

Benjamin J. Kassow

Department of Political Science & Public Administration
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ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Bernhoft Faculty Fellow, Department of Political Science & Public Administration, University of North Dakota, 2025-.

Associate Professor, Department of Political Science & Public Administration, University of North Dakota, 2021-.

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science & Public Administration, University of North Dakota, 2015-2021.

Lecturer, Department of Political Science & Public Administration, University of North Dakota, 2014-2015

Visiting Lecturer, Department of Political Science, Georgia State University, 2013-2014

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Political Science, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC. August 2013.

Dissertation: “The Impact of Ideology and Attorneys on Precedent Usage: An Analysis on State High Courts”, chaired by Donald R. Songer.

Additional Committee Members: Kirk A. Randazzo, Lee D. Walker, and Wendy L. Martinek (State University of New York-Binghamton).

Major Field: Public Law. Minor Field: Research Methods.

B.A., Political Science with minor in History, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA. Awarded 2007 (*Summa Cum Laude*).

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Public Law and American Political Institutions:

The Influence of Legal Factors in Judicial Processes, Judicial Implementation and Impact, State High Court Decision-Making, U.S. Courts of Appeals Decision-Making, Congressional Elections, State Politics.

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed University Press Book:

Fix, Michael P., and Benjamin J. Kassow. 2020. *U.S. Supreme Court Doctrine in the State High Courts*. Cambridge University Press.

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles:

Boston, Josh, Benjamin J. Kassow, Ali S. Masood, and David Miller. 2023. “The Role of Scandal in Influencing the Public’s Views on Judicial Nominees.” *PS: Political Science & Politics*. 56(2): 195-200.

Masood, Ali S., and Benjamin J. Kassow. 2023. "What's in a Name: How U.S. Supreme Court Justices Shape Law and Policy in the Lower Courts." *Law and Social Inquiry*. 48(2): 463-488.

Kassow, Benjamin, and Michael P. Fix. 2022. "Federal Appeals Court Responses to Supreme Court Precedent." *Justice System Journal*. 43(3): 339-352.

Goelzhauser, Greg, Benjamin J. Kassow, and Doug Rice. 2022. "Measuring Supreme Court Case Complexity." *Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization*. 38(1): 92-118.

Masood, Ali S., and Benjamin J. Kassow. 2020. "The Sum of its Parts: How Individual Supreme Court Justices Disparately Shape Policy." *Social Science Quarterly* 101(2): 842-860.

Masood, Ali S., Benjamin J. Kassow, and Donald R. Songer. 2019. "The Aggregate Dynamics of Lower Court Responses to the U.S. Supreme Court." *Journal of Law and Courts* 7(2): 159-186.

Schorpp, Susanne, David Hoffman, and Benjamin J. Kassow. 2017. "'Tilted Scales': The Impact of Federal Courts on American Income Inequality." *Justice System Journal*. 38(3): 213-240.

Masood, Ali S., Benjamin J. Kassow, and Donald R. Songer. 2017. "Supreme Court Precedent in a Judicial Hierarchy." *American Politics Research*. 45(3): 403-434.

Kassow, Benjamin J., Donald R. Songer, and Michael P. Fix. 2012. "The Influence of Precedent on State Supreme Courts." *Political Research Quarterly* 65(2): 372-384.

Kassow, Benjamin J., and Charles J. Finocchiaro. 2011. "Responsiveness and Electoral Accountability in the U.S. Senate." *American Politics Research* 39(6): 1019-1044.

Other Publications:

Kassow, Benjamin J. 2024. "Hierarchical Influences on Judicial Decision-Making in the United States." in *Elgar Research Handbook on Judicial Politics*. pp. 212-222. Edited by Michael P. Fix (Georgia State University) and Matthew Montgomery (Texas Christian University). Edward Elgar Publishing.

Kassow, Benjamin J. 2023. "Why do Wyoming and California Have the Same Number of Senators?" In *The U.S. Constitution in Five Minutes*. p. 89-91. Edited by Joseph Smith (University of Alabama) and David Klein (Eastern Michigan University). Equinox Publishing.

Kassow, Benjamin J. 2022. Book review of *It's Not Personal: Politics and Policy in Lower Court Confirmation Hearings* by Logan Dancey, Kjersten Nelson, and Eve Ringsmuth, in *Political Science Quarterly*. Edited by Robert Shapiro (Columbia University).

Kassow, Benjamin J. 2020. Book review of *Conservative Innovators: How States Are Challenging Federal Power* by Ben Merriman. Published in *Law and Politics Book Review*. Edited by Jennifer Bowie (University of Richmond).

