

# OSTROM WORKSHOP COLLOQUIUM SERIES

## Max Schanzenbach

*Pritzker School of Law  
Northwestern University*

“Good Cop, Bad Cop: Using Civilian Allegations to Predict Police Misconduct”



**Monday, FEBRUARY 4, 2019**

12:00–1:00 PM • Ostrom Workshop, 513 N. Park

In response to high-profile cases of police misconduct, reformers are calling for greater use of civilian allegations in identifying potential problem officers. This paper applies an Empirical Bayes framework to data on civilian allegations and civil rights litigation in Chicago to assess the predictive value of civilian allegations for serious future misconduct. We find a strong relationship between allegations and future civil rights litigation, especially for the very worst officers. The worst one percent of officers, as measured by civilian allegations, generate almost five times the number of payouts and over four times the total damage payouts in civil rights litigation. These findings suggest that intervention efforts could be fruitfully concentrated among a relatively small group.



[Max Schanzenbach](#) is the Seigle Family Professor of Law at Northwestern University School of Law. He received his JD from Yale Law School and his PhD (economics) from Yale University. From 2011 to 2016, Schanzenbach was the co-editor-in-chief of the *American Law and Economics Review*. His work has ranged across such fields as trusts and estates, employee compensation, criminal sentencing, judicial behavior, and tort reform.

Presentations are open to the public and are live streamed (see our website for URL and papers). You are welcome to bring your lunch. For questions, contact Allison Sturgeon ([sturgeon@iu.edu](mailto:sturgeon@iu.edu); 812/855–3151).