

KEITH J. HAND

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA LAW, SAN FRANCISCO (FORMERLY UC HASTINGS)

Professor of Law: January 2014 – Present

Director, Center for East Asian Legal Studies: July 2022 – Present

Director, East Asian Legal Studies Program: January 2015 – July 2022

Associate Dean for Global Programs: September 2016 – June 2022

Associate Professor of Law: January 2009 – January 2014

Administrative Leadership

As Associate Dean for Global Programs, managed international operations at the law school, including partnerships with more than 30 foreign law schools, an LL.M. program with 20 to 35 students per year, student exchange programs with 17 foreign law schools, the visiting foreign scholar program, and the international internship stipend program. Managed an annual budget of \$160,000 and supervised four staff and faculty members with Global Programs responsibilities. Chaired the faculty Global Programs Committee. Ensured Global Programs compliance with ABA standards and led a yearlong institutional assessment of the LL.M. program to satisfy accreditation requirements. Planned and executed a three-year initiative to enhance LL.M. recruiting that led to the creation of thirteen new partnerships with law schools and bar associations in East Asia.

As co-founder and director of the Center for East Asian Legal Studies, planned and executed six to eight public events related to East Asian law each year (including 100+ conferences, lectures, town halls, and practice-focused roundtables since 2009). Created and managed partnerships with law schools and bar associations across East Asia. Designed and taught three new courses in Asian law. Mentored students with research and professional interests in the region. Sourced and administered intern placement programs with a Chinese arbitration commission and a major law firm in Korea. Collaborated with high-profile partners, including the Japan Society, the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations, and the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, on events and initiatives.

Research Focus

Political-legal reform in Greater China, with particular attention to constitutional law and citizen efforts to use the law to promote legal, social, and political change. Current project focuses on PRC domestic law as a tool of foreign policy and the PRC's new anti-sanctions regime.

Courses Taught

Contracts, International Business Transactions Chinese Law and Legal Institutions, China and the International Legal Order Seminar, Legal Reform in East Asia, Criminal Procedure

Distinctions

AALS Section on East Asian Law & Society, Chair Elect (2026-Present), Secretary (2025-2026)
Advisory Council, Fudan-University of California Center for Contemporary China (2025-Present)
Non-resident Scholar, UC San Diego 21st Century China Center (2022-Present)

UC Hastings Board of Directors Visionary Service Award (2015)

Co-founder of UC Hastings East Asian Legal Studies Program (2015)

UC Hastings Foundation Faculty Award for Scholarship (2014)

Pacific Rim Law & Policy Journal Distinguished Alumnus Award (2012)

Public Intellectuals Program Fellow at the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations (2011-13)

Professional Experience (cont.)

YALE LAW SCHOOL, THE CHINA LAW CENTER, New Haven, CT and Beijing, China

Senior Fellow and Beijing Director: July 2007 – July 2008

Senior Fellow (Beijing): July 2006 – July 2007

Senior Fellow and Lecturer-in-Law (New Haven): October 2005 – July 2006

Managed the Center's Beijing operations; designed, negotiated, and executed cooperative legal reform projects with leading Chinese law schools, courts, and legislative institutions, including the Supreme People's Court, the State Council, and the National People's Congress; and conducted research on constitutional and judicial reform issues. During the 2005-2006 year, jointly taught Yale Law School's Workshop on Chinese Legal Reform.

CONGRESSIONAL-EXECUTIVE COMMISSION ON CHINA, Washington, DC

Senior Counsel: June 2002 – October 2005

Monitored legal reform and human rights in China and advised members of Congress on related U.S. policy. Areas of focus included criminal justice, constitutionalism, and property rights. Represented the Commission in meetings with Chinese officials in the United States and in China; coordinated with government officials, NGOs, and academics on issues related to Chinese legal reform; researched and drafted Commission reports and issue papers; and distributed a monthly newsletter on legal reform developments to key figures in the China field.

PAUL, WEISS, RIFKIND, WHARTON & GARRISON, New York, NY

Summer Associate: June 1999 – August 1999

Corporate Associate: September 2000 – June 2002

Served as a corporate attorney with a focus on mergers and acquisitions and private equity funds. Managed domestic and cross-border transactions, drafted contracts and offering memoranda, and conducted due diligence investigations.

COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS, New York, NY

Research Intern: June 1998 – September 2008

Conducted research on Chinese criminal procedure, prosecutorial misconduct, and state compensation legislation under Senior Fellow Jerome A. Cohen. Presented research at a public roundtable.

