

PETER H. MEYERS
Professor of Law Emeritus
The George Washington University Law School
2000 G Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20052
Office: (202) 994-7463
Email: PMeyers@law.gwu.edu

CURRENT TEACHING RESPONSIBILITIES

Drugs and the Law (1982-Present)

The George Washington University Law School, Washington, D.C.
Teach advanced criminal law seminar focused on policy, litigation, and ethical issues involved in prosecuting and defending individuals charged with illegal drug offenses, and supervise several mock trial and appellate arguments in class on important drug issues.

Forensic Psychiatry Fellowship Program (2014-Present)

Saint Elizabeths Hospital, Washington, D.C.
Teaching focus on psychiatry and the law, including expert testimony in judicial proceedings.

Forensic Psychiatry Program (2014-Present)

The George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences, Washington, D.C.
Teaching focus on psychiatry and the law, including expert testimony in judicial proceedings.

Crime and Punishment: Challenges in 2023 (2023-Present)

Osher Lifetime Learning Institute, Washington, D.C.
Serve as Study Group Leader, together with Professor Sara Schotland, for discussion of issues including mass incarceration, prison conditions, the death penalty, decriminalization, strategic and ethical issues in criminal prosecution and defense, and release of rehabilitated inmates.

FORMER TEACHING RESPONSIBILITIES

Director, Vaccine Injury Litigation Clinic (1994-2015)

The George Washington University Law School, Washington, D.C.
Supervised students representing individuals involved in the Vaccine Injury Compensation Program. Served as Chairman of the Advisory Commission on Childhood Vaccines Workgroup of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and as a Designated Reviewer of nine publications on vaccines issued by the National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine, listed below.

Director, Criminal Appeals Clinic (1992-1993)

The George Washington University Law School, Washington, D.C.
Supervised students representing clients in criminal appeals in the D.C. Court of Appeals.

Professorial Lecturer in Law (1983, 1991)

The George Washington University Law School, Washington, D.C.
Taught Administrative Law

LEGAL EDUCATION

The George Washington University Law School, Washington, D.C.

J.D., with Honors, 1971

Activities: Senior Associate on The George Washington Law School Law Review
President of the first consumer group to intervene in a Federal Trade Commission
Proceeding and to advocate for “corrective advertising” remedy
Testified before the Senate Subcommittee on Administrative Practice and
Procedure

UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION

Marietta College, Marietta, Ohio

B.A., Political Science, Philosophy, 1968

Activities: Philosophy Club President
Founder and Editor of Literary Magazine
Feature Editor and Columnist for College Newspaper

OTHER LEGAL EXPERIENCE

More than forty years’ experience in the areas of administrative, criminal, and appellate litigation, including oral argument before the United States Supreme Court in *United States v. SCRAP*, 412 U.S. 669 (1973), which established important standing principles; litigation to authorize marijuana for medical purposes, *NORML v. DEA*, 559 F.2d 735 (D.C. Cir. 1977); litigation which made Vaccine Act amendment retroactive, *Lowry v. Secretary of HHS*, 189 F.3d 1378 (Fed. Cir. 1999); reversal of murder convictions because of Confrontation Clause violations, *Williams v. United States*, 858 A.2d 978 (D.C. 2004); *Brooks v. United States*, 39 A.3d 873 (D.C. 2012); and reversal of murder conviction because of improper urban gun battle jury instruction, *Fleming v. United States*, 224 A.3d 213 (D.C. 2020) (*en banc*).

Private practice of law, Washington, D.C., 1981-1994

Primary focus of practice on complex appellate and criminal cases. Clients included former intelligence officer accused of spying for the People’s Republic of China, as well as clients charged in state and federal courts with murder, armed robbery, and other serious offenses. Also brought law reform litigation, including suit challenging telemarketing practices.

Director, Center for the Study of Drug Policy, Washington, D.C., 1980-1981

Directed the Center's educational and publishing activities and coordinated several continuing legal education seminars for attorneys.

