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### **ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

Assistant Professor, Vanderbilt University, 2005 - present

### **EDUCATION**

Ph.D., Political Science, Georgia State University (August 2005)

M.A., Political Science, Georgia State University (December 2003)

J.D., Georgia State University, *cum laude* (June 1995)  
Class Rank: 13 out of 167

B.S., Management, Georgia Institute of Technology (December 1989)

### **PUBLICATIONS**

“The Supreme Court and Opinion Content: The Influence of Parties’ Briefs.” *Political Research Quarterly* (forthcoming).

“Bargaining and Accommodation on the United States Supreme Court: Insight from Justice Blackmun.” *Judicature* 90(4): 157-165 (January-February 2007)

“Avoiding Advice and Consent: Recess Appointments and Presidential Power.” *Presidential Studies Quarterly* 36(4): 670-680 (December 2006)

“The Supreme Court and Opinion Content: The Use of the Federalist Papers.” (with Robert M. Howard and David C. Nixon). *Political Research Quarterly* 58(2): 329-340 (June 2005).

“Original intent, doctrine of”; “*Tinker v. Des Moines School Dist.*” In Stephens and Scheb, *Encyclopedia of American Civil Rights and Liberties*. Greenwood Publishing (September 2006).

“Antonin Scalia”; “Rational Basis Scrutiny”; “Invidious Discrimination”; “Discrete and Insular Minority”; “*Lau v. Nichols*”; “*Franks v. Bowman*.” In James Beckman (ed.), *Affirmative Action Encyclopedia*. Orynx Press/Greenwood Publishing (June 2004).

## CONFERENCE PAPERS

“One eye over his shoulder on Congress: Recess Appointments and an Independent Judiciary.” (with Scott Graves and Robert Howard). Presented at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, Chicago, Illinois, September 2007.

“Chief Justice of the United States: Uniter or Divider?” (with Amy Steigerwalt and Artemus Ward). Presented at the International Conference on Law and Society in the 21<sup>st</sup> century: Joint Annual Meetings of the Law and Society Association and the Research Committee on Sociology of Law, Berlin, German, July 2007.

“Lower Court Responses to Supreme Court Plurality Opinions.” Presented at the annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, New Orleans, LA, January 2007.

“The Influence of Briefs on the Content of Supreme Court Opinions.” Presented at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, September 2006.

“The Impact of Concurring Opinions.” Presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, Illinois, April 2006.

“The Content of Concurrences.” Presented at the annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, Atlanta, Georgia, January 2006.

“The Impact of Dissensus.” Presented at the annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, New Orleans, Louisiana, January 2005.

“From Associate to Chief: Institutional Effects on Judicial Behavior.” Presented at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, Chicago, Illinois, September 2004.

“Concurring Opinion Writing on the Supreme Court.” Presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, Illinois, April 2004.

“Citing Precedent on the United State Supreme Court.” Presented at a poster session of the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, August 2003.

“Recess Appointments to Independent Agencies, 1977-2000: Necessity or Strategy?” Presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, Illinois, April 2003.

“The Supreme Court’s Use of the Federalist Papers: Brennan vs. Scalia.” Presented at the annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, Savannah, Georgia, November 2002.

“The Supreme Court and the Mysterious Emergence of the Federalist Papers.” (with Robert Howard and David Nixon). Presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, Illinois, April 2002.

## **OTHER CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION**

Chair and discussant at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, April 2007, Chicago, Illinois, on the panel “Federal Judicial Selection: Deaths, Departures, and New Blood.”

Discussant at the annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, January 2007, New Orleans, LA, on the panel “Decision Making in Federal Courts.”

Discussant at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, April 2006, Chicago, Illinois, on the panel “Determinants of Judicial Decision Making.”

Discussant at the annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, January 2006, Atlanta, Georgia, on the panel “Decision Making on the U.S. Supreme Court.”

## **RESEARCH IN PROGRESS**

“The Impact of Concurring Opinions” (under review).

“Uncertain Precedent: Circuit Court Responses to Supreme Court Plurality Opinions” (under review).

“Chief Justice of the United States: Uniter or Divider?” (with Amy Steigerwalt and Artemus Ward).

“Consensus-Building on the United States Supreme Court and the Role of the Chief Justice.” (with Amy Steigerwalt and Artemus Ward).

“One eye over his shoulder on Congress: Recess Appointments and an Independent Judiciary.” (with Scott Graves and Robert Howard).

*Concurring Opinion Writing on the United States Supreme Court* (book manuscript).

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

*Assistant Professor*, Vanderbilt University, Department of Political Science

Judicial Process (undergraduate and graduate)  
Law, Politics, and Justice  
Introduction to American Law  
Constitutional Law: Civil Liberties and Rights

*Instructor*, Georgia State University, Department of Political Science

Constitutional Law  
Civil Liberties and Rights  
Mock Trial  
Moot Court  
Introduction to American Law  
Judicial Process

## **RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

Georgia State University, Department of Political Science  
*Graduate Teaching Assistant*, Introduction to American Government, Fall Semester 2001  
*Graduate Research Assistant*, Professor Peter Lindsay, Spring Semester 2000

Georgia State University College of Law  
*Research Assistant*, Professor Stephen Wermiel, May 1993 to May 1995

Georgia Supreme Court  
*Judicial Clerk*, Fall Semester 1994

Long, Weinberg, Ansley & Wheeler  
*Litigation Associate*, September 1995 to February 1998  
Researched and drafted memoranda, trial and appellate briefs; drafted pleadings and discovery; deposed parties and witnesses; conducted oral arguments, including motions in limine and motions for summary judgment.

## **ACADEMIC HONORS**

Malcolm Jewel Award (Outstanding Graduate Student Paper at the 2005 Southern Political Science Association)  
Georgia State University Dissertation Grant (2004-2005)  
The Bascom Quillian Award for Graduate Research, Georgia State University, 2004 (Best Paper Presented at a Professional Conference)  
Law Review (Associate Notes & Comments Editor, 1994-1995)  
Outer Barristers Guild Award  
American Jurisprudence Award for Civil Procedure

## **SERVICE/MEMBERSHIP**

Reviewer for *Journal of Politics*, *American Politics Research*, *Political Behavior*, *American Journal of Political Science*, and *Law & Society Review*  
Reviewer for National Science Foundation  
Member, American Politics Faculty Search Committee, Vanderbilt University Department of Political Science, 2006-2007.  
Member, Undergraduate Studies Committee, Vanderbilt University Department of Political Science, 2006-present.  
Member, Speakers and Colloquia Committee, Vanderbilt University Department of Political Science, 2005-2006; 2007-present.  
Graduate Student Representative, Public Law Search Committee, Georgia State University, 2002-2003  
Pi Sigma Alpha, 2001-2005  
Public Interest Law Association  
Vice-President, 1993-1994  
Fellowship Review Committee, 1992-1994  
Member: American Political Science Association, Midwest Political Science Association, Southern Political Science Association, Law and Society Association