

David Abrams

David Abrams is one of the leading young economists working in empirical law and economics. He holds an AB in Physics from Harvard, an MS in Physics from Stanford and a PhD in Economics from MIT. He is a Professor of Law at the University of Pennsylvania Law School and a Professor of Business Economics and Public Policy in the Wharton School.

His work strives to understand and measure how individuals respond to incentives in various legal contexts. In his work on intellectual property law, he has investigated the expected impact of the America Invents Act, examined the effect of patent duration on innovation, and examined the relationship between patent citations and value. In his latest empirical work he has made use of unique data to help understand how NPEs work and what impact they have on innovation. He has also done substantial work in criminal justice, including investigating whether longer sentences deter crime, how defendant race impacts judicial decisions, to what extent attorney skill affects case outcomes, and how much individuals value freedom. His interests also include law and health economics, labor economics, and corporate finance. His work has appeared in top peer-reviewed journals and law reviews, including the Stanford Law Review, University of Chicago Law Review, University of Pennsylvania Law Review, American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, and Journal of Legal Studies.