

## John Szmer

Department of Political Science and Public Administration  
University of North Carolina at Charlotte  
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### Academic Positions

Professor, Department of Political Science and Public Administration, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, 2021-Present  
Graduate Faculty Member, 2010-Present  
University Honors College Faculty Member, 2012-present  
Public Policy Core Faculty Member, 2010-present  
Women's and Gender Studies Faculty Affiliate, 2011-present  
Legal Studies Faculty Affiliate, 2023-present

Associate Professor, Department of Political Science and Public Administration, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, 2014-2021

Associate Chair and Undergraduate Coordinator, Department of Political Science and Public Administration, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, July 2014-June 2016.

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science and Public Administration, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, 2008-2014

Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, 2006-2007

Associate Director, Honors Program, University of Missouri-Kansas City, 2005.

Pre-law Coordinator & Mock Trial Director, University of Missouri-Kansas City, 2002-2006

Instructional Staff, Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research, Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research, Ann Arbor, MI, Summer 2000, 2001.

### Education and Degrees

Ph.D. Political Science, University of South Carolina

J.D. University of Georgia School of Law

A.B. Political Science, University of Georgia  
Honors Program; Graduated with General Honors

Attended, Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research, University of Michigan, Summer 1999  
Studied: Regression, Maximum Likelihood Estimation, Mathematics for Social Science

## Research

### Book

1. Bowie, Jennifer Barnes, Donald R. Songer, and **John Szmer**. 2014. [\*The View from the Bench and Chambers: Examining Judicial Process and Decision Making on the U. S. Courts of Appeals\*](#). (University of Virginia Press Constitutionalism and Democracy series). (Nominated for the APSA C. Herman Pritchett Award for best book on law & courts) (Reviewed in the [Law and Politics Book Review](#)). (Authorship ordered alphabetically).

### Peer Reviewed Articles

23. Gleason, Shane, Morgan Hazelton, Rachael Hinkle, and **John Szmer**. "A Fresh Perspective: Legal Team Diversity and Brief Effectiveness at the Supreme Court." *Political Research Quarterly* (authorship listed alphabetically)
22. Shieh, Marcy, **John Szmer**, and Megan Bird\*. "[When the Courtier Returns to Court: The Impact of U.S. Supreme Court Lawyers' Prior Appellate Clerkship Experience](#)." *Journal of Law and Courts* (online) (Megan Bird was a 3<sup>rd</sup> year undergraduate at UNC-Charlotte when the manuscript was originally submitted).
21. Douglas, James W., **John Szmer**, and Ringa Raudla. 2025. "[Gubernatorial Tax and Revenue Proposals: Does the Election Cycle Matter?](#)" *Governance* 38(2):.
20. **Szmer, John**, Laura Moyer, Susan B. Haire, and Robert K. Christensen. 2024. "[Who Shapes the Law? Gender and Racial Bias in Judicial Citations](#)." *American Political Science Review* 118(2): 1067-74.
19. **Szmer, John**, Erin B. Kaheny, and Tammy A. Sarver. 2021. "[I Haven't Come a Long Way, and I'm Not a Baby': Task Assignment and Gender Diversity of the Supreme Court Bar](#)." *Social Science Quarterly* 102(6): 2907-29.
18. Moyer, Laura P., **John Szmer**, Susan B. Haire, and Robert K. Christensen. 2021. "[All Eyes Are on You': Gender, Race, and Opinion Writing on the U.S. Courts of Appeals](#)." *Law and Society Review* 55(3): 452-72.
17. Moyer, Laura, **John Szmer**, Susan B. Haire, and Robert K. Christensen. 2020. "[Diversity, Consensus, and Decision Making: Evidence from the U.S. Courts of Appeals](#)." *Politics, Groups, and Identities* 8(4): 822-33.
16. Kaheny, Erin B., **John Szmer**, and Robert K. Christensen. 2020. "[Status Characteristics and Their Intersectionality: Majority Opinion Assignment in State Supreme Courts](#)." *Politics, Groups, and Identities* 8(5): 894-917.
15. **Szmer, John**, Robert K. Christensen, and Samuel Grubbs. 2020. "[What Influences the Influence of U.S. Courts of Appeals Decisions?](#)" *European Journal of Law and Economics* 49(1): 55-81.