ENVIRONMENT INTERNATIONAL, Seattle, WA

Analyst: September 1995 – June 1997

Researched case law and composed memos for lead consultants on environmental law issues. Designed the firm's Website and published an issue paper on ISO 14000 implementation in China. Established contact with officials of China's national environmental protection agency and represented the firm in meetings with agency officials in Seattle and Beijing.

Professional Experience (cont.)

YUNNAN UNIVERSITY, Kunming, China

English Teacher: August 1993 – July 1994

Planned and taught English classes for students and faculty of Yunnan University. Delivered public lectures on American history.

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON, Seattle, WA

Juris Doctor

Master of Arts, International Studies: China

Distinctions: *Pacific Rim Law and Policy Journal*, Editor-in-Chief
Order of the Coif
Moot Court Honor Board

WHITMAN COLLEGE, Walla Walla, WA

Bachelor of Arts, History, cum laude

Distinctions: Phi Beta Kappa National Honor Society
Myron Eels History Prize

PUBLICATIONS

Keith J. Hand, *Crossfire and Hurricanes: Attempts to Sanction Legal Scholars for Their Expression 2000–2025* (Forthcoming, 2027)

Keith Hand, *Constitutional Supervision under Xi Jinping: The NPC Constitution and Law Committee and Constitutional Review of Legislation* in CAMBRIDGE HANDBOOK OF CHINESE CONSTITUTIONAL LAW (Zhu Guobin, Bjorn Ahl, and Larry Cata Backer, eds.) (Forthcoming, 2026).

Keith J. Hand and Komi Frey, *Law Schools Must Create a Culture That Promotes Viewpoint Diversity—Here’s How*, in VIEWPOINT DIVERSITY: WHAT IT IS, WHY WE NEED IT, AND HOW TO GET IT (John Tomasi & Bernard Schweizer, eds. 2026).

Keith J. Hand, *Waging External Struggle through Law: China’s Evolving Legal Strategies and Pelosi’s Taiwan Visit*, UC San Diego 21st Century China Center Special Report, October 2022.

Keith J. Hand, *Constitutional Supervision in China after the 2018 Amendment of the PRC Constitution: Refining the Narrative of Constitutional Supremacy in a Socialist Legal System*, 23 ASIAN PAC. L. POL’Y J. 137 (May 2022).

Keith J. Hand, Translator’s Introduction to Liu Songshan, *1981: Embryonic but Inchoate Constitutional Committee Designs*, 33 UCLA PAC. BASIN LAW J. 73 (2016).

Publications (cont.)

Keith J. Hand, *An Assessment of Socialist Constitutional Supervision Models and Prospects for a Constitutional Supervision Committee in China: the Constitution as Commander?*, in CHINA'S SOCIALIST RULE OF LAW REFORMS UNDER XI JINPING (John Garrick and Yan Chang Bennett eds., 2016).

Keith J. Hand, *Understanding China's System for Addressing Legislative Conflicts: Capacity Challenges and the Search for Legislative Harmony*, 26 COLUM. J. ASIAN LAW 139 (Spring 2013).

Keith Hand, *Exploring Constitutional Reforms in the Wake of the Bo Xilai Affair*, 12 CHINA BRIEF, May 11, 2012.

Keith Hand, *Resolving Constitutional Disputes in Contemporary China*, 7 U. PENN. EAST ASIA LAW REV. 51 (2012).

Keith Hand, *Constitutionalizing Wukan: The Value of the Constitution Outside the Courtroom*, 12 CHINA BRIEF, Feb. 3, 2012.

Keith J. Hand, *Citizens Engage the Constitution: The Sun Zhigang Incident and Constitutional Review Proposals in the People's Republic of China*, in BUILDING CONSTITUTIONALISM IN CHINA (Stephanie Balme and Michael Dowdle eds., 2009).

Keith Hand, *The NPCSC: The Vanguard of China's Constitution?* 8 CHINA BRIEF, Feb. 4, 2008 (with Thomas Kellogg). Re-published as Thomas E. Kellogg and Keith Hand, *China Crawls Slowly towards Judicial Reform*, ASIA TIMES, Jan. 25, 2008.

Keith Hand, *Can Citizens Vitalize China's Constitution?* FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REV., May 2007.

Keith Hand, *Using Law for a Righteous Purpose: The Sun Zhigang Incident and Evolving Forms of Citizen Action in the People's Republic of China*, 45 COLUM. J. TRANSN'T'L LAW 114 (2006). Republished in THE CITIZEN AND THE CHINESE STATE (Perry Keller ed., 2011).

