

Susan Navarro Smelcer

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Education

Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia. 2004-Present. Currently a doctoral candidate in the Department of Political Science.

Dissertation: Communicating Through Opinions: The Evolving Use of Dissent in American Courts

Committee Micheal W. Giles (chair), Thomas G. Walker, Clifford J. Carrubba

Expected Completion: August 2012

Comprehensive Exams Passed

American Public Policy Processes

Judicial Politics and Constitutional Law

Methods (Quantitative Methods and Game Theory)

Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia. M.A. in Political Science, 2008.

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Chapel Hill, North Carolina. B.A. with Distinction, Political Science (Highest Honors). Minor, Religious Studies. 2000-2003.

Employment

Analyst on the Federal Judiciary, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress Washington, DC. January 2009-September 2011.

In this role, I served congressional clients by responding to inquiries, briefing Members of Congress and their staff, and writing reports and memoranda about a wide variety of topics pertaining to the federal judiciary, including but not limited to the operation of the courts, judicial politics and behavior, and the judicial appointment process. I also occasionally taught seminars on these topics. Between September 2010 and December 2010, I was detailed to the Senate Impeachment Trial Committee on the Articles of Impeachment Against Judge G. Thomas Porteous, Jr., and co-authored the committee's report to the full Senate.

Research and Teaching Interests

Constitutional Law

Formal Theory

Judicial Politics

Legal Development

Quantitative Methods

Publications

"Bias and the Bar: Evaluating the ABA Ratings of Federal Judicial Nominees." *Political Research Quarterly*, Forthcoming December 2012 (with Amy L. Steigerwalt and Richard L. Vining).

"Research Note: Judicial Tenure on the U.S. Supreme Court, 1789-1868: Frustration, Resignation, and Expiration on the Bench." *Studies in American Political Development* 20(2): 198-210 (with Richard L. Vining and Christopher J. Zorn).

Papers Under Review

"Supreme Court Justice Tenure and Response to Institutional Reform, 1801-1937" (with Richard L. Vining and Christopher J. Zorn). Received an invitation to revise and resubmit at the *Journal of Empirical Legal Studies*.

"Communicating in 140 Characters or Less: Congressional Adoption of Twitter in the 111th Congress" (with Jacob R. Straus, Matthew Eric Glassman, and Colleen J. Shogan).

Working and Conference Papers

"Bias and the Bar: Evaluating the Rating of Federal Judicial Nominees."

Presented at the Sixty-Seventh Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association (Chicago, Illinois. April 2-4, 2009) and the Eighty-First Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association (Atlanta, Georgia. January 6-10, 2010).

"The Role of Dissent in Legal Development."

Presented at the Sixty-Seventh Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association (Chicago, Illinois. April 2-5, 2008).

"Strategic Dissent in the U.S. Courts of Appeals."

Presented at the Sixty-Fifth Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association (Chicago, Illinois. April 12-15, 2006).

"Executive Action and Judicial Independence under International Legal Constraint."

Co-authored with Emily Hencken Ritter.

Presented at the Sixty-Fifth Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association (Chicago, Illinois. April 12-15, 2006) and the 103rd Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association (Chicago, Illinois. August 30, 2007 - September 2, 2007).

"An Examination of 'Regime Effects' in the U.S. Courts of Appeals."

Co-authored with Bethany R. Blackstone.

Presented at the Sixty-Fourth Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association (Chicago, Illinois. April 20-23, 2006) and the and the 103rd Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association (Chicago, Illinois. August 30, 2007 - September 2, 2007).

"Departures from the U.S. Supreme Court, 1790-2006. Politics, Pragmatism, and Response to Institutional Reform."

Co-authored with Richard L. Vining and Christopher J. Zorn.

Presented at the 103rd Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association (Chicago, Illinois. August 30, 2007 - September 2, 2007).

"Supreme Court Justice Tenure and Response to Institutional Reform, 1801-1937"

Co-authored with Richard L. Vining and Christopher J. Zorn.

Presented at the Seventy-Seventh Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association (Atlanta, Georgia. January 5-7, 2006).

"Judicial Tenure on the U.S. Supreme Court, 1789-1868: Frustration, Resignation, and Expiration on the Bench."

Co-authored with Richard L. Vining and Christopher J. Zorn.

