

CONSTITUTIONAL LAW

CASES AND MATERIALS

CONCISE FOURTEENTH EDITION

JONATHAN D. VARAT

VIKRAM D. AMAR

WILLIAM COHEN

FOUNDATION PRESS

UNIVERSITY CASEBOOK SERIES®

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by

JONATHAN D. VARAT

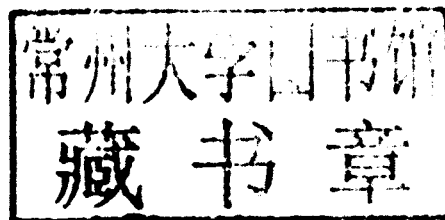
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PREFACE

During the last four years two new Justices have joined the Supreme Court. Associate Justice David H. Souter retired after the October 2008 Term, and President Barack H. Obama appointed Sonia Sotomayor—who previously had served as both a federal district and federal Court of Appeals judge—to replace him before the October 2009 Term began. In the summer of 2010, Associate Justice John Paul Stevens retired from the Court after nearly 35 years of Court service, and President Obama appointed Solicitor General Elena Kagan as his replacement.

Changes in the Court's membership tend to produce changes in approach or direction in the Court's constitutional doctrine. Over time, that is likely to be true of the impact of these two recent appointments, and this new edition already reflects important developments that seem directly tied to the previous two appointments made in the middle of the last decade; namely, the replacement of Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist with Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr., and the replacement of Associate Justice Sandra Day O'Connor with Associate Justice Samuel A. Alito. Examples include the Commerce Clause and the Tax and Spending Clause rulings from the Affordable Care Act case; the application of the Second Amendment to state governments; and perhaps the opinions arising from the State of Arizona's attempts at immigration reform. The resolution of currently pending cases involving issues like affirmative action, same-sex marriage, and the scope of congressional power to enforce civil rights also are likely to be significantly affected by the views of these relatively new Justices.

In addition to constitutional shifts that might have been difficult to predict just five years ago, the Court has continued to hand down a large number of important rulings in areas that have been receiving regular attention for some time, including significant free speech rulings arising in a variety of settings, cases involving access to federal courts, separation of powers, Equal Protection and Affirmative Action, and Congressional Power under Section Five of the Fourteenth Amendment. Although the Court has yet to decide many constitutional cases arising out of the Great Recession that began in late 2007, the Congressional, Executive and societal reactions to the downturn and its aftermath will likely produce disputes the Court will grapple with in the coming years. And the recent re-election of President Obama—a Democrat—to a second term may herald further appointments to the Court that may exert a significant influence on subsequent constitutional controversies.

Against this ever-changing backdrop of judicial, political and economic change, our goal in this book remains unaltered: to offer comprehensive coverage of almost all major areas of constitutional doctrine by focusing more than any other casebook on the text of Supreme Court opinions and other primary documents. For decades the distinctive pedagogical essence of the book—its commitment to providing as much of the raw case, constitutional provision, statutory and historical note material as is practical—has allowed teachers the freedom to structure the course in their own ways, and has encouraged students to formulate their own generalizations directly from the materials. All major topics concerning the role of the federal judiciary, separation of powers, federalism, the non-criminal aspects of the Bill of Rights, and the Reconstruction Amendments are covered.

While our educational goals and primary techniques have not wavered, one feature of this Fourteenth Edition that is new should be highlighted. Although we incorporated relevant developments over the last four years that occupied much of the nearly three hundred pages in the 2012 softbound supplement, we managed to reduce the overall length of the text, despite having added a number of significant principal cases. The process of tightening was difficult, but we believe that the final product is not only more user-friendly (because the book overall is more streamlined and less unwieldy); it

is also pedagogically superior, because in the overwhelming majority of instances we were able to retain the essence of the Justices' opinions while excising less crucial portions that could be distracting.

In keeping with our past practice, we have included in this publication cases decided by the Court through the October 2011 Term; a 2013 softbound supplement will address decisions handed down during the October 2012 Term.

Notes on style: As we have done in prior editions, we have indicated our restatement of the facts or other passages in principal cases by placing square brackets around our descriptions; we have omitted footnotes of the Court without specifically indicating that fact; footnotes that we have kept retain their original numbering; footnotes we have added to cases are indicated by letters.

