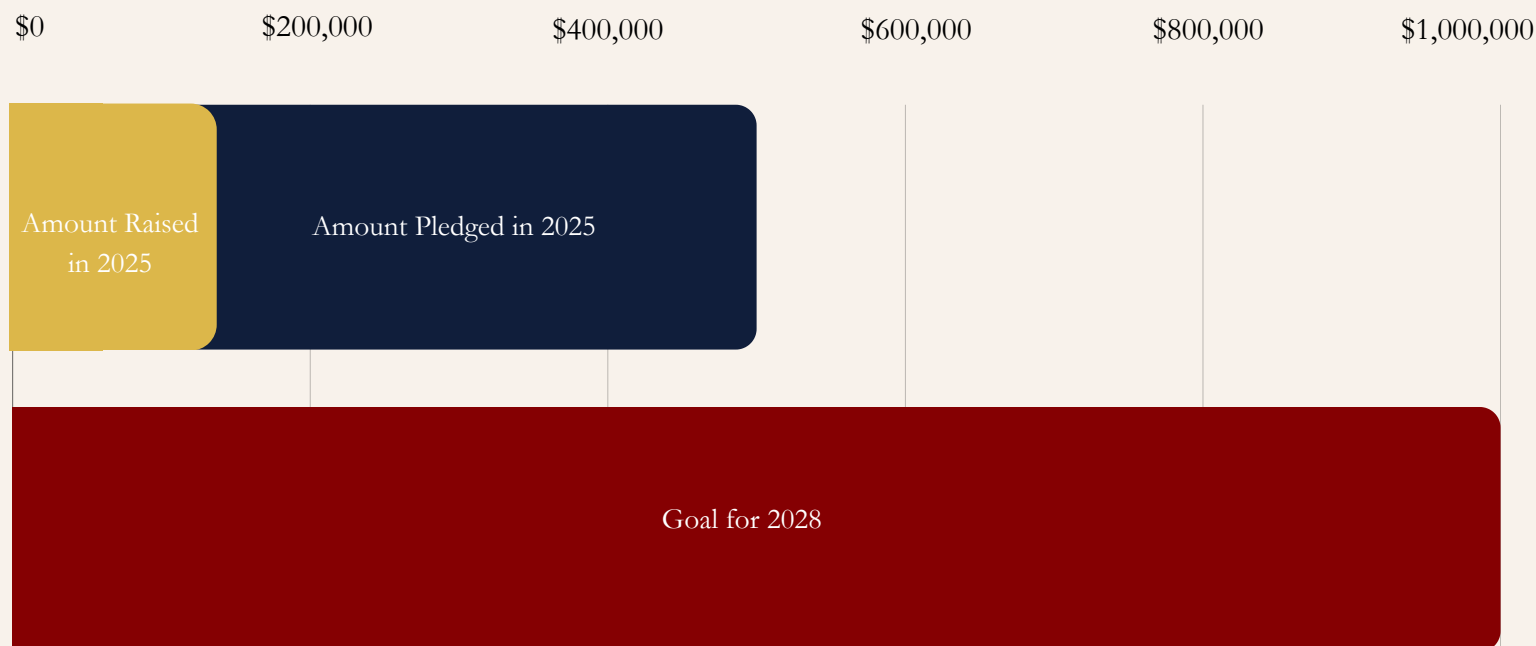


REVENUE BETWEEN 2021 - 2025

In thousands of U.S. dollars

Future Program Funding

To make our core program funding sustainable, the James Wilson Institute seeks to raise \$1 million by 2028 in addition to regular contributions. This new fund is meant to ensure that JWI has solid funding in good as well as in challenging years. In 2025 we were grateful for early gifts of \$159,000, with 50% of our total goal now pledged. In 2026 we seek to fully match the costs of our key programs for a total of \$1 million in pledges.



Major Foundation Supporters

Diana Davis Spencer Foundation

Sarah Scaife Foundation

Lynde & Harry Bradley Foundation

The James Wilson Institute is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Donations are tax-exempt to the fullest extent of the law. The Institute received no funding in 2025 from the federal government. The Institute's most recent IRS 990 Form is available upon request.

Partner Organizations in 2025

CRCD & AHA



CENTER FOR RELIGION,
CULTURE & DEMOCRACY

For the past four years, we have been proud to co-host our Summer James Wilson Fellowship with First Liberty Institute’s “Center for Religion, Culture & Democracy.” The CRCD is also a generous co-sponsor of our regular webinar series, bringing a public audience into conversation with the work we do.

