

Meghan E. Leonard
Curriculum Vitae

University of Arizona
School of Government and Public Policy
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Education

Ph.D.	University of Arizona	Political Science	Expected 2010
M.A.	University of Arizona	Political Science	2007
B.A.	Union College, NY	Political Science	2005
I.C.P.S.R.	Advanced Maximum Likelihood Estimation		Summer 2008

Examination Fields: American Politics, Comparative Politics (minor)

Fields of Interest: Judicial Politics, State Politics

Dissertation

Judicial Review, Delegation and Policy Making on State High Courts

Committee: Laura Langer (Chair); Jan Leighley; Chad Westerland

In maintaining the power of judicial review, state high courts play a significant role in policy-making in the states. However, in some cases, these courts may find themselves in a position in which they are forced to relinquish control over the final policy outcome due to a lack of institutional legitimacy. In this dissertation I offer a theory of judicial review and delegation on state high courts. I argue that state high courts use judicial review and may subsequently delegate policy control back to the other branches of the state government as they balance two central goals: having their policy preferences implemented and maintaining the legitimacy of their institution. This is essential because courts are not guaranteed compliance with their decisions. I further argue that the informational capacities of the state legislatures will, in part, determine when and to which institution the court will delegate policy control. In this dissertation, I address the policy making power of courts in sub-national separation of powers systems and I apply legitimacy theories to state high courts. In doing so, I seek to determine the role legitimacy plays in the decision-making processes in these institutions.

Working Papers

“State Judicial Elections and the New Institutional Legitimacy.” Forthcoming chapter in the *Oxford Handbook of American Elections and Political Behavior*. Jan Leighley, ed. January 2010 (with Laura Langer and Andrea Polk).

“Legislators’ Perceptions and Sources of Legitimacy: The Politicization of Courts” (with Laura Langer and Joseph V. Ross). *Preparing for submission*.

“Legitimacy, Judicial Review and Delegation: Who Controls Policy in the States?”

“Citations in State High Court Opinions: Examining the Role of External Constraints and Internal Audiences” *Preparing for submission.*

“Campaign Finance in Judicial Elections: Are Restrictions Having their Intended Effects?” (with Joseph V. Ross)

Conference Participation

“Legitimacy, Judicial Review and Delegation: Who Controls Policy in the States?” Presented at the 2009 American Political Science Association meeting September 2009, Toronto, ON, Canada.

“Judicial Review, Delegation and Policy-Making on State High Courts” Poster Presented at the 2009 State Politics and Policy Conference meeting May 2009, Chapel Hill, NC.

“Citations in State High Court Opinions: Examining the Role of External Constraints and Internal Audiences” Presented at the 2009 Midwest Political Science Association meeting April 2009, Chicago, IL.

“Campaign Finance in Judicial Elections: Are Restrictions Having their Intended Effects?” (with Joseph V. Ross) Presented at the 2009 Midwest Political Science Association meeting April 2009, Chicago, IL.

“Contributions and Contribution Limits in State Supreme Court Elections 1996-2006” Presented at the 2007 Midwest Political Science Association meeting April 2007, Chicago, IL.

“Predicting Legislators’ Perceptions in an Uncertain Political Environment” (with Laura Langer and Joseph Ross) Presented at the 2007 State Politics and Policy meeting February 2007, Austin, TX.

“Predicting Legislators’ Perceptions in an Uncertain Political Environment” (with Laura Langer and Joseph Ross) Presented at the 2007 Southern Political Science Association meeting January 2007, New Orleans, LA.

Research and Other Experience

Editorial Assistant: *Journal of Politics* January 2009-Present

Research Assistant University of Arizona Dr. Jan Leighley, PEW Grant Summer 2009
University of Arizona Dr. Laura Langer, NSF Grant 2005-2008

University of Arizona Grant Writing Workshop Summer 2008

Teaching Experience

Instructor, University of Arizona The Judicial Process Summer 2009

Instructor, University of Arizona The U.S. and Arizona Constitution Summer 2008

Instructor, University of Arizona The U.S. and Arizona Constitution Summer 2007

T.A. University of Arizona The Judicial Process Fall 2007

T.A. University of Arizona American National Government Fall 2005

Fellowships, Grants and Awards

University of Arizona Graduate and Professional Student Council: Travel Grant. Spring 2009	\$500
University of Arizona Social and Behavioral Sciences Research Institute: Summer Research Development Award 2008	\$1,000
University of Arizona Department of Political Science and Social and Behavioral Sciences Research Institute: ICPSR Scholarships, Summer 2008	\$1,100

Professional Membership and Service

Member: American Political Science Association; Midwest Political Science Association; Southern
Political Science Association
Reviewer: *Journal of Politics*
Graduate Representative: University of Arizona Department of Political Science Transformation
Committee

References

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