

Michael Waldman is president and CEO of the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law. A nonpartisan law and policy institute that focuses on improving the systems of democracy and justice, the Brennan Center is a leading national voice on voting rights, money in politics, criminal justice reform, and constitutional law. Waldman, a constitutional lawyer and writer who is an expert on the presidency and American democracy, has led the Center since 2005. He was a member of the Presidential Commission on the Supreme Court of the United States in 2021.

Waldman was director of speechwriting for President Bill Clinton from 1995 to 1999, serving as assistant to the president. He was responsible for writing or editing nearly two thousand speeches, including four State of the Union and two inaugural addresses. He was special assistant to the president for policy coordination from 1993 to 1995.

Waldman is the author of *The Supermajority: How the Supreme Court Divided America* (Simon & Schuster, 2023, rev. ed. 2024). The Guardian called it “a terrific if chilling account of how conservatives hijacked U.S. Democracy.” Jane Mayer of *The New Yorker* called *The Supermajority* “nothing less than a public service.”

Waldman is the author of *The Briefing*, a weekly newsletter with 70,000 subscribers. He is also the author of *The Fight to Vote* (Simon & Schuster, 2016, reissued in 2022), a history of the struggle to win voting rights for all citizens. *The Fight to Vote* was a *Washington Post* notable nonfiction book for 2016. The *Post* wrote, “Waldman’s important and engaging account demonstrates that over the long term, the power of the democratic ideal prevails — as long as the people so demand.” The *Wall Street Journal* called it “an engaging, concise history of American voting practices.”

Waldman is also the author of *The Second Amendment: A Biography* (Simon & Schuster, 2014). *Publishers Weekly* called it “the best narrative of its subject.” In the *New York Times*, Joe Nocera called it “rigorous, scholarly, but accessible.” The *Los Angeles Times* wrote, “[Waldman’s] calm tone and habit of taking the long view offers a refreshing tonic in this most loaded of debates.”

His previous books include *My Fellow Americans: The Most Important Speeches of America’s Presidents from George Washington to Barack Obama* (2003, reissued 2010), *A Return to Common Sense* (2007), *POTUS Speaks* (2000), and *Who Robbed America? A Citizen’s Guide to the S&L Scandal* (1990).

He appears frequently on television and radio to discuss policy, the presidency, and the law. He is a graduate of Columbia College and NYU School of Law.