14. **Szmer, John**, Donald R. Songer, and Jennifer Barnes Bowie. 2016. "[Why Do the 'Haves' Win? Party Capability and the U.S. Courts of Appeals.](#)" *Journal of Law and Courts* 4(1): 65-102.
13. Kaheny, Erin B., **John Szmer**, Michael Hansen\*, and Kate Scheurer. 2015. "[High Court Recruitment of Female Clerks: A Comparative Analysis of the U.S. Supreme Court and the Supreme Court of Canada.](#)" *Justice System Journal* 36(4): 355-77.  
(Michael Hansen was a Ph.D. student at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee when the manuscript was prepared).
12. **Szmer, John**, Robert K. Christensen, and Erin B. Kaheny. 2015. "[Gender, Race, and Dissensus on State Supreme Courts.](#)" *Social Science Quarterly* 96(2): 553-75.
11. **Szmer, John** and Martha Humphries Ginn. 2014. "[Examining the Effects of Information, Attorney Capability, and Amicus Participation on U.S. Supreme Court Decision Making.](#)" *American Politics Research* 42(3): 441-71.
10. **Szmer, John**, Erin B. Kaheny, Tammy A. Sarver, and Mason DeCamillis\*. 2013. "[The Impact of Attorney Gender on Decision Making in the United States Courts of Appeals.](#)" *Journal of Women, Politics and Policy* 34(1): 72-100.  
(Mason DeCamillis was UNCC undergraduate student when the manuscript was prepared).
9. **Szmer, John**, Robert K. Christensen, and Ashlyn Kuersten. 2012. "[The Efficiency of Federal Appellate Decisions: An Examination of Published and Unpublished Opinions.](#)" *Justice System Journal* 33(3): 318-38.
8. Christensen, Robert K., **John Szmer**, and Justin Stritch\*. 2012. "[Race and Gender Bias in Three Administrative Contexts: Impact on Work Assignments in State Supreme Courts.](#)" *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory* 22(4): 625-48.  
(Justin Stritch was a University of Georgia Ph.D. student when the manuscript was prepared).
7. Christensen, Robert K. and **John Szmer**. 2012. "[Examining the Efficiency of the U.S. Courts of Appeals: Pathologies and Prescriptions.](#)" *International Review of Law and Economics* 32(1): 30-37.
6. Songer, Donald R., **John Szmer**, and Susan W. Johnson. 2011. "[Explaining Dissent on the Supreme Court of Canada.](#)" *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 44(2): 389-409.
5. Kaheny, Erin B., **John Szmer**, and Tammy A. Sarver. 2011. "[Women Lawyers before the Supreme Court of Canada.](#)" *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 44(1): 83-109.
4. **Szmer, John**, Erin B. Kaheny and Tammy A. Sarver. 2010. "[Have We Come a Long Way, Baby?: The Influence of Attorney Gender on Supreme Court Decision Making.](#)" *Politics and Gender* 6(1): 1-36.
3. Sarver, Tammy A., Erin B. Kaheny, and **John Szmer**. 2008. "[The Attorney Gender Gap in U.S. Supreme Court Litigation.](#)" *Judicature* 91(5):238-250.
2. **Szmer, John**, Susan W. Johnson, and Tammy A. Sarver. 2007. "[Does the Lawyer Matter? Influencing Outcomes on the Supreme Court of Canada.](#)" *Law and Society Review* 42(2):279-304.

1. **Szmer, John** and Donald R. Songer. 2005. "[The Effects of Information on the Accuracy of Presidential Assessments of Supreme Court Nominee Preferences.](#)" *Political Research Quarterly* 58(1): 151-160.

#### Datasets

1. Moyer, Laura, Susan B. Haire, **John Szmer**, and Robert K. Christensen. 2021. "Multi-User Database on the U.S. Courts of Appeals (2009-2016)". <https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/ZDKTM7>, Harvard Dataverse (August 13, 2021).
2. Moyer, Laura, Susan B. Haire, **John Szmer**, and Robert K. Christensen. 2021. "Circuit Rules". <https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/SJEK4X>, Harvard Dataverse V1

#### Peer Reviewed Pedagogical Research

1. Kropf, Martha E., Samuel Grubbs, Beth Whitaker, and **John Szmer**. 2018. "[American Politics Course Redesigns: The Effect of Propensity Score Matching on Predicting Learning Outcomes.](#)" *Journal of Political Science Education*.

#### Non-Peer Reviewed Publications

1. Moyer, Laura P., John Szmer, Susan Haire, and Robert Christensen. 2025. "Making Their Mark: Women Judges on the U.S. Courts of Appeals." [ConLawNOW](#)16(2): 100-08.
2. **Szmer, John**, Erin B. Kaheny, and Tammy A. Sarver. 2022. "[Four Women Sit on the Supreme Court. When Will More Women Argue There?](#)" Monkey Cage, The Washington Post, November 7 2022.
3. Moyer, Laura, **John Szmer**, Susan Haire, and Robert K. Christensen. 2021. "[Sotomayor Said People of Color Feel Pressure to Prove Themselves Every Day. She's Right.](#)" Monkey Cage, The Washington Post, October 27, 2021.
4. Kreis, Anthony, **John Szmer**, and Robert K. Christensen. 2016. "Comparative Judicial Efficiency: Examining Case Disposition in Five Countries' Courts of Last Resort." In [Comparative Law and Economics](#), Eds. Theodore Eisenberg and Giovanni B. Ramello. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar Publishing.
5. **Szmer, John**, Erin B. Kaheny, and Robert K. Christensen. 2014. "[Taking a Dip in the Supreme Court Clerk Pool: Gender-Based Discrepancies in Clerk Selection.](#)" *Marquette Law Review* 98(1): 261-87.
6. **Szmer, John** and Barry Edwards. 2011. "Future Directions in Data Analysis and Collection." *Law and Courts Newsletter* 21(3): 16-19.

