

# NEEL U. SUKHATME

Georgetown University Law Center • 600 New Jersey Ave, NW • Washington, DC 20001

Email: neel.sukhatme@law.georgetown.edu

---

## POSITIONS

- Georgetown University Law Center**, Washington, DC 2015–Now  
*Professor of Law*, 2021–Now  
*Andrew Carnegie Fellow*, 2021–23  
*Associate Professor of Law*, 2015–21
- Georgetown University McCourt School of Public Policy**, Washington, DC 2015–Now  
*Affiliated Faculty*
- U.S. Patent and Trademark Office**, Alexandria, VA 2019–Now  
*Thomas Alva Edison Visiting Scholar*
- Free Our Vote** 2020–Now  
*Co-Founder and Director*
- Managed team of economists/legal researchers to restore voting rights for people w/past felony convictions
  - Created web-based tool for over 450,000 such individuals to learn about their court fines/fees
  - Partnered w/Campaign Legal Center and Florida Rights Restoration Coalition to identify and notify over 20,000 registered voters who owed no court fines/fees that they were eligible to vote in 2020 election
  - Fundraised w/RFK Human Rights to pay fines/fees and restore voting rights for over 1,000 registered voters
- New York University School of Law**, New York, NY 2014–15  
*Visiting Fellow, Engelberg Center on Innovation Law & Policy*
- Spindrop**, Princeton, NJ 2010–Now  
*Co-Founder, Patent Counsel, iPhone Programmer*
- Designed and programmed novel iPhone application for startup music technology company
- Latham & Watkins LLP**, San Francisco, CA; Chicago, IL 2006–07; 2008–09  
*Associate*
- Advocated in patent, trademark, securities, class action, tax, and criminal (parole) matters
  - Generated new business from fast-growing technology company and managed its restructuring
- Law Clerk to Hon. Ann Claire Williams, Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals**, Chicago, IL 2007–08
- Law Clerk to Hon. Vaughn R. Walker, U.S. Dist. Court for N.D. Cal.**, San Francisco, CA 2005–06
- McDonnell Boehnen Hulbert & Berghoff LLP**, Chicago, IL 2001–02  
*Patent Agent, Technical Advisor*
- 

## EDUCATION

- Princeton University**, Princeton, NJ
- **Ph.D. in Economics** (Advisors: Orley Ashenfelter, Henry Farber) 2015
  - **M.A. in Economics** 2011
  - Princeton University Fellowship • Towbes Prize for Outstanding Teaching
  - Field Exams: Finance, Labor Economics, Development Economics
- Harvard Law School**, Cambridge, MA
- **J.D., cum laude** 2005
  - *Harvard Law Review*, Notes Editor
  - John M. Olin Fellow in Law and Economics • Ames Moot Court Competition, Semifinalist
- University of Illinois**, Champaign, IL
- **B.S. in Computer Engineering, Highest Honors • Minor in Mathematics** 2001
  - National Merit Scholar • Chancellor's Scholar • James Scholar • Leung Scholar • Byrd Schola

---

## PUBLISHED ARTICLES

***Felony Financial Disenfranchisement,***

75 VAND. L. REV. \_\_ (2023) (forthcoming) (w/Alexander Billy and Gaurav Bagwe)

***Pay to Play? Campaign Finance and the Incentive Gap in the Sixth Amendment's Right to Counsel,***

70 DUKE L.J. 775 (2021) (w/Jay Jenkins)

--Featured in *The New York Times* (Adam Liptak, *Campaign Funds for Judges Warp Criminal Justice, Study Finds*, Jun. 1, 2020), *The ABA Journal*, and *Newsweek*

***Reaching for Mediocrity: Competition and Stagnation in Pharmaceutical Innovation,***

64 INT'L REV. L. ECON. (2020) (w/Son Le)

***Who Cares About Patent Term? Cross-Industry Differences in Term Sensitivity,*** 21 AM. L. &

ECON. REV. 1 (2019) (w/Judd N.L. Cramer)

