

Kenworthy Jennifer Bilz

Contact Information

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Education

Princeton University (*Ph.D. 2006; M.A. 2002 in experimental social psychology*)

University of Chicago—The Law School (*J.D. 1998 with honors*)

Harvard College (*A.B. 1992 with honors*)

Work Experience

University of Illinois College of Law (professor of law, 2011-present)

Northwestern University School of Law (assistant professor of law, 2006-2009; associate professor of law, 2009-2011)

Visiting Positions:

Notre Dame Law School (Fall 2017)
Duke University Law School (Spring 2016)
Stanford Law School (Spring 2011)
University of Illinois College of Law (Fall 2010)
Northwestern University School of Law (VAP, 2004-2006)

Referee Work:

Journals:

Criminology, Group Processes and Intergroup Relations, Journal of Applied Social Psychology, Journal of Empirical Legal Studies, Journal of Law & Economics, Journal of Legal Studies, Journal of Law, Technology and Policy, Jurimetrics, Law and Human

Behavior, Law and Social Inquiry (member of editorial board, Jan. 2013-2015), Law and Society Review, Toronto Law Journal

Organizations:

Conference on Empirical Legal Studies, Israeli Science Foundation, National Science Foundation (NSF), Time-sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences (TESS)

Presses:

NYU Press, University of Chicago Press

Committee and Other Service Work:

- Promotion & Tenure Committee (2022-23)
- Lectures Committee (Spring 2019, 2022-23), Chair (2019-2020)
- Diversity Committee, Chair (2016-2017, Spring 2019, 2024-2024)
- Assessments Committee (Spring 2018)
- University Faculty Senate (2014-2016)
- Grants Subcommittee of the Law School Admissions Council (2013-2015)
- Hiring Committee (2012-2013, Spring 2018), Chair (2014-2015)
- Fellowships and VAP Committee Member (2013-2014; Chair (Fall 2015); 2024-2025)
- Faculty Scholarship Conference Chair (2011-2012)
- Admissions Committee Member (2011-2012, 2013-2014)
- Rules Committee Member (2010-2011)
- Clerkship Committee Member (2006-2010, 2013-2014, 2016-2017), Chair (2007-2008)
- JD/PhD Committee (2004-2006)

Classes Taught

- Criminal Law
- Evidence
- Psychology & Law
- Negotiations
- Animal Law—seminar
- Statutory Interpretation (short course)
- 20th Century American Legal Thought—seminar
- Literary and Psychological Analysis of Law—seminar
- Race and Policing—seminar
- Theories of Crime and Punishment—seminar
- Law, Psychology & Morality—seminar

Research Interests

I focus on how social psychological processes can inform the study of law. I am especially interested in how legal institutions, rules and practices affect perceptions of legitimacy and morality, which might in turn affect behavior. I am also interested in understanding the ways that social norms, social meaning and social influence can minimize, magnify, or even displace legal regulation. I mine most of my examples from the field of criminal law and evidence.

Publications (all available on BePress and SSRN)

Kenworthy Bilz & Jeffrey Rachlinski, *A New Look at the Endowment Effect and Why It Matters to the Law*, forthcoming in *Environmental and Resource Economics* (2025).

Kenworthy Bilz & Qiaoyuan Zhi, *Health Law & Psychology*, forthcoming in *The Research Handbook of Law and Psychology*, Edward Elgar (2024).

Arden Rowell, Kenworthy Bilz & Howard Jyun-Syun Li, *Environmental Law and Psychology*, forthcoming in *The Research Handbook of Law and Psychology*, Edward Elgar (2024).

Arden Rowell & Kenworthy Bilz, *The Psychology of Pollution Control*, 54 *Arizona State L. J.* 899 (2022).

Arden Rowell & Kenworthy Bilz, *The Psychology of Environmental Law*. NYU Press (2021).

Joshua Kleinfeld, Laura I. Appleman, Kenworthy Bilz, *et al.*, *White Paper of Democratic Criminal Justice*, 111 *NW. U. L. REV.* 1693 (2017).

Kenworthy Bilz, *Testing the Expressive Theory of Punishment*, 13 *J. EMP. LEG. STUDIES* 358 (2016).

Kenworthy Bilz & Janice Nadler, *The Regulation of Moral Attitudes* (*Oxford Handbook of Behavioral Economics*, 2013).

Kenworthy Bilz, *Dirty Hands or Deterrence? An Experimental Examination of the Exclusionary Rule*, 9 *J. EMP. LEG. STUDIES* 149 (2012).

Kenworthy Bilz, *We Don't Want to Hear It: Psychology, Literature and the Narrative Model of Judging*. 2010 *ILLINOIS L. REV.* 429 (2010).

Kenworthy Bilz, *Defending the (Mis)use of Statistics in Law: Comment*. 166 J. INSTITUTIONAL & THEORETICAL ECON. 194 (2010).

Kenworthy Bilz, *Self-Incrimination Doctrine is Dead; Long Live Self-Incrimination Doctrine: Confessions, Scientific Evidence, and the Anxieties of the Liberal State*. 30 CARDOZO L. REV. 807 (2008).

Kenworthy Bilz & Janice Nadler, *Law, Psychology, and Morality*, in PSYCHOLOGY OF LEARNING AND MOTIVATION, VOL. 50 (D. Medin, L. Skitka, D. Bartels, & C. Bauman, eds.) (2008).

Kenworthy Bilz, *The Puzzle of Delegated Revenge*. 87 B.U. L. REV. 1059-1112 (2007).

Kenworthy Bilz, *The Fall of the Confession Era*. 96 J. CRIM. L. & CRIMINOLOGY 367-384 (2005).

Kenworthy Bilz & John M. Darley, *What's Wrong with Harmless Theories of Punishment*. 79 CHICAGO-KENT L. REV. 1215-1252 (2004).

John M. Darley, Tom Tyler, & Kenworthy Bilz. *Enacting Justice: The Interplay of Individual and Institutional Perspectives*, in THE SAGE HANDBOOK OF SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY (Michael Hogg and Joel Cooper, eds., 2003).

Works in Progress (draft available on request)

Kenworthy Bilz, *Criminal Law and the Status of Animals*

Kenworthy Bilz & Ashley Dyke, *Self-Nudges*

Kenworthy Bilz & Wen Bu, *How Dare You: The Effect of Offender Status and Cognitive Reflection on Perceived Wrongdoing*

Kenworthy Bilz, *Crime, Accidents, and Social Standing: The Psychological Experience of Victimization*.

Kenworthy Bilz & Andrew Gold, *An Experimental Examination of Civil Recourse Theory*.

Miscellaneous Publications

Kenworthy Bilz, *Are Law Enforcement Agencies Abusing Civil Asset Forfeiture?* (blog post) for “Expert Viewpoints” of the Illinois News Bureau, Apr. 13, 2017.

Kenworthy Bilz & Janice Nadler, *It's Not Their Cheating Hearts* (op-ed), CHI. TRIB., Dec. 14, 2008.

Kenworthy Bilz & Janice Nadler, *Serving Up a Bailout With a Side of Justice* (op-ed), CHI. TRIB., Oct. 3, 2008.