#### Working Projects

##### *Articles in Preparation*

Kaheny, Erin B., Jason H. Windett, **John Szmer**, and Robert K. Christensen. "Conflict in Context: How Institutions Moderate the Influence of Judge Sex and Race on the Choice to Dissent." (editing completed manuscript for resubmission)

Widner, Kirsten, Eleanor McCutchen, and **John Szmer**. "Gender, Institutions, and Deliberation:

Can Rule Changes Reduce Gender-Based Interruptions during Supreme Court Oral Arguments?" Ellie McCutchen is an undergraduate student. (completed draft, needs revisions)

Douglas, James, John Szmer, and Ringa Raudla. "Party or Person? Does Lame-Duck Status Affect Governors' Behaviors When Proposing Tax Changes?" (complete draft, needs revisions)

Gleason, Shane and John Szmer. "Practice Makes Perfect: Gender Norm Conformance and Repeat Players at U.S. Supreme Court Oral Arguments."

**Szmer, John**, Martha Humphries Ginn, and Richard Pacelle. "Can We Talk? The Solicitor General and Oral Amicus Arguments." (completed draft, needs revisions)

**Szmer, John**, Susan W. Johnson, and Robert K. Christensen. "The Supreme Court of Canada and Majority Opinion Assignment." (in preparation)

Christensen, Robert K., **John Szmer**, Laura Moyer, and Susan B. Haire. "Judicial Capacity and Performance." (in preparation)

#### *Research Grant Activity*

##### *Funded*

National Science Foundation Law & Social Sciences Program Grant 1654614. "Collaborative Research: Judicial Diversity and Appellate Decision Making."

Co-Principal Investigators Laura Moyer, Robert K. Christensen, and Susan B. Haire.

Original Award: \$244,723 (UNC Charlotte: \$76,659)

Supplemental Awards \$32,102 (UNC Charlotte: \$15,100)

Total Award \$276,825: (UNC Charlotte \$91,759)

Faculty Research Grant, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, "Race, Gender and Civilian Casualties in War," (\$9,000), Awarded December 2013 (Co-PI James Walsh)

Faculty Research Grant, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, "Targeted Killings, Collateral Damage, and Terrorism: Evidence from Drone Strikes," (\$7,000), Awarded December 2010 (Co-PI James Walsh)

Faculty Research Grant, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, "Ignorance of the Law is No Defense: Examining the Failure to Examine Unreported U.S. Courts of Appeals Cases," Principal Investigator, (\$6,000), Awarded December 2008

##### *Applied, Not Funded*

Law School Admissions Counsel Research Grant Program, "Appellate Advocacy and Diversity."

Co-Principal Investigators (Christensen, Robert K, Susan B. Haire, and Laura Moyer)." Amount Requested: \$97,230. Rejected. December 2014.

National Science Foundation Law & Social Sciences Division Grant Submission, "Judicial Decision Making in the Intermediate Appellate Courts of Australia, Canada, England and the United States." Co-Principal Investigator (with Donald R. Songer and Susan W. Johnson).

Amount Requested \$429,000. Not Competitive, encourage resubmission January 2011.

Resubmitted January 2011, rated Competitive Mid Priority, Rejected. June 2011.

### *Invited Talks and Conferences*

Author Meets Critics Panel Discussing “Does Privilege Prevail?: Litigation in High Courts across the Globe”

2025 *Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, San Juan, PR*

Author Meets Critics Panel Discussing “Persuading the Supreme Court: The Significance of Briefs in Judicial Decision-Making”

2022 *American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada*

“Sound & Fury? The Kavanaugh Confirmation & the Implications for the U.S. Supreme Court”

*Invited Presentation, 2018 University of South Carolina School of Law*

“Judicial Performance and the U.S. Courts of Appeals” (with Robert K. Christensen).

(presented at Plenary Session Tribute Workshop, Empirical Legal Studies around the World: The Legacy of Theodore Eisenberg).

2016 *Italian Society of Law and Economics Annual Conference, Torino, Italy*

Author Meets Critics Panel Discussing “The View from the Bench and Chambers”

2016 *Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, San Juan, PR*

“Selection Practices”

2014 *Symposium at Marquette University Law School: Judicial Assistants or Junior Judges: The Hiring, Utilization, and Influence of Law Clerks*

“Courting Diversity: The Impacts of Judge Diversity and Conflict on Swift, Impartial Justice.”

(with Robert K. Christensen)

*Invited Presentation, 2013 UNC Chapel Hill School of Government*

“Future Directions for Research on the U.S. Court of Appeals.”