Jonathan D. Varat
Vikram D. Amar

Los Angeles, California
Davis, California
January 2013

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SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

PREFACE	V
TABLE OF CASES	XXI
PART 1. THE CONSTITUTION AND THE COURTS: THE JUDICIAL FUNCTION IN CONSTITUTIONAL CASES	1
Chapter 1. The Constitution	3
1. The Constitution of the United States of America	3
2. History of the Adoption of the Constitution and Its Most Significant Amendments	16
Chapter 2. Judicial Review	25
1. The Legitimacy of Judicial Review	25
2. Congressional Control of Judicial Review by the Federal Courts	37
Chapter 3. The Jurisdiction of Federal Courts in Constitutional Cases..	45
1. Introduction	45
2. Standing	49
3. Political Questions	61
PART 2. ALLOCATION OF GOVERNMENTAL POWERS: THE NATION AND THE STATES; THE PRESIDENT, THE CONGRESS, AND THE COURTS	73
Chapter 4. The Scope of National Power	75
1. The Constitutional Convention and the Establishment of a National Government	75
2. Sources of National Power: Early Developments and the Marshall Court's View	80
3. The Scope of National Power Today	103
Chapter 5. State Sovereignty and Federal Regulation	169
1. State Immunity from Federal Regulation	169
2. Enforcement of Federal Rights in Suits against State Officers: The Eleventh Amendment	190
Chapter 6. The Scope of State Power	197
1. Discrimination against Interstate Commerce	198
2. Implied Restrictions of the Commerce Clause—Transportation	202
3. Preemption of State Legislation by Federal Legislation—The Impact of the Supremacy Clause	209
Chapter 7. Separation of Powers	227
1. The President's Power to Determine National Policy	227
2. Congressional Interference with Presidential Prerogatives	266
3. Presidential Immunities	284

PART 3. GOVERNMENT AND THE INDIVIDUAL: THE PROTECTION OF LIBERTY AND PROPERTY UNDER THE DUE PROCESS AND EQUAL PROTECTION CLAUSES.....	295
Chapter 8. The Bill of Rights, the Civil War Amendments and Their Inter-Relationship.....	297
1. The Pre-Civil War Background	299
2. Application of the Bill of Rights to the States	300
Chapter 9. The Due Process Clause and the Review of the Reasonableness of Legislation	333
1. Economic Regulatory Legislation—The Rise and Fall of Due Process	333
2. Protection of Personal Liberties	351
3. The Second Amendment and Personal Liberty	432
Chapter 10. The Equal Protection Clause and the Review of the Reasonableness of Legislation	447
1. Introduction—The Scope of Equal Protection	447
2. Social and Economic Regulatory Legislation	451
3. Suspect Classifications.....	460
4. Protection of Personal Liberties	612
Chapter 11. Defining the Scope of “Liberty” and “Property” Protected by the Due Process Clause—The Procedural Due Process Cases	691
Chapter 12. Application of the Post Civil War Amendments to Private Conduct: Congressional Power to Enforce the Amendments.....	713
1. Early Interpretation.....	713
2. Application of the Constitution to Private Conduct.....	719
3. Federal Power to Regulate Private Conduct under the Thirteenth Amendment.....	753
4. The Scope of Congressional Power to Redefine the Amendments	763
PART 4. CONSTITUTIONAL PROTECTION OF EXPRESSION AND CONSCIENCE.....	795
Chapter 13. Governmental Control of the Content of Expression	797
1. An Introduction to Problems of Content Control of Speech	797
2. Intermezzo: An Introduction to the Concepts of Vagueness, Overbreadth and Prior Restraint.....	847
3. Speech Conflicting with Other Community Values: Government Control of the Content of Speech	864
4. Restrictions on Time, Place, or Manner of Expression	992
Chapter 14. Religion and the Constitution	1005
1. The Establishment Clause.....	1005
2. The Free Exercise of Religion	1059
Appendix. The United States Supreme Court	1085
INDEX.....	1095

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PREFACE	V
TABLE OF CASES	XXI
PART 1. THE CONSTITUTION AND THE COURTS: THE JUDICIAL FUNCTION IN CONSTITUTIONAL CASES	1
Chapter 1. The Constitution	3
1. The Constitution of the United States of America	3
2. History of the Adoption of the Constitution and Its Most Significant Amendments	16
A. The Articles of Confederation and the Original Constitution	16
B. The Bill of Rights	17
Protection of Freedom in the Constitution of 1787	17
The Bill of Rights	18
C. The Adoption of the Civil War Amendments	20
Chapter 2. Judicial Review	25
1. The Legitimacy of Judicial Review	25
The Constitutional Convention	25
Marbury v. Madison	26
Legitimacy of Judicial Review: Some Comments	33
2. Congressional Control of Judicial Review by the Federal Courts	37
The Scope of Congressional Power over the Jurisdiction of Lower Federal Courts	37
Ex Parte McCordle	38
United States v. Klein	40
The Scope of Congressional Power over Supreme Court Jurisdiction under the Exceptions Clause	41
Chapter 3. The Jurisdiction of Federal Courts in Constitutional Cases..	45
1. Introduction	45
Advisory Opinions	45
Hayburn's Case	46
Justiciability and the Form of the Litigation—Raising Constitutional Issues	48
2. Standing	49
Warth v. Seldin	49
Village of Arlington Heights v. Metropolitan Housing Development Corp.	55
Lujan v. Defenders of Wildlife	57
Massachusetts v. Environmental Protection Agency	60
3. Political Questions	61
Baker v. Carr	61
Powell v. McCormack	63
Nixon v. United States	65
Zivotofsky v. Clinton	69

