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Education

- Ph.D., Political Science, Stony Brook University (expected May 2009).
Examination Fields: American Politics, Methodology, Political Economy
- M.A., Political Science, Stony Brook University, 2006.
- B.A., Political Science, University of California, Davis, 2002.

Research Interests

Judicial Politics, Public Law, Congressional Behavior and Elections, Political Methodology

Honors and Awards (Graduate and Professional)

- National Science Foundation Dissertation Improvement Grant, Division of Social and Economic Sciences, Law and Social Sciences Program (Award #0719000). Funding approved for July 2007 to June 2009.
- Westview Press Award, Best Paper by a Graduate Student, 2007 for “Pork, Awareness, and Ideological Consistency: The Effects of Distributive Benefits on Vote Choice.” 2006. with Andrew H. Sidman. Presented at the 2006 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.
- Excellence in Teaching Award. 2007. Political Science Department, Stony Brook University.
- Departmental Fellowship, 2005-Present, Stony Brook University, Political Science.

Dissertation

Title: Hierarchical Constraints and the Choices Judges Make: Judicial Decision-Making at the U.S. Courts of Appeals

Committee: Jeffrey A. Segal (chair), Scott J. Basinger, Brandon L. Bartels,
Lee Epstein (outside member, Northwestern University)

I develop a theory specifying whether and to what degree Supreme Court preferences and legal considerations can influence judicial decision-making at the U.S. Courts of Appeals. Truly meaningful compliance requires responsiveness to the Court’s ideology and legal considerations as well as evincing such behavior *in spite of* divergent preferences. I also examine and test for the possibility that hierarchical constraints can induce heterogeneity in the preference-behavior relationship. Through examinations of abortion, free speech and religion cases at the circuit courts, this dissertation seeks to clarify the relationships between ideology, hierarchical constraints and the eventual vote choice at the circuit courts.

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Segal, Jeffrey A., and Maxwell Mak. 2009. "Out of the Sample and One Step Ahead: Forecasting Supreme Court Confirmation Votes." *Justice System Journal* 30: (Forthcoming).

Sidman, Andrew H., Maxwell Mak, and Matthew J. Lebo. 2008. "Forecasting Non-Incumbent Presidential Elections: Lessons Learned from the 2000 Election." *The International Journal of Forecasting* 24: 237-256.

Other Publications

Contributing Author (with Andrew H. Sidman). 2008. *Encyclopedia of U.S. Campaigns, Elections, and Electoral Behavior*, ed. Kenneth F. Warren. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

- "Congressional Elections"
- "Determinants of Vote Choice, An Overview"
- "Election Outcome Forecasting Models"
- "Government Spending as a Campaign Issue"
- "Suffrage"

Working Papers/Papers Under Review

"Unburdened: Adjudication of Abortion Cases at the U.S. Courts of Appeals." (Currently Under Review)

"Individual Heterogeneity in the Effects of Distributive Benefits on Voting." with Andrew H. Sidman. (Currently Under Review)

"Petition and Review." with Andrew H. Sidman and Ehud Sommer.

"Advice or Contempt? The Changing Politics of Federal Judicial Nominations." with Scott J. Basinger.

"The Effects of Public Opinion and the Choices Justices Make." with Andrew H. Sidman.

Conference Participation

"A State Level Forecast of the 2008 Presidential Election." with Andrew H. Sidman. Presented at the 2008 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Boston, MA.

"Unburdened: Adjudication of Abortion Cases at the U.S. Courts of Appeals." Presented at the 2008 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.

"Petition and Review: Strategic Litigant and Auditing at the U.S. Courts of Appeals." Presented at the 2008 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.

“The Effects of Public Opinion and the Choices Justices Make.” with Andrew H. Sidman. Presented at the 2007 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.

“Rogue Agents: The Impact of Principal Preferences on the Choices Judges Make.” Presented at the 2007 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.

“Rally-Around-the-Flag and the Supreme Court: Judicial Decision-Making during Times of War or Crisis.” with Naser L. Javaid. Presented at the 2007 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.

“A Bit of a Bad Mood: A Reexamination of the Search for Influence of Popular Sentiment on the Choices Judges Make.” with Andrew O’Geen and Andrew H. Sidman. Prepared for the 2007 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association.

“A New Approach to the Study of Rolling Cross-Sectional Design Surveys.” with Andrew H. Sidman. Prepared for the 2007 Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, New Orleans, LA.

“Advice and Contempt: Obstruction of Nomination to the Federal Circuit Courts of Appeals.” with Scott J. Basinger. Presented at the 2006 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Philadelphia, PA.

“The Effects of Distributive Benefits on Turnout and Voting in House Elections, 2000 to 2004.” with Andrew H. Sidman. Prepared for the 2006 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Philadelphia, PA.

“A Zip-Code Based Correction for Non-Response.” with Leonie Huddy, Stanley Feldman, Ivana Eterovic, Inna Burdein, and Linda Pfeiffer. Presented at the 2006 Annual Meeting of the American Association for Public Opinion Research, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

“Repeat Players: A Reexamination of Litigator Experience at the Supreme Court.” Presented at the 2006 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.

“Pork, Awareness, and Ideological Consistency: The Effects of Distributive Benefits on Vote Choice.” with Andrew H. Sidman. Presented at the 2006 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.

Invited Colloquia

Binghamton University, March 2007

Teaching Interests

Constitutional Law, Civil Rights and Liberties, Judicial Process, Criminal Procedure, Judicial Decision-Making, Political Methodology, Congressional Elections and Voting Behavior

Teaching Experience

Instructor, Stony Brook University, Department of Political Science

- POL 320: Constitutional Law, Summer 2006, Fall 2006, Fall 2007
- POL 325: Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, Spring 2007, Summer 2007, Spring 2008, Fall 2008

Research Experience

- Research Assistant to Jeffrey A. Segal, Summer 2008
- Research Assistant to Brandon L. Bartels, Summer 2007
- Research Assistant to Jeffrey A. Segal, Summer 2006
- Research Assistant to Jeffrey A. Segal (for the *Supreme Court Compendium: Fifth Edition*), Spring 2007
- Software Specialist, Center for Survey Research, Stony Brook University, Fall 2005 through Summer 2006 (Supervised by Leonie Huddy and Linda Pfeiffer)
- Research Assistant to Scott J. Basinger, Spring 2005, Summer 2005

Professional Affiliations

American Political Science Association
Midwest Political Science Association

References

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