2011 *Symposium at the University of Georgia, Athens, GA*

"Examining the Efficiency of the U.S. Courts of Appeals: Pathologies and Prescriptions." (with Robert K. Christensen)

2009 *IEL Conference: Efficiency and the Judiciary Law and Economics Perspectives, Collegio Carlo Alberto, Torino, Italy*

### *Research Conference/Symposium Participation*

“Diversity in Complex Weberian Organizations: Developing Full Echelon Theory in the Judiciary.” (With Robert Christensen, Laura Moyer, Raymond Chastain, and Susan Haire)

2025 *International Research Society for Public Management Annual Conference, Bologna, IT*

“Party or Person? Does Lame-Duck Status Affect Governors’ Behaviors When Proposing Tax Changes?” (with James Douglas and Ringa Raudla)

2025 *Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, San Juan, PR*

“Practice Makes Perfect: Gender Norm Conformance and Repeat Players at U.S. Supreme Court Oral Arguments.” (with Shane Gleason)

2025 *Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, San Juan, PR*

“Gender, Institutions, and Deliberation: Can Rule Changes Reduce Gender-Based Interruptions during Supreme Court Oral Arguments?” (with Kirsten Widner and Ellie McCutchen)  
2025 *Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, San Juan, PR*

“The Impact of U.S. Supreme Court Lawyers’ Prior Appellate Clerkship Experience” (with Marcy Shieh and Megan Bird)  
2024 *American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA*

“Political Tax Cycles in the US States: Opportunism v. Ideological Sincerity in Governors’ Revenue Proposals.” (with James Douglas and Ringa Raudla)  
2024 *European Group for Public Administration Annual Meeting, Athens, Greece*

“When the Courtiers Return to the Marble Palace: The Impact of U.S. Supreme Court Lawyers’ Prior Appellate Clerkships” (with Marcy Shieh and Megan Bird)  
2024 *North Carolina Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Asheville, NC*

“A Fresh Perspective: Legal Team Diversity and Brief Effectiveness at the Supreme Court” (with Shane A. Gleason, Morgan Hazelton, and Rachael Hinkle)  
2023 *Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, St. Petersburg, FL*

“Gubernatorial Tax and Revenue Proposals” (with James Douglas and Ringa Raudla).  
2023 *Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, St. Petersburg, FL*

“Despite Our Differences: Panel Heterogeneity and Conflict in Appellate Decisions” (with Laura Moyer, Susan Haire, and Robert Christensen).  
2022 *Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX*

“Write Like a Lady!: The Role of Gender Norms in Attorney Brief Success.” (with Shane A. Gleason).  
2021 *American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA*

“Disposition Times in the U.S. Courts of Appeals: Exploring the Role of Multiple Diversities in Nested Institutions.” (with Laura Moyer, Robert K. Christensen, and Susan B. Haire).  
2021 *Southern Political Science Association Meeting*

“The Supreme Court of Canada and Majority Opinion Authorship” (with Susan Johnson and Robert K. Christensen).  
2020 *Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, San Juan, PR*

“Diversity and Collective Decision Making on the U.S. Courts of Appeals” (with Laura Moyer, Susan B. Haire, and Robert K. Christensen).  
2019 *Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Austin, TX*

“Women Attorneys and Legal Mobilization in the U.S. Supreme Court” (with Erin B. Kaheny and Tammy A. Sarver).  
2019 *Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Austin, TX*

“Dissent and Diversity across Appellate Courts” (with Erin B. Kaheny and Robert K. Christensen).  
2018 *American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Boston, MA*

“Evaluating the ‘Obama Wave’: Transforming the U.S. Courts of Appeals?” (with seven co-authors).

*2018 American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Boston, MA*

“Diversity and the Assignment of the Majority Opinion on Collegial Courts” (with Erin B. Kaheny and Robert K. Christensen).

*2018 North Carolina Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Raleigh, NC*

“Gender, Race, and Majority Opinion Assignment: A Cross-court Perspective” (with Erin B. Kaheny and Robert K. Christensen).

*2017 Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA*

“Judicial Diversity and Decision Making” (with Susan Haire).

*2016 Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, San Juan, PR*

“Linking Opinion Content to Judicial Diversity: A Textual Analysis of Appellate Decisions.” (with Laura P. Moyer, Susan B. Haire, John Szmer and Robert K. Christensen)

*2015 Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA*

“The Effect of Judicial Diversity on Legal Content and Influence in the U.S. Courts of Appeals” (with Laura P. Moyer, Susan B. Haire, John Szmer and Robert K. Christensen)

*2015 Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL*

“Attorney Gender and Appellate Decision Making” (with Erin B. Kaheny and Robert K. Christensen)

*2015 North Carolina Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Charlotte, NC*

“Civilian Casualties, Weapon Types, and Support for the Use of Force” (with James Walsh)

*2014 American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC*

“Attorney Expertise at the Threshold (with Erin B. Kaheny and Shawn C. Fettig)

*2014 Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA*

“Diversity, Stereotypes, and Attorneys (with Erin B. Kaheny and Robert K. Christensen)

*2014 Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA*

“Diversity and Deliberation: An Administrative Focus on the Disposition of Justice” (with Robert K. Christensen and Erin B. Kaheny)

*2013 Southeastern Conference for Public Administration Annual Meeting, Charlotte, NC*

“Gubernatorial Tax and Revenue Proposals: Does the Election Cycle Matter?” (presented by James W. Douglas, with Ringa Raudla)

*2013 Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL*

“Can We Talk? The Solicitor General and Oral Amicus Arguments.” (with Martha Humphries Ginn and Richard L. Pacelle, Jr.)

