
PREFACE

There is no standard way of teaching constitutional law in American law schools. Some schools have a year-long course covering all aspects of the Constitution. Others have a semester on structure of government and one focusing on individual liberties. At the law schools where I have spent most of my teaching career, there is a basic constitutional law course that does not cover the First Amendment and an upper-level elective on the First Amendment, focusing on both freedom of expression and the religion clauses.

My casebook, *Constitutional Law*, was written as to be able to be used in all of these different ways of teaching constitutional law. But since so many schools have the First Amendment as a separate course, it made sense to take these chapters and make them into a separate book. Over the years, many professors have asked me about doing this and I am delighted that Joe Terry at Wolters Kluwer enthusiastically agreed.

This book is Chapters 9 and 10 from *Constitutional Law*, Seventh Edition. I present the material here in two parts: Part I focuses on the First Amendment's protection of expression, and Part II examines the religion clauses. This book is current through the Supreme Court's October 2022 Term, which ended on June 30, 2023. There are significant changes from the prior edition, especially in Part II on the religion clauses because of recent Supreme Court decisions.

I will continue to prepare a new edition of *Constitutional Law* every four years (and will do a new edition of *The First Amendment* at the same time) and a Supplement each year.

I welcome comments and suggestions from professors and students who are using this book.

Erwin Chemerinsky

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