Keith Hand, *Watching the Watchdog: China's State Compensation Law as a Remedy for Procuratorial Misconduct*, 9 PAC. RIM LAW POL'Y J. 95 (2000).

PUBLISHED TRANSLATIONS

Keith J. Hand (translator), Liu Songshan, *1981: Embryonic but Inchoate Constitutional Committee Designs*, 33 UCLA PAC. BASIN L. J. 73 (2016) (translation of Liu Songshan, 1981: Taidong Er Weixing de Xianfa Weiyuan Hui Sheji).

Keith Hand (translator), Wang Liming, *An Inquiry into Several Difficult Problems in Enacting China's Uniform Contract Law*, 8 PAC. RIM L. POL'Y J. 351 (1999) (translation of Wang Liming, Tongyi Hetongfa Zhidingzhong de Ruogan Yinan Wenti de Tanta, ZHENGFA LUNTAN, No. 4, 1996, at 52-60).

COMMENTARIES AND OP-EDS

Keith Hand, *California Law Schools Must Encourage Viewpoint Diversity*, CALIFORNIA GLOBE, Aug. 26, 2024.

Keith J. Hand and Komi Frey, *Law Schools Must Create a Culture That Promotes Viewpoint Diversity. Here's How*, MINDING THE CAMPUS, Aug. 30, 2024.

OTHER REPORTS AND PAPERS

Principal drafter of Congressional-Executive Commission on China Annual Report sections:
2005 Report: Rights of Criminal Suspects and Defendants; Legal Restraints on State Power
2004 Report: Rights of Criminal Suspects and Defendants; Constitutional Reform; Forced Evictions
2003 Report: The Judicial System; Legal Restraints on Government Power

Congressional-Executive Commission on China, *Defense Lawyers Turned Defendants: Zhang Jianzhong and the Criminal Prosecution of Defense Lawyers in China*, May 2003.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Admitted to the bar in New York
Member, Academic Freedom Alliance
Member, Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression Faculty Network
Member, Heterodox Academy
Member, National Committee on US-China Relations
Member, UC Initiative for Free Inquiry

FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Mandarin Chinese

MEDIA CITATIONS

Letter to Editor, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, Jan. 2, 2026 (commenting on editorial on *Reges v. Cauce* and viewpoint diversity in higher education).

Sheridan Prasso, *Solar Firm Gets Millions in U.S. Tax Credits Despite Chinese Labor Question*, , BLOOMBERG LAW, July 9, 2024.

Letter to the Editor, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, May 15, 2024 (responding to Judge Matthew Solemson's commentary "Why I Won't Hire Law Clerks from Columbia.")

Bob Egelko, *American Bar Association Sets New Free Speech Rules Following Bay Area Law School Incidents*, SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE, Feb. 6, 2024.

Nanette Asimov, *As Stanford President Leaves Office, Two Scientific Papers Are Retracted*, SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE, Sept. 1, 2023.

Media Citations (cont.)

Nanette Asimov, *First Amendment Lawsuit Challenges State's DEI Rules for Community Colleges*, SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE, Aug. 18, 2023.

Letter to the Editor, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, August 1, 2023 (responding to editorial on first amendment lawsuit and critiquing state legislation on “divisive concepts.”)

Shi Jiangtao, *China's Foreign Relations Law Signals New Red Lines, But Doesn't Say What Crosses Them*, SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST, July 10, 2023 (discussing PRC “lawfare”).

The Law and China's Evolution as a World Power: Keith Hand, UW Law Alumnus and China Expert at UC Law SF Shares His Views, University of Washington School of Law Website, January 23, 2023.

Issac Stone Fish, *Inside Fight over the American Bar Association's Tepid Condemnation of Beijing's Crackdown on Lawyers and Activists*, FOREIGN POLICY, Nov. 23, 2015.

Clarissa Sebag-Montifiore, *China's Napoleon Complex: How the Middle Kingdom Shortchanges its Short People*, FOREIGN AFFAIRS, Nov. 16, 2015 (discussing height discrimination in China).

Lasse Karner, *Kinas Advokat Bag Tremmer [China Lawyers Behind Bars]*, BERLINKSE [Denmark], July 29, 2015 (discussing detentions of rights lawyers).

Stuart Leavenworth, *China's Crackdown on Lawyers Sparks Debate on Party's Strength*, MCCLATCHY NEWS SERVICE, July 26, 2015 (story published in THE SACRAMENTO BEE, THE MIAMI HERALD, and more than 18 other McClatchy Group papers).