PUBLICATIONS

Peter H. Meyers, “Jill’s Trials,” a novel about criminal trials, scheduled for publication by BrandyLane Publishers, 2024.

Peter H. Meyers, “The Two Federal Vaccine Injury Compensation Programs: Successes and Failures and Proposals for Improvement,” in Loren Milliken, et al., eds., First National Vaccine Law Conference Papers and Proceedings (American Bar Association Feb. 2024).
<https://www.americanbar.org/products/inv/book/437456942/>

Peter H. Meyers, “Take a Chance? The Controversy Over Releasing D.C. Prisoners Under the “Second Look Amendment Act,”” 38 Washington Lawyer Magazine 40-42 (July-August 2023).

Peter H. Meyers, “As my mother lay dying,” micro fiction story published in the Hektoen International Journal (Dec. 2021). <https://hekint.org/2021/12/02/as-my-mother-lay-dying/>

Peter H. Meyers, “Compensation for Coronavirus Vaccine Injuries,” 35 Washington Lawyer Magazine 28 (Jan.-Feb. 2021).
<http://washingtonlawyer.dcbar.org/januaryfebruary2021/index.php#/p/28>

Peter H. Meyers, “The Trump Administration’s Flawed Decision on Coronavirus Vaccine Injury Compensation: Recommendations for Changes,” J. Law and the Biosciences, Vol. 7, Issue 1, Isaa082 (Nov. 2020).
<https://www.law.gwu.edu/trump-administration%E2%80%99s-flawed-decision-coronavirus-vaccine-injury-compensation-recommendations>

Nora Freeman Engstrom and Peter H. Meyers, legal blog on coronavirus vaccines and the law, (Dec. 2020). <https://law.stanford.edu/2020/12/22/coronavirus-vaccines-and-the-law/>

Peter H. Meyers, “Fixing the Flaws in the Federal Vaccine Injury Compensation Program,” 63 Admin. L. Rev. 785 (2011).

Designated Reviewer, National Academy of Sciences, Institute of Medicine, “Vaccines and Autism” (May 2004).

Designated Reviewer, National Academy of Sciences, Institute of Medicine, “Influenza Vaccines and Neurological Complications” (Oct. 2003).

Designated Reviewer, National Academy of Sciences, Institute of Medicine, “SV40 Contamination of Polio Vaccine and Cancer” (Oct. 2002).

Designated Reviewer, National Academy of Sciences, Institute of Medicine, “Hepatitis B Vaccine

and Demyelinating Neurological Disorders” (May 2002).

Designated Reviewer, National Academy of Sciences, Institute of Medicine, “Multiple Immunizations and Immune System Dysfunction” (Feb. 2002).

Designated Reviewer, National Academy of Sciences, Institute of Medicine, “Measles-Mumps-Rubella Vaccine and Autism” (April 2001).

Designated Reviewer, National Academy of Sciences, Institute of Medicine, “Risk Communication and Vaccination” (March 1997).

Designated Reviewer, National Academy of Sciences, Institute of Medicine, “Research to Identify Risks for Adverse Events Following Vaccination: Mechanisms and Possible Means of Prevention” (March 1997).

Designated Reviewer, National Academy of Sciences, Institute of Medicine, “Directing and Responding to Adverse Events Following Vaccination” (Aug. 1996).

Peter H. Meyers, "The Constitutionality of Pretrial Drug Testing," 3 Drug L. Rep. 13 (1992).

Peter H. Meyers, "Pretrial Drug Testing: Is it Vulnerable to Due Process Challenges?" 5 B.Y.U. J. Pub. L. 285 (1991).

Peter H. Meyers and Kevin Zeese, eds., Criminal Defense Seminar Manual (1980).*

Peter H. Meyers, The Drug Law Journal (1979-80)(founder and editor).*

Peter H. Meyers and Gerald Goldstein, eds., Criminal Defense Seminar Manual (1978 & 1979).*

*Published by the Center for the Study of Drug Policy, Washington, D.C.

