

George Skouras

Independent Legal and Political Scholar | New York Attorney

gs2007@nyu.edu | george-skouras.com | New York, USA

Academic Profile

Independent scholar and practicing New York attorney with an interdisciplinary research agenda spanning constitutional law, jurisprudence, political theory, American political development, political economy, property theory, institutional analysis, and philosophy. His scholarship examines how legal and political institutions acquire authority, organize social power, and justify their governing arrangements. Current work extends this inquiry into Aristotle's metaphysics, Hegelian logic, evolutionary biology, and the institutional architecture of human social life.

He holds advanced degrees from New York University, Rutgers Law School, and the New School for Social Research. His publications include scholarly monographs issued by Springer Nature and Peter Lang, peer-reviewed legal and interdisciplinary articles, and continuing research on democracy, constitutionalism, capitalism, and the philosophical foundations of institutions.

Research Areas

- Constitutional law, judicial review, democratic theory, and popular sovereignty
- Jurisprudence, political philosophy, and the history of political thought
- American political development, political economy, property, and institutional power
- Aristotle, Hegel, metaphysics, evolutionary philosophy, and theories of social organization
- Antitrust, telecommunications regulation, digital bottlenecks, and private governance

Hellenic and Interdisciplinary Research Interests

Current philosophical research includes a sustained study of Aristotle's Metaphysics Z-H and the explanatory relationship among matter, form, organization, and substantial unity. This work joins a broader interest in the continuing relevance of Hellenic philosophy to contemporary questions of law, democracy, institutional design, human nature, and civic life. The research program is deliberately interdisciplinary, connecting legal scholarship and political theory with intellectual history, metaphysics, and the social sciences.

Education

The New School for Social Research

M.Phil., Political Science, 2011; doctoral coursework completed, ABD

Specializations: American politics, constitutionalism, and jurisprudence

The New School for Social Research The Graduate Faculty of Political and Social Science

M.A., Political Science, 1995

Specializations: American politics, political theory, and philosophy

Rutgers Law School

J.D., 1990

Concentration: constitutional law and general law

New York University

M.A., Political Science, 1988

Specializations: American politics, political theory, and philosophy

Books

Constitutionalism and Democracy The Supreme Court Power of Judicial Review v We the People

Springer Nature, 2024

A theoretical and historical examination of the democratic legitimacy of judicial review, American constitutional development, popular sovereignty, and the limits of judicial finality.

Takings Law and the Supreme Court Judicial Oversight of the Regulatory State's Acquisition Use and Control of Private Property

Peter Lang Publishing, 1998; paperback edition, 2000

An analysis of regulatory takings doctrine and the Supreme Court's role in mediating state power and private property rights.

American Constitutionalism and Dualist Democracy A Brief Reply and Critique of Ackerman's We the People Philosophy

SSRN working paper, 2017; digital monograph, 2023; revised edition, 2026

A critique of dualist theories of constitutional change and the claim that courts preserve higher-law decisions attributed to the people.

Peer Reviewed and Professional Publications

Modernity the Commons and Capitalism

British Journal of American Legal Studies 9, no. 2 (2020), 367-386

A critical analysis of property, sovereignty, common resources, and capitalist modernity in the American legal tradition.

On the Formation of the American Corporate State The Fuller Supreme Court 1888-1910

The Journal Jurisprudence, vol. 9 (2011), 37 ff.

A doctrinal and institutional study of the Supreme Court's role in the development of American corporate power.

Recovery of Punitive Damages for Injuries Resulting from Transport Handling and Storage of Toxic and Hazardous Substances

American Law Reports, 39 A.L.R.5th 763 (1996)

Practice-oriented doctrinal research subsequently cited in state and federal proceedings.

Current Books and Manuscripts

Civilization and the Predatory Animal

Complete manuscript in circulation

An interdisciplinary study of biology, philosophy, law, and the institutional architecture of the evolved human animal.

Calling Capitalism and Class in the United States

Complete manuscript in circulation, 2026

A historical and institutional study of how American capitalism converts unequal resources and opportunities into judgments of merit, responsibility, and failure.

The Curve and the Street

Completed manuscript under editorial consideration

A study of mathematics, developmental dynamics, measurement, and reflexivity in the social sciences.

The Theology of Hegel's Logic

Completed philosophical manuscript

An examination of ontology, teleology, conceptual immanence, and the Aristotelian contrast in Hegel's logic.

Selected Current Research

Organization Without Formal Priority Mechanistic Materialism in Aristotle's Metaphysics Z-H

Working paper, 2026

Tests whether Aristotle's account of substantial unity establishes the explanatory priority of form over organized material constituents.

Private Government Behind the Gates Homeowners Associations Institutional Lock In and the Democratic Commons

Archived preprint, Digital Library of the Commons, 2026

Analyzes homeowners' associations as forms of private government and develops reforms grounded in democratic-commons principles.

From Telephone Unbundling to Digital Bottlenecks

Preprint, 2026

Examines telecommunications access duties, the limits of antitrust remedies for digital platforms, and a function-specific access regime.