PART 2. ALLOCATION OF GOVERNMENTAL POWERS: THE NATION AND THE STATES; THE PRESIDENT, THE CONGRESS, AND THE COURTS.....	73
Chapter 4. The Scope of National Power.....	75
1. The Constitutional Convention and the Establishment of a National Government	75
Proceedings in the Federal Convention: May 29, 1787.....	75
Proceedings in the Federal Convention: May 31, 1787.....	76
Proceedings in the Federal Convention: July 17, 1787.....	77
Report of the Committee of Detail: August 6, 1787	79
Note	79
2. Sources of National Power: Early Developments and the Marshall Court's View.....	80
The Bank of the United States	81
McCulloch v. Maryland	82
McCulloch and the Scope of Federal Power.....	89
Federal Power to Build Roads and Canals	93
McCulloch and State Power to Control the Selection of Members of Congress	94
State Power to Administer Presidential Elections.....	96
Gibbons v. Ogden.....	97
Note	102
Willson v. Black-Bird Creek Marsh Co.	102
3. The Scope of National Power Today.....	103
A. The Commerce Power.....	103
The Roosevelt Court Plan	108
The Post-Depression Commerce Power.....	109
Heart of Atlanta Motel, Inc. v. United States	112
Katzenbach v. McClung	114
The "New" Federalism.....	115
United States v. Morrison.....	115
Note on the Level of Generality at which Challenges to Congressional Power Are Framed.....	126
Gonzales v. Raich.....	126
National Federation of Independent Business v. Sebelius	138
Pierce County v. Guillen	152
Reno v. Condon	153
B. The Taxing Power.....	153
National Federation of Independent Business v. Sebelius	153
C. The Spending Power.....	158
United States v. Butler	158
Chas. C. Steward Machine Co. v. Davis.....	160
Hilvering v. Davis	161
Sabri v. United States	162
The Impact of Federal Grants to the States	163
South Dakota v. Dole.....	163
National Federation of Independent Business v. Sebelius	163

Chapter 5. State Sovereignty and Federal Regulation	169
1. State Immunity from Federal Regulation	169
State Regulatory Immunity, 1936–1985.....	169
Garcia v. San Antonio Metropolitan Transit Authority.....	171
New York v. United States	177
Printz v. United States.....	188
Reno v. Condon	190
2. Enforcement of Federal Rights in Suits against State Officers: The Eleventh Amendment	190
Pennhurst State School & Hospital v. Halderman	190
Application of the Eleventh Amendment in Suits for “Retroactive Relief”	194
Congressional Power to Abrogate Eleventh Amendment Immunity and Subject States to Suit in Federal Court	195
Central Virginia Community College v. Katz.....	195
State Sovereign Immunity from Federal Administrative Proceedings	196
Chapter 6. The Scope of State Power	197
1. Discrimination against Interstate Commerce	198
New Energy Co. of Indiana v. Limbach	198
Note	201
2. Implied Restrictions of the Commerce Clause—Transportation	202
Kassel v. Consolidated Freightways Corporation	202
3. Preemption of State Legislation by Federal Legislation—The Impact of the Supremacy Clause.....	209
Gade v. National Solid Wastes Management Association	210
Arizona v. United States	216
Chapter 7. Separation of Powers.....	227
1. The President’s Power to Determine National Policy.....	227
A. In General	227
Youngstown Sheet & Tube Co. v. Sawyer (The Steel Seizure Case).....	227
Hamdan v. Rumsfeld.....	232
B. International Relations	232
United States v. Curtiss-Wright Export Corp.	232
International Agreements.....	233
Dames & Moore v. Regan.....	233
C. War and National Defense.....	234
The Prize Cases	234
Mora v. McNamara.....	236
The Court and the Vietnam Controversy.....	237
Hamdi v. Rumsfeld.....	238
Boumediene v. Bush.....	248
D. The Line Item Veto.....	257
Delegation of Legislative Power to the Executive	257
Clinton v. City of New York	258
2. Congressional Interference with Presidential Prerogatives.....	266
A. The Legislative Veto.....	266
Immigration and Naturalization Service v. Chadha.....	266

