

# Michael J. Nelson

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## Academic Appointments

The Pennsylvania State University, Assistant Professor of Political Science, 2014-Present.  
Affiliate Faculty, Penn State Law, 2014-Present.

## Education

Ph.D. Political Science, Washington University in St. Louis, 2014.  
A.M. Political Science, Washington University in St. Louis, 2011.  
B.A. Politics and English, Drake University, 2009.

## Peer-Reviewed Publications

Amanda Driscoll and Michael J. Nelson. 2015. "Judicial Selection and the Democratization of Justice: Lessons from the Bolivian Judicial Elections." Forthcoming at *Journal of Law and Courts*.

James L. Gibson and Michael J. Nelson. n.d. "Is the U.S. Supreme Court's Legitimacy Grounded in Performance Satisfaction and Ideology?" Forthcoming at *American Journal of Political Science*.

James L. Gibson and Michael J. Nelson. 2014. "The Legitimacy of the U.S. Supreme Court: Conventional Wisdoms, and Recent Challenges Thereto." *Annual Review of Law and Social Science* 10: 201-19.

Amanda Driscoll and Michael J. Nelson. 2014. "Ignorance or Opposition?: Blank and Spoiled Votes in Low-Information, Highly Politicized Environments." *Political Research Quarterly* 67:547-561.

Michael J. Nelson. 2014. "Representative Justice? Public Opinion and the Criminal Justice System." *Journal of Law and Courts* 2:117-152.

Michael J. Nelson, Rachel Paine Caufield, and Andrew D. Martin. 2013. "OH, MI: On Empirical Examinations of Judicial Elections." *State Politics & Policy Quarterly* 13:495-511.

Amanda Driscoll and Michael J. Nelson. 2013. "The Political Origins of Judicial Elections: Evidence from the United States and Bolivia." *Judicature* 96:151-160.

Michael J. Nelson 2011. "Uncontested and Unaccountable? Rates of Contestation in Trial Court Elections." *Judicature* 10:208-217.

## Other Publications

James L. Gibson and Michael J. Nelson. n.d. "Judicial Elections: Judges and their New-Style Constituencies." Forthcoming in *The Oxford Handbook of American Law and the Judiciary* Ed. Lee Epstein and Stefanie A. Lindquist. Oxford University Press.

Michael J. Nelson. n.d. "Judicial Independence" Forthcoming in *International Encyclopedia of Social and Behavioral Sciences*. Ed. by James D. Wright. Elsevier.

Michael J. Nelson. n.d. "Judicial Behavior" Forthcoming in *International Encyclopedia of Social and*

*Behavioral Sciences*. Ed. James D. Wright. Elseiver.

James L. Gibson and Michael J. Nelson. 2015. "Can the U.S. Supreme Court Have Too Much Legitimacy?" In *Making Law and Courts Research Relevant: The Normative Implications of Empirical Research on Law and Courts*. Edited by Brandon L. Bartels and Chris W. Bonneau. New York, NY: Routledge, 169-179.

Amanda Driscoll and Michael J. Nelson. 2012. "The 2011 Judicial Elections in Bolivia." *Electoral Studies* 31:628-639.

Malia Reddick, Michael J. Nelson and Rachel Paine Caufield. 2009. "Racial and Gender Diversity on State Courts." *The Judge's Journal* 48: 28-32.

## Working Papers

Michael J. Nelson and Ian Ostrander. 2014. "Keeping Appointments: The Politics of Confirming U.S. Attorneys." Revise and Resubmit at *Law and Society Review*.

Michael J. Nelson and Steven S. Smith. 2014. "Change and Stability in Diffuse Support for the Supreme Court." Under Review.

James L. Gibson and Michael J. Nelson. 2014. "Change in Institutional Support for the U.S. Supreme Court: An Analysis of the Effects of Disappointment in the Court's Rulings." Under Review.

Michael J. Nelson 2013. "Elections and Explanations: Judicial Elections and the Readability of Judicial Opinions." Under Review.

Winner, Outstanding Graduate Student Poster, 2013 State Politics and Policy Conference

Michael J. Nelson and Steven S. Smith. 2014. "Public Attitudes about Supreme Court Decision Making: Sources of Instability in Beliefs about Legal Realism." Working Paper.

Amanda Driscoll, Michael J. Nelson, and Keith Schnakenberg. 2014. "Inference in Multi-Candidate Elections: Combining Candidate and Constituency Characteristics." Presented at APSA 2014.

Michael J. Nelson and Alicia Uribe. 2014. "Opportunity and Overrides: The Effect of the Court's Public Support on Congressional Policymaking." Presented at APSA 2014.

## Conference Participation

American Political Science Association (2012, 2013, 2014)

Midwest Political Science Association (2009, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2015)

Polmeth (2013)

Southern Political Science Association (2013)

State Politics and Policy Conference (2013)

Western Political Science Association (2015)

## Grants

Time Sharing Experiments in the Social Sciences, "How Should We Measure the Perceived Ideological Position of the U.S. Supreme Court" July 2014 (with James L. Gibson).

Polmeth Travel Grant, July 2013.

State Politics and Policy Conference Travel Grant, May 2013.

## Teaching

The Pennsylvania State University: Quantitative Political Analysis (F14), Proseminar in American Politics (F14), The U.S. Supreme Court and Equality (S15)

Washington University in St. Louis: Introduction to American Politics, Introduction to Quantitative Methods, Recent Decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court

## Advising

MA Theses: Jeremy Johnson (2015)

BA Honors Theses: Brian Shiue (2014-2014)

## Service

To the Department:

Undergraduate Studies Committee, Department of Political Science, 2014-Present.

To the University:

Faculty Advisor, Pennsylvania State University Mock Trial Association, 2014-Present.

To the Discipline:

Teaching and Mentoring Award Selection Committee, Law and Courts Section of the American Political Science Association, 2014-2015.

Candidate Director, American Mock Trial Association, 2014-Present.

Project Coordinator, Judicial Elections Data Initiative, 2010-Present.

Reviewer, *American Journal of Political Science*, *American Political Science Review*, *American Politics Research*, *Journal of Politics*, *Judicature*, *Justice System Journal*, *Law & Society Review*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *Public Opinion Quarterly*, *State Politics & Policy Quarterly*, and *Washington International Law Journal*

## Awards and Honors

Winner, Outstanding Graduate Student Poster, 2013 State Politics and Policy Conference.

Dean's Award for Teaching Excellence, Washington University, Spring 2013.

Phi Sigma Alpha, Spring 2008.

Phi Beta Kappa, Spring 2009.

## References

### **Andrew D. Martin**

Dean, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts  
Professor of Political Science  
University of Michigan

### **James L. Gibson**

Sidney W. Souers Professor of Government  
Department of Political Science  
Washington University in St. Louis

### **James F. Spriggs II**

Sidney W. Souers Professor of Government  
Chair, Department of Political Science  
Washington University in St. Louis

### **Lee Epstein**

Ethan A.H. Shepley Distinguished University Professor  
Co-Director, Center for Empirical Research in the Law  
Washington University in St. Louis

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