

Paul Connell

MAILING ADDRESS (SCHOOL):

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AFFILIATIONS

University of Wisconsin Law School, 2025-present
Assistant Professor

EDUCATION

Ph.D. (Economics) Columbia University, 2025
Major Fields: Industrial Organization, Econometrics

J.D. Yale Law School, 2014
Awards: Edward D. Robbins Memorial Prize
Activities: Yale Journal on Regulation, Board Member and Online Director

B.A. The University of Chicago, 2011
Majors: Economics; Russian Literature
Honors: Phi Beta Kappa, College Honors and Special Honors in the Humanities

PUBLICATIONS AND WORKS IN PROGRESS

Better Court Structure, Better Judgments?: Exploring the Impact of Term Limits, Court Specialization and Rule Clarity with a Diagnostic Model of Judging in Securities Class Action Litigation (working paper available upon request)

Court structure can influence the quality of judicial decision making, and a combination of term limits and subject matter specialization in the federal bench could avoid hundreds of millions of dollars in settlements of non-meritorious securities class action litigation matters every year. Using a variety of data related to securities class action lawsuits, I employ a structural model of expert decision making to estimate federal judges' skill in appropriately identifying and dismissing non-meritorious strike suits and to examine how this skill increases with relevant experience and decreases with advanced age. In addition,

I find that rule clarity plays a significant role in heightening the accuracy and predictability of judges' decisions. Finally, I model counterfactual scenarios to derive the optimal length of judicial term limits and caseload for specialized subject-matter courts. I estimate that, if enacted concurrently with the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act in 1995, court structure interventions at these optimal levels could have avoided over \$17.2 billion in non-meritorious settlements and returned \$4.5 billion to shareholders in suits that were erroneously dismissed.

Estimating and Correcting for Misclassification Error in Empirical Textual Research (2024), with Jon Choi (working paper available on [SSRN](#); presented at the 2024 Conference on Empirical Legal Studies; accepted for poster presentation at the 2024 Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems)

We present a framework for quantifying the impact of and correcting for misclassification error in empirical research involving textual data. Misclassification error commonly arises when, for example, large language models (LLMs) or human research assistants are tasked with classifying features in text. For statistics calculated with classification estimates, misclassification error may introduce attenuation bias or, if there is an imbalance of false positives and false negatives, directional bias, or both. We present strategies for statistically quantifying misclassification error and for correcting estimations based on mismeasured data. We demonstrate the effectiveness of these techniques with a Monte Carlo simulation as well as with worked examples involving real data. The examples demonstrate the importance of correcting for misclassification error, particularly when using LLMs with imbalances in their confusion matrix.

A 'New View' of America's Original Sin: Induced Innovation and Slavery in the Antebellum United States (2024) (working paper available on [SSRN](#))

This paper provides evidence that slavery directed technological progress in the antebellum South toward labor-augmenting innovations. To detect the relative trends in each region's investment in technological development, I utilize a natural language processing analysis of U.S. patents granted between the passing of the Patent Act of 1836 and the end of Reconstruction. Contextualizing these results with Atkinson and Stiglitz's "New View" framework for describing directed technological change, the paper then describes how outsized capital gains on "slave capital" played a pivotal role in altering the overall return to investment in labor-augmenting technologies in the South as compared to the North, thus setting the two regions on different trajectories of industrial development.

An Empirical Analysis of CFIUS: Examining Foreign Investment Regulation in the United States (2014), with Tian Huang, YALE J. OF INT'L L. (available on [SSRN](#))

The Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) examines foreign proposed transactions to garner control of American entities and advises on national security risks through a confidential review process. Previous scholarship on CFIUS has concentrated on specific events and legislative amendments to the process. This Note, through aggregating publicly available sources of information regarding CFIUS reviews, produces the first comprehensive empirical analysis of the process. Using event studies, we show that CFIUS actions have resulted in multi-billion-dollar wealth transfers to American companies. Our regression analysis of publicly available data indicates that outcomes of CFIUS reviews are best explained by factors relating to national security concerns.

TEACHING

University of Wisconsin Law School, Madison, WI

Assistant Professor, 2025-present

- Business Organizations (Spring 2026)
- Torts (Spring 2026)

Columbia University, New York, NY

Economics Teaching Assistant, 2020-2024

- The Economics of Race in the United States (Fall 2023)
- Law and Economics (Spring 2023)
- Principles of Economics (Spring 2022; Fall 2024)
- Intermediate Microeconomics (Spring 2021)
- The American Economy (Fall 2020; Fall 2021)

LEGAL AND OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

J.P. Morgan Chase & Co., New York, NY

Assistant Vice President and Senior Counsel, Equity Derivatives Group, 2018 – 2019

- Assisted with structuring and documentation of equity derivatives transactions; negotiated global master confirmation agreements and trade-specific trade confirmations; advised the equity derivatives trading desk on U.S. securities law matters.

Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP, New York, NY

Associate, Capital Markets Department, 2014 – 2018

- Acted as issuer's and underwriters' counsel in numerous equity and debt offerings; advised clients as to Delaware corporate law, U.S. securities law and matters of contractual compliance.

BAR ADMISSION

New York, 2015