***Health Care Costs and the Arc of Innovation,*** 104 MINN. L. REV. 955 (2019) (w/M. Gregg Bloche)

***Will Delaware Be Different? An Empirical Study of TC Heartland and the Shift to Defendant Choice of Venue,*** 104 CORNELL L. REV. 101 (2018) (w/Ofer Eldar)

***"Loser Pays" in Patent Examination,*** 54 HOUS. L. REV. 165 (2016)

***Regulatory Monopoly and Differential Pricing in the Market for Patents,***

71 WASH. & LEE L. REV. 1855 (2014)

***Self-Realizing Inventions and the Utilitarian Foundation of Patent Law,***

51 WM. & MARY L. REV. 897 (2009) (w/Alan Devlin)

---

## PUBLISHED SHORTER WORKS

***Medical Costs and Clinical Value: Playing the Long Game,*** ASCO POST (Jul. 25, 2022)

(w/M. Gregg Bloche and John Marshall)

***The International Intellectual Property Commercialization Council's 3rd Annual U.S.***

***Conference: The State of Innovation in the Union,*** CATH. U. J.L. & TECH., Spring 2020, at 5-34.

***A Proposal for PolicyPilots.gov***

THE REGULATORY REVIEW (UNIV. OF PENN.) (Nov. 19, 2019) (w/Colleen Chien)

***Vertical Mergers and the MFN Thicket in Television,*** CPI ANTITRUST CHRON. (Aug. 2018)

(w/Erik Hovenkamp)

***Health Policy's Gordian Knot: Rethinking Cost Control*** (w/M. Gregg Bloche and John Marshall)

HEALTH AFFAIRS BLOG (Apr. 26, 2017)

***Note, Making Sense of Hybrid Speech: A New Model for Commercial Speech and Expressive Conduct,*** 118 HARV. L. REV. 2836 (2005)

***Recent Case, Thornton v. United States,*** 118 HARV. L. REV. 268 (2004)

***Recent Case, Summerlin v. Stewart,*** 117 HARV. L. REV. 1291 (2004)

***Book Note,*** 44 HARV. INT'L L.J. 607 (2003) (reviewing Lisa Conant, *Justice Contained: Law and Politics in the European Union* (2002))

---

## SELECTED GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- Andrew Carnegie Fellowship, Carnegie Corporation of New York – \$200,000 (2021–23)
- Systematic Content Analysis of Litigation Events Open Knowledge Network (SCALES) – \$10,000 (2021)
- National Bureau of Econ. Research (NBER) Innovation Policy Working Group – \$20,000 (2015–18)
- Hicks Memorial Fellowship in Industrial Relations, Princeton University (2014-15)
- Lester Fellowship for Industrial Relations, Princeton University (2012-13)

---

## SELECTED WORKING PAPERS

### ***Down to the Last Strike: The Effect of the Jury Lottery on Conviction Rates*** (w/Scott Kostyshak)

- How much does luck matter to a criminal defendant in a jury trial? We use rich data on jury selection to causally estimate how parties who are randomly assigned a less favorable jury (as proxied by whether their attorneys exhaust their peremptory strikes) fare at trial. Our novel identification strategy uniquely captures variation in juror predisposition using data unobserved by the econometrician but observed by attorneys. Criminal defendants who lose the “jury lottery” are more likely to be convicted than similarly situated counterparts, with a significant increase (18-20 percentage points) for Black defendants. Our results are robust to alternate specifications and raise questions about race and the use of peremptory strikes in the criminal justice system.

### ***Do Women Mayors Enhance Patent Innovation?*** (w/Thomas Krause)

- We investigate how female political leaders might impact innovation, as measured by the effect of the election of women mayors on patent grants in U.S. cities. To address endogeneity, we employ a regression discontinuity (RD) design and compare patent grants based on inventor location in U.S. cities where a female candidate barely won a mayoral election with such grants in cities where a female candidate barely lost. Preliminary results show that female mayors significantly increase the number of granted patents relative to male mayors. These findings persist over time, as there are significant effects when a female incumbent wins for a second time. The findings are also robust to different bandwidth choices, polynomial orders of the assignment variable, and discontinuity checks in the covariates.

