

# LAW & COURTS NEWSLETTER

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NEWSLETTER OF THE LAW & COURTS SECTION

AMERICAN POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION

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## Note from Section Chair

PAMELA CORLEY, SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY

Thank you all very much for the opportunity to serve as your section chair. I am appreciative of all the members who have provided assistance throughout the year. I want to thank all of those members who agreed to chair and serve on award committees and congratulations to the winners. I hope many of you will be at APSA to receive your award in person.

I also want to thank the current executive committee (Todd Collins, Western Carolina University; Michael Fix, Georgia State University; Taneisha Means, Vassar College; Whitney Taylor, San Francisco State University; and Richard Vining, University of Georgia) along with Michael Nelson (Pennsylvania State University) and Susan Johnson (UNC–Greensboro) for all of their help this past year. And thank you to Tom Clark (University of Chicago, beginning Fall 2024) for his continued work as Editor of the *Journal of Law and Courts* and to Jolly Emrey (University of Wisconsin–Whitewater) and Monica Lineberger (University of Wisconsin–Whitewater) for their work as Editors of the *Law & Politics Book Review*. Finally, thank you to Alyx Mark (Wesleyan University), Jennifer Bowie (University of Richmond), Jason Pierceson (University of Illinois, Springfield), and Joanna Wuest (Mount Holyoke College) for their invaluable efforts in organizing the panels for this conference.

I wish to extend my gratitude to the following people in advance for their service to the section:

- JB Duck-Mayr (University of Texas at Austin) and Rachael Houston (Texas Christian University), who have joined the website team. They will be joining Shane Gleason (Trinity College, beginning Fall 2024) and Allison Trocheset (National Center for State Courts).
- Maureen Stobb (Georgia Southern University), who will be the new Editor of the *Law and Courts Newsletter*.
- Matthew Baker (Emory University), Adam Rutkowski (Troy University), and Alison Merrill (Susquehanna University), who are the new listserv moderators.
- Renee Cramer (Dickinson College), who is currently the Chair-Elect and will be Chair of the Section this next year.
- Rebecca Gill (University of Nevada, Las Vegas), Matthew Montgomery (Texas Christian University), Stephan Stohler (Syracuse University), and Anthony Grasso (Rutgers University), who are the Division Chairs for next year's APSA.

Finally I want to express my sincere thanks to the following people who have stepped down from their current positions: David Hughes (Auburn University at Montgomery) for all of his hard work on the website team; our current *Newsletter* Editor, Daniel Lempert (SUNY Potsdam), for his hard work

and dedication; and the past listserv moderators: Todd Curry (University of Texas at El Paso), Michael Fix (Georgia State University), Gbemende Johnson (University of Georgia), and Michael Romano (Shenandoah University).

I hope everyone is having a wonderful summer and I look forward to seeing many of you in person in Philadelphia.

## Note from Editor

DANIEL LEMPert, SUNY POTSDAM

I am happy to present Volume 34, Issue 1 of *Law & Courts Newsletter*. This issue features an article by Bert Kritzer updating, with new data, research about how varieties of popular judicial selection affect election roll-off rates (i.e., the percentage of voters who fail to vote on a judicial candidate while registering a choice for some other office).

The Better Get To Know feature includes Ryan Black's interviews with Ali Massood, Rebecca Reid, and Jessica Schoenherr. And as usual, books covering a wide swath of our subfield are introduced in the Books to Watch For section; I would like to note in particular the new edition of *Open Judicial Politics*, which includes several chapters authored by members of the *Newsletter* editorial board—and, of course, other members of our section as well! We've also published the impressive list of Section award winners, who will be honored this fall in Philadelphia; thanks to the selection committees for their work and congratulations to the honorees!

I would like to thank the *Newsletter* editorial board for their counsel and assistance over the past three years; they have been a pleasure to work with, as have the Section leaders and the scholars who have submitted their work. During the last few months, I have been working on the *Newsletter*'s editorial transition with the incoming editor of the *Newsletter*, Maureen Stobb, and I am confident this outlet will be in great hands. Please note the Call for Submissions on page 27, updated by Maureen to include a symposium on a classic article by Robert Dahl.

I am glad that, over the last three years, we were able to achieve many of the goals I described when I applied to edit the *Newsletter*. The peer review of submissions by the board members was a particularly big change, and I am happy that it has gone as well as it has. Additional appreciation to those members of the board who volunteered to review submissions over the past year: Nancy Arrington, Eileen Braman, Cyril Ghosh, and Matt Hitt. In closing, I wish the Section continued luck fulfilling its important mission of producing and disseminating knowledge about law and courts—and thank you for reading!

Happy summer to my fellow law and courtiers! Thanks for tuning into the 12th installment of this humble little column. As a reward, I'm delighted to offer three interviews in this issue instead of two—take that, shrinkflation! You might also notice a new question nestled in among my standard script. Earlier this spring I saw that the *NYT*'s Adam Liptak had provided some answers to what was in his “cultural queue.” I liked the idea, so I stole it. Hope you enjoy. Many thanks to Ali, Rebecca, and Jessica for being so generous with their time during the end of the Spring '24 semester! As always, please reach out with any comments or suggestions ([rcblack@msu.edu](mailto:rcblack@msu.edu)). –Ryan Black.

## **Better Get to Know: Ali Masood**

INTERVIEW BY: RYAN BLACK, MICHIGAN STATE

Ali Masood ([website](#)) is Assistant Professor of Politics at Oberlin College and Conservatory. He earned his PhD in Political Science from the University of South Carolina in 2016.

**Tell me a little about your background and how you got to where you are today.**

My path to judicial politics is somewhat unusual. I was born in Lahore, Pakistan. I spent my early years living in Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. My parents did not graduate from college, but they valued education. I moved to the U.S. as a teenager to have a better opportunity to pursue a quality education. Shortly after legally immigrating to the U.S., the September 11th attack happened. I was detained by the Department of Homeland Security as a high school student. More consequentially, my immigration status was changed, and I was placed in deportation proceedings repeatedly. I spent nearly two decades contesting and eventually succeeding with various mandamus petitions to restore my status. I finally became a U.S. citizen in 2022. The silver lining in all of this is that it introduced me to the federal courts. My initial plan was to become a lawyer. While preparing for law school, I was fortunate to cross paths with Ryan Carlin and Bob Howard who introduced me to Political Science. Amy Steigerwalt suggested that I go study with Don Songer and Kirk Randazzo. The rest is (very recent) history. My first job was at California State University, Fresno. From there, I went to Rhodes College and am now at Oberlin.

**If you weren't a political scientist, what would you be instead?**

If I weren't a political scientist, I probably would have been a lawyer. If I could no longer be a political scientist and had to choose, I would still pick a career in academia in either computer science, data science, or neuroscience.