	Mistretta v. United States	272
B.	Appointment, Discharge, and Supervision of “Officers of the United States”	273
	Morrison v. Olson	273
	Free Enterprise Fund v. Public Company Accounting Oversight Board	282
	Note on the Unitary Executive Concept in Printz v. United States	284
3.	Presidential Immunities	284
	United States v. Nixon	284
	Clinton v. Jones	288
	Note on the Applicability of Executive Privilege to the Vice Presidency	292
	Note on the Impeachment of President William Clinton.....	293

PART 3. GOVERNMENT AND THE INDIVIDUAL: THE PROTECTION OF LIBERTY AND PROPERTY UNDER THE DUE PROCESS AND EQUAL PROTECTION CLAUSES..... 295

Chapter 8. The Bill of Rights, the Civil War Amendments and Their Inter-Relationship 297

1.	The Pre-Civil War Background	299
	The Privileges and Immunities Clause of Article IV—Early Interpretations.....	299
	Corfield v. Coryell.....	299
	Paul v. Virginia.....	300
2.	Application of the Bill of Rights to the States	300
	The Incorporation Doctrine.....	301
	Duncan v. Louisiana.....	302
	Incorporation and the Jury Trial Cases.....	308
	McDonald v. City of Chicago.....	309
	Due Process as a Limitation on Procedures not Forbidden by the Bill of Rights	329
	In re Winship	329

Chapter 9. The Due Process Clause and the Review of the Reasonableness of Legislation 333

1.	Economic Regulatory Legislation—The Rise and Fall of Due Process	333
	Due Process as a Restraint on the Substance of Legislation.....	333
	Allgeyer v. Louisiana.....	334
	Lochner v. New York	335
	The Post-Lochner Developments	339
	Nebbia v. New York.....	342
	The Overturning of Adkins v. Children’s Hospital	343
	The Demise of Liberty of Contract	344
	Williamson v. Lee Optical of Oklahoma, Inc.	345
	Ferguson v. Skrupa	347
	Does the Due Process Clause Today Impose Any Limitations on the Substance of Economic Regulatory Legislation?	349
	Due Process Limitations on State Punitive Damages Awards.....	349

2.	Protection of Personal Liberties	351
A.	Introduction	351
	Griswold v. Connecticut	352
	Privacy as Autonomy Versus Privacy as Freedom from Intrusion and Disclosure	358
B.	Family and Marital Relationships	359
	Moore v. City of East Cleveland, Ohio	359
	Michael H. v. Gerald D.	365
	Troxel v. Granville	374
C.	Personal Autonomy	376
	Eisenstadt v. Baird	376
	Roe v. Wade	377
	Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey	387
	Gonzales v. Carhart	403
	Lawrence v. Texas	412
	Washington v. Glucksberg	420
3.	The Second Amendment and Personal Liberty	432
	District of Columbia v. Heller	433
	McDonald v. City of Chicago	446

Chapter 10. The Equal Protection Clause and the Review of the

	Reasonableness of Legislation	447
1.	Introduction—The Scope of Equal Protection	447
	The Original Understanding	447
	Gulf, Colorado & Santa Fe Railroad Co. v. Ellis	448
	The Doctrine of Reasonable Classification	448
2.	Social and Economic Regulatory Legislation	451
	Williamson v. Lee Optical of Oklahoma, Inc.	451
	Scope and Legitimacy of Judicial Review of the Rationality of Legislation under Equal Protection	451
	Federal Communications Commission v. Beach Communications, Inc.	452
	Ascertaining Legislative Purpose for Rational Basis Review	455
	Modern Rational Basis Review	458
3.	Suspect Classifications	460
A.	Classifications Disadvantaging Racial Minorities	460
	Loving v. Virginia	460
	Palmore v. Sidoti	464
	The Japanese Curfew and Evacuation Cases	466
	Hirabayashi v. United States	467
	Korematsu v. United States	467
	Ex Parte Mitsuye Endo	468
	What Groups are Specially Protected against Discrimination?	469
	Ascertaining the Existence of a Racial Classification	470
B.	Racial Segregation in Schools and Other Public Facilities	471
	Plessy v. Ferguson	471
	Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka	473
	Bolling v. Sharpe	476
	Brown and the Relevance of Social Science and Historical Materials ..	477
	Segregation in Public Facilities Other Than Schools	478