*2013 Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Orlando, FL*

“Why the ‘Haves’ Win? Examining Party Capability Theory.” (with Donald R. Songer and Jennifer Barnes Bowie)

*2013 Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Orlando, FL*



"The Supreme Court and Its Reliance on Merits Briefs and Oral Arguments: Do Justices Treat Male Lawyers Differently than Female Lawyers?" (with Erin B. Kaheny and Tammy A. Sarver)  
*2012 Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL*

"The Supreme Court of Canada and Majority Opinion Authorship." (with Robert K. Christensen and Susan W. Johnson)  
*2012 Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL*

"The Effects of Solicitor General Oral Arguments as Amicus Curiae." (with Martha Humphries Ginn)  
*2012 Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA*

"Majority Opinion Assignment in the State Supreme Courts." (with Robert K. Christensen and Erin B. Kaheny)  
*2011 Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL*

"Race, Gender and Majority Opinion Assignment." (with Donald R. Songer, Robert K. Christensen, Nicholas A. Mostardo, and Margarita Pate)  
*2011 North Carolina Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Charlotte, NC*

"The Conditional Effects of Expertise on the Influence of Lawyers and Amici before the United States Supreme Court." (with Martha Humphries Ginn)  
*2011 North Carolina Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Charlotte, NC*

"Why Do the 'Haves' Come Out Ahead? Examining the Etiology of the Party Capability Advantage."  
*2010 American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC*

"Opinion Assignment in the United States Courts of Appeals." (with Donald R. Songer, Robert K. Christensen, Nicholas A. Mostardo, and Margarita Pate)  
*2010 Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL*

"Diversity and Dissensus on State Supreme Courts: Toward a More Comprehensive Model of Individual, Intersectional, Group and Institutional Determinants." (with Robert K. Christensen)  
*2010 Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL*

"Conflict, Voice, and Critical Mass: Examining Gender Diversity and Dissensus in the Supreme Court of Canada." (with Donald R. Songer, Robert K. Christensen, and Susan W. Johnson).  
*2010 Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA.*

"Information, Attorney Expertise, Amicus Participation, and the Legal Model." (with Martha Humphries Ginn)  
*2010 Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA.*

"Examining the Efficiency of the U.S. Courts of Appeals: Pathologies and Prescriptions." (with Robert K. Christensen)  
*2009 IEL Conference: Efficiency and the Judiciary Law and Economics Perspectives, Collegio Carlo Alberto, Torino, Italy*

"Experiential Diversity and Performance in Public Organizations: Efficiency Evidence from U.S. Appellate Judge Panels." (with Robert K. Christensen)  
*2009 Bi-annual National Public Management Research Conference, Columbus, OH.*

“Gender Diversity, Conflict, and Judicial Efficiency in the U.S. Court of Appeals.” (with Robert K. Christensen and Elizabeth Wemlinger)

*2009 Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.*

“Congressional Polarization and Amici Participation.” (with Eric Heberlig and Rorie Spill Solberg)

*2009 Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.*

“Diversity, Conflict, and Judicial Efficiency in the U.S. Court of Appeals.” (with Robert K. Christensen and Elizabeth Wemlinger)

*2009 North Carolina Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Greensboro, NC*

“The Impact of Attorney Gender on Decision Making in the United States Courts of Appeals.” (with Erin B. Kaheny, Tammy A. Sarver, and Mason DeCamillis)

*2008 Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.*

“Have We Come a Long Way Baby? Women Attorneys before the United States Supreme Court.” (with Erin B. Kaheny and Tammy A. Sarver)

*2007 Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.*

“Lawyer and Justice Gender: Examining the Supreme Court of Canada.” (with Erin B. Kaheny and Tammy A. Sarver)

*2007 Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, NV.*

“Repeat Players and Attorney Success before the Supreme Court of Canada.” (with Susan W. Johnson)

*2002 Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Savannah, GA.*

“The Role of Information in the Selection of Supreme Court Justices.” (with Donald R. Songer)

*2002 Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.*

“Re-Examining Party Capability Theory and Decision-Making on the U.S. Supreme Court and the U.S. Courts of Appeals.”

*2001 Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA.*

“Sound and Fury Signifying Nothing? Examining the Role of Litigants and Litigators in the Judicial Process.”

*2000 Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA.*

“Sound and Fury Signifying Nothing? Examining the Role of Attorneys in the Judicial Process.”

*2000 Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.*

“Re-examining Gerber and Park’s Cross-Judicial Analysis of Federal Appellate Decision-Making.”

