

DANILO DOCHE LINHARES

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CURRENT POSITION

MASSACHUSETTS SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT, Boston, MA

Law Clerk to Justice Frank Gaziano

2026–2027

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA, Tucson, AZ

Ph.D. in Philosophy

2026

- Dissertation: *Form and Meaning in the Law*
- Committee: Mark Timmons (chair), Tom Christiano, Rob Henderson, Henry Smith

HARVARD LAW SCHOOL, Cambridge, MA

J.D., cum laude

2025

- Grant: Student Fellow, Project on the Foundations of Private Law
- Activities: Student Affiliate, Initiative on Law and Philosophy; Content Team Organizer, Brazil Conference

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–MILWAUKEE, Milwaukee, WI

M.A. in Philosophy

2019

- Grants: Graduate Student Excellence Fellowship; Chancellor's Graduate Student Award

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO, Chicago, IL

B.A. in Philosophy, with Honors

2016

- Honors: Phi Beta Kappa;
- Grant: Lee Family Foundation Prize for Best Essay in Philosophy.

TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

Primary Interests: Torts, Legislation, Jurisprudence, Contracts

Additional Interests: Administrative Law, Constitutional Law, Property, Discrimination Law

PUBLICATIONS AND WORKS IN PROGRESS

Directives and Intentions, 33 NAT. LANG. SEMANTICS 255 (2025) (peer-reviewed)

Proposes a unified pragmatic account of how expressions of varying grammatical forms (imperatives, modal and non-modal declaratives) can be used to tell people what to do, both directly and indirectly.

An Acceptable Theory of Reasonableness

Develops a normative account of legal reasonableness modeled on the concept of the merely acceptable, or erogatory. It argues that reasonableness standards (found in the laws of negligence, premises liability, and bailments, among others) leave room for justified suboptimal conduct. This changes how we should read the balancing tests that run through these doctrines: some factors do

not put weights on the scale, and instead assign a party an entitlement to some imbalance in their favor.

Original Objective Meaning

Argues that both textualism and its detractors conflate understandings of meaning with meaning itself. Drawing on the orthodoxy across theories of reference, on which meaning is an objective relation between words and the world, the paper poses a dilemma for textualist methodologies: they must choose between fidelity to objective textual meaning and deference to original public understanding. The upshot reaches beyond textualism. Since the meaning of referential terms like “sex” or “monopolize” depends partly on what their referents are actually like, every interpretive methodology must treat some questions about meaning as questions about the world.

The Language of Major Questions

Asks how far the major questions doctrine in administrative law can work as a linguistic canon consistent with textualism. The paper elucidates how the Court’s major questions jurisprudence exploits forms of context-dependence as a linguistic feature of the provisions it reads. Expressions at issue in major questions cases leave their content open without background information, and a statute supplies far thinner context than ordinary conversation. Filling those blanks requires a theory of how Congress communicates and delegates authority, so the doctrine cannot claim the autonomy from normative judgment needed to fully reconcile the doctrine with textualism.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA, Tucson, AZ

Primary Instructor and Graduate Teaching Assistant

2019–2026

As primary instructor, taught undergraduate and Master of Legal Studies courses in law and philosophy, including Logic in Law (Spring 2021), Moral Thinking (Spring 2022), Philosophy of Psychiatry (Summers 2020–2022), Ethics of Environmental Law (Springs 2025–2026), Political Legitimacy (Summer 2025), and Law, Economics & Civil Society (Fall 2025). Designed syllabi and assignments and recorded lectures for classes of 20–90 students per term. As teaching assistant for Justice and Virtue (Fall 2019–2021), led weekly discussions and graded assignments for 80+ students per semester.

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–MILWAUKEE, Milwaukee, WI

Graduate Teaching Assistant

2017–2019

Led discussions, wrote lectures, and graded and gave feedback on the work of 40+ students in Ethics (Fall 2017, Spring 2018) and Introduction to Asian Religions (Fall 2018, Spring 2019).

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

AMAN WADUD LAW CHAMBERS, Gauhati, India

Law Intern

2025

Assisted in litigation before the Gauhati High Court and Indian Supreme Court challenging Foreigners Tribunal decisions denying citizenship to India-born Bengali Muslims in Assam.

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE OF NEW JERSEY, SPECIAL LITIGATION, Newark, NJ

Summer Law Intern

2024

Conducted legal research and drafted memoranda on issues in constitutional and administrative law for federal and state appellate litigation. Contributed to briefs filed in federal district and circuit courts in collaboration with the New Jersey Solicitor General. Participated in strategy meetings, including in multistate litigation.

HARVARD KENNEDY SCHOOL, Cambridge, MA

Research Assistant

2024

Assisted Chief Justice L. R. Barroso, then-President of Brazil's Supreme Federal Court and Senior Fellow at the Carr Center for Human Rights, by drafting legal and academic memoranda on international statutory and constitutional law as well as moral philosophy concerning the rights of future generations, particularly vis-à-vis the environment.

HARVARD LAW SCHOOL, Cambridge, MA

Research Assistant

2023–2024

Provided feedback and suggestions on academic article drafts, and researched literature at the intersection of linguistics, jurisprudence, and administrative and criminal law for Rappaport Fellow Alex Walker. Assisted in developing a syllabus for a course in linguistics, philosophy, and law.

PRASHANT BHUSHAN LAW CHAMBERS, New Delhi, India

Summer Law Intern

2023

Wrote sections of a brief on international human rights law and Indian immigration and constitutional law for the Priyali Sur petition, filed before the Supreme Court of India. Assisted Mr. Bhushan, one of India's foremost public interest lawyers, with oral argument preparation. Drafted four legal memoranda on subjects of Indian and international law, including immigration law, federalism, and the international law of reparations.

BAR ADMISSION

New York.

LANGUAGES

Portuguese (native); English (fluent); Spanish (fluent).