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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)

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

BOOK

Concurring Opinion Writing on the U.S. Supreme Court. State University of New York Press (SUNY series in American Constitutionalism) (Forthcoming May 2010).

JOURNAL ARTICLES

“Uncertain Precedent: Circuit Court Responses to Supreme Court Plurality Opinions.” *American Politics Research* 37: 30-49 (January 2009).

“The Supreme Court and Opinion Content: The Influence of Parties’ Briefs.” *Political Research Quarterly* 61(3): 468-478 (September 2008).

“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).

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Book Chapter. "Appellate Court Recess Appointments and Voting." In *Justice Takes a Recess: Judicial Recess Appointments from George Washington to George W. Bush*, Scott Graves and Robert M. Howard, authors, Lanham Md: Lexington Books/Rowman & Littlefield (2008).

Book review of *The Power of Precedent* by Michael J. Gerhardt. *The American Review of Politics* 29: 393-395 (2008).

"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).

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

"Lower Court Influence on U.S. Supreme Court Opinion Content" (with Paul M. Collins and Bryan Calvin (revise and resubmit).

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

"The Strategy of Judicial Review" (with Stefanie Lindquist) (under review).

"Extreme Dissensus: Explaining Plurality Decisions on the United States Supreme Court" (with Udi Sommer and Artemus Ward) (under review).

Deciding to Agree: Consensus on the United States Supreme Court (with Amy Steigerwalt and Artemus Ward) (book manuscript).

"The Puzzle of Unanimity: Explaining Consensual Decision-Making on the United States Supreme Court" (with Amy Steigerwalt and Artemus Ward).

"Recess Appointments and an Independent Judiciary." (with Scott Graves and Robert Howard).

"The Influence of Parties on the Supreme Court's Use of Precedent."

"Honeymoon on the Court? Chief Justices and Consensus Building on the Supreme Court" (with Amy Steigerwalt and Artemus Ward).

CONFERENCE PAPERS

"The Strategy of Judicial Review" (with Stefanie A. Lindquist). Invited conference on Building Theory through Empirical Legal Studies, University of California, Berkeley, Center for the Study of Law and Society, April 2009.

“Lower Court Influence on U.S. Supreme Court Opinion Content” (with Paul M. Collins and Bryan Calvin). Presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, April 2009.

“To Agree or Disagree: Explaining Consensus and Separate Opinion Writing on the United States Supreme Court” (with Amy Steigerwalt and Artemus Ward). Presented at the annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, January 2009.

“The Puzzle of Unanimity: Explaining Consensual Behavior on the Supreme Court” (with Amy Steigerwalt and Artemus Ward). Presented at the annual Conference on Empirical Legal Studies, Ithaca, New York, September 2008.

“The Influence of Parties’ Briefs on the Supreme Court’s Use of Precedent.” Presented at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, Boston, Massachusetts, August 2008.

“Deciding to Agree: Explaining Consensual Behavior on the United States Supreme Court” (with Amy Steigerwalt and Artemus Ward). Presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, Illinois, April 2008.

“An Independent Judiciary? Separation of Powers and Recess Appointments” (with Scott Graves and Robert Howard). Presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, Illinois, April 2008.

“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 21st century: Joint Annual Meetings of the Law and Society Association and the Research Committee on Sociology of Law, Berlin, Germany, 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 2009, Chicago, Illinois, on the panel “Media and the Courts.”

Discussant at the annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, January 2009, New Orleans, LA, on the panel “Courts and Policy Implementation.”

Discussant at the annual Conference on Empirical Legal Studies, September 2008, Ithaca, NY, on the Courts and Judges panel.

Discussant at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, August 2008, Boston, MA, on the panel “Parties and Interests in the Courts.”

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.”

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
The Supreme Court: First Year Writing Seminar

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

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Research Scholar Fellowship, 2008-2009

Artinian Travel Award from the Southern Political Science Association, 2008.

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 *American Political Science Review*, *Journal of Politics*, *American Politics Research*, *Political Behavior*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *Justice System Journal*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, and *Law & Society Review*

Reviewer for National Science Foundation

Faculty VUceptor, Fall 2009

Faculty Advisor, Phi Alpha Delta, 2009-Present

Member, American Politics Faculty Search Committee, Vanderbilt University
Department of Political Science, 2006-2007

Member, Undergraduate Studies Committee, Vanderbilt University Department of
Political Science, 2006-2008; 2009-Present

Member, Speakers and Colloquia Committee, Vanderbilt University Department of
Political Science, 2005-2006; 2007-2008

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