*1999 American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Atlanta GA.*

“Attorney Expertise and Success in the United States Courts of Appeals.” (with Donald R. Songer)

*1998 Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Atlanta GA.*

## Teaching and Instructional Activities

### *Courses Taught*

University of North Carolina at Charlotte  
 Quantitative Methods I (Regression; Ph.D. & MA levels)  
 Categorical Data Analysis (Ph.D. & MA level)  
 Senior Seminar: Judicial Politics  
 Senior Seminar: Civil Rights  
 Constitutional Law and Policy  
 Civil Rights & Liberties  
 Gender and the Law  
 Judicial Process (Online and in-person)  
 Trial Process  
 Introduction to Legal Studies  
 Data Science: Modeling & Society II  
 Political Science Research Methods  
 Introduction to American Politics (Online and in-person)  
 Introduction to Public Policy  
 Citizenship

University of Missouri-Kansas City  
 Constitutional Law: Civil Rights & Liberties  
 Coach, Collegiate Mock Trial  
 Introduction to the Trial Process  
 Methodologies in the Liberal Arts and Science (Pre-law section)

University of South Carolina  
 Political Science Discipline (Research Methods)  
 Judicial Process  
 Constitutional Law: Powers of Government (Undergraduate/Graduate class)  
 Coach, Collegiate Mock Trial

### *Mentoring:*

Adviser for three-student team of undergraduates (Justin Smith, Hannah Lofthus, Josh Brunkhorst) researching the impact of attorney race and gender on jury decision making; they were awarded a \$2000 internal research grant, University of Missouri-Kansas City.

Received \$500 award from the UNC Charlotte Office of Summer Programs to mentor Elizabeth Wemlinger, of the Summer Doctoral Teaching Assistants in a pilot program. My role was to advise and mentor her as she developed and taught her first class.

### Thesis/Dissertation Committees:

University of North Carolina at Charlotte  
 Chair, Honors Thesis  
 Ellie McCutchen  
 Grace Cooper  
 Brianna Kolsin  
 Gabrielle Hitchcock  
 Megan Bird  
 Connor Green

Natasha Engineer  
Anna Lewis  
Diane Gromelski  
Madison Dejaegher  
Christopher Dotson  
Alex Crouch  
T'ajai Carrington  
Corey Noland (Co-Chair)

Chair, Senior Thesis  
Karsyn Koon  
Hailee Kuvinka  
Olivia Pesterfield (Co-Chair)  
Josie Cambareri (Co-Chair)

Member, Honors Thesis  
Gabrielle Rife  
Elizabeth Sloan

Member, Dissertation Committees  
Emily Mikkelsen (Public Policy, in progress)  
James Fuller (Public Policy)  
Elizabeth Wemlinger (Public Policy)  
Holly Whisman (Public Policy)  
Cicily Hampton (Public Policy)  
Mary Jo Shepherd (Public Policy)  
Eleonora Davalos Alvarez (Public Policy)  
Melissa Williams (Nursing Practice, Graduate Faculty Representative)  
Amy Carriker (Nursing Practice, Graduate Faculty Representative)

University of Missouri-Kansas City  
Chair, Senior Thesis  
Robert Gordon

University of South Carolina  
Chair, Honors Thesis  
Michael Harmon  
Kristina L. Cooper  
Lauren M. Vaughan  
Richard McCraw (Second Chair)

Member, Dissertation Committee  
Abigail Hassett (in progress)

### *Pedagogical Grants*

Pre-Proposal Grant: Large Course Redesign "Improving Student Learning While Reducing Instructional Costs." Awarded \$5,000 by UNCC Center for Teaching and Learning, April 2012 (with Martha Kropf, Beth Whitaker, David Swindell and Eric Heberlig).

Grant: Large Course Redesign "Improving Student Learning While Reducing Instructional Costs." Awarded \$20,000 by UNCC Center for Teaching and Learning, August 2012 (with Martha Kropf, Beth Whitaker, David Swindell and Eric Heberlig).

#### *Pedagogical Conferences*

Pereira, Malin, Janet Levy, and John Szmer. "Redesign of Honors Education at UNC Charlotte."

*2014 North Carolina Honors Association Conference, Mount Olive, NC.*

Kropf, Martha E., Beth Elise Whitaker, and John Szmer. "Using Propensity Score Matching to Evaluate the Effectiveness of an American Politics Large-Course Redesign."

*2014 American Political Science Association Teaching and Learning Conference, Philadelphia, PA.*

#### *Pedagogical Training*

Certificate, Instructional Development Project Workshop on College Teaching for Graduate Teaching Assistants.

### **Service**

#### *Public/Community Service*

Over forty interviews and other media appearances.

August 19, 2016: Presentation to Accountability and Governance group, Sponsored by International House and the U.S. Department of State Office of International Visitors.

May 25 2016: Presentation to Visiting Lebanese Judges, Sponsored by International House and the U.S. Department of State Office of International Visitors.

May 2 & 9, 2016: Salon Presentations on the Mythology of the U.S. Founding, Presented at the Home of Lynwood & Lulie Mallard.

