

David A.J. Richards



David Richards has been a law professor for nearly 50 years. After he graduated from Harvard Law School in 1971, David spent only three years practicing law. Then he immersed himself in academia which is where he remains today.

In 1977 David joined the faculty at New York University School of Law and has been there ever since. The following excerpts from the law school website demonstrate the breadth and depth of his legal and philosophical scholarship.

“A teacher of both constitutional law and criminal law at NYU School of Law, Professor Richards has brought his background in moral and political philosophy and his interests in history to bear on several major studies of constitutional interpretation in the United States. . . Richards has played an important role in developing a range of interdisciplinary programs at the School of Law that innovate both new forms of educational pedagogy and research, writing, and scholarship.

“The author of seventeen books and numerous articles, Richards, a gay man in a life partnership of some thirty years, has over his career at the School of Law developed influential arguments interpreting feminism in general and gay rights in particular as grounded in human and constitutional rights. Richards discusses, autobiographically, the connections between his personal life, teaching, and scholarship, during the period he has taught at N.Y.U. School of Law, in his book, *The Case for Gay Rights*. In addition to this book, his works directed to gay rights include *Sex, Drugs, Death and the Law* (1982), *Toleration and the Constitution* (1986), *Women, Gays, and the Constitution: The Case for Gay Rights* (1998), *Identity and the Case for Gay Rights* (1999), and *The Sodomy Cases* (2009) in the legal landmark series of Kansas University Press. In 2008 he published with Cambridge University Press a book with Nicholas Bamforth (law, Queens College, Oxford University) under the title, *Patriarchal Religion, Gender and Sexuality: A Critique of New Natural Law*, a work criticizing, as sexist and homophobic, a theory that appeals to patriarchal religion to attack many of the constitutional protections now accorded women, straight and gay, and gay men.”

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