

For Iowa. Forever More. Impact Stories
Sarah Seo, College of Law

Sarah Seo believes that teaching and research go hand in hand. She is a professor in the University of Iowa College of Law and a legal historian of criminal law and procedure in the 20th-century United States.

Her current research project is a book examining the history of the automobile as it relates to the Fourth Amendment. The mass production of the automobile at the turn of the century created urban disorder, and the state's power to regulate the social chaos of the automotive society increasingly encompassed a proactive, discretionary form of policing. Seo's book traces the implications of this shift in governance from 19th century self-regulation to 20th century policing through Fourth Amendment car search-and-seizure cases.

Thanks to a generous donation from UI graduates Bob and Jane Beach, Seo can travel to manuscript libraries that house some of the original source documents she needs to review for her book. The Beaches wanted to invest in junior UI law faculty who were pursuing long-term research projects.

"I would not be able to pursue my scholarship without their generosity," says Seo. "And because research and teaching go hand in hand, support for legal scholarship matters for legal education, too. My students often ask, 'Why is the law the way it is?', and that is essentially a history question."

Seo, who teaches criminal procedure and legal history, has received numerous fellowships in legal history and has practiced at an international law firm and as a pro bono lawyer. She received her A.B. and Ph.D degrees in history from Princeton University. After earning her law degree at Columbia Law School, she clerked for Judge Denny Chin, then of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, and for Judge Reena Raggi of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

The faculty award that Seo received from the Beaches is one of many such resources that generous alumni and friends created for the UI College of Law during *For Iowa. Forever More: the Campaign for the University of Iowa*.