

# JEFFREY R. LAX

Assistant Professor  
Department of Political Science  
Columbia University

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- **Assistant Professor**, Department of Political Science, Columbia University (2004-)
- **Assistant Professor**, Department of Political Science, University of California, San Diego (2002-2004)

## EDUCATION

### **Ph.D. Political Science, 2001 – New York University**

Dissertation: “Supreme Strategy: Strategic Behavior in the U.S. Supreme Court”

Committee: Professors Steven J. Brams, Charles Cameron, John Ferejohn, Marek Kaminski, and Lewis Kornhauser

**New York University School of Law, 2000-2001, First-Year Curriculum**

### **M.A. Political Science, 1996 – New York University**

### **B.A. Political Science and Economics & Mathematics, 1995 – Yale University**

Thesis: “Equal Protection: Benign Discrimination”

Advisor: Professor Rogers Smith

## PUBLICATIONS

For links see <http://www.columbia.edu/~jrl2124/>

- “Gay Rights in the States: Public Opinion and Policy Responsiveness,” with Justin Phillips, forthcoming, *The American Political Science Review*
- “Legal Constraints on Supreme Court Decision Making: Do Jurisprudential Regimes Exist?” with Kelly T. Rader, forthcoming, *Journal of Politics*
- “Legal Doctrine on Collegial Courts,” with Dimitri Landa, forthcoming, *Journal of Politics*
- “How Should We Estimate Public Opinion in the States?,” with Justin Phillips, *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 53-1 (January), 2009
- “Case Selection and the Study of Judicial Politics?,” with Jonathan Kastellec, *The Journal of Empirical Legal Studies*, Vol. 5-3 (September), 2008.
- “Constructing Legal Rules on Appellate Courts,” *The American Political Science Review*, Vol. 101-3 (August), 2007.
- “Bargaining and Opinion Assignment on the U.S. Supreme Court,” with Charles Cameron, *The Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization*, Vol. 23-2 (Summer), 2007.
- “Courts, Congress and Public Policy, Part I: The FDA, the Courts and the Regulation of Tobacco,” with Mathew McCubbins, *The Journal of Contemporary Legal Issues*, Vol. 15-1: 163-98, 2006.
- “Courts, Congress, and Public Policy, Part II: The Impact of the Reapportionment Revolution on Urban and Rural Interests,” with Mathew McCubbins, *The Journal of Contemporary Legal Issues*, Vol. 15-1: 199-218, 2006.
- “Certiorari and Compliance in the Judicial Hierarchy: Discretion, Reputation, and the Rule of Four,” *The Journal of Theoretical Politics*, 15-1 (January), 2003.

- “Fair Division: A Format for the Debate on the Format of Debates,” *PS: Political Science and Politics* 32-1 (March): 45-52, 1999.

## **WORKING PAPERS**

- “Bargaining Power in the Supreme Court,” with Kelly T. Rader.
- “Doctrinal Choice in the Judicial Hierarchy”
- “Public Opinion and Senate Confirmation of Supreme Court Nominees,” with Jonathan Kastlelec and Justin Phillips.
- “The Conflict of Consensus: Unanimity and Dissent in the Supreme Court”

## **PRESENTATIONS, CONFERENCES, & WORKSHOPS**

### **2009**

- “Doctrinal Choice in the Judicial Hierarchy,” Emory University, Department of Political Science and Law School, February

### **2008**

- “Doctrinal Choice in the Judicial Hierarchy,” USC Law, Center in Law, Economics, and Organization, October
- “How Should We Estimate Public Opinion in the States?,” with Justin Phillips, Princeton University Methodology Seminar, October
- “Public Opinion and Senate Confirmation of Supreme Court Nominees,” with Jonathan Kastlelec and Justin Phillips, Cornell University, September
- “Bargaining Power in the Supreme Court”, with Kelly Rader, Conference on Empirical Legal Studies (Cornell University School of Law), September
- “Public Opinion and Senate Confirmation of Supreme Court Nominees,” with Jonathan Kastlelec and Justin Phillips, Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association (Chicago), August
- “Doctrinal Choice in the Judicial Hierarchy,” Harvard University, Political Economy and Public Law Conference, June
- “Doctrinal Choice in the Judicial Hierarchy,” University of Texas School of Law, Law and Economics Workshop, April
- “Bargaining Power in the Supreme Court”, with Kelly Rader, Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association (Chicago), April
- Mini-Conference on Textual Analysis and the Study of Judicial Behavior (Emory University), February
- Mini-Conference on Delegation and Independence in Domestic and International Law (Florida State University), February

### **2007**

- “Case Selection and the Study of Judicial Politics?,” with Jonathan Kastlelec, Conference on Empirical Legal Studies (New York University School of Law), November
- “How Should We Estimate Public Opinion in the States?,” with Justin Phillips, SUNY Stony Brook, October
- “Tactical Opinion Assignment and Voting in the Supreme Court,” with Kelly T. Rader, Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association (Chicago), August
- “How Should We Estimate Public Opinion in the States?,” with Justin Phillips, Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association (Chicago), August

