

CHRISTOPHER LLOYD GOFFOS

Ph.D. Candidate in Politics (ABD), Hillsdale College, cgoffos@hillsdale.edu

EDUCATION

Hillsdale College Van Andel Graduate School of Statesmanship

Ph.D. Politics, 2022 (expected)

M.A. Politics, 2019

Fields: American politics, political philosophy

Dissertation: “The Good Constitution: A Moral Account of U.S. Constitutionalism in Clarence Thomas’s Political Thought,” proposal approved March 2021, Committee: Dr. Ronald J. Pestritto, Dr. Adam Carrington, Dr. Larry P. Arnn

Ashland University

B.A. Political Science and History, minors in Philosophy and Applied Music (voice), 2014

Ashbrook Scholar

Thesis: “Republican Classrooms: Freedom and Education in the American Republic,” Committee: Dr. Peter W. Schramm, Dr. Christopher Burkett, Dr. Louis Mancha

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Hillsdale College

Teaching Apprentice, Department of Politics

Politics 202 American Political Thought, Fall 2019

Politics 101 U.S. Constitution, Spring 2020

Graduate Research Assistant, Clarence Thomas Project, Office of the President, 2019–Present

Graduate Research Assistant, Churchill Project, Office of the President, 2018–2019

Hillsdale Academy

Classical School Administrator Apprentice, Spring 2021

The Federalist Society for Law and Public Policy Studies

Associate Director, Faculty Division, 2016–2017

Assistant Director, Faculty Division, 2015–2016

John Jay Institute

Fellow and Resident Assistant, Spring 2015

Ashland University

Teaching Assistant, Master’s in American History and Government Program, 2013–2014

RESEARCH INTERESTS

American political thought, American government and institutions, political philosophy, constitutional powers, civil rights, the role of natural law and natural rights in jurisprudence, constitutional interpretation, liberal education, Catholic social thought

COURSES PREPARED TO TEACH

Ancient and Medieval political philosophy (Plato, Aristotle, Aquinas), Early Modern political philosophy (Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke), Late Modern philosophy (Rousseau, Kant, Hegel, Marx, Nietzsche), American founding, American political thought, American national government institutions, American progressivism, American conservatism, constitutional powers, constitutional/civil rights

WORKS IN PROGRESS

A Tour of the Constitution with Clarence Thomas: A Compendium of His Opinions, co-edited volume with Dr. Larry P. Arnn, currently being drafted and compiled.

- “Without a Shred of Support”: Abortion in Clarence Thomas’s Jurisprudence.’
- “The Calling of the Higher Law”: Natural Law According to Chairman Clarence Thomas.’
- “Synchronous Learning in Plato’s *Phaedrus*,” under review, ACTC 2021 Proceedings (peer reviewed).

POPULAR AND OTHER WRITING

- “How Lockdowns Helped Hide The Plain Evidence That COVID-19 Isn’t A Good Excuse For Panic,” *The Federalist*, May 25, 2021.
- “Whitmer’s COVID-19 response about control, not health,” *The Detroit News* (print and online), May 5, 2021.
- “How It Started vs. How It’s Going: From Washington to the Modern Presidency,” *America’s Future Blog*, February 15, 2021.
- “The Biggest Lie You’ll Ever Hear in a Commencement Speech,” *America’s Future Blog*, July 9, 2018.
- “10 Things to Read to Remember What the Fourth of July Means,” *America’s Future Blog*, July 4, 2018.

PRESENTATIONS

- “Without a Shred of Support”: Abortion in Clarence Thomas’s Jurisprudence,’ Society of Catholic Social Scientists National Conference, October 2021 (scheduled).
- “The Calling of the Higher Law”: Natural Law According to Chairman Clarence Thomas,’ Van Andel Graduate School of Statesmanship Colloquium, October 2021 (scheduled).
- “Clarence Thomas’s Higher Law Jurisprudence: Revisiting the Confirmation Hearings 30 Years Later,” Midwest Political Science Association, April 2021.
- “Synchronous Learning in Plato’s *Phaedrus*,” Association for Core Texts and Courses Annual Conference, April 2021.
- “Clarence Thomas’s Higher Law Alternative to Common-Good Constitutionalism,” Society of Catholic Social Scientists National Conference, October 2020.
- “The New Legitimacy: Reasons for Partisanship in Judicial Confirmation Hearings,” Midwest Political Science Association, April 2020 (cancelled due to COVID-19).
- “Peisetaerus and the Persistence of Moral Authority in Aristophanes’ *The Birds*,” Van Andel Graduate School Doctoral Humanities Seminar: Antiquity, September 2019.
- “Michael Polanyi and the Political Science of Woodrow Wilson,” Van Andel Graduate School Doctoral Humanities Seminar: Modernity, April 2018.
- “Alfarabi’s Teaching on the Study of Politics,” Association for Core Texts and Courses Annual Conference, April 2018.
- “Liberty in the Church from Leo XIII to Francis: Comparing Two Papal Views,” Society of Catholic Social Scientists National Conference, October 2017; Institute for Humane Studies Summer Graduate Research Colloquium, July 2017.
- “Republican Classrooms: Freedom and Education in the American Republic,” Ashbrook Center Senior Thesis public defense (Peter W. Schramm, chair), May 2014.

CONFERENCE PANELS

- Moderator, “The Future of Religious Liberty in America,” Society of Catholic Social Scientists National Conference, October 2021 (scheduled).
- Chair, “Is anyone alive out there? Online teaching and its Limits,” Association for Core Texts and Courses Annual Conference, April 2021.
- Commenter, “Panel on Machiavelli’s *Mandragola*,” Van Andel Graduate School Doctoral Humanities Seminar: Middle Ages, September 2020.