Kassow, Benjamin J. 2019. "State High Courts & Precedent: Questions of Usage

and Spread of Precedents.” In *Elgar Research Handbook on Law and Courts*. Peer-Reviewed. P. 280-289. Edited by Susan Sterett (University of Maryland-Baltimore County) and Lee D. Walker (University of North Texas), Edward Elgar Publishing.

Kassow, Benjamin J. 2017. “Electoral College Alternatives: Tradeoffs.” In *Picking the President: Understanding the Electoral College*. Edited by Eric Burin (University of North Dakota), The Digital Press at the University of North Dakota.

Kassow, Benjamin J. 2016. “Administrative Law Judges and Politics.” In *Global Encyclopedia of Public Administration, Public Policy, and Governance*. Edited by Ali Farazmand (Florida Atlantic University), Springer Publishing.

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW/WORKING PAPERS REDACTED TO PRESERVE THE INTEGRITY OF DOUBLE-BLIND PEER REVIEW.

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION (PAST SIX YEARS) REDACTED TO PRESERVE THE INTEGRITY OF DOUBLE-BLIND PEER REVIEW.

AWARDS & HONORS

Bernhoft Faculty Fellow, 2025-. Awarded Fall 2025.

Nistler College Meritorious Faculty Award, 2022-2023. Awarded Spring 2024.

Beta Gamma Sigma membership. 2022.

Nistler College Faculty Research Award, 2019-2020. Awarded Fall 2020.

NSF Funding for Political Methodology Annual Meeting at Athens, GA. July 24-26, 2014.

Prestage-Cook Travel Award, Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting in Orlando, FL. January 3-5, 2013.

Travel Grant from the Department of Political Science, University of South Carolina. Spring 2012.

Graduate Research Assistantship, University of South Carolina, Department of Political Science. Fall 2007-Spring 2008, Spring 2010.

Graduate Teaching/Instructional Assistantship, University of South Carolina, Department of Political Science. Fall 2008-Spring 2011.

Golden Key Honor Society membership. 2007.

Pi Sigma Alpha Political Science Honor Society membership. 2007.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant, Department of Political Science, University of South Carolina. Worked for Donald Songer, Spring 2010.

Research Assistant, Department of Political Science, University of South Carolina. Worked for Charles Finocchiaro and Andrea McAtee, Fall 2007-Spring 2008.

**RESEARCH
TRAINING**

Causal Inference Workshop, Northwestern University Law School, Chicago, IL.
August 1-5, 2016: Causal Inference course.

Inter-consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) Summer Program, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI.
Summer 2009: Maximum Likelihood Estimation, Scaling and Dimensional Analysis.

**TEACHING
INTERESTS**

Public Law:

Constitutional Law (Governmental Powers and Civil Liberties and Rights)
Judicial Processes/Politics (Graduate & Undergraduate)
U.S. Supreme Court
Law and Society
Comparative Courts in Democratized Countries (Graduate)
Administrative Law (Graduate)

American Politics:

Introduction to American Government (Graduate & Undergraduate)
American Political Development
American Political Institutions: Separation of Powers
Legislative Process
Public Policy (Graduate & Undergraduate)

Research Methods:

Introduction to Statistical Analysis (Graduate & Undergraduate)
Introduction to Research Design (Graduate & Undergraduate)
Linear Regression (Graduate)
Maximum Likelihood Estimation (Graduate)
Panel/Cross-Sectional Time-Series Data (Graduate)
Introduction to Causal Inference (Graduate)
Data Manipulation, Project Management, and Advanced Graphical Techniques (Graduate)

**TEACHING
EXPERIENCE**

Instructor of Record,

Department of Political Science & Public Administration, University of North Dakota.

Undergraduate Courses

American Government I (POLS 115); Fall 2014, Spring 2015, Fall 2015-2019, Spring 2020-2024.

Constitutional Law: Governmental Powers (POLS 305); Fall 2014-2025.

Constitutional Law: Civil Liberties and Rights (POLS 306); Spring 2015-2024.

Problems in Political Science: Law and Society (POLS 393); Spring 2015.

Problems in Political Science: Judicial Processes (POLS 393); Spring 2017.

Public Policy (POLS 432); Fall 2020-2025.

Graduate Courses

Research Methods (POLS 500); Fall 2021-2024.

Public Policy-Making Process (POLS 532); Fall 2024-Fall 2025.

Administrative Law (POLS 539); Spring 2019.

Department of Political Science, Georgia State University.

Introduction to American Government (POLS 1101); Fall 2013-Spring 2014

Constitutional Law (POLS 4130); Spring 2014.
Civil Rights and Liberties (POLS 4131); Fall 2013.

Department of Political Science, University of South Carolina.
Introduction to American Government (POLI E201); Fall 2012.
Judicial Process (POLI 452); Summer II 2011, Spring 2012.
Federalism and Intergovernmental Relations (POLI E470); Fall (8 Week Course), 2011.

