THE CENTER FOR
HEALTH LAW STUDIES
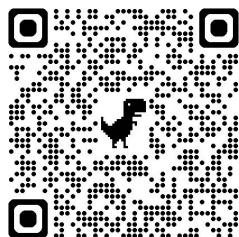
SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY
— SCHOOL OF LAW —

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES

The Licensing Racket: How We Decide Who Is Allowed to Work, and Why It Goes Wrong

SCAN TO REGISTER

Rebecca Haw Allensworth is the Associate Dean for Research and David Daniels Allen Distinguished Chair of Law at Vanderbilt University Law School. She studies antitrust and professional licensing. Her antitrust scholarship focuses on the policy and value judgments inherent in the law's focus on consumer welfare, with a special emphasis on competition policy for tech platforms. Her research on professional licensing explores how lawmakers should balance the need for expertise in regulating the professions with the problems that come with self-regulation. She is the author of The Licensing Racket: How We Decide Who Is Allowed to Work and Why It Goes Wrong (Harvard University Press, February 2025), a deep dive into the pathologies of professional licensing in America. Her article about medical licensing boards and unethical prescribers, "Licensed to Pill," appeared in The New York Review of Books in July 2020. Her work has been cited by the U.S. Supreme Court and has received the thirteenth annual Jerry S. Cohen Memorial Fund Writing Award for groundbreaking antitrust scholarship. She has advised three presidential administrations and testified twice before Congress.

Monday, Nov. 3, 2025 | **12 p.m.** | **Scott Hall 1166**