



Endowed Professorships for Democracy and Constitutional Governance
University of Virginia
Charlottesville, VA

THE OPPORTUNITY

The College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences at the University of Virginia (UVA) invites applications and nominations to fill three endowed professorships devoted to the study of democracy and constitutional governance:

- The Jefferson Scholars Foundation Distinguished Professorship in Political Economy, Law & Democracy – *appointed as a tenured full professor*
- The John S. Lillard Jefferson Scholars Foundation Professorship in American Constitutionalism and Democracy – *appointed as a tenured associate or full professor*
- The Cory Chair in Political Philosophy, Policy, and Law – *appointed as a tenured associate or full professor*

As a public institution founded by Thomas Jefferson, the University of Virginia has long embraced its [mission](#) of forming free and thoughtful citizen leaders through a liberal arts education. To fill these professorships, UVA seeks innovative and collaborative academic leaders who are eager to build on the University's premier position among American universities in research and teaching on the historical, legal, and institutional foundations of liberal democratic societies. The endowed professors will join a distinguished faculty spanning disciplines across the University, including colleagues in the [School of Law](#) and the [Karsh Institute of Democracy](#). Each professorship will be affiliated with one of two longstanding programs in the College: the [Program on Constitutionalism and Democracy](#) (PCD) or the Program on [Political Philosophy, Policy, and Law](#) (PPL).

Ideal candidates for these positions will embody a combination of scholarly distinction, pedagogical excellence, and institutional citizenship. They will bring a distinguished record in scholarship, teaching, and service appropriate to rank. The Cory Chair and Lillard Professor may be appointed at the rank of Associate Professor or full Professor while the Jefferson Scholars Foundation Distinguished Professorship in Political Economy, Law & Democracy will be a senior scholar at the rank of Professor. Candidates for all three chairs will demonstrate distinction in their field and in scholarship related to such themes as liberal democracy and constitutionalism, political economy, legal thought and the historical development of law

and legal institutions, American civic thought and practice, and/or the intellectual foundations of public life; a commitment to undergraduate education; an ability to collaborate across academic boundaries and contribute to the development of innovative programs; a commitment to intellectual pluralism and open inquiry; and alignment with UVA's mission, embracing the University's values of service, discovery, and the formation of citizen-leaders through a liberal arts education. While the endowed professorships will be housed in a College of Arts and Sciences department appropriate to the chairholder's field of specialization, this is a multi-disciplinary search, allowing for departmental collaboration. Outstanding scholars in any field whose scholarly profiles fit the position description are encouraged to apply.

These recruitments will be supported by Isaacson, Miller, the national executive search firm. Confidential inquiries, nominations, and applications may be directed to the firm as indicated at the end of this document.

THE ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIPS

The Jefferson Scholars Foundation Distinguished Professorship in Political Economy, Law & Democracy and **the John S. Lillard Jefferson Scholars Foundation Professorship in American Constitutionalism and Democracy** are designed to enrich the [Program on Constitutionalism and Democracy](#) (PCD). Established in 2006, the PCD promotes scholarship and undergraduate teaching that is informed by political theory and analysis of the American Founding and the development of American politics and government, including the study of the cultural and civic foundations of constitutional democracy. Benefitting from increased investment and surging interest in the importance of civic thought in American higher education, the PCD is well-poised for growth as it enters its third decade. The endowed professors will join other recent senior hires in shaping the future of the PCD within the College of Arts and Sciences.

The Cory Chair in Political Philosophy, Policy, and Law is affiliated with UVA's program on [Political Philosophy, Policy, and Law](#) (PPL). PPL is an interdisciplinary undergraduate major that offers students intensive study of the connections between political philosophy, legal theory, historical change, and public policy. Based on the conviction that the study of law is deeply rooted in the humanistic tradition, the program encourages sustained reflection on fundamental questions about justice, freedom, citizenship, and the common good.

Two of the above chairs, namely the Jefferson Scholars Foundation Distinguished Professorship in Political Economy, Law & Democracy and **the John S. Lillard Jefferson Scholars Foundation Professorship in American Constitutionalism and Democracy**, are supported by the [Jefferson Scholars Foundation](#) (JSF). Candidates for those two chairs should demonstrate exemplary accomplishments in their discipline appropriate to rank, as determined by an independent assessment of their peers. While these positions are tenured (not termed), all Jefferson Scholars Foundation Chairs are five-year appointments with presumptive renewal; chairs are expected to demonstrate a strong commitment to undergraduate teaching and participation in the Jefferson Scholars Foundation community, such as attending Foundation events, assisting the Foundation in recruiting Scholars and Fellows, and serving on Foundation selection committees.

In addition to the University's minimum criteria for an eminent professorship, the successful candidate for **the Jefferson Scholars Foundation Distinguished Professorship in Political Economy, Law & Democracy** must meet the following criteria desired by the Foundation and its benefactors:

- National and international recognition as a scholar and leader;
- Demonstrated excellence as a teacher;
- Strong commitment to interdisciplinary collaborations; and
- Willingness to participate actively in the Foundation's community as outlined in the JSF Memorandum of Understanding.

Candidates for these three professorships should be committed to intellectual pluralism and to the fostering of a climate of open inquiry and respectful debate within the University community.

APPLICATIONS, INQUIRIES, AND NOMINATIONS

Screening of applications will begin immediately and continue until the search is complete. Inquiries, nominations, and applications should be submitted in confidence through the Isaacson, Miller website: <https://www.imsearch.com/open-searches/university-virginia/endowed-professorships-democracy-and-constitutional-governance>.

John Isaacson, Chair
Amy Gillespie, Senior Associate
Mindy Cimini, Senior Search Coordinator
Isaacson, Miller

The University of Virginia is an equal opportunity employer. All interested persons are encouraged to apply, including veterans and individuals with disabilities. Click [here](#) to read more about UVA's commitment to non-discrimination and equal opportunity employment.

This document has been prepared based on the information provided by the University of Virginia. The material presented in this leadership profile should be relied on for informational purposes only. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this information, the original source documents and information provided by the University of Virginia would supersede any conflicting information in this document.