**What are you working on now?**

I am currently working on a couple of papers on the fragility of public evaluations of the Court with Chris Krewson. I am also working on a project on how gender, race, and affective animus shapes public perceptions of judicial

outcomes and the rule of law with Josh Boston. Another project explores how elite partisan cues shape public support for legal institutions with Ryan Strickler and Mike Zilis. I am spending most of my time these days on a book project on ideological polarization on the Roberts Court with Benjamin Kassow and Natalie Smith. I am also continuing my work on decision making in comparative courts with Jennifer Bowie.

**Best book on your office shelves people may be surprised by?**

I have signed copies of three of Justice Stephen Breyer's books from his visit. I don't think they have any value, but it's nice to have. Larry Baum's *The Puzzle of Judicial Behavior* and Bartels and Johnston's *Curbing the Court: Why the Public Constraints Judicial Independence* are two of my favorite examples of good writing.

**What's some good work other than your own that you've read recently and would recommend?**

I really like the projects on descriptive characteristics and public support for judicial nominees by Jaclyn Kaslovsky, Albert Rivero, and Andy Stone. Alex Badas and Katelyn Stauffer's work on this topic is also great. Miles Armaly's work on polarization and public support is excellent. Mike Zilis and Justin Wedeking are doing very innovative work with their new media landscape project.

**What's your workspace setup like?**

I try to keep my workspace organized and clutter free. I have two ultrawide monitors. The wider screen is on an extendable monitor arm, which allows me to stand. I have a vertical mouse, which I highly recommend. Lamps, plants, and a coffee table with a sitting area make the workspace feel cozy.

**What apps, software, or tools can't you live without?**

Slack, Overleaf, Fantastical, R and Stata.

**What do you listen to while you work?**

I mainly listen to classical, instrumental, and "productivity" music when working.

**Favorite research and teaching hacks?**

I try to make it a priority to go to as many conferences as possible. Seeing good research and talking to others about their work is exciting, and I always come back motivated. Another thing that works well is that I prepare a to-do list for the next day before leaving the office.

**How do you recharge? What do you do when you want to forget about work?**

Spending time with family.

**What's in your "culture queue" that you'd like to recommend to our readers?**

Book: *Midaq Alley* by Naguib Mahfouz.

Comedy: *Curb Your Enthusiasm*.

Documentary: *Jiro Dreams of Sushi*.

Movie: *Everest*.

Podcast: Steven Bartlett's *The Diary of a CEO*.

**What everyday thing are you better at than everyone else? What's your secret?**

I speak multiple languages having lived in different places. I usually write my notes in Urdu during faculty meetings.

**What's your biggest struggle in being a faculty member? How do you try to address it?**

Overcommitting and saying yes to too many things. The plan to address it is solid in theory: under-commit and say yes to fewer things.

**What's the best advice you ever received?**

Let it roll off your back. And be kind.

**What's the greatest idea you've had that you don't want to do yourself?**

This came up during a panel at the last conference. We really need a continuous, non-dichotomous measure for decision direction of Supreme Court outcomes. Happy to nominate Doug Rice to do this on behalf of the section.

**Which junior and senior persons would you like to see answer these same questions?**

Junior: Kayla Canelo and Amna Salam.

Senior: Amanda Driscoll and Eileen Braman.

## Better Get to Know: Rebecca Reid

INTERVIEW BY: RYAN BLACK, MICHIGAN STATE

Rebecca Reid ([website](#)) is Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) and a Patti and Paul Yetter Center for Law Research Fellow. She earned her PhD in political science from the University of South Carolina in 2015.

**Tell me a little about your background and how you got to where you are today.**

When I started my PhD program, my only exposure to political science was my Government major, so I was thrilled to discover that people study politics through scientific methodology. I had gone into political science because it was the one discipline that I could have the most flexibility and autonomy in my broad research interests (psychology, history, communication, social behavior, rights, law, religion, . . .). Imagine my excitement as I learned my first semester that I could blend my interest in political science/government with my background in science and math! Of course, this was old news to everyone else. Everyone else also knew that judicial politics was a field, so I felt very much like an imposter who needed to catch up.

Luckily for me, Donald Songer and Kirk Randazzo took me under their wings. I got early opportunities to work as a research assistant, present at conferences, and coauthor. I think this early start, along with mentorship and guidance they provided was pivotal. They were always there for me, made space for me, and demonstrated extreme patience as I manically showed them my 3:00 am-drawn diagrams that explained legal norm diffusion and offered research paper ideas that were always too big (that should be a book or one's lifelong work). Their mentorship, accompanied by the support of several other mentors, peers, friends, and family, was critical to where I am.

**If you weren't a political scientist, what would you be instead?**

Maybe a *National Geographic* journalist, dermatologist, or rights/environmental advocate. When I was younger, I considered becoming a marine biologist, but still just about anything that deals with rights, plants, animals, rocks, outdoors, and/or traveling.

**What are you working on now?**

I'm currently working on a NSF grant-funded project on Indigenous Peoples before United States courts (with Todd Curry and Mark Hurwitz). We're looking at whether familiarity with federal Indian law and indigenous issues improves the likelihood of Indigenous litigant success, as well as examining how political, social, institutional, and economic factors influence case outcomes. I am also working on several papers on the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, including jurisdiction grants, compliance, extrajudicial communication, and indigenous rights. I'm also working on a paper with Melissa Baker and Gaspare Genna on how court rulings impact trust and support

for police and police reform, and a project with Michael Romano on judicial independence and democratization.

**Best book on your office shelves people may be surprised by?**

I'm not sure people are surprised by what's on my shelves—usually if they are surprised then it's by the number of books.

**What's some good work other than your own that you've read recently and would recommend?**

There is so much amazing work! (Actually, I need you all to pause because I need to catch up on reading everything.) I've recently been enjoying the work by Anna Gunderson, Joshua Boston, M.P. Broache, Audrey Comstock, Kelebogile Zvobgo, Rachel Schoner, Hana Attia, and Rosalind Dixon.

**What's your workspace setup like?**

I do everything on my laptop. My office has a desk, printer, bookshelves, and mini fridge but has lots of plants and some art. I prefer a comfortable, welcoming, peaceful workspace rather than a “professional” sterile one. On top of my fridge, I have a coffee maker and tea kettle.

**What apps, software, or tools can't you live without?**

I don't think there are any I can't live without. I'm old school. I do references manually, and I use a planner to write down my to-do lists and calendar. Otherwise, everything is basic work requirements (like Word, Stata, Excel, Blackboard, Zoom).

**What do you listen to while you work?**

I don't listen to anything when I work since I find it really distracting.