### ***Patent Salience: Do Patents Serve as Quality Signals to Consumers?*** (w/Alexander Billy)

- Do patents influence how consumers view products and affect their purchasing behavior? I empirically examine these issues using two separate experiments. First, using an online experiment, I find that increasing the salience of patent status heightens perceptions that a product is more innovative and of higher quality, though it does not necessarily heighten participants’ reported propensity to buy the product. Second, I test whether these results hold in an actual retail setting, through an experimental triple-differences treatment. Using retail scanner data spanning over two years and across three stores, I find consumer purchasing behavior appears largely unaffected when patent status is made more salient. While patents appear to signal quality to consumers, their ultimate impact on consumer purchasing behavior appears to be minimal.

### ***What’s a Patent Worth? The Monetary Value of Patent Term***

- This paper measures late-term patent value via equity markets. We perform an event study using TRIPS, which retroactively extended term for already-issued patents obtained in less than three years. We find stock prices increased more for firms who received longer term extensions and confirm our results using an empirical technique known as regression kink design.

---

## SELECTED WORKS IN PROGRESS

*Why Do People Shirk Jury Duty? A Field Experiment on Jury Summons Compliance* (w/Scott Kostyshak)

*The Checkmark Effect: Momentum in Presidential Primaries* (w/Scott Kostyshak)

*Have We Always Been Originalists?* (w/Vic Nourse and Kevin Tobia)

*Unpacking Provisional Patent Applications* (w/Alexander Giczy and Andrew Toole)

*The Informational Impact of Different Forms of Voter Re-Enfranchisement: A Randomized Study* (w/Alexander Billy and Joseph Naddeo)

*The Curious Bureaucrat* (w/Colleen Chien)

*Do Red Flag Laws Work?* (w/Alexander Billy and Tom Scott)

*The Impact of Criminal Sanctions on the Social and Economic Fabric of Families* (w/Alexander Billy)

*Ineffective at Any Fee: Conflicts of Interest and Political Economy in the Funding of Criminal Justice* (w/Alexander Billy, Sarah Couture, Tim Curry, and Ashley Thomas)

*What Constitutes a “Public” Disclosure? How Markets and Insiders Respond to Information on Patent Grants* (w/Joshua Mitts)

*Who Appeals? Comparing Individual and Corporate Decisionmaking* (w/Henry Farber)

---

## FULL-TIME LAW TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**Georgetown University Law Center** – Professor of Law

### **1L Coursework**

- Property (Spring 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2023 (planned))

### **Intellectual Property**

- Patent Law (Fall 2016, Spring 2020)

### **Corporate Finance**

- Advanced Corporate Finance: Quantitative Analysis and Valuation (Fall 2019, 2020, 2022)
- Corporate Finance: Quantitative Analysis and Valuation (Spring 2017)
- Corporate Finance (Spring 2016)

### **Law and Economics**

- Law and Economics Workshop (Fall 2017, 2020, 2022)
- Empirical Analysis for Lawyers and Policymakers (Fall 2015, Spring 2019)

---

## OTHER TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**Princeton University** – Assistant in Instruction

- The Great Recession (Paul Krugman – Spring 2014, 2015)
- Law and Economics (Tim Leonard – Fall 2010)

