

Matthew Estes

Caltech, Department of Social Sciences
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Education

California Institute of Technology, Ph.D. and M.S. in Social Science (2026)

Thesis: Essays on Law and Economics

Dissertation Committee: Mike Alvarez, Jim Greiner, Jonathan Katz, Bob Sherman

The University of Chicago Law School, J.D., *with Honors* (2021)

Honors: Kirkland & Ellis Scholar

Activities: Poverty & Housing Law Clinic, Kirkland & Ellis Corporate Lab Clinic,
Teaching Assistant (Prof. Lisa Bernstein)

Harvard University, A.B. in Mathematics, *cum laude* (2018)

Honors: Phi Beta Kappa, John Harvard Scholar, National Merit Scholar,
Language Citation (Chinese)

Academic Employment

University of Toledo College of Law (incoming Fall 2026)

Assistant Professor of Law and Assistant Professor of Economics (by courtesy)

Research & Teaching Areas

Research: Law & Economics, Empirical Legal Studies, Econometrics

Teaching: Property, Law and Economics, Law and Technology

Publications

Courts & Legal Academy

1. [Finding Natural Law: An Empirical Examination of Natural Law Theory in Court Opinions, Practitioner Briefs, and Legal Scholarship](#) (with [Ransi Clark](#)), 41 *Notre Dame Journal of Law, Ethics & Public Policy* (forthcoming 2027)
2. [Courting the Academy: The Judicial Role in Popularizing Legal Scholarship](#) (with [Ransi Clark](#)), 35 *Kansas Journal of Law & Public Policy* (forthcoming 2026)

Working Papers

1. [Eviction Reduction Policies: Do More Courts Reduce Defaults in LA County?](#), revise and resubmit at *Journal of Empirical Legal Studies*
2. [Justice Divided, Justice Denied? The Effects of Court Rules on Eviction Outcomes in Los Angeles County](#) (with Kyle Nelson)
3. [Monotone Regression Discontinuity Designs: Partial Identification, Estimation, and Extrapolation](#)

Works in Progress

1. Parallel Lifecycles: Applications to Approval Ratings, Citations, and Judicial Ideology (with Ransi Clark)
2. Law and Education: The Law School Curriculum and Elite Judges, 1870-1930 (with Alex Halsey)
3. Zoning Los Angeles: The Effect of Upzoning LA City on Eviction
4. Property Crime and Housing in Chicago, 1870-1930 (with Mitchell Linegar)
5. Measuring Ideological Responses to SCOTUS Decisions (with [Melina Much](#), [Danny Ebanks](#), and [Mike Alvarez](#))

Conferences and Presentations

2026.

1. Canadian Law & Economics Association Annual Conference (Oct 2026) (planned)
 - (a) Panel session TBA
2. Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference (Apr 2026)
 - (a) “Public Policy & Administration: Causes and Consequences of Policies” poster discussant
 - (b) “American Politics: The Supremes” poster discussant
 - (c) “Behavior & Methods: Experimental Approaches to Political Science Research” poster discussant
3. Mercatus Center, “Key Contributions of Institutional Economics” (Mar 2026)
4. Mercatus Center, “Key Contributions of Public Choice Economics” (Jan 2026)

2025.

1. Conference on Empirical Legal Studies, Georgetown (Oct 2025)
 - (a) “Civil Procedure, Litigation, and Dispute Resolution” panel session

2. Canadian Law & Economics Association Annual Conference (Oct 2025)
 - (a) “Consumer and Tenant Protection” panel session
3. Mercatus Center, “Key Contributions of Austrian Economics” (Aug 2025)
4. UChicago Law Teaching Conference (June 2025)
5. Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference (Apr 2025)
 - (a) “Observational Causal Inference” panel session

Joint Works Presented by Coauthors

1. American Political Science Association’s Annual Meeting (Sep 2025)
 - (a) “Monetary Policy in the Greenback Era” presented by Ransi Clark
2. Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference (Apr 2025)
 - (a) “Parallel Lifecycles” presented by Ransi Clark in “Causal Inference” panel session

Other Funding and Awards

1. **Clarence J. Hicks Memorial Fellowship in Industrial Relations**, Caltech (2025-2026)
2. **Adam Smith Fellowship**, Mercatus Center at George Mason University (2025-2026)
3. **Haynes Lindley Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship**, Haynes Foundation, \$26,000 (2023-2024)
4. **Certificate of Distinction in Teaching**, Harvard University (2016)

Other Experience

Teaching Assistant at Caltech

- PS 12 “Introduction to Political Science” (Winter 2025, Spring 2026)
- EC 122 “Econometrics” (Fall 2024)
- PS 141B “A History of Budgetary Politics in the U.S.” (Spring 2024, Spring 2026)
- PS 123 “The Politics of Regulation” (Winter 2023, Spring 2024)
- PS 141A “A History of Budgetary Politics in the U.S.” (Winter 2023)
- Math 6A/106A “Introduction to Discrete Mathematics” (Fall 2022)

Grader at University of Chicago

- Math 27300 “Basic Theory of Ordinary Differential Equations” (Winter 2020)
- Math 19620 “Linear Algebra” (Fall 2019)

Teaching Assistant/Teaching Fellow at Harvard University

Math 110 “Vector Space Methods for Differential Equations” (Spring 2017, Spring 2018)

Math 23a “Linear Algebra and Real Analysis I” (Fall 2016, Fall 2017)

Math S-1A “Calculus I” (Summer 2016, Summer 2017)

Math 21b “Linear Algebra and Differential Equations” (Spring 2016)

Legal Aid Chicago, *Housing Practice Group*, Chicago, IL (Jan 2020–Oct 2020)

Skills

R, Julia, Python, Mathematica, Stan, LaTeX

Last updated: Aug 2026