RECENT MEDIA ACTIVITIES

Quoted in The National Desk on problems with the federal COVID-19 vaccine injury compensation program, April 3, 2023. <https://thenationaldesk.com/news/health/those-injured-by-covid-19-vaccine-still-waiting-for-government-compensation-pfizer-moderna-johnson-blood-clot-paralyzed-cdc-fda-prep-act-cicp>

Quoted by the Washington Post about an FBI/CIA agent lawsuit involving COVID-19 vaccine mandates, July 21, 2022. https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2022/07/21/judge-tosses-lawsuit-fbi-covid/?itid=hp_national

Interviewed by Out of the Blank Podcasts on vaccines and drug laws, May 1, 2022. <https://open.spotify.com/episode/7rz665WrQauZ6mF7hrGfnZ?si=2Ja0UOPDQiGVnZSfcKvoaw>

Quoted in the British Medical Journal on American vaccine injury compensation programs, April 19, 2022. [Covid-19: Is the US compensation scheme for vaccine injuries fit for purpose?](#)

Interviewed by TBS TV in Seoul, South Korea on vaccine injury compensation programs, Feb. 11, 2022. <https://youtu.be/su3kgEHqQgI>

Quoted by Fox5 TV on conflict between Virginia governor's masking order and the rights of disabled children, February 9, 2022. ["Parents of Disabled Students File Federal Lawsuit Challenging Virginia's Mask Policy"](#)

Quoted by the Washington Post concerning the ACLU's lawsuit challenging the Virginia Governor's order mandating choice on school masks and COVID, Feb. 2, 2022.
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2022/02/01/aclu-youngkin-school-mask-lawsuit/>

Interviewed by ABC7 TV about the legality of the Virginia Attorney General's legal opinion that state universities in Virginia cannot mandate vaccinations (3rd video in the link), Jan. 28, 2022.
<https://wjla.com/news/local/legal-expert-says-its-very-likely-virginias-school-mask-debate-will-end-up-in-court>

Interviewed by Fox5 TV on the Virginia school masking controversy, Jan. 19, 2022.
<https://www.fox5dc.com/video/1025235>

Interviewed by WUSA9 TV on the Virginia school masking controversy, Jan. 18, 2022.
<https://www.wusa9.com/mobile/article/news/local/virginia/more-pushback-against-executive-order-to-remove-mask-mandates-in-virginia-schools/65-fd1653d1-da88-4d63-80ed-b76df3e046e7>

Interviewed by ABC7 TV on the Virginia school masking controversy, Jan. 17, 2022.
<https://wjla.com/news/local/legal-expert-says-its-very-likely-virginias-school-mask-debate-will-end-up-in-court>

Interviewed by Fox TV5 on the Supreme Court's decisions on vaccine mandates, Jan. 13, 2022.
<https://mms.tveyes.com/MediaCenterPlayer.aspx?u=aHR0cDovL2lIZGhY2VudGVyLnR2ZXllcy5jb20vZG93bm9vYWRnYXRld2F5LmFzcHg%2FVFXNlcklEPTMzNDE4OSZNRRElEPTe2NTA4NzYyJk1EU2VIZD02Nzc3JIR5cGU9TWVkaWE%3D>

Interviewed by WFTV9 on the Supreme Court's decisions on vaccine mandates, Jan. 13, 2022.

"Florida Companies Can Still Impose Vaccine Restrictions After Latest Ruling"

Interviewed by Fox TV about the Supreme Court's arguments on vaccine mandates, Jan. 7, 2022.
<https://mms.tveyes.com/MediaCenterPlayer.aspx?u=aHR0cDovL2lIZGhY2VudGVyLnR2ZXllcy5jb20vZG93bm9vYWRnYXRld2F5LmFzcHg%2FVFNlck1EPTMzNDE4OSZNRREIEPTE2NDc5MDI3Jk1EU2VIZD03Nm9yJIR5cGU9TWVkaWE%3D>

Quoted by NBC4-TV on COVID vaccine injury compensation, September 28, 2021.

