

Michael Waldman is president of the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law. A nonpartisan law and policy institute that works to improve the systems of democracy and justice so they work for all, 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. In 2021 President Biden appointed him to the Presidential Commission on the Supreme Court of the United States.

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.

He is the author of *The Fight to Vote* (Simon & Schuster, 2016), a history of the struggle to win voting rights for all citizens. The *Washington 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,” and the *Miami Herald* described it as “an important history in an election year.” *The Fight to Vote* was a *Washington Post* notable nonfiction book for 2016 and a History Book Club main selection.

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.” In a *Cardozo Law Review* symposium devoted to the book, a historian wrote, “*The Second Amendment* is, without doubt, among the best efforts at melding constitutional history and constitutional law on any topic — at least since the modern revival of originalism two generations ago.” His previous books include *My Fellow Americans: The Most Important Speeches of America’s Presidents from George Washington to Barack Obama* (2003, 2010), *A Return to Common Sense* (2007), *POTUS Speaks* (2000), and *Who Robbed America? A Citizen’s Guide to the S&L Scandal* (1990).

His frequent appearances on television and radio to discuss policy, the presidency, and the law include Good Morning America, the Colbert Report, Morning Joe, PBS NewsHour, CBS Evening News, Meet the Press Daily, All In with Chris Hayes, the O’Reilly Factor, Nightline, 60 Minutes, Tavis Smiley, Hardball with Chris Matthews, and the Rachel Maddow Show, as well as NPR’s Morning Edition, All Things Considered, and Fresh Air. He writes for the *Washington Post*, *New York Times*, *Politico*, *Daily Beast*, *Slate*, *Democracy*, *Reuters*, *Bloomberg*, and other national publications.

He is a graduate of Columbia College and NYU School of Law.