

# MICHAEL J. NELSON

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## EDUCATION

Ph.D. Political Science, Washington University in St. Louis, Expected 2014.

Dissertation: *Crafting Law on State Courts*

Committee: Andrew D. Martin (Chair), James L. Gibson, James F. Spriggs, II

Fields: American Politics and Political Methodology

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. 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*.

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

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, 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

Michael J. Nelson. 2014. "Judicial Independence" Forthcoming in *International Encyclopedia of Social and Behavioral Sciences*. Edited by James D. Wright. Elseiver.

Michael J. Nelson. 2014. "Judicial Behavior" Forthcoming in *International Encyclopedia of Social and Behavioral Sciences*. Edited by 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.

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. 2013. "Keeping Appointments: The Politics of Confirming U.S. Attorneys." Revise and Resubmit at *Law and Society Review*.

Amanda Driscoll and Michael J. Nelson. 2013. "Electing Political Delegates or Judicial Trustees? Professional Experience, Partisanship and Descriptive Representation in Judicial Elections." Revise and Resubmit at *Journal of Law and Courts*.

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

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

As Instructor: Introduction to American Politics, Introduction to Quantitative Methods, Recent Decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court

As Assistant: Introduction to American Politics, Energy & the Environment, Defendants' Rights

## CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

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

American Political Science Association (2012, 2013)

Southern Political Science Association (2013)

State Politics and Policy Conference (2013)

Polmeth (2013)

## GRANTS

Polmeth Travel Grant, July 2013.

State Politics and Policy Conference Travel Grant, May 2013.

## AFFILIATIONS

Graduate Assistant to the Vice Dean, Washington University School of Law, Fall 2012-Spring 2013.

Graduate Student Associate, Center for Empirical Research in the Law, Fall 2010-Present.  
Project Coordinator, Judicial Elections Data Initiative, Spring 2010-Present.  
Graduate Research Associate, Hunter Center for Judicial Selection, Summer 2011.

## SERVICE

Technical Support, The Supreme Court Database, 2012-Present.  
Coach, Washington University Mock Trial Team, 2010-Present.  
TA Orientation Leader, Washington University, 2012-2013.  
Peer Mentor, Washington University Department of Political Science, 2010-2012.  
Graduate Advisory Committee, Washington University Department of Political Science, 2010-2011.  
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.  
Dean's Dissertation Fellowship, Washington University, 2013-2014.  
C. Walter Clark Award for Outstanding Senior Political Student, Drake University, Spring 2009.  
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 F. Spriggs II**

Sidney W. Souers Professor of Government  
Chair, Department of 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

### **Lee Epstein**

Provost Professor of Law and Political Science  
Rader Family Trustee Chair in Law  
University of Southern California