

2026 Winter Program
THE CENTER FOR CONSTITUTIONAL LAW AT AKRON

*Levels of Scrutiny:
Toppling the Tiers or Restoring the Balance*

Friday, February 20, 2026
12:00pm to 1:30pm EST (virtual online)

TEAMS VIRTUAL LINK: [2026 Winter Program](#)

[The Center for Constitutional Law at Akron](#) presents the 2026 Winter Program, *Levels of Scrutiny: Toppling the Tiers or Restoring the Balance*. The Center is one of four national centers established by Congress on the bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution to support legal research on constitutional matters. The 2026 symposium examines the recent trend of the U.S. Supreme Court paradoxically eradicating and reifying tiered levels of scrutiny. This symposium seeks to bring together scholars engaged with these important constitutional questions as they evaluate opinions and offer critiques and insights on the developing law.

- 12:00pm Introduction
Tracy Thomas, Seiberling Chair of Constitutional Law, University of Akron
- 12:05pm *Illegitimate Interests and the Levels of Scrutiny*
Reginald Oh, Alan Miles & Betty Willis Ruben Professor of Law, Cleveland State University
- 12:20pm *The Technocratic Case for Tiered Rights*
Abigail R. Moncrieff, Associate Professor of Law & Political Science, Co-Director of William I. Weisberg Center for Health Law & Policy, Cleveland State University
- 12:35pm *Toppling Tiers Without Naming Them*
Danielle C. Jefferis, Associate Professor of Law, Schmid Professor for Excellence in Research, University of Nebraska College of Law
- 12:50pm *Sex Discrimination, Heightened Scrutiny, and Values: A Retrospective on the Rhetorics of William Brennan and William Rehnquist in Craig v. Boren*
Carlo A. Pedrioli, Professor of Law, Southern University Law Center
- 1:05 Moderated Q&A

Some papers from the program will be published in the spring edition of the Center for Constitutional Law's journal, [ConLawNOW](#), a faculty edited, open-access, online journal.