

# RYAN M. SCOVILLE

## TEACHING

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Marquette University Law School, Milwaukee, WI	
<i>Professor of Law</i>	2021 –
—Fields of research: U.S. foreign relations law, international law	
—Courses Taught: Public International Law, The Foreign Affairs Constitution, Civil Procedure, Conflict of Laws, Evidence	
<i>Associate Professor of Law (with tenure)</i>	2016 – 2021
<i>Assistant Professor of Law</i>	2011 – 2016

## SCHOLARSHIP

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### Books

THE INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS OF U.S. CITIES AND STATES (under contract with Oxford University Press)

U.S. STATE COMMITMENTS WITH FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS (W.S. Hein & Co., 2025)

- Compiles the full text of nearly 1300 commitments dating from the 1940s to present
- New Product Award for 2025 from the American Association of Law Libraries

### Law Review Articles

*The International Commitments of the Fifty States*, 70 UCLA L. REV. 310 (2023)

- Conducts an empirical and doctrinal analysis of state commitments with foreign governments

*U.S. Foreign Relations Law from the Outside In*, 47 YALE J. INT'L L. 1 (2022)

- Theorizes on the significance of foreign governmental knowledge of U.S. foreign relations law and develops a case study on the Japanese government's sophistication in this area

*Unqualified Ambassadors*, 69 DUKE L.J. 71 (2019)

- Provides an empirical analysis of the professional credentials and campaign contributions of all U.S. ambassadors since 1980, based on records obtained via requests and litigation under FOIA
- Served as the basis for the Ambassador Oversight & Transparency Act, S.4849, 116th Cong. (2020)
- Discussed in the N.Y. Times, Washington Post, L.A. Times, The Atlantic, and Foreign Policy, and on MSNBC, NBC News, Yahoo, Fortune, Salon, Axios, and The Monkey Cage
- Findings cited in Senator Elizabeth Warren's proposal to reform ambassadorial appointments
- Reviewed at Jotwell by Professor Anne Joseph O'Connell

*Who Studies International Law? Explaining Cross-National Variation in Compulsory International Legal Education*, 30 EUR. J. INT'L L. 481 (2019) (with Mark Berlin)

- Uses statistical analysis to explain cross-national variation in the extent to which universities around the world require students to study international law to obtain a law degree

*Ad Hoc Diplomats*, 68 DUKE L.J. 907 (2019)

- Provides an originalist analysis of the president’s modern power to appoint special envoys without the advice and consent of the Senate
- Shaped the enactment of Section 5105 of the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2022

*International Law in National Schools*, 92 IND. L.J. 1449 (2017)

- Reports descriptive statistics on cross-national variation in the extent to which universities require students to study international law to obtain a law degree, hypothesizes on the significance of this variation

*How Cosmopolitan Are International Law Professors?*, 38 MICH. J. INT’L L. 119 (2016) (with Milan Markovic)

- Analyzes the credentials of American professors of international law, hypothesizes on how these credentials might influence the teaching and study of international law in the United States

*Finding Customary International Law*, 101 IOWA L. REV. 1893 (2016)

- Conducts an empirical analysis of the sources that federal courts rely upon to identify customary international law

*Legislative Diplomacy*, 112 MICH. L. REV. 331 (2013)

- Analyzes the constitutionality of direct engagement in international diplomacy by members of Congress

### **Invited Book Chapters & Symposium Essays**

*Egocentric Bias in Perceptions of Customary International Law*, in INTERNATIONAL LAW AS BEHAVIOR (Harlan Cohen & Tim Meyer eds., Cambridge University Press 2021)

*Toward Meta-Knowledge of Foreign Relations Law in U.S.-Japan Relations*, in STRENGTHENING THE U.S.-JAPAN ALLIANCE: PATHWAYS FOR BRIDGING LAW AND POLICY 196 (Nobuhisa Ishizuka, Masahiro Kurosaki & Matthew Waxman eds., 2020)

*The Ethics of Baiting and Switching in Law Review Submissions*, 101 MARQ. L. REV. 1075 (2018)

*Compelled Diplomacy in Zivotofsky v. Kerry*, 9 N.Y.U. J.L. & LIBERTY 148 (2015)