**Favorite research and teaching hacks?**

I don't have any hacks. I think having your own workflow and being aware of your work process and individual goals are important. For example, I cannot write a certain number of words a day (much less at 4 am), because a) I stare at the screen and there are no words, b) any words generated are angry, awful, and useless (I'm not a morning person), and c) I become homicidal and moody and depressed. My writing process is most efficient when I have large chunks of uninterrupted time. While there may be time management or productivity hacks, I think there aren't really “hacks” to quality teaching and research, which require lots of intention, learning, practicing, reflecting, and revising.

**How do you recharge? What do you do when you want to forget about work?**

To recharge, I usually read a book (non-work related), watch a movie, go to the gym or for a run, spend time with friends and family (including my two dogs, two cats, and rabbit), garden, go hiking or be outside, or go to concerts/events. If I can travel, camp, or kayak, then even better.

**What's in your “culture queue” that you'd like to recommend to our readers?**

For books, I recently enjoyed *Outlive* (by Peter Attia), *Atomic Habits*



(by James Clear), and *Glucose Revolution* (by Jessie Inchaup s ). I'd recommend *American Gods* (by Neil Gaiman), *The Hidden Life of Trees* (by Peter Wohlleben)—lots of book recommendations actually. I've been enjoying listening to Bad Omens as well as my perennial favorites: Tool, Deftones, A Perfect Circle, Lacuna Coil, Chevelle, etc. I suppose I have to give a shout out to the show *Wednesday* (Netflix).

**What everyday thing are you better at than everyone else? What's your secret?**

Making deadpan jokes that only a small percentage of people can hear / understand / find entertaining. My secret is weirdness.

**What's your biggest struggle in being a faculty member? How do you try to address it?**

Protecting my peace and my time. There is always more work to do. I struggle with being overcommitted. I struggle balancing my desire and efforts to improve things while recognizing that the "institution will never love you" and can be exploitative.

**What's the best advice you ever received?**

I've received and read a lot of great, insightful advice. However, every time I'm asked this, my mind goes directly to what Kirk would always advise: "Don't suck."

**What's the greatest idea you've had that you don't want to do yourself?**

I would love a network analysis looking at transnational judicial networks (conferences, communication/lectures/trainings, and citations).

**Is there anything else you'd like to add that might be interesting to readers?**

I'm learning H nah nu, but losing my Arabic; if anyone is looking for an partner to practice Arabic let me know!

**Which junior and senior persons would you like to see answer these same questions?**

I'd love to see Elise Blasingame, Susan Achury, Gbemende Johnson, and Amanda Driscoll answer these questions.

## Better Get to Know: Jessica Schoenherr

INTERVIEW BY: RYAN BLACK, MICHIGAN STATE

Jessica Schoenherr ([website](#)) is Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of South Carolina. She earned her PhD in Political Science from Michigan State University in 2020.

**Tell me a little about your background and how you got to where you are today.**

I wasn't always a Courts person! I wanted to study the presidency originally, but I thankfully got persuaded that Law and Courts was the way to go. I went to Michigan State University for undergrad and for my Ph.D. (Go Green!), and then I got a job at the University of South Carolina, where I've been an assistant professor for the last four years (Go Cocks!).

**If you weren't a political scientist, what would you be instead?**

I wanted to be a carpenter like my dad when I was little and I still like working with my hands, so probably that!

**What are you working on now?**

Jonathan King and I got an NSF grant to digitize and study Justice John Paul Stevens' papers, so we just spent a week in D.C. combing through his memos, opinion drafts, and notes to the other justices to get an idea of how judicial collegiality operates. That's a really big and daunting but fun project! Added bonus that we learned both Ginsburg and Souter enjoy communicating in puns.

I'm also working on a really cool paper with Elizabeth Lane about how attorneys appeal to the justices by citing their more obscure opinions, including concurrences and dissents. We've been working on this paper since grad school, so we are really excited to finally get it done and out.

**Best book on your office shelves people may be surprised by?**

*Billion Dollar Loser: The Epic Rise and Spectacular Fall of Adam Neuman and WeWork* by Reeves Wiedeman. I like reading about businesses that fail.

**What's some good work other than your own that you've read recently and would recommend?**

I really love the new Boyd, Collins, and Ringhand book on how nominee gender and race affect Supreme Court confirmation hearing dynamics, so strong recommend there, and I'm also a huge fan of Corley, Steigerwalt, and Ward's new book on dissents. Paper-wise, two of my current/former colleagues, Cody Drolc and Kelsey Shoub, have a really interesting *Policy Studies Journal* article about how communities respond to police killings that is definitely worth a read, and Phil Chen and Amanda Savage have a forthcoming *PRQ* piece about legitimacy and descriptive representation that is so, so good.

**What's your workspace setup like?**

On campus, I have a pretty simple setup—widescreen monitor and standing desk. At home, I like to work on my MacBook on my porch (definite benefit of living in South Carolina!).

**What apps, software, or tools can't you live without?**

I bought a Kindle Scribe about a year ago and I'm an absolute convert to digital notes now. It's so useful to have all my reading and notes in one place!

I also really love Timeular, which is a time-tracking app. It helps me stay on task and see where my time is going (research is happy jewel tones, meetings are sad brown), and it also lets me know when to take breaks and stop working for the week.

**What do you listen to while you work?**

Depends on the task. If I'm doing course prep, grading, reading, or answering emails, it's a pretty constant stream of early 2000s emo and rock because my music tastes never aged. If I'm working with data, it's podcasts and audiobooks. And if I'm writing, I listen to an unconscionable amount of Britney Spears and Ellie Goulding.

**Favorite research and teaching hacks?**

Research hack: Find good coauthors! It makes the job so much easier, better, and more fun.

Teaching hack: Fake it until you make it when it comes to feeling confident in front of students.

**How do you recharge? What do you do when you want to forget about work?**

I like to run, so I do that a lot to just reset my body and my brain. I watch a lot of hockey, and that lets me focus my brain on something other than work. I also spend a lot of time with my husband and our dogs, and they force me to be a human and leave work at work.

**What's in your "culture queue" that you'd like to recommend to our readers?**

Two TV shows: *Hacks* on HBO Max and *The Bear* on Hulu. One book: *Choosing to Run* by Des Linden. One podcast: *Maintenance Phase*. One Twitter/X account: @ArtButSports.

**What everyday thing are you better at than everyone else? What's your secret?**

I can fix things. When stuff breaks in our house, I'm the first line of defense, and I normally get it working again.

**What's your biggest struggle in being a faculty member? How do you try to address it?**

I'm a people pleaser and a team player, so I really struggle with telling people "no" when it comes to requests to do extra service. I've gotten a lot better about taking a day to think about requests before answering, or asking

for reductions elsewhere so that I'm not giving too much time to things that are not helping me get tenure.