Teaching Assistant,

Department of Political Science, University of South Carolina.
American Political Parties (POLI 360) for Donald Fowler, Fall 2009, Fall 2010.
Media and Mass Politics (POLI 362) for Donald Fowler, Spring 2011.
Politics of South Carolina (POLI 391) for Donald Fowler, Spring 2010.

Teaching Instructional Assistant/Discussion Leader,

Department of Political Science, University of South Carolina.
Introduction to American Government (POLI 201) for M. Lance Briggs, Fall 2008-Spring 2009.

**UNIVERSITY
SERVICE**

University of North Dakota

University-Level Service

Nistler College Senator for the University of North Dakota's University Senate (Fall 2025-).

Honors College Project Faculty Advisor (Summer 2025).

At-Large Senator for the University of North Dakota's University Senate (Fall 2019-Spring 2021).

Faculty Advisor for the University of North Dakota's Pre-Law Society (Fall 2018-Fall 2024, Fall 2025-).

Faculty Advisor for the University of North Dakota's Mock Trial teams (Fall 2018-Spring 2023).

Moot Court Judge for the University of North Dakota Law School's internal Moot Court competition (Fall 2016).

Co-Discussant for Constitution Day, University of North Dakota (Fall 2025).

Co-Discussant for Constitution Day, University of North Dakota Law School (Fall 2016, Fall 2015).

College-Level Service

Nominated to be Member on Nistler College of Business and Public Administration (NCoBPA) Dean Search Committee, Fall 2025. Chair of the NCoBPA Curriculum Committee, Fall 2019-Spring 2022, Fall 2023-Spring 2024.

Member of the NCoBPA Journal Quality List Committee (now renamed as Academic Publication Outlet Committee), Fall 2021-Spring 2023, Fall 2025-

Member of the NCoBPA Curriculum Committee, Fall 2018-Fall 2024, Fall 2025-.

Member of the NCoBPA Tech Committee, Fall 2017-Spring 2019.

Member of ad hoc NCoBPA Evaluation Committee for AACSB Accreditation for MBA Program (Fall 2016).

NCoBPA Ambassador, Fall 2015-Spring 2022.

Department-Level Service

Member of MPA Strategic Plan Subcommittee, Spring 2024.

Member of Search Committee for Clinical Assistant Professor, Spring 2024.

Member of Assessment Subcommittee, Fall 2020-Spring 2021.

Member of Scholarship and Awards Committee, Spring 2017-Spring 2020.
Chair of MPA Steering Committee (Fall 2018-Spring 2021).
Chair of Independent Study Committee for: Richelle Ballenger (Spring 2019).
Member of Independent Study Committee for: Dani Thompson (Fall 2016), Nicholas Mostardo (Spring 2016), Thomas Ford (Spring 2018), Anthony Backora (Spring 2018), Kellie Hoverson (Spring 2018), Charles Pegg (Fall 2018), Whitney Klym (Spring 2019).
Member of Search Committee for Visiting Assistant Professor, Spring 2016.

University of South Carolina

Department-Level Service

Co-Discussant, Political Science Graduate Student Association Conference, February 2013.

Panelist, Professionalization Workshop on Conference Presentation, May 2012.

Social Chair, Political Science Graduate Student Organization (PSGSO), 2011-2012.

Secretary, PSGSO, 2009-2010.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

APSA Law and Courts Best Journal Article Award Committee Chair: 2023

APSA Law and Courts Best Journal Article Award Committee Member: 2020

Reviewer for Political Science Peer-Reviewed Journals: *American Political Science Review*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *Perspectives on Politics Political Research Quarterly*, *American Politics Research*, *Justice System Journal*, *Journal of Law and Courts*, *State Politics & Policy Quarterly*.

Reviewer for out of discipline Peer-Reviewed Journals: *Discourse Studies*, *European Journal of Law and Economics*.

Reviewer for Book-Length Manuscripts/Book Proposals: Oxford University Press, University of California Press, Routledge Press, Rowman & Littlefield, Palgrave MacMillan.

Reviewer for National Science Foundation (NSF) proposals: Spring 2021

Panel Co-Discussant at the American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting: 2025, 2024. Panel Chair at the Southern Political Science Association (SPSA) Annual Meeting: 2016, 2025.

Panel Chair at the Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Meeting: 2015.

Panel Discussant at the MPSA Annual Meeting: 2017, 2019, 2021.

Panel Discussant/Co-Discussant at the SPSA Annual Meeting, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2024, 2025.

Panel Co-Discussant at the MPSA Annual Meeting, 2014, 2025.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

American Political Science Association (Sections: Law and Courts, Legislative Studies, Political Methodology)

Midwest Political Science Association

Southern Political Science Association

REFERENCES References available on request.