<https://www.nbcwashington.com/investigations/approval-for-kids-could-make-pfizers-vaccine-eligible-for-better-compensation-program/2815788/>

Quoted by WJLA-TV on D.C. firefighters refusing mandatory COVID-19 vaccinations and claiming religious exemptions, September 21, 2021.

<https://wjla.com/news/local/bowser-dc-fire-ems-religious-exemption-vaccination-covid>

Quoted in the Business Insider on COVID-19 vaccine mandates, September 17, 2021.

<https://www.businessinsider.com/gop-governors-fighting-bidens-vaccine-mandates-all-require-other-vaccines-2021-9>

Quoted in the British Medical Journal on whether colleges and other U.S. institutions can mandate COVID vaccinations, June 2, 2021.

<https://www.bmj.com/content/373/bmj.n1397>

Quoted in Bloomberg Law on liability protections for COVID-19 vaccine distributors, May 19, 2021.

<https://news.bloomberglaw.com/health-law-and-business/clot-warnings-urged-as-j-j-vaccine-liability-shield-stays-strong>

Quoted in Bloomberg on the problems with the coronavirus vaccine injury program, May 3, 2021.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-05-03/victims-of-rare-vaccine-injury-wait-to-see-if-u-s-fund-will-pay>

Quoted by Tegna Broadcasting out of Atlanta on the problems with the coronavirus vaccine injury compensation program, including excessive secrecy, April 22, 2021.

<https://www.11alive.com/article/news/investigations/the-reveal/covid-vaccine-injury-claims-investigated/85-8ca25ede-ac31-4192-ade3-e05711844b0b>

Quoted in Bloomberg Law on the importance of shielding vaccine manufacturers from liability in combatting the COVID-19 crisis, April 14, 2021.

<https://news.bloomberglaw.com/health-law-and-business/j-j-vaccine-liability-shield-a-boon-despite-rare-blood-clots>

Quoted in USA Today about how the government must be more forthcoming about COVID-19 vaccine injury cases and outcomes, March 28, 2021.

<https://www.freep.com/story/news/health/2021/03/28/covid-19-vaccines-hydroxychloroquine-generate-dozens-injury-claims/6995509002/>

Quoted in Bloomberg Law on the problems with the coronavirus vaccine injury compensation program, March 23, 2021.

<https://news.bloomberglaw.com/health-law-and-business/covid-19-vaccine-recipients-face-injury-payment-black-hole>

Interviewed on NBC4 Dallas on the problems with the coronavirus vaccine injury compensation program, March 15, 2021.

<https://www.nbcdfw.com/news/nbc-5-responds/how-rare-vaccine-injury-claims-are-handled/2579627/>

Quoted in Reuters article about the problems with the coronavirus vaccine injury compensation program, March 11, 2021.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-usa-compensation-idUSKBN2B31DH>

Interviewed by WUSA9 on whether pharmaceutical companies can be sued for adverse vaccine reactions, March 2, 2021.

<https://www.wusa9.com/article/news/verify/adverse-effects-side-effects-covid-19-can-vaccine-comapnies-be-sued-for-complications-from-symptoms-verify-fact-check/65-ae9305ac-1193-4b7a-a90f-eb8536f06058>

Interviewed by NBC Miami on problems with the coronavirus vaccine injury compensation program, Feb. 25, 2021.

<https://www.nbcmiami.com/investigations/critics-question-vaccine-injury-compensation-program-readiness-as-covid-19-claims-come-in/2392118/>

Interviewed by WSBTV2 on the problems with the coronavirus vaccine injury compensation program, Feb. 24, 2021.

<https://www.wsbtv.com/news/local/atlanta/investigation-program-help-people-with-vaccine-complications-rarely-pays-out-covid-19-cases/NGDLP5OIHNEYFHWQMIDVYNNR3E/>

Interviewed by NBC4 on the problems with the coronavirus vaccine injury compensation program, Feb. 12, 2021.