**What's the best advice you ever received?**

"Onward." Don't dwell on it, don't think about it too hard, don't get lost in it, don't celebrate it too long, just keep going.

**What's the greatest idea you've had that you don't want to do yourself?**

Judicial narcissism index! Cory Smidt tossed this idea around when I took the American ProSeminar in graduate school and I still love it, I just have no idea how to do it.

**Is there anything else you'd like to add that might be interesting to readers?**

I won Game Show Friday on a hockey podcast once, it was really cool!

**Which junior and senior persons would you like to see answer these same questions?**

Chris Krewson and Paul Collins.

# Roll-Off In State Supreme Court Elections: A Brief Update

HERBERT M. KRITZER,  
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA AND UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

In an article published in 2016, I examined whether the difference between roll-off in contested state supreme court (SSC) elections in partisan versus nonpartisan elections could be explained in part by the presence of a straight-ticket voting option (Kritzer 2016).<sup>1</sup> In this short note, I provide an update drawing on recent changes to the availability of a straight-ticket voting option and switches between partisan and nonpartisan elections.

The straight-ticket voting option (STVO) allows a voter to cast a vote for all candidates of a political party by marking a single box on a paper ballot or on a direct recording electronic voting system.<sup>2</sup> STVO has a long history, appearing shortly after the adoption of official, preprinted ballots, often labeled the “Australian ballot,” that were cast by voters in a way that the individual’s vote decisions were secret. Starting 1888, states quickly adopted various forms of the Australian ballot, and by 1893 it had been adopted in all Nonsouth states (Ware 2002, 32).<sup>3</sup> By 1900 over 20 states had adopted STVO. STVO peaked in the 1970s when about half the states provided for STVO on the ballot (Engstrom and Roberts 2020, 32). Since that time, many states discontinued STVO, and as of 2023 it was available in only seven states.<sup>4</sup>

The hypothesis that I tested in my 2016 article was that STVO would decrease roll-off in states using partisan ballots and increase it in states using nonpartisan or retention ballots. My analysis was an extension of work done by Bonneau and Loepp (2014), both timewise and by the inclusion of retention elections. I concluded that STVO did not help explain differences in roll-off patterns in partisan SSC elections, but did increase roll-off in states using nonpartisan or retention ballots.<sup>5</sup> As had prior research, I did find that roll-

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<sup>1</sup>For purposes of my analysis, I defined “contested” in partisan elections to include only elections involving candidates from both the Republican and Democratic Parties; I omit from the analysis elections involving a candidate from only one of these parties plus candidates from minor one or more minor parties (i.e., Libertarian, Green, etc.).

<sup>2</sup>With mechanical voting machines that are no longer in use, voters could pull a single lever if STVO was offered and with punch card ballots, a single punch could cast a straight-ticket.

<sup>3</sup>See Fredman (1967) for a detailed history of some of the initial adoptions of the Australian ballot in the United States.

<sup>4</sup>Alabama, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Nevada, Oklahoma and South Carolina; see <https://www.ncsl.org/elections-and-campaigns/-straight-ticket-voting>, accessed June 4, 2024. Because SSC justices in South Carolina are elected by the legislature, only six states using some form of popular election for SSC justices offered STVO as of 2022.

<sup>5</sup>This was also largely true for contested intermediate appellate (IAC) court and trial court elections, although the presence of STVO did significantly increase roll-off in contested nonpartisan IAC elections and significantly decreased roll-off in the small number of contested partisan trial court elections for which I had data (Kritzer 2016, 429–32).

off was least in partisan elections and greatest in retention elections, although by 2014 the difference between nonpartisan elections and retention elections had decreased to the point that it was negligible or possibly nonexistent. In this brief note, I extend the period covered in the simple description of roll-off patterns from 2014 to 2022 and take advantage of changes in several states post-2012 to examine further both the impact of STVO on roll-off and the difference in roll-off across the ballot types.<sup>6</sup> I also examine the impact of North Carolina’s switching back to partisan elections and Ohio’s switch from a semi-partisan system (nomination in party primaries with nonpartisan ballots in the general election) to a fully partisan system for the state’s appellate judges. Table 1 lists the changes that occurred between 2014 and 2022. As the table shows, the types of changes were (1) dropping STVO, (2) reinstating STVO, (3) changing from partisan to nonpartisan ballots, and (4) changing from nonpartisan to partisan ballots.

	Year Change Took Effect	Change to General Election Ballot	Number of Elections Post-Change	Current Type of Election
Indiana	2016	End STVO	2	Retention
Iowa	2018	End STVO	6	Retention
Michigan*	2016	End STVO	2	Nonpartisan
Michigan*	2020	Reinstate STVO	0	Nonpartisan
North Carolina	2014	End STVO	7**	Partisan
North Carolina	2018	Nonpartisan to Partisan	6**	Partisan
Ohio	2022	Nonpartisan to Partisan	3	Partisan
Texas	2020	End STVO	12	Partisan
Utah	2020	End STVO	2	Retention
West Virginia	2015	End SVTO	6***	Nonpartisan
West Virginia	2016	Partisan to Nonpartisan	6***	Nonpartisan

**Table 1.** Changes to State Supreme Court Elections, 2014–2022. \*Plurality-at-large elections excluded; see text box. \*\*One fewer election is included in the analysis because roll-off could not be computed due to the absence of other major statewide elections in 2018. \*\*\*Effectively STVO and partisan ballots were eliminated at the same time; the elimination of partisan ballots also moved the normal time for judicial elections to the spring.

<sup>6</sup>I obtained information on states changing their use of STVO from <https://www.ncsl.org/elections-and-campaigns/-straight-ticket-voting>, accessed February 1, 2024.

### Plurality-at-Large Elections

When there are multiple positions at stake in most states using partisan or nonpartisan supreme court elections, candidates run for specific positions. Plurality-at-large elections occur when two or more positions are to be elected with all candidates for the multiple positions listed together, voters can vote for up to the number of positions to be elected, and the top number of candidates corresponding to the number of positions win the positions. One might compute roll-off in plurality-at-large elections by taking the total votes and dividing by the number of seats to be elected; however, any roll-off so computed could partly reflect voters not realizing that they could cast multiple votes. Consequently, I chose to exclude those elections from my analysis.

There have been six supreme court elections in West Virginia since the change to nonpartisan elections which included a shift of the normal election time to the spring and the elimination of STVO, four elections in the spring plus two two special elections in November. I also could not include the six positions elected in Michigan between 2016 and 2022 that used the plurality-at-large format (two seats in 2018, 2020, and 2022), leaving only two elections in Michigan during the period when STVO was not offered and none since STVO was reinstated.<sup>7</sup> Thus, I limit most of the analysis that follows to Texas, Iowa, North Carolina, and Ohio because only those states have more than two November elections post-change. Also note that I included only elections coinciding with a major statewide election (President, Governor, or U.S. Senator) against which I could compute a roll-off figure occurring at the same time; this requirement excluded two 2018 supreme court elections in North Carolina, where gubernatorial elections occur in the same year as presidential elections.

