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Department of Political Science
North Central College
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Academic Appointment

American Bar Foundation – Chicago, Illinois
Visiting Scholar, 2016-present

Department of Political Science, North Central College – Naperville, Illinois
Assistant Professor of Political Science, 2015-present

Education

Ph.D. Political Science; The George Washington University, 2015
Exam fields: American Politics, Quantitative Methodology

Dissertation

“The Politics of Civil Legal Assistance in the United States: Three Essays on the Development, Maintenance, and Delivery of Legal Services.”

Paul Wahlbeck (Chair), Brandon Bartels, Sarah Binder, John Sides, Steven Tuch (Sociology)

M.A. Political Science; The George Washington University, 2011

B.A. Political Science, Environmental Science; Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville, 2008
Phi Kappa Phi, Phi Eta Sigma, Pi Sigma Alpha

Publications

Articles

Forthcoming. “Trial and Error: Lawyers and Nonlawyer Advocates.” with Colleen Shanahan and Anna Carpenter. *Law and Social Inquiry*.

Forthcoming. “A Little Lawyering Can Be a Dangerous Thing” with Colleen Shanahan and Anna Carpenter. *Hastings Law Review*.

2016. “Lawyers, Power, and Strategic Expertise” with Colleen Shanahan and Anna Carpenter. *Denver Law Review*. 93(2): 469-521.

2015. “Legal Elites and Public Perceptions of the Supreme Court: Is the Supreme Court a ‘Political’ Institution?” with Brandon Bartels and Chris Johnston. *Law and Society Review* 49(3): 761-794.

2014. “Stepping on Congress: Courts, Congress, and Inter-Institutional Politics” with Forrest Maltzman, Charles Shipan, and Michael Zilis. *Journal of Law and Courts* 2(2):219-240.

Book chapters

Forthcoming. “Forecasting Opinion Assignment on the Supreme Court” with Paul Wahlbeck, Ryan Krog, and Phillip Wininger. In Artemus Ward and David Danelski Eds. *The U.S. Chief Justice*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.

2013. “Does Religion Transcend Social Issues? The Effects of Religion on Congressional Voting” with Steven Tuch in William V. D’Antonio, Steven A. Tuch, and Josiah Baker *The Religious Factor: Religion Culture Wars, and Polarization*. New York: Rowman and Littlefield.

Other writing

2016. “Is it a problem that judges no longer have experience working in Congress?” *Monkey Cage Blog, The Washington Post*. February 10.

Fellowships and Awards

North Central College, Summer Professional Development Grant, 2016
Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the U.S. Senate, Fellowship Grant, 2015-16
APSA Congressional Fellowship Program, 2015-2016 (Declined)
The Economic Club of Washington Philip Dearborn Fellow, 2014-2015
Nominated, Best Public Policy Poster, American Political Science Association, 2014
National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant; “Accessing Assistance and Citizen Engagement” (SES 1324074), 2013-2016
Mary Rickey Fellowship, 2013-2014
Shirley H. and Robert L. Richards Endowment Scholarship, 2013-2014
Sar and Britta Levitan Endowment Scholarship, 2013-2014
GW Political Science Department Graduate Research Grant, 2013
Writing in the Discipline Workshop Grant, 2012-2013
Summer Research Fellowship; The George Washington University, 2011, 2013
Nominated, Best Poster Award; Midwest Political Science Association, 2011
Teaching Fellowship; The George Washington University, 2009-2013
National Council of Students; Phi Kappa Phi, 2009
Emerging Scholar Award; Phi Kappa Phi, 2006

Working Projects

Representation in Context: Party Power and Lawyer Expertise – an ongoing, multi-publication project with Anna Carpenter (Tulsa Law) and Colleen Shanahan (Georgetown Law)
“The Sledgehammer and the Scalpel: Judicial Responsiveness and Credible Court Curbing in the Modern Era” – with Michael Zilis (University of Kentucky) (under review)
“Restraining the Court: A Unified Theory of Congressional Attempts to Limit Supreme Court Authority” – with Michael Zilis (under review)
“Blurring Institutional Boundaries: Judges’ Perceptions of Threats to Judicial Independence” -- with Michael Zilis (under review)
“Seeing the Law from All Sides: Judges’ Perspectives on Inter-branch Public Service Experiences”
“A Compromised Institution: the Origin of the Legal Services Corporation”
“Hesitation, Protraction, and (Eventual) Cooperation: Legal Services and State-Level Innovation”
“(Dis)Empowerment? The Consequences of Seeking Out Civil Legal Services”

Conference Participation

Paper Presentations

2016. “Blurring Institutional Boundaries: Judges’ Perceptions of Threats to Judicial Independence” – Midwest Political Science Association
2016. “Curbing their Enthusiasm: When Does Congress Decide to Sanction the Supreme Court?” – Southern Political Science Association
2015. “A Little Lawyering Can Be a Dangerous Thing” with Anna Carpenter and Colleen Shanahan – UC Hastings Law School; Hastings/Stanford Access to Justice Conference
2015. “Lawyers, Power, and Strategic Expertise” with Anna Carpenter and Colleen Shanahan – Law and Society Association
2015. “The Symbol and the Noise: Do Bill Introductions Limit the Supreme Court’s Authority?” with Michael Zilis – Midwest Political Science Association
2014. “Beyond Remedy: Does Civil Legal Assistance Matter for Democratic Governance?” – University College London’s Centre for Legal Studies: Conference on Access to Justice and Legal Services
2014. “Beyond Remedy: Does Civil Legal Assistance Matter for Democratic Governance?” – Law and Society Association
2014. “Party Power and Lawyer Expertise: An Empirical and Theoretical Expansion of the Study of Civil Representation” with Anna Carpenter and Colleen Shanahan – Law and Society Association

