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EDUCATION:

- 2009 - present *Ph Candidate*. Political Science, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington
Expected completion 6/2012
Committee: George Lovell (Chair), Michael McCann, John Wilkerson
- 2008 *M.A.* Political Science, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington
Master's Thesis: "*Legislative Design and the Supreme Court's Agenda*"
- 2001 *M.A.* Political Science, Ohio University, Athens, Ohio
Thesis: "*Abortion and American Political Culture*"
- 2000 *B.A.* Political Science, Ohio University, Athens, Ohio

FIELDS OF SPECIALIZATION:

Public law: United States Supreme Court; judicial behavior; judicial review; judicial politics
American: American political institutions; separation-of-powers; inter-branch interactions
Public policy: Agenda-setting; decision-making; policy change

DISSERTATION:

Congress, the Courts, and Agenda-setting and Change

Abstract: What explains variation over the issues federal courts examine over time? Adopting an interbranch approach, I argue that this variation is a function of changes in rules of access that govern whether litigants can use the courts. I focus on two rules of access – jurisdiction and standing. During the legislative process, lawmakers decide how to grant policy-making authority to courts. These decisions create statutory environments that shape the courts' agendas. I examine how Congress varies jurisdiction and standing. Using original data, I explain how rules of access for the courts have changed over time and across policy issues and present a theory that links changes in rules of access to the courts' agendas. I employ both quantitative and qualitative methods to demonstrate the relationship between rules of access and judicial agendas.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

Instructor, University of Washington

- Summer 2011: Introduction to U.S Constitutional Law

Instructor, University of Washington

- Winter 2011: Judging the Courts – an introduction to the agenda-setting and decision-making processes of the federal district courts, courts of appeals, and U.S. Supreme Court

Instructor, University of Washington

- Fall 2010: Law in Society

Instructor, University of Washington

- Spring 2010: United States Courts and Civil Liberties

Instructor, University of Washington

- Winter 2010: Introduction to United States Constitutional Law

Instructor, University of Washington

- Summer 2009: Introduction to United States Constitutional Law

Extensive Teaching Assistant experience.

PUBLICATIONS:

“Jurisdiction-Granting: Legislative Capacity and Ideological Distance.” *Under review at Polity*.

“Congress and the Supreme Court’s Agenda: Interbranch Interactions and Judicial Agenda-setting and Change.” *Under review at Justice System Journal*.

HONORS:

2011

Stuart Scheingold Award for Best Paper in Public Law for “Jurisdiction-Granting: Legislative Capacity and Ideological Distance” University of Washington

RESEARCH SUPPORT:

2005-2006

Donald R. Matthews Fellowship

CONFERENCE PAPERS:

September 2011 “The Dynamics of Standing,” poster presentation at the 2011 APSA Meeting, Seattle, WA.

March 2011, “Jurisdiction-Granting: Legislative Capacity and Ideological Distance.”
May 2011 Midwestern Political Science Association 2011 Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL (March 2011) and the Annual Meeting of the Law and Society Association, San Francisco, CA (May 2011).

April 2010 “Jurisdiction and Agenda Change at the Federal Courts.” Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA.

May 2009, “The Power to Decide.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Law and
March 2009 Society Association, Denver, CO (May 2009) and the Western Political Science Association 2009 Annual Meeting, Vancouver, B.C. (March 2009).

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE AND SERVICE:

2008 – 2009

Comparative Law and Society Studies Center Graduate Student Assistant.

2007-2008

Research Assistant for Dr. Gary Segura, Co-Principal Investigator of the Latino National Survey.

Assisted in statistical analysis of results of the Latino National Survey using STATA, working towards producing descriptive statistics to be used in a publication on Latino political behavior.