### Impact of Ballot Change

#### *Texas*

The elimination of STVO in Texas by the Republican-controlled state legislature effective in 2020 came in the wake of defeats of Republican judges in some urban counties and appellate districts where top-of-ticket Democratic candidates defeated their Republican opponents. In some cases, those elections swept large numbers of Republican judges out of office. The average roll-off in the 12 post-STVO elections for the Texas Supreme Court or the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, the final court for criminal cases in Texas (together abbreviated as “TXSC”), in 2020 and 2022 was 3.2 percent.

<sup>7</sup>The only other state currently using the plurality-at-large format for supreme court elections is Pennsylvania, and those elections are all held in odd-numbered years.

Did roll-off increase as a result of the elimination of STVO? For purposes of comparison, I limit the STVO period in Texas to 2010 through 2018; I do this because roll-off in TXSC had been declining prior to 2018, and if I extend the period even 10 years, the average roll-off was marginally higher with STVO than without (4.0 percent). For the period 2010 through 2018, the average roll-off in the 21 two-party elections was only slightly lower than during the post-STVO period, 2.7 percent; a one-tailed t-test of the hypothesis that STVO reduced roll-off produces a t-statistic with a p-level of 0.08 ( $t = 1.43$ , 31 degrees of freedom), suggesting that although ending STVO may have stopped the trend of declining roll-off with STVO, roll-off immediately before and after the end of STVO did not differ to a statistically discernible degree.

### *Iowa*

Iowa is a Missouri Plan state. The hypothesized impact of STVO on retention elections is that it will increase roll-off. Hence, one would expect roll-off to decline in Iowa starting with the 2018 election. For purposes of comparison, I extended the STVO period back only to 2000, during which there were 20 retention elections for the Iowa Supreme Court. Roll-off did drop starting in 2018, from an average of 31.5 percent to 29.9 percent, a change that does not come close to meeting the criteria for statistical significance ( $t = 0.41$ ,  $p = .3450$ , one-tailed).

Years contrasted	Roll-off with STVO	Roll-off without STVO	t-test
2000-16 vs 2016-22	31.5%	29.9%	$t = 0.404$
	(20)	(6)	( $p = .3450$ )
2000-16 vs 2018-22, without 2010	34.9%	29.9%	$t = 2.026$
	(17)	(6)	( $p = .0278$ )
2012-16 vs 2018-22	28.7%	29.9%	$t = -.0712$
	(7)	(6)	( $p = .7542$ )
2012-16 vs 2018-22, omitting one 2012 election	29.9%	29.9%	$t = 0.065$
	(6)	(6)	( $p = .4747$ )

**Table 2.** Roll-off Patterns in Iowa, 2000–2022.

However, there is a complication, and that is the 2010 election that resulted in the defeat of three justices in the wake of the Iowa Supreme Court’s 2009 unanimous decision permitting same-sex marriage;<sup>8</sup> the average roll-off across those three elections was 12.3 percent. If one omits those three elections, the average roll-off with STVO rises to 34.9 percent, producing a t statistic of 2.02 ( $p = .0278$ , one-tailed), suggesting that eliminating STVO did decrease roll-off. The problem with this conclusion is that in the seven elections between 2012 and 2016 when STVO was still in effect, the average roll-off was 28.7 percent, slightly lower than after the elimination of STVO. If I drop the 2012

<sup>8</sup> *Varnum v. Brien*, 763 N.W.2d 862 (Iowa 2009).



retention election involving one of the justices who participated in the same-sex marriage decision, the average roll-off post that decision was 29.9 percent with and without STVO. Thus, one must conclude that dropping STVO in Iowa did not have the hypothesized effect on roll-off.

### *North Carolina*

North Carolina ended STVO effective with the 2014 election but also switched to partisan elections effective in 2018, having previously switched to nonpartisan elections starting in 2004 (Kritzer 2020, 42–55). For my analysis, I look at elections between 1996 and 2022. Table 3 shows the patterns of roll-off controlling for type of election and the presence of STVO. As the table shows, STVO did not have the expected effect on partisan elections, although this may in part be a simple reflection of decreased roll-off due to the polarization in North Carolina politics. STVO did have the expected effect, increasing roll-off, for nonpartisan elections. Roll-off in nonpartisan elections was greater than in partisan elections with or without STVO.

	STVO	No STVO	t-test STVO vs. No STVO
Partisan	6.34 (8)	1.85 (5)	[wrong direction]
Nonpartisan	26.4 (5)	15.5 (6)	$t = 4.931$ ( $p < .001$ )
t-test, Partisan v. Nonpartisan	$t = 5.875$ ( $p < .001$ )	$t = 19.579$ ( $p < .001$ )	

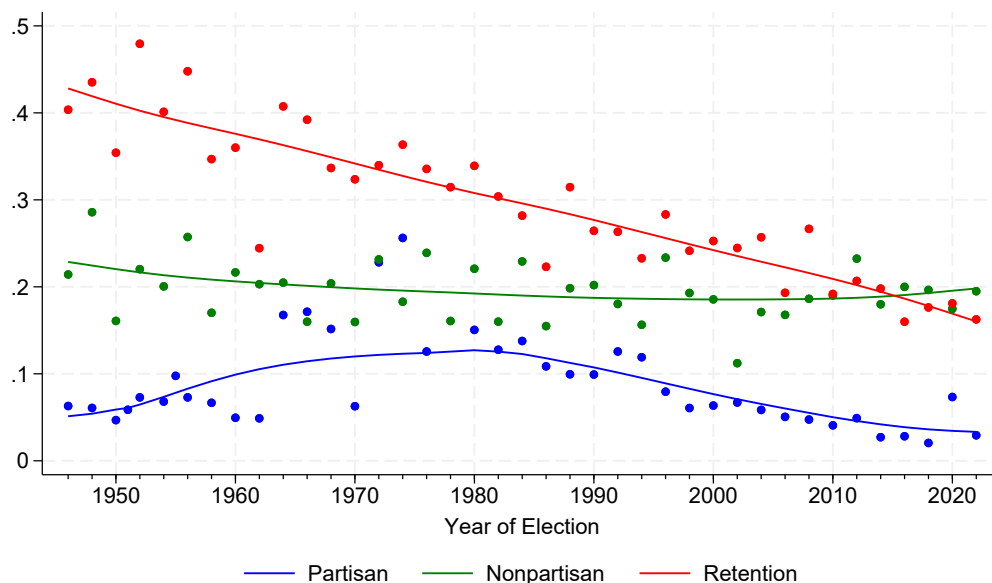
**Table 3.** Patterns of Roll-Off in North Carolina, 1996–2022

### *Ohio*

In 2021 the Republican-controlled governor and legislature ended the semi-partisan system for electing appellate judges that had existed for over 100 years. Rather than nomination through party primaries and nonpartisan general elections, starting in 2022 Ohio appellate elections became entirely partisan. Roll-off in the three 2022 Ohio Supreme Court elections fell to less than 1 percent compared to 18.5 percent in the four elections in 2018 and 2020 or 20.9 percent in the 13 elections between 2010 and 2020; p-values for t-tests comparing 2022 to the two periods (17.742 and 15.511) are less than .001 even with degrees of freedom (unequal variances assumed) of only 3.1 and 12.3.

