

# MICHAEL J. NELSON

---

Department of Political Science  
The Pennsylvania State University  
Pond Laboratory

University Park, PA 16802

E-Mail: [mjn15@psu.edu](mailto:mjn15@psu.edu)  
Web: <http://www.mjnelson.org>  
Office: Pond Laboratory  
232  
Phone: 814.863.4482

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

The Pennsylvania State University, Assistant Professor of Political Science, 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. Political Science 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*.

Amanda Driscoll and Michael J. Nelson. n.d. "Ignorance or Opposition?: Blank and Spoiled Votes in Low-Information, Highly Politicized Environments." Forthcoming at *Political Research Quarterly*.

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." Forthcoming at *Annual Review of Law and Social Science*.

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.

Driscoll, Amanda 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. 2014. "Can the U.S. Supreme Court Have Too Much Legitimacy?" Forthcoming in *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 and Steven S. Smith. 2014. "Public Attitudes about Supreme Court Decision Making: Sources of Instability in Beliefs about Legal Realism." Working Paper.

Michael J. Nelson 2013. "Elections and Explanations: Judicial Elections and the Readability of Judicial Opinions." Working Paper.

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

Michael J. Nelson 2013. "Dual(ing) Constitutions: State Courts and Judicial Federalism." Working Paper.

Michael J. Nelson. 2013. "Ignorance, Information, and Judicial Elections." Working Paper.

## TEACHING

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

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

## CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

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

American Political Science Association (2012, 2013, 2014)

Southern Political Science Association (2013)

State Politics and Policy Conference (2013)

Polmeth (2013)

## GRANTS

Time Sharing Experiments in the Social Sciences Short Studies Program, "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.

## SERVICE

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

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

Technical Support, The Supreme Court Database, 2012-2014.

Coach, Washington University Mock Trial Team, 2010-2014.

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

## 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**

Vice Dean and CERL Director, School of Law  
Charles Nagel Chair of Constitutional  
Law and Political Science  
Washington University in St. Louis

### **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  
Washington University in St. Louis

Last Updated: August 2, 2014