July 21 2015: Presentation to Accountability and Governance group, Sponsored by International House and the U.S. Department of State Office of International Visitors.

The Defender Association, Seattle, WA: pro bono; I assisted non-profit public interest law firm in the preparation of a study analyzing the effects of government resources on the decision to pursue the death penalty; part of ongoing death penalty litigation. 2009-2011

North Carolina Bar Candidate Committee Interviewer, 2007

#### *Academic Service*

#### University

Chair, Levine Scholars Program Semifinalist Review Committee, Fall 2015-Fall 2020. (Member, Fall 2012-2014)

Chair, Levine Scholars Program Finalist Interview Committee, Spring 2020-Spring 2021, Spring 2024-2025 (Invited Spring 2023, could not serve due to COVID) (Member, Spring 2019)

Co-Organizer (with Reginal Branton), National Science Foundation Workshop, Spring 2023

Member, Alumni Association Merit Scholarship Committee, Spring 2023

Member, Honors College Scholarships Committee, Spring 2023

Member, UNCC Faculty Council, Fall 2010-Spring 2012; Fall 2013-Spring 2014; Fall 2018-Spring 2019

Member, UNC Charlotte Honors Council, Fall 2012-Spring 2015

Member, Honors College Task Force for the Redesign of Honors Education, Fall 2012-Spring 2015

Member, Honors Council Redesign Subcommittee, Spring 2013-Fall 2014

Member, Women + Girls Research Alliance (formerly known as Women's Summit) Research Subcommittee, Spring 2013-Spring 2015

Alternate, UNC Charlotte Honors Council, Fall 2024-

Alternate, Nominations, Honors, and Awards Committee, Fall 2023-

Alternate, Faculty Employment Status Committee, Fall 2019-Spring 2020

Constitution Day. Fall 2020, Organized Speaker. Fall 2022: Organized and participated in discussion.

### College

Co-Chair, CHESS College Review Committee, Fall 2024-

Chair, CLAS Teaching Award Committee, Spring 2020

Member, CHESS Faculty Council Ad Hoc Committee on Bylaw Revisions, Fall 2023  
Department Diversity Liaison with CLAS, Fall 2018-Spring 2019; Fall 2021-Spring 2022

Member, CLAS Faculty Council, Fall 2011-Spring 2013; Fall 2015-Spring 2017

Member, Legal Studies Task Force, Fall 2013-Spring 2016

Member, CLAS Honors Task Forces, Fall 2013-Spring 2015

### Department/Program

*Political Science & Public Administration*

Director, Political Science Honors Program, Fall 2012-Summer 2015

Chair, Department Review Committee, Fall 2018-Spring 2019; Fall 2022-Spring 2023. (Member, Fall 2016-Spring 2018; Junior Member, Department Review Committee, Fall 2012-Spring 2013)

Chair, Department Workload Policy Review Committee, Fall 2024

Chair, Search Committee, Rauch Distinguished Professor, Fall 2021-Spring 2022

Chair, Search Committee, Open-field Lecturer, Spring 2018

Chair, Search Committee, Political Theory, Fall 2016

Chair, Methods-Capstone Task Force, Fall 2021

Coordinator, Political Science Brown Bag, Fall 2009-Spring 2012

Adviser & Coach, UNCC Mock Trial Program, Fall 2012-Present

Member, Search Committee, Foundations of American Democracy, Lecturer or Assistant Teaching Professor, Fall 2024-

Member, Department Task Force Crediting Research Supervision, Fall 2024

Member, Department Ad Hoc General Education Committee, Fall 2022

Member, Department Executive Committee, Fall 2014-Spring 2016

Member, Political Science & Public Administration Department Chair Search Committee, Fall 2018

Member, Search Committees, Public Administration Assistant Professor (two positions), Fall 2012-Spring 2013

Member, Search Committee, American Politics Assistant Professor, Fall 2010

Member, Department Honors Committee, Fall 2012-Spring 2015

Member, Political Science Undergraduate Assessment Committee, Fall 2008-Spring 2009; Fall 2011-Spring 2012; Fall 2019-2020; Fall 2021-

Member, Ex Officio, Political Science & Public Administration Undergraduate Assessment Committee, Fall 2014-Spring 2016

Member, Department Research Methods Task force, Fall 2013

Member, Department Retirement Committee, Spring 2013

Adviser, Pre-law Society, Fall 2006-Spring 2008

Undergraduate Adviser, Political Science, Fall 2008-Spring 2009; Spring 2012-Spring 2016

Mentor, Senior Colleague, Fall 2022

Interim Adviser, North Carolina Student Legislature, Fall 2006

*Public Policy Ph.D. Program*

Chair, Public Policy Quantitative Methods Qualifier Committee, Fall 2012-2020  
(Member starting in Fall 2010; Member 2021)