## Disappearing Gap in Roll-Off between Nonpartisan and Retention Elections

In my 2016 article I observed that although roll-off in contested nonpartisan elections had been relatively steady, roll-off had been declining in retention elections. Figure 1 extends the comparable figure in the article (Kritzer 2016, 425) through 2022. While the earlier figure showed loess lines for the retention and nonpartisan elections just barely crossing in 2014, that crossover is much clearer with the two lines extended through 2022.



**Figure 1.** Average Roll-Off by Election Type and Year, 1946–2022

In fact, since 2010, the average roll-off in five of seven election years was lower in retention elections than in contested nonpartisan elections. In the two election years with a higher average roll-off in nonpartisan elections (2014 and 2020), the gap in the averages was less than one percentage point. During that period the average roll-off in the 69 contested nonpartisan state supreme court elections was 19.1 percent versus 18.3 percent in the 189 state supreme court retention elections ( $t = 1.393$ , two-sided  $p = .1649$ ). Prior to 2010, the average roll-off in retention elections was lower than the average in contested nonpartisan elections in only two years, 1994 and 1996. Looking at the seven election years immediately prior to 2010 (1996 through 2008), the average roll-off in contested nonpartisan elections ( $n = 82$ ) was essentially the same, 19.5 percent, but the average roll-off in retention elections ( $n = 195$ ) was higher, 24.6 percent ( $t = 3.699$ , two-sided  $p < .001$ ).

As the figure shows, the average roll-off in retention elections continued to decline after 2014. However, given that it has been declining pretty steadily since 1946, the recent pattern probably cannot be explained simply by increased controversy in retention elections or the general increase in polariza-

tion in all elections, including all forms of state supreme court elections (see Kritzer 2021–22). It may reflect the increased prominence of state supreme courts or possibly that voters have increasingly come to understand the nature of retention elections. It might be that it is easier for the voter to cast a simple yes-no ballot than to choose among nonpartisan candidates. One might then ask whether the gap is different if the nonpartisan ballot provided an indication of incumbency. However, looking at the seven election years starting with 2010, the average roll-off in nonpartisan election states where incumbency is indicated was 24.2 percent compared to 18.4 percent where it is not indicated, and little changes if I drop the 19 open-seat elections.

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## Books To Watch For

Christina R. Bambrick. **Constitutionalizing the Private Sphere: A Comparative Inquiry.** Cambridge University Press, September 2024. ([website](#)).

Do private actors have constitutional duties? While traditionally only government actors are responsible for upholding constitutional rights, courts and constitution-makers increasingly do assign constitutional duties to private actors as well. Therefore, a landlord may have constitutional duties to their tenants, and a sports club may even have duties to its fans. This book argues that this phenomenon of applying rights “horizontally” can be understood through the lens of republican political theory. Themes echoing such concepts as the common good and civic duty from republican thought recur in discourses surrounding horizontal application. Bambrick traces republican themes in debates from the United States, India, Germany, South Africa, and the European Union. While these contexts have vastly different histories and aspirations, constitutional actors in each place have considered the horizontal application of rights and, in doing so, have made republican arguments.

Lynette J. Chua and Mark Fathi Massoud, eds. **Out of Place: Fieldwork and Positionality in Law and Society.** Cambridge University Press, 2024. ([website](#)).

*Out of Place* tells a new history of the field of law and society through the experiences and fieldwork of successful writers from populations that academia has historically marginalized. Encouraging collective and transparent self-reflection on positionality, the volume features scholars from around the world who share how their out-of-place positionalities influenced their research questions, data collection, analysis, and writing in law and society. From China to Colombia, India to Indonesia, Singapore to South Africa, and the United Kingdom to the United States, these experts record how they conducted their fieldwork, how their privileges and disadvantages impacted their training and research, and what they learned about the law in the process. As the global field of law and society becomes more diverse and an interest in identity grows, *Out of Place* is a call to embrace the power of positionality. This title is also available as Open Access on Cambridge Core.

James L. Gibson. **Democracy’s Destruction? Changing Perceptions of the Supreme Court, the Presidency, and the Senate after the 2020 Election** Russell Sage Foundation, September 2024. ([website](#)).

Did Trump and his MAGAites inflict damage on American political institutions via election denialism and the assault on the U.S. Capitol? While most pundits and many scholars find this a question easy to answer in the affirmative, to date, little rigorous evidence has been adduced on Trump’s institutional consequences. Based on surveys of representative samples of the American people in July 2020, December 2020, March 2021, and June 2021, my analysis examines in great detail whether American political institutions

lost legitimacy over the period from before the presidential election to well after it, and whether any such loss is associated with acceptance of the “Big Lie” about the election and its aftermath. With one exception, my highly contrarian conclusion is simple: try as they might (and did), Trump and his Republicans did not in fact succeed in undermining American national political institutions. The empirical evidence indicates that institutions seem to be more resilient than many have imagined, just as Legitimacy Theory would predict. The exception, however, is of utmost importance for American politics: Among African Americans, support for democratic institutions and values waned considerably, largely as a consequence of factors such as the insurrection and experience, vicarious and personal, with unfair treatment by legal authorities.

Judicial politics scholars will likely find this book interesting because it presents a sustained analysis of change in institutional support for the U.S. Supreme Court, including analysis of the effects of the Barrett nomination / confirmation on the Court’s legitimacy, as well as an extension of legitimacy theory to the U.S. Senate and the presidency. Race and ethnic politics scholars may also find the book interesting because it presents extensive analysis of inter-racial differences in institutional support, based on strong representative samples of African Americans, as well as analyses of intra-racial variation in support and institutional alienation.

Ran Hirschl and Yaniv Roznai, eds. **Deciphering the Genome of Constitutionalism: The Foundations and Future of Constitutional Identity.** Cambridge University Press, 2024. ([website](#)).