In January 2025, JWI and the CRCD provided an opportunity for CRCD undergraduate fellows to meet and interact with the 2025 Winter James Wilson Fellows for an afternoon of seminars and socializing. Further in late November 2025, the CRCD, in co-sponsorship with JWI and the University of Chicago Federalist Society, hosted a widely attended event at the University of Chicago Law School on whether the Supreme Court is facing a crisis of legitimacy. JWI Co-Director Gerry Bradley headlined the event with fellow legal scholars Richard Epstein and Andrew Koppelman.



*CRCD Fellows and JWI Co-Directors during
the 2025 Winter Fellowship*



*Andrew Koppelman, Richard Epstein and
Gerry Bradley at a CRCD event in Chicago*



In 2025, JWI announced that beginning in 2026 we are proud to welcome the Ayaan Hirsi Ali Foundation as a co-sponsor of our annual Winter James Wilson Fellowship. We're excited to collaborate with AHA as AHA grows its work on furthering public recognition of the law's moral foundations.

The AHA Foundation's president Trey Dimsdale said the following about our new partnership: "AHA Foundation is honored to partner with the James Wilson Institute to train some of the most promising young lawyers to understand the moral architecture of our Constitution and the law more broadly. Our commitment to human rights and the nonnegotiable priority that our founder Ayaan Hirsi Ali places on a classical, natural conception of humans rights makes JWI the most natural (and likely only) partner we can have to accomplish these goals."



AHA President Trey Dimsdale and Professor Arkes during the 2025 Winter Fellowship



James Wilson Fellowship Alumni and Professor Arkes with AHA's Founder and Namesake Ayaan Hirsi Ali

Looking Back

Looking back over this past year, we cannot help but feel accomplished in our successful endeavors and grateful for the support that made them possible. We have been privileged to bring together a community that will go on to influence American Jurisprudence for the better, and for a long time. We saw this at our Gala honoring our Founder Hadley Arkes. We saw this at our Gala honoring our Founder Hadley Arkes. In one room, we gathered Professor Arkes's one-time Amherst students, James Wilson

Fellowship Alumni and our family of supporters and friends. This group stands as a testament to Hadley's legacy, but in a larger sense as a reminder of the James Wilson Institute's lasting value as a corrective to the relativism and moral incoherence that still plagues higher education. Our generous supporters have made the James Wilson Institute a refuge for students of all ages seeking moral clarity. We are deeply grateful. Thank you for placing your trust in us and in the future of American jurisprudence.



Before participating in the Fellowship, I had an intuitive sense that there was something missing from the positivism that dominates conservative legal thought. The Fellowship equipped me with the knowledge, tools, and perspective to better understand what is missing and what to do about it.”

-Timothy Longfield, Summer '25

Looking Forward

In the years ahead, JWI endeavors to meet this “Natural Law Moment” with programs that respond to the extraordinary demand for JWI's unique offerings. Our new Natural Law for Legislative Staff seminar, co-hosted with the Conservative Partnership Institute, will expand to two cohorts in 2026, equipping attorneys on Capitol Hill with the Founders' principles. Beginning in 2026, our Solicitors General Seminar will make JWI the only institution educating state Solicitors General in Natural Law and first principles—a program that will strengthen constitutional reasoning across the nation.

For America 250, we will celebrate James Wilson's pivotal role in the American Founding and educate audiences unaware of his immense contributions to American constitutionalism. As our Board Chairman Doug Neff recently observed, JWI has built “the equivalent of a department of law, politics, and philosophy that would be the pride of any university 25 years ago”—but one that today “you can't get into a university.” We will continue expanding this vital educational mission, bringing our law school seminars to even more campuses to meet students where the universities cannot.

The proof of our work surrounds us: twenty-eight (and growing) James Wilson Fellowship alumni now serve in the current administration, with two selected for federal judgeships. The next generation hungers for what we offer, and we are determined to answer that call. 2026 is a banner year for the James Wilson Institute, and we cannot wait to share it with you.

Sincerely,

Garrett Snedeker | JWI Executive Director

“If you want to learn how to think about cases and statutes, go to law school. If you want to learn how to think about the law, go to the James Wilson Institute.”

-Sean Tehan, Summer '25



Staying Connected

Contact Us



Phone Number

202-760-3220



Email Address

staff@jwinst.org



Website

jameswilsoninstitute.org



Address

510 King St., Ste. 340
Alexandria, VA 22314

Social Media



X (Twitter)

@JamesWilsonInst



Facebook

@jameswilsoninstitute



YouTube

@jameswilsoninstitute7296



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