<https://www.nbcwashington.com/news/local/critics-question-vaccine-injury-compensation-program-readiness-as-covid-19-claims-come-in/2573094/>

Quoted in Bloomberg Law on the limited supply of coronavirus vaccines, Jan. 29, 2021.

<https://bna.com/health-law-and-business/vaccine-shortages-distribution-delays-point-to-liability-limits>

Interviewed by WUSA on right of employers and schools to mandate COVID-19 vaccinations, Jan. 15, 2021.

<https://www.wusa9.com/article/news/verify/covid-vaccine-mandates-does-your-employer-have-to-make-you-take-the-vaccine-fact-check/65-f46ecbf0-fdb4-4250-aa65-f0ae36817878>

Interviewed about the Countermeasures Injury Compensation Program on the Right on Point podcast, Jan. 5, 2021.

<https://www.rightonpoint.online/podcast/episode/c02c5cb9/peter-meyers-countermeasures-injurycomp-program>

Quoted in the Chronicle of Higher Education on whether COVID-19 vaccinations can be made mandatory in higher education, Jan. 4, 2020.

<https://www.chronicle.com/article/colleges-weigh-whether-to-require-covid-19-vaccines-or-just-urge-them>

Quoted in USA Today on whether the current coronavirus vaccine injury compensation program must be replaced, Dec. 24, 2020.

<https://www.law.gwu.edu/sites/g/files/zaxdzs2351/f/COVID%20vaccine%20injuries%20sent%20to%20program%20that%20rejects%20most%20claims.pdf>

Quoted in AP article on the need to overhaul the coronavirus vaccine injury compensation program, Dec. 22, 2020.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/vaccine-injury-claims-could-face-bureaucratic-black-hole/2020/12/22/fbc00ccc-441b-11eb-ac2a-3ac0f2b8ceeb_story.html

Quoted by USA Today on whether coronavirus vaccinations will be made mandatory, Dec. 5, 2020.

https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ui=2&ik=d54d58ec37&attid=0.1&permmsgid=msg-f:1685265127953003986&th=176343b477fdf5d2&view=att&disp=inline&realattid=f_kic1ud5x0

Quoted by Reuters on whether coronavirus vaccinations will be made mandatory, Dec. 2, 2020.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-vaccine-companies/u-s-employers-could-mandate-a-covid-19-vaccine-but-are-unlikely-to-do-so-experts-say-idUSKBN28C2LL>

Interviewed by the Right on Point podcast program about the problems with the coronavirus vaccine injury compensation program, Nov. 24, 2020.

<https://soundcloud.com/user-189985311/countermeasures-discussion>

Quoted by WUSA9 about whether coronavirus vaccinations will be made mandatory, Sept. 10, 2020.

<https://www.wusa9.com/article/news/verify/can-a-state-force-me-to-take-a-vaccine-mandations-united-states-requirement/65-4a95a459-7055-4c7e-aaa3-8f4e5fe53b98>

Quoted by Reuters about the problems with the coronavirus vaccine injury compensation program, Aug. 21, 2020.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-vaccines-liability/covid-19-era-highlights-u-s-black-hole-compensation-fund-for-pandemic-vaccine-injuries-idUSKBN25H1E>

Quoted by the *Washington Lawyer* on how pharmaceutical companies are following litigation techniques of tobacco companies, Jan. 13, 2020.

<http://washingtonlawyer.dcbarr.org/january2020/index.php#/p/14>

Quoted by Nexstar Media Group on how a recent opioid settlement is only the first step in establishing liability for other lawsuits, October 21, 2019.