Constitutional identity has become one of the most important and hotly contested concepts in contemporary constitutional theory and practice. It has been repeatedly invoked in debates concerning EU integration, constitutional reform and revolution, and the spread of ethno-nationalist populism, democratic backsliding, and constitutional retrogression. Yet, the concept’s precise foundations, meaning, scope, and dynamics of continuity and change remain somewhat unclear and under-explored. This contemporary and definitive volume aims to address this stark gap. Featuring some of the world’s leading scholars of comparative constitutionalism, constitutional theory, and constitutional politics, this book provides a comprehensive, first-of-its-kind theoretical, comparative, normative, and empirical account of the concept of constitutional identity. It will be of great interest to scholars, students, jurists, and constitutional drafters alike.

Chris Kendall. **Between Possibility and Peril: Domestic Courts and the Selective Enforcement of Human Rights.** University of Pennsylvania Press, July 2024. ([website](#)).

When do domestic courts protect international human rights? By the end of the twentieth century, the world had witnessed an unprecedented flourishing of international human rights law and a growing number of democratic

states whose domestic institutions promised to protect those rights. A single institution often became the center of these efforts: the court. Advocates in newly democratized states could look to high courts to demand that their governments comply with international law and bring policy into line with liberal rhetoric. This process, however, put these young courts in a difficult position. With no deep well of historical legitimacy to draw on in new political environments, courts had to weigh high-minded legal principles against the limited resources or political preferences of elected governments. In such situations, how did these courts respond, and what strategies allowed some to successfully build their legitimacy over time, while others faltered, caving in to political pressure or suffering political backlash? This project explores this dynamic in three states—Colombia, Mexico, and South Africa—in the twenty years following each country’s democratic transition. The case studies reveal a common pattern: What matters most is not international law itself, but a court’s ability to control its procedural environment. Control over these “rules of the game” allows a court to selectively engage international human rights issues that can enhance its legitimacy and build public support while avoiding those issues likely to put it in direct conflict with hostile political actors. The result is paradoxical: The most successful courts in the long term are those who in the short term often choose to disappoint rights advocates.

Helen J. Knowles-Gardner, Bruce E. Altschuler, and Brandon T. Metroka. **Filming the First: Cinematic Portrayals of Freedom of the Press**. Lexington Books, August 2024. ([website](#)).

The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution prohibits Congress from abridging freedom of the press. But, as the printed press has been transformed into mass media with Americans now more likely to get their political information from television or social media than from print, confidence in this important, mediating institution has fallen dramatically. Movies, in their role as cultural artifacts, have long reflected and influenced those public attitudes, inventing such iconic phrases as “follow the money” from *All the President’s Men* and “I’m mad as hell and I’m not going to take this anymore” from *Network*. *Filming the First: Cinematic Portrayals of Freedom of the Press* analyzes eighteen films that span from *Citizen Kane* to *Spotlight* showing changes in how the press have been portrayed over time, which voices receive the most attention and why, the relationship between the press’ “Fourth Estate” role and the imperatives of capitalism, and how, despite the First Amendment’s seemingly absolute language, the government has sometimes been able to limit what the public can read or view.

Rorie Spill Solberg and Eric Waltenburg, eds. **Open Judicial Politics, 3rd ed.** Oregon State University Open Educational Resources, Fall 2024. ([website, Vol. 1](#)) ([website, Vol. 2](#)).

The impetus for this volume was a multitude of conversations regarding pedagogy and teaching related to our judicial process courses. Based on these

conversations, we identified four main threads or needs of our colleagues: First, many of us bring or want to bring more “political science” into our classes, though we also want to avoid the high costs of reinventing successful existing courses to do so. Second, our programs all require a political methodology course, and we want to reinforce those lessons in our substantive courses. We want to encourage our students’ understanding of how to read and understand research studies as well as how to craft their own research questions. Third, we want to keep our courses as current as possible. And fourth, we wanted to find a way to bring the cost of our courses down, as we see so many students struggle with the high costs of a college degree. This volume (as well as any future editions) addresses each of these concerns.

*Open Judicial Politics* is a compilation of new and original research in judicial politics written specifically for the undergraduate audience, thus providing accessible examples of political science research that also address some of the more current concerns and controversies in our field. Additionally, every article is accompanied by some type of classroom activity—from basic discussion questions to full-blown simulations—that makes it easier for instructors to adapt the material to their courses and enhance classes with interactives. The chapters of the volume generally follow the well-worn path of most textbooks of judicial politics, making the volume an easy companion for adoption, and the material should fit seamlessly into the preestablished structures of most courses.

Keith E. Whittington. **You Can’t Teach That! The Battle over University Classrooms** Polity, 2024. ([website](#)).

Who controls what is taught in American universities—professors or politicians?

The answer is far from clear but suddenly urgent. Unprecedented efforts are now underway to restrict what ideas can be promoted and discussed in university classrooms. Professors at public universities have long assumed that their freedom to teach is unassailable and that there were firm constitutional protections shielding them from political interventions. Those assumptions might always have been more hopeful than sound. A battle over the control of the university classroom is now brewing, and the courts will be called upon to establish clearer guidelines as to what—if any—limits legislatures might have in dictating what is taught in public universities.

In this path-breaking book, Keith Whittington argues that the First Amendment imposes meaningful limits on how government officials can restrict the ideas discussed on university campuses. In clear and accessible prose, he illuminates the legal status of academic freedom in the United States and shows how existing constitutional doctrine can be deployed to protect unbridled free inquiry.

Keith E. Whittington. **The Impeachment Power: The Law, Politics, and Purpose of an Extraordinary Constitutional Tool.** Princeton University Press, 2024. ([website](#)).

We are witnessing an unprecedented moment in American politics in which impeachments are increasingly common. In today's partisan environment, it is more vital than ever that government officials, scholars, and ordinary citizens understand what an impeachment can reasonably be expected to accomplish. In this incisive and accessible book, Keith Whittington provides needed clarity on the constitutional power of impeachment, explaining why it exists and how it should be used to preserve American democracy.

Drawing insights from American and British history, congressional practice, and the language of the Constitution itself, Whittington shows how impeachment is a tool for checking abuses of elective office and defending constitutional norms. While we have come to associate impeachment with the presidency, it can be used to remedy gross misconduct by an array of officers of the federal government. Whittington cautions against abusing this immense and consequential power to settle political scores, demonstrating how it undermines the independence of the branches and makes Congress the seat of political power.

Required reading for the informed citizen, *The Impeachment Power* argues that impeachment is ultimately a political instrument and gives us the perspective we need to recognize when an impeachment might be useful and when we are better served by looking for alternative ways to solve our political problems.



## Award Winners

Congratulations to the following winners of this year's Section awards—and thank you to the committee members for their service!

