

Professor Mary Anne Franks - Narrative Biography

Submitted to the U.S. House of Representatives Small Business Committee

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Dr. Mary Anne Franks is an internationally recognized expert on the intersection of civil rights, free speech, and technology. She was named the Eugene L. and Barbara A. Bernard Professor in Intellectual Property, Technology, and Civil Rights Law at George Washington Law School in fall 2023. Her areas of expertise include First Amendment law, Second Amendment law, law and technology, criminal law and procedure, and family law. She is an Affiliate Fellow of the Yale Law School Information Society Project, a member of the American Law Institute, and a member of the District of Columbia bar.

Prior to joining the GW faculty, Professor Franks held the Michael R. Klein Distinguished Scholar Chair at the University of Miami School of Law, where she taught from 2010 to 2023. She also previously taught at the University of Chicago Law School as a Bigelow Fellow, at Harvard University as a Lecturer in Social Studies and Philosophy, and at Quincy Community College as an adjunct faculty member in Philosophy.

Professor Franks holds a J.D. from Harvard Law School (2007) as well as doctorate and master's degrees from Oxford University (2004, 2001), where she studied as a Rhodes Scholar. She is the author of the forthcoming book *Fearless Speech* (Bold Type Books, October 2024) and the award-winning book *The Cult of the Constitution* (Stanford Press, 2019). Her scholarship has also been published in the *Harvard Law Review*, the *California Law Review*, and the *UCLA Law Review*, among others.

Professor Franks also serves as the President and Legislative & Tech Policy Director of the Cyber Civil Rights Initiative, the leading U.S.-based nonprofit organization focused on image-based sexual abuse. Her model legislation on the nonconsensual distribution of intimate images (NDII, sometimes referred to as “revenge porn”) has served as the template for multiple state and federal laws, and she frequently advises the federal government, state and federal lawmakers, and tech companies on privacy, free expression, and harassment issues. She has testified before Congress on multiple occasions about Section 230 reform, “deepfakes,” disinformation, and the amplification of harmful content on social media platforms.