Presented at the Forty-First Annual Meeting of the Law and Society Association (Las Vegas, Nevada. June 2-5, 2006) and the Thirtieth Meeting of the Social Science History Association (Portland, Oregon. November 3-6, 2005).

Teaching and Grading Experience

Instructor, Various seminars on the judicial appointment process, current topics in judicial nominations, and the impeachment process, Congressional Research Service. 2009-2011.

Grader/Computer Lab Assistant, Emory University. POLS 308: Political Science Methods. Eric Reinhardt, Instructor. Fall 2008.

Co-Teacher, Emory University. POLS 353: Civil Liberties. Thomas Walker, Instructor. Spring 2008.

Teaching Assistant, Emory University. POLS 100: American National Politics. Micheal Giles, Instructor. Spring 2007.

Grader, Emory University. POLS 344: American Political Leadership. Randall Strahan, Instructor. Fall 2006.

Teaching Assistant, Emory University. POLS 513: Introduction to Game Theory. Clifford Carrubba, Instructor. Spring 2006.

Relevant Training and Experience

Empirical Implications of Theoretical Models (EITM) Summer Institute. Washington University in St. Louis. Summer 2006.

Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research Summer Program in Quantitative Methods. Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Maximum Likelihood Estimation for Social Sciences. Charles Franklin, Instructor. Summer 2005.

Advanced Maximum Likelihood Estimation. Michele Claibourn, Brad Jones, and Gregory Wawro, Instructors. Summer 2005.

Social Network Analysis. Stan Wasserman, Instructor. Summer 2008.

Methods Coursework Taken at Emory University

POLS 513: Introduction to Game Theory

POLS 514: Advanced Game Theory

POLS 515: Topics in Game Theory

POLS 507: Social Science Research Methods

POLS 508: Data Analysis

POLS 509: The Linear Model

POLS 570: Longitudinal Data Analysis

POLS 585: Topics in Statistical Methods

Research Assistant, Emory University.

Fall 2007, For Randall Strahan.

Fall 2006, For Micheal Giles and Randall Strahan.

Spring 2006-Summer 2006, For Clifford Carrubba.

Fall 2005, For Larry Taulbee.

Spring 2005-Summer 2005, For Micheal Giles.

Fall 2004, For Thomas Walker.

Co-President, University of North Carolina Young Democrats. 2002-2003.

Worked with the North Carolina Democratic Party and North Carolina Coordinated Campaign during the 2002 election season.

Administered the "Democracy in the Classroom" program, a civics curriculum for third and fourth graders created by the UNC Young Democrats.

Coordinated campus voter registration drives with the UNC College Republicans.

Research Intern, Erskine Bowles for Senate Campaign. Raleigh, North Carolina. 2001-2002.

Awards, Fellowships, and Honors

Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Fellowship, Emory University. 2004-2009.

Dean's List, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. 2000-2003.

Order of the Grail-Valkyries, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Inducted 2002.

Founded in 1920 and 1941, the Order "recognizes students of outstanding character who have made significant contributions to our university's academic climate through excellence in scholarship, dynamic leadership, and innovative service" (www.unc.edu/honoraries).

Pi Sigma Alpha, Political Science Honor Society. Inducted 2002.

Golden Key National Honor Society, Inducted 2002.

UNC Sophomore Honors Program, 2001-2002.

National Society of Collegiate Scholars, Inducted 2001.

UNC Freshman Honors Program, 2000-2001.

Professional Associations

American Political Science Association, 2004-Present.

Member, Law and Courts Section

Member, Political Methodology Section

Midwest Political Science Association, 2005-Present.

Southern Political Science Association, 2006-Present.

Professional Service

Steward, Congressional Research Employees Association (IFPTE Local 75), 2011.

President, Graduate Political Science Organization, 2007-2008.

Vice President, Graduate Political Science Organization, 2006-2007.

Departmental Representative, Graduate Student Council, 2005-2006.

Occasional Reviewer, Journal of Politics, Political Research Quarterly

Other Skills

Strong knowledge of Microsoft Office and iWork applications, Stata, R, L^AT_EX.

Working knowledge of SPSS, Mathematica, UCINET, NetDraw, Pajek, WinBUGS, HTML.

References

Dr. Micheal W. Giles, *Advisor*
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Dr. Thomas G. Walker, *Advisor*
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