- “The Structure of Legal Doctrine and Compliance in the Judicial Hierarchy,” Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association (Chicago), April
- “Public Opinion and Policy Responsiveness: Gay Rights in the States,” with Justin Phillips, Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association (Chicago), April
- “Disagreements on Collegial Courts,” Symposium on Positive Approaches to Constitutional Law and Theory (The University of Pennsylvania Law School), February
- “Constructing Legal Rules on Appellate Courts,” Colloquium on Law and Political Economy (Northwestern University School of Law), February
- “Congressional Decision Making” and “Judicial Decision Making,” CIDE, February (also 2005, 2004)

#### **2006**

- “Median Rules without a Median Judge,” Colloquium on Law, Economics, and Politics (New York University School of Law), September
- “Can We Ignore Case Selection When We Study Judicial Politics?” with Jonathan Kstellec, Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association (Philadelphia), August
- “Median Rules without a Median Judge,” Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association (Chicago), April
- “Measuring Compliance: What Inferences Can We Draw from Fact-Pattern Analysis?” with Jonathan Kstellec, Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association (Chicago), April

#### **2005**

- “Policy-Making Through Law: A Modeling Strategy,” Conference on Modeling Law (NYU Law School), October
- “The Creation of Legal Rules,” with Dimiri Landa, Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association (D.C.), August
- “Beyond the Median Voter: Bargaining and Law in the Supreme Court,” with Charles Cameron, Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association (Chicago), April

#### **2004**

- “Judicial Impact: The Policy Consequences of the Reapportionment Revolution,” with Mathew McCubbins, Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association (Chicago), April
- “Where There’s Smoke, There’s Fire: The Impact of Court Decisions,” with Mathew McCubbins, Duke University, March

#### **2003**

- “Pivotal Politics in the Judicial Hierarchy,” George Washington University, September
- “Where There’s Smoke, There’s Fire: The Impact of Court Decisions,” with Mathew McCubbins, Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association (Philadelphia), August
- Special Guest Instructor, Empirical Implications of Theoretical Models (EITM) Summer Institute, Washington University
- “Nine Little (Law) Firms: Bargaining on the Supreme Court,” with Charles Cameron, Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association (Chicago), April

#### **2002**

- “Certiorari and Compliance in the Judicial Hierarchy: Discretion, Reputation, and the Rule

- of Four,” Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association (Boston), August
- “Opinion Assignment in the Supreme Court: Theory and Evidence from the Burger and Rehnquist Courts,” with Charles Cameron, Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association (Chicago), April

## **2001**

- “Opinion Assignment in the Supreme Court: Theory and Evidence,” with Charles Cameron, Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association (San Francisco), August
- NYU Law School Summer Seminar for Legal Academia, July
- “The Conflict of Consensus: Unanimity and Dissent in the Supreme Court,” Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association (Chicago), April

## **2000**

- “The Double-Edged Sword: Certiorari and the Supreme Court’s Control of the Judicial Hierarchy,” Colloquium on Law, Economics, and Politics (New York University School of Law), November
- “The Double-Edged Sword: Certiorari and the Supreme Court’s Control of the Judicial Hierarchy,” Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association (Washington, D.C.), August
- “Supreme Strategy: Signaling and Compliance in the Judicial Hierarchy,” Summer Festival on Game Theory (State University of New York at Stonybrook), July
- “Yankee Trading,” presented by Steven J. Brams at the Summer Festival on Game Theory (State University of New York at Stonybrook, July) and the First World Congress of the Game Theory Society (Bilbao, Spain, June)

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

**Dissertation Chair:** Jonathan Kastellec (Princeton University), “Hierarchical and Collegial Politics on the U.S. Courts of Appeals”

**Section Chair:** Judicial Politics, Midwest Political Science Association (2004)

**Panel Chair/Discussant:** Midwest Political Science Assoc., American Political Science Assoc.

**Reviewer:** National Science Foundation; *American Political Science Review*; *American Journal of Political Science*; *Journal of Politics*; *Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization*; *Journal of Theoretical Politics*; *Political Analysis*; *PS: Political Science and Politics*; *Rationality and Society*; and *American Politics Research*

## **COURSES TAUGHT**

### **Undergraduate:**

- Judicial Politics
- American Presidency
- Analyzing Politics
- The Logic of Collective Choice

### **Graduate:**

- Judicial Politics
- Theories and Debates in American Politics

## **AWARDS, HONORS, and GRANTS**

- American Judicature Society Award, “best paper on law and courts presented at the previous year's annual meetings of the American, Midwest, Northeastern, Southern, Southwestern, or Western Political Science Associations” – “Tactical Opinion Assignment and Voting in the Supreme Court,” with Kelly Rader (2008) (new title: “Bargaining Power in the Supreme Court”)
- Columbia University Summer Grant (2005, 2006)
- Academic Senate Research Grant, UCSD (2003, 2004)
- Academic Senate Travel Grant, UCSD (2003, 2004)
- Grant for NYU Law School Summer Seminar in Legal Academia (2001)
- Bradley Fellow, NYU (1997, 1999, 2000)
- Penfield Fellow, NYU (1999)
- Hewlett Teaching Assistant, NYU (1998, 1999)
- Master Teaching Assistant, NYU (1997, 1998)
- Morse Preceptor, NYU (1996, 1997)
- Conference Travel Grants, NYU, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (1996)