*A Defense of Japanese Sovereignty Over the Senkaku / Diaoyu Islands*, 46 GEO. WASH. INT’L L. REV. 571 (2014), *reprinted with modifications* in CHINA-JAPAN BORDER DISPUTES: ISLANDS OF CONTENTION IN MULTIDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVE (Ashgate 2015)

## **GRANTS & EDITORIAL POSITIONS**

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Adviser, Restatement (Fourth) of the Foreign Relations Law of the United States      Sept. 2023 –

Managing Editor, *AJIL Unbound*      Spring 2018 – Spring 2021

Fulbright Scholar (Sophia University, Tokyo)      Fall 2018  
—Grant for research on Japanese understandings of U.S. foreign relations law

## **ONLINE COMMENTARY**

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*A Noteworthy Omission in the Texas Border Litigation*, LAWFARE (Mar. 13, 2024)

*New Evidence on the Role of Subnational Diplomacy in China's Pursuit of U.S. Technology*, LAWFARE (June 10, 2022)

*An Important Development in the Law of Diplomatic Appointments*, LAWFARE (Jan. 31, 2022)

H-Diplo Roundtable (Feb. 6, 2021) (reviewing MICHAEL POZNANSKY, *IN THE SHADOW OF INTERNATIONAL LAW* (Cornell University Press 2020))

*New Evidence of Secret International Agreements*, LAWFARE (Feb. 19, 2020)

*Does Giuliani's Work in Ukraine Violate the Appointments Clause?*, LAWFARE (Oct. 1, 2019)

*How, and How Often, Do Legal Academics Use FOIA?*, LAWFARE (Mar. 4, 2019)

*Troubling Trends in Ambassadorial Appointments: 1980 to the Present*, LAWFARE (Feb. 20, 2019)

*Can the President Cut Support for Congressional Foreign Travel During the Shutdown?*, LAWFARE (Jan. 22, 2019)

*Can the Pentagon Restrict Congressional Foreign Travel?*, LAWFARE (May 30, 2018)

*The Divisible College of International Lawyers*, LAWFARE (Oct. 30, 2017) (reviewing ANTHEA ROBERTS, *IS INTERNATIONAL LAW INTERNATIONAL?* (OUP 2017))

*Should the Senate Give Advice and Consent on Special Envoys?*, LAWFARE (Aug. 31, 2017)

*The Appointments Clause as a Hurdle to the President's Trade Agenda*, LAWFARE (Apr. 24, 2017)

*A Closer Look at Congressional Foreign Travel*, LAWFARE (Mar. 2, 2017)

*A Legal Analysis of Rep. Tulsi Gabbard's Trip to Syria*, LAWFARE (Feb. 14, 2017)

*The South China Sea Arbitration: Implications for the Senkaku Islands*, LAWFARE (July 18, 2016)

*International Law from a Cuban Perspective*, LAWFARE (Feb. 8, 2016)

*How Do American Courts (And Scholars) Ascertain Customary International Law?*, LAWFARE (Oct. 29, 2015)

*Legislative Diplomacy After Zivotofsky*, LAWFARE (June 15, 2015)

*The Role of Foreign Perceptions in Zivotofsky v. Kerry*, LAWFARE (June 12, 2015)

*Why Teaching International Law in American Universities Matters*, JUST SECURITY (Mar. 6, 2015)

*Boehner Invites Bibi: A Closer Look at Historical Practice*, JUST SECURITY (Jan. 27, 2015)

*Sorry, China: Japan Has the Better Claim Over the Senkakus*, THE NATIONAL INTEREST (Jan. 11, 2015)

*Japan: "No Dispute" Over the Senkaku / Diaoyu*, THE DIPLOMAT (Dec. 24, 2014)

*De Jure and De Facto Recognition as a Framework for Zivotofsky*, OPINIO JURIS (April 30, 2014)

### **SELECTED PRESENTATIONS**

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*Two Views of the Article I Treaty Clause*, Invited Paper Presentation at the Fundamentals and Frontiers of Federalism Conference, co-hosted by the Texas A&M Center on the Structural Constitution and the Georgetown Center for the Constitution (September 2025)

*The Patterns of Paradiplomacy*, Paper Presentation at the Midyear Meeting of the American Society of International Law, Case Western Reserve University School of Law (September 2025) (with Barbara Koremenos)