China's Rule of Law Takes an Ugly Turn: A ChinaFile Conversation, CHINAFILE, July 24, 2015 (short commentary on rights lawyer detentions), also published as *China's Rule of Law Takes an Ugly Turn: A Recent Spate of Arrests and Detentions Is Another Sign of the Communist Party's Intolerance for Dissent*, FOREIGN POLICY, July 24, 2015.

Gabriel Dominguez, *The Impact of China's New Crackdown on Civil Rights*, DEUTSCHE WELLE, July 24, 2015 (discussing detentions of rights lawyers).

Tom Phillips, *At Least Six Missing after Clampdown on Human Rights Lawyers in China*, THE GUARDIAN, July 21, 2015 (discussing detentions of rights lawyers).

Christine Kim, *Chinese Authorities Detain More than 200 Rights Lawyers*, CHRISTIANITY DAILY, July 21, 2015 (discussing detentions of rights lawyers).

Rule of Law: Why Now? A ChinaFile Conversation, CHINAFILE, Oct. 17, 2014 (short commentary on the significance of the Fourth Plenum of the 18th CCP Central Committee).

Andrew Jacobs and Chris Buckley, *China Moves to Enact Rule of Law, with Caveats*, N.Y. TIMES, Oct. 23, 2014.

Cheng Kai, “*American Legal Scholar Han Kai Si (Keith Hand) Recommends that China Establish a Constitutional Court to Review Unconstitutional Acts*,” RADIO FREE ASIA, Feb. 6, 2014.

Media Citations (cont.)

Peter Ford, *A Tussle in China over the Communist Party Bowing to the Constitution*, THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, May 24, 2013.

Stanley Lubman, *Citizen Rights, the Constitution, and the Courts*, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, CHINA REAL TIME REPORT, September 26, 2011.

Stanley Lubman, *A Step Forward: New Law Expands Government Liability*, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, CHINA REAL TIME REPORT, January 13, 2011.

Jim Yardley, *With New Law, China Reports Drop in Executions*, N. Y. TIMES, June 9, 2007 (discussing problems in China's death penalty review procedure that led to reform).

Peter Ford, *Death Penalty Gets Tighter Scrutiny in China*, THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR November 7, 2006 (discussing the significance of recent death penalty reforms in China).

Susan Jakes, *China's Message on Executions*, TIME (ONLINE), November 3, 2006 (discussing the significance of a recent legal amendment related to death sentence review procedures).

Jes Randrup Nielsen, *Stram kurs mod pressen*, JUTLAND POST (Denmark's largest daily), August 25, 2006 (discussing the conviction of Chinese reporter Zhao Yan).

Chris Buckley, *Chinese Rights Activists Put the Law on Trial*, REUTERS, August 24, 2006 (discussing citizen rights defense actions in China).

SELECTED PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

"China's External Legal Struggle: Capacity, Constraints, and Critical Minerals," presented at NYU Asia Law Institute Workshop on. Decoding China's Foreign-Related Rule of Law, New York, Nov. 21-22, 2025.

"China's External Legal Struggle: Capacity and Constraints," presented at the Asian Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, Sungkyunkwan University, Seoul, Korea, Dec. 13, 2024.

Waging External Struggle Through Law: China's Emerging Domestic Legal Capacity and New Dimensions in the U.S.-China Competition" Law and Society Annual Meeting, Denver, June 7-9, 2024.

"The Emerging U.S.-China Legal Competition," presented at the *Washington International Law Journal* Symposium: "A Critical Examination of 'Decoupling'," Seattle, March 2024.

"China's Role in the Modern International Legal System," presented at the University of Pristina, Kosovo, December 2023.

"Waging External Struggle through Law: China's Emerging Domestic Legal Capacity and New Legal Dimensions in the U.S.-China Competition," presented at the University of Washington School of Law Asian Law Conference, September 2023.

Selected Public Presentations (cont.)

“Waging External Struggle through Law: China’s Emerging Domestic Legal Capacity and New Legal Dimensions in the U.S.-China Competition,” presented at the Asian Law and Society Association Seventh Annual Meeting, Vietnam National University, December 2022.

“The PRC Constitution at 40: Prospects for Constitutionalism in China in the Wake of the 20th Party Congress,” presented at the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations CHINA Town Hall Local Panel at UC Hastings, November 2022.

“Constitutional Supervision in China after the 2018 Amendment of the PRC Constitution: Refining the Narrative of Constitutional Supremacy in a Socialist Legal System,” presented at the Asian Law and Society Association Fourth Annual Meeting, Osaka University, December 2019.

“Constitutional Supervision in China after the 2018 Amendment of the PRC Constitution: Refining the Narrative of Constitutional Supremacy in a Socialist Legal System,” presented at a conference on “China’s Legal Construction Program at 40 Years: Towards an Autonomous Legal System” at the University of Michigan, October 2019.