Moderator, “The Founders on Marriage and the Family,” Conference on Thomas G. West’s *The Political Theory of the American Founding*, November 2017.

COLLOQUIA AND SEMINARS (invited participant or accepted application)

Liberty and Civil Society, Institute for Humane Studies/Liberty Fund, March 2018
The Montpelier Summit, Robert H. Smith Center for the Constitution, February 2017
Colloquium on Academic Freedom, The Philadelphia Society, September 2016
Free Society Seminar, Faith & Reason Institute/Kolegium Antonia Neuwirtha (in Slovakia), June 2016

FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, AND HONORS

Research Assistantship (\$3,000/year), Hillsdale College, 2017–2022
Graduate Fellowship (\$20,000/year), Hillsdale College, 2017–2022
Philadelphia Society Fellowship: Hillsdale College, March 2020
Van Andel Graduate School Travel Award, April 2020
Van Andel Graduate School Travel Award, April 2018
Philadelphia Society Fellowship: Hillsdale College, April 2018
Van Andel Graduate School Travel Award, October 2017
Philadelphia Society Fellowship: Hillsdale College, October 2017
Leonine Forum Fellow, Catholic Information Center, 2016–2017
Philadelphia Society Fellowship, September 2016
Koch Associate Program, Charles Koch Institute, 2015–2016
John Jay Fellowship, John Jay Institute, 2015
Philadelphia Society Fellowship: Maibach Foundation, March 2015
Koch Internship Program, Charles Koch Institute, 2014
Writing Fellows Program, America’s Future Foundation, 2014
Phi Sigma Tau, 2013
Young Leaders Program, The Heritage Foundation, 2013
President’s Scholarship (\$13,000/year), Ashland University, 2010–2014
Ashbrook Scholarship (\$2,000/year), Ashland University, 2010–2014
Music Scholarship (\$1,500/year), Ashland University, 2010–2014
Economics for Leaders, Foundation for Teaching Economics, 2009
Eagle Scout, Boy Scouts of America, 2009
Eagle of the Cross, Diocese of Youngstown (highest national Catholic youth honor), 2009

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND SERVICE

Member, Society of Catholic Social Scientists, 2017–Present
President, Hillsdale College Graduate Student Society, Spring 2021
Secretary/Treasurer, Hillsdale College Graduate Student Society, Fall 2019
Co-organizer/staff participant, The Federalist Society, Faculty Division Colloquia
 “The Administrative State: Its Foundations and Modern Forms,” Liberty Fund, April 2017
 “The Federalists, the Anti-Federalists, and the Constitution They Created,” Liberty Fund, March 2017, March 2016
 “Federalism at the Crossroads,” Liberty Fund, October 2016
 “Hayek on Law, Legislation, and Liberty,” Liberty Fund, August 2016
 “Economic Liberties and the Fourteenth Amendment,” Templeton Foundation, July 2016
 “International Law, Foreign Law, and the U.S. Constitution,” Liberty Fund, February 2016
 “Banking in a Free Society,” Liberty Fund, January 2016
 “Theory of the Firm,” Templeton Foundation, November 2015

“Private International Law,” Templeton Foundation, October 2015

“Liberty of Conscience and the Law,” Liberty Fund, July 2015

“Liberty and the Common Law,” Liberty Fund, July 2015

OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE, INTERNSHIPS, COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT, ETC.

Third Degree Knight, Knights of Columbus, 2019–2020

Bass Section Leader, Hillsdale Arts Chorale, 2019–2020

Cantor, St. Anthony of Padua, Hillsdale, MI, 2017–2020

Cantor, St. Joseph’s on Capitol Hill, 2015–2017

Political Communications and Policy Consultant, Kafferlin Strategies, 2014–2015

Sidewalk Counselor, 40 Days for Life, 2013–2015

Social Media Manager, Assistant Editor, Writer, RightProgress, 2012–2015

Development Intern, Leadership Institute, 2014

Programs Intern, Ashbrook Center at Ashland University, 2013–2014

Campaign Manager, Field Representative, Re-election Campaign for State Rep. Dave Hall, 2012–2014

Mission Team Member, Mustard Seed Communities (Diriamba and Managua, Nicaragua), 2014

Student Campus Minister, Catholic Campus Ministry at Ashland University, 2012–2013

Online Communications Intern, The Heritage Foundation, 2013

State Representative Intern and House Page, Ohio General Assembly, 2012

District Office Intern, U.S. Congressman Bill Johnson (OH), 2012

Mission Team Member, Children of Oscar A. Romero Children’s Village (Zaragoza, El Salvador), 2012

Laborer, Gilmore Landscaping

Grade 8 Certified Referee, USSF/various Ohio soccer leagues

Information Technology Consultant, DRG IT

LANGUAGES

Latin (graduate reading knowledge)

German (graduate reading knowledge)

Spanish (five years study in high school/undergraduate)

REFERENCES

Dr. Ronald J. Pestritto, Dean of the Van Andel Graduate School of Statesmanship, Professor of Politics, Charles and Lucia Shipley Chair in the American Constitution, Hillsdale College –
rpestritto@hillsdale.edu

Dr. Adam Carrington, Associate Professor of Politics, William and Patricia LaMothe Chair in the U.S. Constitution, Hillsdale College – acarrington@hillsdale.edu

Dr. Larry P. Arnn, President, Professor of History and Politics, Hillsdale College – larnn@hillsdale.edu