Member, Public Policy Quantitative Methods Task Force, Fall 2013

Member, Search Committee, Public Policy Assistant Professor, Spring 2012

*Women's & Gender Studies Program*

Member, Women's & Gender Studies Curriculum Committee, Spring 2015

American Studies

Chair, Search Committee, American Studies Director, Spring 2025

Professional Service

[National Science Foundation, Advisory Council, Law & Science Dissertation Grant Program](#)  
Fall 2020-present

National Science Foundation Panelist, 5 panels

Member, Coaches and Alumni Advisory Council, American Mock Trial Association, Spring 2023-present (2-year term)

Chair, Southern Political Association Pi Sigma Alpha/Malcolm Jewell Best Conference Paper Award, Fall 2023

Member, Best Conference Paper Award Committee, Law and Courts Section of the American Political Science Association, Spring 2023

Alternate, APSA Law & Courts Executive Board  
Fall 2020-2021

Chair, 2016 C. Neal Tate Best Paper in Judicial Politics Award Committee.  
*2016 Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA*

Member, Teaching & Mentoring Award Committee  
2020, American Political Science Association Law & Courts Section

Member, Brenno Galli Best Paper Award for a Junior Scholar Committee.  
*2016 Italian Society of Law and Economics Annual Meeting, Torino, Italy*



Chair and Discussant, Panel on “Public Opinion and the U.S. Supreme Court.”  
*2014 Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA*

Chair and Discussant, Panel on “The American Judiciary.”  
*2013 North Carolina Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Raleigh, NC*

Chair and Discussant, Panel on “Examining Policy and Doctrine on the U.S. Supreme Court.”  
*2013 Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Orlando, FL*

Chair and Discussant, Panel on "Gender Diversity on the Bench."  
*2012 Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL*

Chair, panel on “Judicial Elections.”  
*2006 Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.*

Discussant, Panel on Ideology and Decision Making in the U.S. Supreme Court  
*2025 Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, San Juan, PR*

Discussant, Panel on U.S. Courts of Appeals: The Appellate Work Horses of the Federal Judiciary  
*2024 American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA*

Discussant, Panel on Judge Background and Decision Making  
*2022 Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX*

Discussant, Panel on New Measures in Judicial Politics  
*2021 American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA*

Discussant, Panel on Novel Data, Novel Measures: Comparative Decision Making.  
*2019 Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Austin, TX*

Discussant, Conference within a Conference: Intersections in Judicial Politics  
 Panel on Fantastic Data and Where to Find Them: Judicial Politics Meets Text Analysis  
*2018 Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA*

Discussant, Panel on Decision Making on Appeals Courts  
*2018 Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA*

Discussant, Panel on State Courts: Institutions and Behavior  
*2017 State Politics and Policy Conference, St. Louis, Mo*

Discussant, Panel on “Message in a Bottle: Judicial Politics in State Supreme Court.”  
*2015 American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA*

Discussant, panel on “Diffusion of Precedent.”  
*2006 Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.*

Discussant, panel on “Citizens’ Preferences and Electoral Outcomes.”  
*2001 Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, NV.*

Peer-Reviewer for the following:

*National Science Foundation*  
*Israel Science Foundation*  
*Nature Communications*  
*University of Virginia Press*  
*Sage Pross*  
*American Journal of Political Science*  
*American Political Science Review*  
*Journal of Politics*  
*Political Research Quarterly*  
*Public Administration Review*  
*Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*  
*Social Science Quarterly*  
*American Politics Research*  
*Law & Social Inquiry*  
*Law & Society Review*  
*Journal of Law & Courts*  
*Politics & Gender*  
*Politics, Groups, & Identities*  
*Journal of Empirical Legal Studies*  
*European Journal of Law and Economics*  
*Journal of Legal Studies*  
*Journal of Women, Politics & Policy*  
*Judicature*  
*Justice System Journal*  
*Research and Politics*  
*Social Forces*  
*Social Science Journal*  
*Social Science Research*  
*Yale Law Journal*

## Recognition and Awards

UNC Charlotte Honors College. Faculty Recommender Award, 2023-2024

Project Mosaic Social Science Faculty Research Mentor-Mentee Award, 2015-16  
 Leadership UNC Charlotte invitee

UNC Charlotte Chancellor's Special Recognition letter, multiple students identified me as the one person who made the most significant positive contribution to their education. 2012-13; 2013-14; 2014-15; 2016-17 (13 students); 2017-18 (6 students); 2018-2019 (3 students); 2019-2020 (6 students).

CONNECT Mentoring Program, Ottawa, Canada, July 2012 (\$400 award)

Recipient, UNCC CLAS Junior Faculty Development Award, Fall 2011

Artinian Travel Award, Southern Political Science Association, January 2010 (\$250)

Chair's Award for Best Dissertation in Political Science, University of South Carolina 2006

Recipient, M. Glenn Abernathy Memorial Fellowship, 1999

## **Professional Memberships**

American Political Science Association (Law & Courts; Political Methodology; Women & Politics)

Association of Canadian Studies in the United States

Midwest Political Science Association

North Carolina Political Science Association

Southern Political Science Association

Western Political Science Association