C.	Classifications Based on Gender	479
	Reed v. Reed.....	479
	Frontiero v. Richardson.....	480
	Craig v. Boren	484
	Michael M. v. Superior Court	490
	Rostker v. Goldberg	497
	Mississippi University for Women v. Hogan	499
	J.E.B. v. Alabama ex rel. T. B.....	499
	United States v. Virginia	502
	Nguyen v. Immigration and Naturalization Service.....	511
D.	The Requirement of a Discriminatory Purpose—The Relevance of Discriminatory Impact	515
	Washington v. Davis.....	515
	Village of Arlington Heights v. Metropolitan Housing Development Corp.	521
	Personnel Administrator of Massachusetts v. Feeney.....	524
	Hunter v. Underwood.....	526
E.	“Benign” Discrimination: Affirmative Action, Quotas, Preferences Based on Gender or Race	528
	1. Classifications Advantaging Females	528
	Kahn v. Shevin.....	528
	Califano v. Webster	531
	Orr v. Orr	532
	Mississippi University for Women v. Hogan.....	533
	Johnson v. Transportation Agency, Santa Clara County	537
	2. Classifications Advantaging Racial Minorities.....	538
	Race—Conscious Affirmative Action, 1974–1989	538
	City of Richmond v. J.A. Croson Company	541
	Adarand Constructors, Inc. v. Pena	551
	Rice v. Cayetano	558
	Grutter v. Bollinger	558
	Gratz v. Bollinger	571
	Parents Involved in Community Schools v. Seattle School District No. 1	575
F.	Classifications Disadvantaging Aliens.....	589
	Graham v. Richardson	589
	Bernal v. Fainter	591
	Mathews v. Diaz	595
	Nguyen v. Immigration and Naturalization Service.....	598
G.	What Other Classifications Will Provoke Heightened Scrutiny?.....	598
	City of Cleburne v. Cleburne Living Center	598
	Romer v. Evans.....	604
	Lawrence v. Texas	611
	Wealth Classifications.....	611
4.	Protection of Personal Liberties	612
	A. Voting and Elections	612
	1. Introduction	612
	The Constitution and the Franchise	612
	The Equal Protection Clause as the Source of a Right to Vote and Run for Elective Office.....	613

2.	Qualifications of Voters	613
	Harper v. Virginia State Board of Elections	613
	Dunn v. Blumstein.....	615
	Marston v. Lewis	617
	Hill v. Stone.....	617
	Crawford v. Marion County Election Board	618
	Note	621
	Equal Protection and Ballot Evaluation	621
	The Fifteenth Amendment as a Limitation on State (and Federal)	
	Power to Fix Qualifications for Voters.....	624
	Rice v. Cayetano	625
B.	Travel and Interstate Migration and Length of State Residence	628
1.	Travel and Interstate Migration.....	629
	Shapiro v. Thompson.....	629
	Dunn v. Blumstein.....	634
	Memorial Hospital v. Maricopa County	635
	Sosna v. Iowa	636
	Jones v. Helms	639
	Bona Fide Residence Requirements	639
	Saenz v. Roe	640
2.	Length of State Residence Distinctions	640
	Zobel v. Williams	640
	Attorney General of New York v. Soto-Lopez	643
	Saenz v. Roe	648
C.	Court Access, Welfare, and the Poor	653
	The Rights of the Poor Defendant in the Criminal Justice System	653
	Access of the Poor to the Courts in Civil Cases	655
	Boddie v. Connecticut.....	655
	United States v. Kras	655
	Ortwein v. Schwab.....	657
	Little v. Streater	657
	Lassiter v. Department of Social Services	657
	M.L.B. v. S.L.J.	658
	Provision of Essential Governmental Benefits and Services to the	
	Poor.....	658
	Welfare as a Fundamental Right Calling for Strict Scrutiny.....	659
	Dandridge v. Williams.....	659
	Harris v. McRae.....	663
D.	Education	673
	San Antonio Independent School Dist. v. Rodriguez	673
	Plyler v. Doe.....	681
	Martinez v. Bynum.....	689

Chapter 11. Defining the Scope of “Liberty” and “Property” Protected by the Due Process Clause—The Procedural Due Process Cases

	Board of Regents of State Colleges v. Roth.....	691
	Town of Castle Rock v. Gonzales	696
	Cleveland Board of Education v. Loudermill.....	700
	Michael H. v. Gerald D.....	702
	Sandin v. Conner	703