“China’s 2018 Constitutional Reforms: A New Era in Chinese Governance?” Panel Presentation, Association for Asian Scholars Annual Meeting, March 2019.

“Understanding China’s System for Addressing Legislative Conflicts: Capacity Challenges and the Search for Legislative Harmony,” presented at the 9th Annual Conference of the European Chinese Law Studies Association, Hong Kong and at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, the November 2014.

Panelist, “Elite Perspectives on the Rule of Law,” at conference titled “Contending Perspectives on the Rule of Law in China”(sponsored by the National Bureau of Asian Research, the Henry M. Jackson Foundation, the University of Washington School of Law, and the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations), Seattle, Washington, November 2013.

“Constitutional Review in China” presented at the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations PIP Program, July 2013.

Panelist, “Dancing Handcuffed in a Minefield: China's Hidden Heroes in the Criminal Defense Bar,” American Bar Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, August 2013.

“Comparative Perspectives on the Resolution of Legislative Conflicts” presented at Northeastern University Law School in Shenyang, China, June 2012 (in Chinese and English).

“Resolving Constitutional Disputes in Contemporary China” presented at the annual meeting of the Law & Society Association, June 2012 and at the University of Washington School of Law, April 2012.

“Foreign Perspectives on the Filing and Review System for Legislation,” presented at the Peking University Graduate Seminar in Public Law, March 2012 (in Chinese).

“Resolving Constitutional Disputes in Contemporary China,” presented at the Constitutionalism Workshop at Chinese University of Politics and Law, Beijing, China, March 2012 (in Chinese).

Selected Public Presentations (cont.)

“Legal Dimensions of the U.S.-China Relationship,” presented at the 2011 China Town Hall, University of California, Hastings, November 2011.

“Constitutional Dispute Resolution in China,” presented to the Hastings International and Comparative Law Society, November 2011.

“Constitutional Disputes in China,” presented at a panel on “Rule of Law in China: Progress or Retreat?” at the Institute of East Asian Studies, University of California, Berkeley, October 2011.

“Legal Dimensions of the U.S.-China Relationship,” presented to the Hastings International and Comparative Law Society, April 2011.

“China’s Legal System at a Turning Point,” presented at K&L Gates, San Francisco, June 2009.

“Western Efforts to Influence Chinese Legal Reform,” presented at the University of California, Berkeley Law School, Seminar on China and the International Community, April 2009.

“Advancing Rule of Law in China,” presented at the University of Minnesota Law School/China University of Political Science and Law J.D. Summer Program, Beijing, June 2007.

Participant, “Building Cultural Bridges Between the United States and Asia,” Salzburg Seminar 2006 Freeman Symposium, Salzburg, Austria, June 2006 (presented on perceptions of China and its rise in the U.S. Congress).

“Evolving Forms of Citizen Action in the People’s Republic of China,” presented at the Yale University China Social Sciences Workshop, April 2006.

“The Sun Zhigang Incident: Implications for Legal Reform and Citizen Action in China,” presented at Cornell University Law School, March 2006 and at the University of California, Berkeley, April 2006.

“Restrictions on Freedom of Expression in China,” presented at the Yale College Chinese Partnership Program, December 2005.

“China’s Criminal Procedure Law Amendments: What Can We Expect?” presented at the Conference on Rule of Law Developments in China (sponsored by the U.S. State Department), November 2005.

“Recent Wrongful Conviction Cases in China and Their Impact on Criminal Justice Reform,” presented at Yale Law School, October 2005.

Panelist, “Human Rights and China Policy,” Foreign Service Institute, U.S. State Department, January 2005 (panel discussion for foreign service officers in training).

“Conflict Over Forced Evictions in China,” presented at Yale Law School, October 2004.

“The Impact of WTO Accession on the Rule of Law in China,” presented at the Annual Meeting of the ABA Section on International Law, April 2004.

Selected Public Presentations (cont.)

“Legal Reform Trends in China,” presented at The George Washington University School of Law, February 2004.

“The Sun Zhigang Incident and its Implications for Legal Reform in China,” presented at Yale Law School, October 2003.

Participant, “Access to Justice,” Second EU – China Network Seminar, Beijing, China, March 2003.

Fellow, “Law as a Catalyst of Change in Asia,” Salzburg Seminar Session 405, Salzburg, Austria, December 2002.

“China’s State Compensation Law,” presented at the Council on Foreign Relations and at the New York University School of Law, August 1999.