**Lifetime Achievement Award.** Melinda Gann Hall (Michigan State University). (Committee: Rorie Solberg (chair), Jeffrey Staton, Christina Boyd, and Paul Collins.)

**Best Graduate Student Paper Award.** Sara J. Heridia “Finding Echoes: Judicial Empathy Among Judges with Family Immigration Histories.” Presented at the 2024 Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association. (Committee: Matthew Montgomery (chair), Jennifer Jacobson, Abigail Matthews, Alison Merrill, and Nicholas Waterbury.)

**Best Journal Article Award.** Brandon Bartels, Jeremy Horowitz, and Eric Kramon. 2023. “Can Democratic Principles Protect High Courts from Partisan Backlash? Public Reactions to the Kenyan Supreme Court’s Role in the 2017 Election Crisis.” *American Journal of Political Science* 67(3): 790–807. (Recipient.)

Filiz Kahraman. 2023. “What Makes an International Institution Work for Labor Activists? Shaping International Law Through Strategic Litigation.” *Law & Society Review* 57(1): 61–82. (Honorable Mention.)

(Committee: Rachael Hinkle (chair), Susan Achury, Francesca Parente, Joshua Boston, and Kira Tait.)

**Lasting Contribution Award.** Lisa Hilbink. 2007. *Judges beyond Politics in Democracy and Dictatorship: Lessons from Chile*. Cambridge University Press. (Committee: Ryan Black (chair), Rebecca Gill, Kayla Canelo, Timothy Johnson, and Tao Dumas.)

**Teaching and Mentoring Award.** Jolly Emrey (University of Wisconsin–Whitewater) and Teena Wilhelm (University of Georgia), co-recipients. (Committee: Laura Moyer (chair), Adam Nye, Sahar Abi-Hassan, Johnathan King, and Christopher Krewson.)

**Best Conference Paper Award.** Christina Bambrick and Maureen Stobb. “Meeting of the Minds: Reshaping Citizens’ Rights and Duties.” Presented at the 2023 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association. (Committee: Brandon Bartels (chair), Bailey Fairbanks, Elizabeth Lane, and Allyson Yankle.)

**Service Award.** Amanda Driscoll (Florida State) and Michael J. Nelson (Penn State). (Committee: Monica Lineberger (chair), Sivaram Cheruvu, Amy Steigerwalt, Rachael Houston, and Jessica Schoenherr.)

**C. Herman Pritchett (Best Book) Award.** Christina L. Boyd, Paul M. Collins, Jr., and Lori A. Ringhand 2023. *Supreme Bias: Gender and Race in Supreme Court Confirmation Hearings*. Stanford University Press. (Co-recipient.)

Morgan L.W. Hazelton, Rachael K. Hinkle, and Michael J. Nelson. 2023. *The Elevator Effect: Contact and Collegiality in the American Judiciary*. Oxford University Press. (Co-recipient.)

Charles M. Cameron and Johnathan P. Kstellec. 2023. *Making the Supreme Court: The Politics of Appointments, 1930–2020*. Oxford University Press. (Honorable Mention.)

(Committee: Ali Masood (chair), Amanda Driscoll, Jay Krehbiel, Natalie Rogol, and Elisha Savchak-Trogdon.)

## Call for Submissions

**Special Call for Symposium Submissions.** The members of the Editorial Board and I would like to invite submissions to the upcoming symposium, “Reflections on Dahl’s Decision-Making in Democracy: The Supreme Court as a National Policy-maker.” The symposium is tentatively planned for Fall 2025. Contributors may reflect on the legacy, implications, and influence of Dahl’s article, and/or discuss connections between their own work and the classic piece. Submissions may examine Dahl’s influence on the study of American courts and/or on comparative judicial politics. In the latter case, contributors may consider how and to what extent high courts play a role in setting policy, the relationship between the policies high courts set and the preferences of both lawmaking and public majorities, and explanations for that relationship within and across jurisdictions.

*Law and Courts Newsletter* publishes articles, research notes, features, commentaries, and announcements of interest to members of APSA’s Law and Courts Section. The various substantive topics falling under the umbrella of “law & courts” are welcome, as are methodological approaches from across the discipline of political science. I am particularly interested in receiving the following types of submissions:

**Descriptions of Datasets.** Creators of publicly-available datasets potentially useful for Section members’ research or teaching may submit descriptions of their datasets. Although the datasets should be relatively new, it is acceptable for the data to have been used and described in previously published research. Submissions should describe (and link to) the dataset, give practical advice about viewing and analyzing the data, and explain how the data might be used in Section members’ research or teaching (including for undergraduate student research). Submissions describing relevant software or other tools are also encouraged.

**Research Notes.** These submissions should be approximately 2,000 words in length (a target, not a limit), and may be theory-focused or empirics-focused. The former should present theoretical arguments relevant to law & courts literature, but need not involve concurrent empirical testing. The latter should present empirical results—including adequately powered “null results”—with only the most necessary literature review and theoretical discussion included directly. Replications and extensions are also welcome. I hope that these notes will inspire research ideas for readers, spur collaboration among Section members on projects greater in scope, and prevent duplication of effort caused by the file drawer problem (i.e., the systematic non-publication of null results).

**Reviews of Recent Developments in the Literature.** These submissions should be literature reviews of approximately 4,000 words focused on

recent developments in active areas of law & courts research. A review should summarize and analyze recent developments in a line of research, and suggest open questions and opportunities for further research. Authors should aim their reviews at readers who research and teach in law & courts, but are not necessarily specialists in the area of research discussed. I seek such submissions particularly from graduate students, whose prospectuses, dissertation chapters, etc., may form the basis for such reviews. I hope that these reviews will provide Section members with a convenient means of keeping up with the literature across the law & courts field.

In addition, the *Newsletter* solicits research articles (including research about the Section), commentaries about the profession, proposals for symposia, and announcements (including of newly-published books) that are of interest to Section members.

### Instructions for Authors

Submissions are accepted on a rolling basis. Scholarly submissions will typically be reviewed by the editor and one editorial board member. Submissions and questions about possible submissions should be emailed to [lcnapsa@gmail.com](mailto:lcnapsa@gmail.com). Initial submissions should be sent in PDF format and may be written in Word (LibreOffice, etc.) or TeX. Authors should follow *APSR* formatting, as described in the *APSA Style Manual*. Submissions need not be blinded. Please avoid footnotes and endnotes unless absolutely necessary, and aim for concision. Appendices are encouraged for information that is relevant but not of primary importance. Upon publication, I ask that authors consider posting replication data and code for articles involving statistical analysis.

Section members who have written books they would like to see featured should email basic information about the book, including a 1-2 paragraph description, to [lcnapsa@gmail.com](mailto:lcnapsa@gmail.com).

—Maureen Stobb, Editor

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