

Paul J. Gardner was a Visiting Researcher at the Centre for Law in the Contemporary Workplace in the 2017–2018 academic year. He was formerly a Post-Doctoral Fellow in the Department of Political Science in the Maxwell School at Syracuse University. He received his Ph.D. from the Department of Politics at Princeton University.

Paul's research and teaching interests are broadly in American law and politics, law and society, and legal institutions. His primary research agenda aims to understand the effectiveness of “private enforcement statutes,” federal laws in which the primary mechanism of enforcement is private litigation, rather than direct bureaucratic action. In the United States, these suits are heavily used in labor and employment contexts. Paul’s research argues that a number of actors—presidents, bureaucratic agencies, judges and interest groups—all have a hand in determining whether individuals will make use of private rights of action by filing lawsuits. Contrary to existing treatments, this research argues that private enforcement regimes are not self-executing, and are subject to political support and interference.

In other research, his work examines how the public and governmental actors respond to United States Supreme Court decisions, and how public preferences respond to judicial decisions and institutions. More information is available on his personal website, pauljgardner.com.