**DePaul University College of Law** – Adjunct Professor – Law and Economics (Summer 2010)

**Minority Legal Education Resources (Chicago, IL)** – Illinois Bar Exam Tutor (Summer 2008)

**Office of Minority Student Affairs, Univ. of Illinois** – History and Physics Tutor (1998-2001)

---

## INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- 2023:** American Economic Association Annual Meeting (upcoming)
- 2022:** American Economic Association Annual Meeting (discussant) • Works-in-Progress IP Colloquium, Saint Louis University School of Law • Conference on Empirical Legal Studies, Univ. of Toronto Faculty of Law (remote) • IP Scholars Conference, Stanford Law School • Junior IP Scholars Conference, UC Berkeley School of Law • Cornell Law School, Law and Economics Workshop (upcoming) • Conference on Empirical Legal Studies, University of Virginia School of Law (upcoming)
- 2021:** Active Bystandership in Law Enforcement (ABLE) Annual Meeting, Georgetown Law
- 2020:** Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management Ann. Meeting • American Law & Econ. Assoc. Ann. Meeting, U. Chicago (cancelled b/c COVID) • Deason Criminal Justice Reform Center, SMU Dedman School of Law • Texas Indigent Defense Commission Brown Bag • Society for Inst. & Org. Econ. Conference, Cambridge, MA (cancelled b/c COVID) • IP Colloquium, Cardozo School of Law • Brown Bag Presentation, Georgetown McCourt School of Public Policy • Public Choice Society Ann. Meeting, Newport Beach, CA (cancelled b/c COVID) • Hamilton Project Authors' Conf. at the Brookings Institution (discussant) • IP Speaker Series, Univ. of San Diego School of Law • American Econ. Assoc. Ann. Meeting, San Diego, CA
- 2019:** Conference on IP, Privacy, and Access to Justice in the Digital World, O.P. Jindal University, Sonapat, India • Conference on Empirical Legal Studies, Claremont-McKenna College • UT Austin School of Law, Law, Business, and Economics Workshop • Workshop on Empirical Methods and Patents, Georgetown University Law Center (organizer) • Conference on Law and Macroeconomics, Georgetown University Law Center (moderator) • Wake Forest University, Department of Economics Faculty Seminar • Int'l IP Commercialization Counsel, The State of Innovation in the Union, U.S. Capitol • American Law and Economics Assoc. Annual Meeting, NYU School of Law • Roundtable on Empirical Methods in IP (discussant), USPTO • Empirical Patent Conference, Duke University School of Law (presenter and discussant) • Works-in-Progress IP Colloquium, Univ. of Houston Law Center • Law and Economics Workshop, Univ. of Chicago Law School • Georgetown Law Summer Faculty Workshop • Georgetown Law Faculty Research Workshop
- 2018:** Faculty Workshop, Chicago-Kent College of Law • Law and Economics Workshop, Boston Univ. School of Law • Economics Seminar and Speaker Series, Univ. of Florida Dept. of Economics • Conference on Empirical Legal Studies, Univ. of Michigan Law School • Federal Trade Commission Hearing on Competition and Consumer Protection in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, Innovation and Intellectual Property, Washington, DC • Mid-Atlantic Patent Works-In-Progress Conference, American Univ. Wash. College of Law • IP Scholars Conference, UC Berkeley School of Law • Southeastern Assoc. of Law Schools Conference, Ft. Lauderdale, FL • Society for Institutional and Organizational Economics Conference, HEC Montreal • American Law and Economics Assoc. Annual Meeting, Boston Univ. School of Law • IP Workshop, Boston Univ. School of Law (conducted remotely) • Roundtable on Empirical Methods in IP, Northwestern Law School • PatCon8, Univ. of San Diego School of Law • Brown Bag Presentation, Georgetown University McCourt School of Public Policy • Faculty Workshop, Washington University School of Law • Intellectual Property Speaker Series, George Washington Univ. School of Law • Georgetown Law Summer Faculty Workshop
- 2017:** Giles S. Rich American Inn of Court, Academia's Role in IP Litigation • IP Scholars Conference, Cardozo School of Law • Georgetown Law Summer Faculty Workshop • Hamilton Project Authors' Conference at the Brookings Institution (discussant) • Stanford Patent Assertion Entity Symposium, Stanford Law School • Empirical Patent Conference (discussant), Duke University School of Law •

PatCon7, Northwestern Law School • Works-in-Progress IP Colloquium (plenary session), Boston Univ. School of Law • Georgetown Law Faculty Research Workshop