- 2014. “Hesitation, Protraction, and (Eventual) Cooperation: State-Level Legal Services Innovation” -- Midwest Political Science Association
- 2013. “Representation Matters: A Study of Representation and Access to Justice” with Anna Carpenter and Colleen Shanahan – American University Poverty Law – Cases, Teaching, and Scholarship Conference
- 2013. “Legal Elites and Public Perceptions of the Supreme Court: Is the Supreme Court a ‘Political’ Institution?” with Brandon Bartels and Christopher Johnston – Law and Society Association
- 2013. “Forecasting Opinion Assignment on the Supreme Court” with Paul Wahlbeck, Ryan Krog, and Phillip Wininger – Midwest Political Science Association
- 2013. “Stepping on Congress: Courts, Congress, and Inter-Institutional Politics” with Forrest Maltzman, Charles Shipan, and Michael Zilis -- Midwest Political Science Association
- 2008. “Party, Region, Apprenticeship, and Co-sponsorship in the US Senate” – Illinois Political Science Association

Poster Presentations

- 2015. “A Million Monkeys at a Million Keyboards? Big Data and Salient Rulemakings” with Gabriel Michael, American Political Science Association
- 2014. “(Dis)Empowerment?: The Consequences of Seeking Out Civil Legal Services” – American Political Science Association
- 2013. “The Unlikely Persistence of the Legal Services Corporation: The Politics of Bureaucratic Control” – American Political Science Association
- 2010. “Uncertain Terms: Appellate Court Responsiveness and Retirements on the Supreme Court” – Midwest Political Science Association

Courses Taught

(all undergraduate level)

Introduction to American Politics

Introduction to Law

Introduction to Political Science

Constitutional Law I: Separation of Powers

Constitutional Law II: Civil Rights and Liberties

Senior Seminar: Judges & Judging

Interdisciplinary Seminar: The Politics of Disaster – Political and Legal Dimensions of Natural Disasters

Instructor

US Policy and Politics, National Student Leadership Conference 2010-2015

Research Assistance

Paul Wahlbeck, 2012-2015

Updating a longitudinal dataset of New York Times coverage of the Supreme Court; conducting archival research on interjustice communication on the Supreme Court.

Brandon Bartels and Chris Bonneau (Pittsburgh), 2012-2013

Coordination of travel arrangements for out-of-town guests, logistics, and research assistance for an NSF-funded project, “The Normative Foundations of Empirical Research on Law and Courts.” (SES 1228306)

Forrest Maltzman and Charles Shipan (Michigan), 2011-2013

Data collection for a large-scale project on legislative durability; developing models for illustrating durability (Cox proportional hazard models); writing both statistical and substantive analysis for both academic and lay audiences

Sarah Binder, 2011-2013

Data collection for a large-scale project on public opinion on The Federal Reserve; developing data collection and modeling strategies; writing both statistical and substantive analysis; developing best practices for coding and replication

Research Consultant

The Brookings Institution, Governance Studies, 2012

Data collection for a large-scale project on The Federal Reserve and Congress; developing best practices for coding and replication; providing substantive research assistance

Invited Talks and Presentations

- 2015. "Seeing the Law from All Sides: Judges' Perspectives on Inter-branch Public Service Experiences." Judicial Branch Committee of the Federal Judicial Conference, biannual meeting. – invited speaker
- 2015. "Access to Justice Empirical Methods Workshop II" (University of Wisconsin Law-funded) – invited participant
- 2014. "Access to Justice Empirical Methods Workshop" (University of Wisconsin Law-funded) – invited participant
- 2013. "Does Religion Transcend Social Issue Voting?" Woman's National Democratic Club – invited talk
- 2013. The Normative Implications of Empirical Research on Law and Courts Workshop at the George Washington University– invited participant
- 2012. "Beyond Remedy: Does Civil Legal Aid Matter for Democratic Governance? A Research Proposal." National Legal Aid and Defender Association Annual Conference – invited poster presentation
- 2012. "Access to Civil Justice: Re-envisioning and Reinvigorating Research" Workshop (NSF and American Bar Foundation-funded) – invited participant
- 2012. "Why Legal Assistance Matters for Democratic Governance." Brookings Institution Governance Studies; Summer Brown Bag Series – invited talk to Governance Studies staff and interns

Research and Teaching Interests

American politics; Courts and judicial politics; Political and civic engagement; Political behavior; Public opinion; Bureaucratic politics; Legislative politics; Quantitative methodology

Service

Rall Undergraduate Research Symposium co-director, North Central College, beginning Fall 2016

Mock Trial Educator Coach, North Central College 2016-present

APSA Law and Courts Section Teaching and Mentoring Award Committee Member, 2016

Law and Society Review, Journal of Law and Courts, Journal of Politics, Reviewer

Pi Sigma Alpha; Undergraduate Conference Discussant 2014, 2015

Strategic Plan Working Group; Citizenship and Leadership Representative (GWU), 2012

Political Science Graduate Student Caucus; Co-Chair (GWU Political Science), 2011-2013

Professional Associations

American Political Science Association, Law and Courts Section

Midwest Political Science Association

Law and Society Association

Women's Caucus for Political Science