

UH Law Professor Emily Berman Available to Discuss Local and Federal Power Struggle in Washington, D.C.

Houston, Aug. 15, 2025 – The District of Columbia just filed an emergency motion to challenge federal control of its police force — setting up a high-stakes situation and raising questions about constitutional authority, local autonomy and the separation of powers.

Professor Emily Berman, with the University of Houston Law Center, says:

“The Trump administration’s attempt at a hostile takeover of the D.C. Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) displays two now-familiar hallmarks of the president’s frequent, unprecedented assertions of executive power: (1) it relies upon the declaration of an “emergency” that does not exist, and (2) it exceeds the statutory authority the president would possess in the case of a genuine emergency. It is therefore unsurprising that it has provoked pushback from local authorities reluctant to cede control of their city to the president.”

Berman is a constitutional law scholar with expertise in executive authority and national security and has been featured in The Washington Post and The New York Times. She can break down what’s at stake, the legal arguments in play, and how the outcome could ripple far beyond D.C.

You can read more about her here: [Emily Berman - Faculty - University of Houston Law Center](#)

If you are interested in interviewing Professor Berman, please contact Carrie Anna Criado, UH Law Center Assistant Dean of Communications and Marketing, 713-743-2184, cacriado@central.uh.edu or Rashda Khan, Communications Director, 325-656-2824, rkhan20@uh.edu.

About the University of Houston Law Center

The [University of Houston Law Center](#) (UHLC) is a dynamic, top-tier law school located in the nation’s 4th largest city. UHLC’s Health Law and Part-time programs rank in the U.S. News Top 10. It awards Doctor of Jurisprudence (J.D.) and Master of Laws (LL.M.) degrees, through its academic branch, the College of Law. The Law Center is more than just a law

school. It is a powerful hub of intellectual activity with more than 12 centers and institutes that fuel its educational mission and national reputation. UHLC is fully accredited by the American Bar Association and is a member of the Association of American Law Schools.

About the University of Houston

The [University of Houston](#) is a Carnegie-designated Tier One public research university recognized with a Phi Beta Kappa chapter for excellence in undergraduate education. UH serves the globally competitive Houston and Gulf Coast Region by providing world-class faculty, experiential learning and strategic industry partnerships. Located in the nation's fourth-largest city and one of the most ethnically and culturally diverse regions in the country, UH is a federally designated Hispanic- and Asian American-Serving institution with an enrollment of more than 47,000 students.