*Two Views of the Article I Treaty Clause*, Refereed Paper Presentation at the Annual Meeting of the International Law in Domestic Courts Interest Group of the American Society of International Law, George Washington University Law School (May 2025)

*The Paradiplomacy Clauses*, Chicago-Virginia Foreign Relations Law Roundtable, University of Chicago Law School (May 2024)

*Treaty Renvoi to Municipal Law*, Chicago-Virginia Foreign Relations Law Roundtable, University of Chicago Law School (May 2022)

*The International Commitments of the Fifty States*, National Conference of Constitutional Law Scholars, University of Arizona (February 2022)

*Official Knowledge of Foreign Relations Law in U.S.-Japan Relations*, Japanese Politics Online Seminar Series, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University (January 2022)

*U.S. Foreign Relations Law from the Outside In*, American Society of Comparative Law Annual Meeting, University of Wisconsin (October 2021)

*Legislative Diplomacy: Its Function and Value*, Congressional Office for International Leadership (November 2019)

*Unqualified Ambassadors*, Duke Law Journal Author Talk, Duke University (October 2019)

*Toward Meta-Knowledge of Foreign Relations Law in the U.S.-Japan Alliance*, Weatherhead East Asian Institute, Columbia University (March 2019)

*U.S. Foreign Relations Law from the Outside In*, American Case Law Research Group, Sophia University (Tokyo, Japan) (October 2018)

*Unqualified Ambassadors*, ASIL Mid-Year Meeting, Washington University in St. Louis (October 2017)

*Ad Hoc Diplomats*, Annual Workshop of the Junior International Law Scholars Association, University of Washington (January 2017)

*Empirical Research on International Legal Education*, International Law Weekend, Fordham University (October 2016)

*Anarchy is What Law Schools Make of it*, ASIL Midyear Meeting, Northwestern University (November 2014)

*Legislative Diplomacy*, Michigan Law Review Author Talk, University of Michigan (March 2014)

### **SELECTED MEDIA INTERVIEWS**

*Ryan Scoville on the Role of Subnational Diplomacy in China's Pursuit of U.S. Technology*, LAWFARE PODCAST (July 20, 2022)

*U.S. Ambassadorships Are Destination Tourism for the Mega-Rich*, THE MONKEY CAGE (Nov. 28, 2019) (written interview about ambassadorial appointments)

*The Legacy of Pay-to-Play Ambassador Appointments*, WNYC – THE TAKEAWAY (Nov. 21, 2019) (radio interview about ambassadorial appointments)

Robbie Gramer, *U.S. Diplomacy's 'Gordon Problem' Goes Way Beyond Gordon Sondland*, FOREIGN POLICY (Nov. 21, 2019) (quoted on ambassadorial appointments)

*How Many Trump-Appointed Ambassadors Donated to His Campaign?*, MSNBC, VELSHI & RUHLE (April 3, 2019) (TV interview about ambassadorial appointments)

### **SERVICE**

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American Society of International Law:

International Law in Domestic Courts Interest Group (co-chair) (2020 – 2023)

Marquette University Law School:

Academic Programs Committee (Chair)

Academic Regulations Committee

Faculty Advisor to the International Law Society

## **EDUCATION**

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Stanford Law School, J.D. 2006  
—*Stanford Law Review*: Executive Editor, Board of Editors Award  
—*Stanford Journal of International Law*: Senior Articles Editor  
—Class of 2002 Fellowship in Conflict Resolution

Brigham Young University, B.A., International Studies 2003  
—Valedictorian, Kennedy Center for International Studies  
—University Commencement Speaker  
—Intern at the Arms Control Association

## **OTHER EXPERIENCE**

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Idaho Attorney General, Boise, ID 2010 – 2011  
*Deputy Attorney General (Civil Litigation)*

Morrison & Foerster LLP, Denver, CO and Tokyo, JP 2008 – 2010  
*Litigation Associate*

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, Pasadena, CA 2007 – 2008  
*Law Clerk to the Hon. Milan D. Smith, Jr.*

U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona, Phoenix, AZ 2006 – 2007  
*Law Clerk to the Hon. Neil V. Wake*

Department of Defense, Office of the General Counsel (Int'l Affairs) Fall 2006  
*Extern*

## **OTHER**

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Bar Admissions: California (2006)  
Member, American Society of International Law  
Languages: Japanese (JLPT N2)