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A New Era of Influence HeinOnline Launches Scholarly Impact Rankings

January 2026. HeinOnline, a leading research platform trusted worldwide by legal professionals, scholars, and institutions, is proud to announce Scholarly Impact Rankings, a dynamic new feature spotlighting the most influential voices, journals, and institutions in legal scholarship. Built on HeinOnline's extensive collection of more than 3,400 multidisciplinary journals, these rankings use a transparent methodology based on citation analysis within HeinOnline's journal collection. Updated monthly and reindexed with every content release, they provide the most current, comprehensive picture of influence in the field.

While professors make up a large share of the rankings, HeinOnline's data also recognizes the influence of practitioners, judges, and policy experts whose published work shapes legal discourse. This broader lens makes the rankings more representative of the full landscape of legal scholarship.

Scholarly Impact Rankings are included at no additional cost for all HeinOnline subscribers and are seamlessly integrated into the Law Journal Library, the flagship collection at the core of HeinOnline.

The screenshot displays the HeinOnline website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with "All Databases", "MyHein Profile", "Help", "Connect", and "Account". Below this is the HeinOnline logo and a search bar with the text "Search for a term, title, author, or citation...". To the right of the search bar is a dropdown menu for "All Databases" and a search icon. Below the search bar are links for "Advanced Search" and "Search Help", and a note "Provided By: William S. Hein & Co., Inc.". The main content area shows a breadcrumb trail: "Databases > Law Journal Library > Scholarly Impact Ranking". Below this is a navigation bar with "Journals (3,433)", "Scholarly Impact Rankings" (highlighted), and "Author Profiles". The main heading is "HEINONLINE'S SCHOLARLY IMPACT RANKINGS". Below the heading is a paragraph explaining the rankings: "HeinOnline's Scholarly Impact Rankings provide monthly updates identifying the most influential legal scholars, journals, and institutions. Developed using HeinOnline's own ranking methodology, these metrics reflect a comprehensive analysis of citation patterns across the entire corpus of journal content within HeinOnline. Each list includes 100 entries and is refreshed with every monthly content release, when all citations are reindexed." Below this paragraph are two columns of links. The first column is titled "ABA-Approved Law Schools" and includes links for "Most-Cited Authors", "Most-Cited Authors by Subject", "Most-Cited Institutions by Author Affiliation", "Most-Cited Institutions by Flagship Journal", and "Most-Cited Institutions by Subject". The second column is titled "Comprehensive Rankings" and includes links for "Most-Cited Articles", "Most-Cited Authors", "Most-Cited Authors by Subject", "Most-Cited Journals (non-US)", "Most-Cited Journals (US)", and "Most-Recently Accessed Authors (Past 12 months)".

Nearly 60 Distinct Rankings

Scholarly Impact Rankings include nearly 60 distinct lists across two major categories:

- **ABA-Accredited Law Schools:** 5 primary rankings plus 25 subject-specific lists
- **Comprehensive Rankings:** 6 primary rankings plus 25 subject-specific lists

Rankings are fully interactive, offering unmatched insights into institutions, journals, and scholars across 25 subject areas. These subjects are drawn from current ABA faculty interests and HeinOnline's most-used PathFinder topics. Whether your focus is constitutional law, environmental policy, or intellectual property, you can quickly identify the thought leaders in your field. Every ranking links to a dedicated knowledge base article explaining the methodology from top to bottom, reinforcing HeinOnline's commitment to transparency.

Rank ↑	Name ⇅	Institution ⇅	h5-index ⇅	h-index ⇅	Cited 0-5 Years	Cited 5+ Years	Past 12 Months
1	Sunstein, Cass	Harvard Univ.	35.00	93.00	4,876	28,642	12,541
2	Posner, Richard A.	Univ. of Chicago	28.00	87.00	2,674	24,446	6,741
3	Lemley, Mark Alan	Stanford Univ.	33.00	72.00	3,709	15,081	8,099
4	Crenshaw, Kimberle Williams	Columbia Univ. School of Law	12.00	16.00	1,413	3,792	17,725
5	Balkin, Jack M.	Yale Univ.	26.00	53.00	2,233	6,706	5,667
6	Eskridge, William	Yale Univ.	25.00	55.00	1,941	11,443	2,515
7	Posner, Eric A.	Univ. of Chicago	22.00	50.00	2,066	6,643	5,524
8	Easterbrook, Frank H.	Univ. of Chicago	23.00	50.00	1,593	13,081	2,761
9	Bebchuk, Lucian Arye	Harvard Univ.	23.00	51.00	1,953	7,067	3,746
10	Epstein, Richard A.	New York Univ.	15.00	56.00	1,169	12,103	3,770
11	Chemerinsky, Erwin	Univ. of California, Berkeley	21.00	48.00	1,703	7,094	3,839

Why It Matters

Unlike other rankings such as Sisk or Leiter, HeinOnline's Scholarly Impact Rankings stand apart by offering:

- Monthly updates that reflect the latest trends in research
- Full coverage of HeinOnline's journal collection, rather than limited subsets
- Transparency through a published, accessible methodology

With Scholarly Impact Rankings, users can:

- Benchmark performance of law schools, journals, and institutions
- Discover thought leaders in their areas of interest
- Track emerging voices shaping the conversation in legal scholarship



HeinOnline Hundred

Each year, HeinOnline will publish the “HeinOnline Hundred,” highlighting the top 100 most influential authors in legal scholarship. This annual list offers both a respected form of recognition and a clear way to measure impact, showing the value of contributing to the broader legal conversation.

About HeinOnline and William S. Hein & Co., Inc.

HeinOnline is a product of William S. Hein & Co., Inc., a leading publishing company that has been serving the law library community for 100 years. HeinOnline is a premier online research database that provides comprehensive coverage from inception of more than 3,400 multidisciplinary periodicals, essential government documents, international treaties and trials, case law, and much more. Composed of image-based PDFs and available at an affordable price, the wealth of material allows academic institutions, government agencies, law firms, court systems, corporations, and other organizations access to authoritative, true-to-print digital material without the hassle or cost of using multiple research databases. Furthermore, subscriptions to HeinOnline consistently increase in value without added cost as HeinOnline adds daily, weekly, and monthly content while continuously incorporating new artificial intelligence tools for easier research. More information about HeinOnline and William S. Hein & Co., Inc. is available here: home.heinonline.org.