

## CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

### *Stanford Law Review Online Vol. 79 Special Collection*

#### Technology, Artificial Intelligence, and the Future of Civil Rights

New technologies like artificial intelligence (AI) are rapidly reshaping the institutions that structure everyday life. Employers rely on automated hiring tools;<sup>1</sup> landlords and lenders deploy algorithmic screening systems;<sup>2</sup> schools and universities use predictive analytics;<sup>3</sup> law enforcement agencies turn to risk-assessment instruments and surveillance technologies;<sup>4</sup> and public benefits programs increasingly depend on automated decisionmaking.<sup>5</sup> While these technologies promise efficiency and innovation, they also raise profound questions about equality, access, procedural fairness, and the future of civil rights enforcement.

At the same time, civil rights law, including antidiscrimination doctrine, stands at an inflection point. Courts and policymakers are reassessing longstanding doctrines under statutes such as the Civil Rights Act of 1964,<sup>6</sup> the Voting Rights Act of 1965,<sup>7</sup> the Fair Housing Act of 1968,<sup>8</sup> and the Americans with Disabilities Act,<sup>9</sup> among others. In recent years, courts have narrowed disparate-impact liability<sup>10</sup> and embraced more formal or “colorblind” approaches to equality.<sup>11</sup> Amid demographic, political, and technological change, the foundations and future trajectory of antidiscrimination and civil rights law are uncertain.

The intersection of these two developments—the rapid integration of new technologies into high-stakes decisionmaking and the doctrinal evolution of civil rights law—presents urgent and

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<sup>1</sup> See *EEOC Hearing Explores Potential Benefits and Harms of Artificial Intelligence and Other Automated Systems in Employment Decisions*, U.S. EEOC (Jan. 31, 2023), <https://perma.cc/5BSK-5BFT>.

<sup>2</sup> Robert Bartlett et al., *Consumer-Lending Discrimination in the FinTech Era*, 143 J. FIN. ECON. 30, 40-41 (2022).

<sup>3</sup> See, e.g., Jill Barshay & Sasha Aslanian, *Colleges Are Using Big Data to Track Students in an Effort to Boost Graduation Rates, but It Comes at a Cost*, HECHINGER REP. (Aug. 6, 2019), <https://perma.cc/5CR6-6GHC>; U.S. DEP’T OF EDUC. OFFICE OF EDUC. TECH., *ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND THE FUTURE OF TEACHING AND LEARNING: INSIGHTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS* 5 (2023), <https://perma.cc/5XJE-2EFB> (recognizing the “accelerating pace of incorporation of AI into mainstream technologies” in the context of education).

<sup>4</sup> U.S. DEP’T OF JUST. OFF. OF LEGAL POL’Y, *ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE: FINAL REPORT* 9-11 (2024), <https://perma.cc/UZ63-DWAH>.

<sup>5</sup> See Danielle Keats Citron, *Technological Due Process*, 85 WASH. U. L. REV. 1249, 1252 (2008).

<sup>6</sup> See, e.g., *Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. v. President & Fellows of Harvard Coll.*, 143 S. Ct. 2141 (2023).

<sup>7</sup> See, e.g., *Brnovich v. Democratic Nat’l Comm.*, 141 S. Ct. 2321 (2021).

<sup>8</sup> See, e.g., HUD’s Implementation of the Fair Housing Act’s Disparate Impact Standard, 91 Fed. Reg. 1475 (proposed Jan. 14, 2026) (to be codified at 24 C.F.R. pt. 100); *Tex. Dep’t of Hous. & Cmty. Affs. v. Inclusive Cmty. Project, Inc.*, 576 U.S. 519 (2015).

<sup>9</sup> See Kenya Hunter, *The Trump Administration Withdrew 11 Pieces of ADA Guidance. How Will it Affect Compliance?*, ASSOCIATED PRESS (Apr. 8, 2025, 12:49 PT), <https://perma.cc/F46P-MUZ2>.

<sup>10</sup> See *Brnovich*, 141 S. Ct. at 2338.

<sup>11</sup> See *Students for Fair Admissions*, 131 S. Ct. at 2161-62.

underexplored questions. Can existing legal frameworks meaningfully regulate algorithmic discrimination and other technology-mediated civil rights harms? How should courts conceptualize protected classes and group harm in an era of data-driven categorization? And what role should technologists, agencies, and private actors play in shaping compliance and enforcement?

To explore these issues, *Stanford Law Review Online (SLRO)* invites submissions for a special collection, *Technology, Artificial Intelligence, and the Future of Civil Rights*. Selected essays will be published in *SLRO*. Successful submissions may engage doctrinal, empirical, theoretical, historical, or comparative dimensions of the relationship between emerging technologies and civil rights law, including but not limited to artificial intelligence and antidiscrimination doctrine. Submissions may focus on federal, state, or international frameworks. We welcome submissions from legal scholars, civil rights practitioners, computer scientists, policymakers, and industry experts.

Sample topics include, but are by no means limited to:

- How should courts apply disparate-treatment and disparate-impact frameworks to algorithmic decisionmaking systems?
- What due process concerns arise from automated government decisionmaking?
- What evidentiary challenges arise when decisionmaking is opaque, proprietary, or technically complex?
- Should civil rights statutes be interpreted—or amended—to account explicitly for algorithmic systems?
- How might emerging technologies like AI change compliance obligations for employers, housing providers, schools, lenders, and government agencies?
- How should civil rights law adapt to technological change more broadly, including digital platforms and automated governance systems?
- What are the implications of data aggregation, proxy discrimination, and classification systems for protected-group analysis?
- How should administrative agencies enforce civil rights laws in AI-mediated contexts?
- How do technological systems redistribute power between private actors and the state?

Submissions should be anonymized and submitted between **April 3, 2026 to May 1, 2026**, via the *SLRO* website. Essays **must be between 2,000-5,000 words**, including footnotes. *SLRO* will review and select submissions on a rolling basis, and selected manuscripts will be published in a collection with *SLRO* in Fall 2026.

For any questions regarding the submission process, please contact the Editor-in-Chief for *SLRO* Volume 79, Hannah Dahleen, at [online@stanfordlawreview.org](mailto:online@stanfordlawreview.org).

We look forward to reviewing your submissions.