**2016:** Conference on Empirical Legal Studies (discussant), Duke University School of Law • Panel on Cost-Benefit Analysis (Heritage Foundation), University of Virginia School of Law • Brown Bag Presentation, Georgetown University Economics Department • Ruesch Center Policy Briefing: Fighting a Smarter War Against Cancer, Georgetown Law • Georgetown Law Faculty Research Workshop • George Mason Law & Economics Colloquium • PatCon6, Boston College Law School • Works-in-Progress IP Colloquium, Univ. of Washington

**2015:** Tri-State Region IP Workshop, NYU School of Law • Empirical Patent Conference (discussant), University of Illinois School of Law • U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Brown Bag Luncheon

**2014:** Law and Economics Seminar, Harvard Law School • IP Group Meeting, NYU School of Law • Labor Economics Seminar, Princeton University • IP Scholars Conference, UC Berkeley School of Law • Seventh Annual Conference on Innovation Economics, Northwestern Law School • American Law and Economics Assoc. Annual Meeting, Univ. of Chicago Law School • PatCon4, Univ. of San Diego School of Law • Law and Economics Colloquium, Northwestern Law School

**2013:** Doctoral Scholarship Conference, Yale Law School • Conference on Empirical Legal Studies, Univ. of Pennsylvania Law School • Midwest Law and Economics Assoc. Conference, University of Illinois School of Law • Law-Engaged Graduate Student Seminar, Princeton University

**2009:** IP Scholars Conference, Cardozo School of Law

---

## ACADEMIC SERVICE

### Referee

*American Economic Journal: Applied Economics • Supreme Court Economic Review • American Law and Economics Review • Int'l Review of Law and Economics • Yale Law Journal • Georgetown Law Journal • Georgetown Journal of Gender and the Law • Economics of Innovation and New Technology • Int'l Journal of Innovation Studies • Int'l Journal of the Economics of Business • Health Affairs*

### Conference Organizing

- Area Organizer, Conference on Empirical Legal Studies (2020, 2022)
- Area Organizer, American Law and Economics Assoc. Annual Meeting (2018)
- Principal Organizer, Workshop on Empirical Methods and Patents, Georgetown Law (2019)

### Student Advising

- Ph.D. Advisor in Economics for Son Le and Alexander Billy, Georgetown University
- Faculty Advisor, Institute for Technology Law and Policy, Georgetown Law

### Georgetown Law Committee Service

Lateral Appointments (2022–23)

Speech and Expression (2020–21)

- Considered policies and recommendations related to protection of academic freedom

Strategy (2020–21)

- Assisted with new space, teleworking, and post-COVID-19 planning

Academic Standards Grade Curve Subcommittee (2019–20) – external contributor

- Conducted statistical analysis of differences in grade curves across peer institutions
- Redesigned new Georgetown Law grade curves for both 1L and upper-level courses

Entry-Level Appointments (2019–20)

Faculty Workshops (2018–19)

First-Year Class Size (2017–18)

- Helped design proposals regarding changes to first-year class size

Business Initiatives (2016–17)

- Assisted with faculty oversight of new Sara Crown Star Center for Business Skills

Technology (2016–17, 2017–18)

#### Other Committee Service

- Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement (ABLE), Research Advisory Board, Georgetown Law (2021–now)
- Harvard Law School Association of Washington D.C., Programming Committee Co-Chair (2021–now)

---

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

- Admitted to practice law in California (active) and Illinois (inactive) and before the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office (administratively inactive) • Climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro • Ran Chicago Marathon • Published on SCOTUSblog • Program in C, STATA, Python, and Objective-C (for iPhone and iPad) • Volunteer Law Clerk at Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago and Office of the Public Defender, Cook County (Summer 1998) • Summer Associate, Covington & Burling LLP (Summer 2004) • U.S. Patent No. 9,111,519 (“System and Method for Generating Cuepoints for Mixing Song Data”)