<https://www.wkrg.com/washington-dc/settlement-in-opioid-lawsuit-could-be-guide-for-similar-suits/>

Quoted by WESA-FM (Pittsburgh) on how confusion will continue for employers until the federal government changes marijuana's classification, Oct. 16, 2019

<https://www.wesa.fm/post/allegheeny-county-man-files-suit-saying-he-was-denied-job-medical-marijuana-use#stream/0>

Quoted by Sinclair Broadcast Group about how individuals using CBD can be fired from their jobs for violating federal law, Oct. 3, 2019.

<https://wlos.com/news/nation-world/can-cbd-get-you-fired-even-though-its-legal>

Quoted by WJLA-ABC7 on the need for FDA regulation of CBD oil to clear up contradictory state and federal laws, Sept. 24, 2019.

<https://wjla.com/features/7-on-your-side/investigations/consumers-claiming-positive-drug-test-after-cbd-oil>

Quoted by *Time* on how money from opioid settlement cases will be distributed to states, counties, and cities, Sept. 17, 2019.

<https://time.com/5678648/purdue-pharma-bankruptcy/>

Quoted by *The Times* (London) on the game-changing ruling against Johnson & Johnson in an opioid crisis case, Aug. 30, 2019.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/payback-time-as-victims-of-opioid-scandal-turn-to-courts-h9gc9n968>

Quoted by *Time* on opioid cases in Oklahoma and Ohio involving million-dollar settlements, Aug. 28, 2019.

<https://time.com/5662827/johnson-opioid-crisis-lawsuits/>

Quoted by Sinclair Broadcast Group on why the drug industry, doctors, and federal regulators are all to blame in the opioid crisis, Aug. 26, 2019.

<https://komonews.com/news/nation-world/opioid-lawsuit-echoes-this-countrys-legal-history-with-big-tobacco>

Quoted in *The Washington Post* about the idea of adding more capital crimes for drug dealers, March 9, 2018.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/trump-administration-studying-possibility-of-seeking-death-penalty-for-drug-dealers/2018/03/09/4d9cc994-23c3-11e8-94da-ebf9d112159c_story.html

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Program Planning Committee, National Vaccine Law Conference sponsored by the D.C. Bar (Sept. 2023).

Presentations to the National Vaccine Law Conference sponsored by the D.C. Bar, “How the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program has Mutated Since it Began and What Booster Shots Can Fix it Now,” and “The Deficient Countermeasures Injury Compensation Program for COVID-19 Vaccine Injuries” (Sept. 2022).

OLLI lecture, with Sara Schotland, on the impact of COVID-19 on prisoners and immigration detainees (Oct. 2021).

Presentation to The George Washington Law School faculty on the coronavirus vaccine injury compensation program (Jan. 2021).

Member, Friends of the United States Court of Federal Claims, appointed by the Chief Judge of the Court (2006-2015).

Member, United States Court of Federal Claims Advisory Council, appointed by the Chief Judge of the Court (2000-2006).

Member, Chief Special Master's Planning Group for Vaccine Program at Judicial Conference of the United States Court of Federal Claims, Washington, DC (Nov. 2004).

Recipient, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Outstanding Group Performance Award (May 2004).

Member, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Strategic Planning Workgroup (2002-2003).

Presentation to the National Vaccine Advisory Committee, "Strengthening the Supply of Routinely Recommended Vaccines in the United States," Washington, DC (Feb. 2002).

Presentation to the National Vaccine Advisory Committee Workshop on Vaccine Communication, "Vaccines and Risk Communication," Arlington, VA (Oct. 2000).

Presentation to the Judicial Conference of the United States Court of Federal Claims, "Innovations in Litigation Reform: Lessons Learned Litigating Cases Under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program," Williamsburg, VA (Nov. 1999).

Consultations with the Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Resources of the U.S. House of Representatives on legislative proposals to improve the Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (Sept.-Oct. 1999).

Chairman, Advisory Commission on Childhood Vaccines Workgroup, of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (1997-1998).

Presentation, "Models of Clinical Legal Education," at Scholars Showcase, The George Washington University (April 1998).

Presentation to the National Academy of Sciences, "Risk Communication and the Law," Washington, DC (May 1996).