

Thomas G. Hansford

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University of California, Merced
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Merced, CA 95343

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<https://sites.ucmerced.edu/hansford>

Academic Employment

Professor of Political Science, University of California, Merced, 2016-
Associate Professor of Political Science, University of California, Merced, 2008-2016.
Assistant Professor of Political Science, University of California, Merced, 2006-2008.
Assistant Professor of Political Science, University of South Carolina, 2001-2006.

Education

Ph.D., Political Science, 2001, University of California, Davis.
B.A., Political Science, 1993, Saint Mary's College of Maryland, *magna cum laude*.

Publications: Peer-Reviewed Book

Hansford, Thomas G., and James F. Spriggs, II. 2006. *The Politics of Precedent on the U.S. Supreme Court*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Publications: Peer-Reviewed Articles

Duck-Mayr, J. Brandon, Thomas G. Hansford, and James F. Spriggs, II. N.d. "Agenda Setting and Attention to Precedent in the U.S. Federal Courts." *Journal of Law and Courts*, forthcoming.

Hansford, Thomas G., Sarah Depaoli, and Kayla S. Canelo. 2019. "Locating U.S. Solicitors General in the Supreme Court's Policy Space." *Presidential Studies Quarterly* 49(4):855-869.

Hansford, Thomas G., and Chelsea Coe. 2019. "Linguistic Complexity, Information Processing, and Public Acceptance of Supreme Court Decisions." *Political Psychology* 40(2):395-412.

Hansford, Thomas G., Chanita Intawan, and Stephen P. Nicholson. 2018. "Snap Judgment: Implicit Perceptions of a (Political) Court." *Political Behavior* 40(1):127-147.

Canelo, Kayla S., Thomas G. Hansford, and Stephen P. Nicholson. 2018. "The Paradoxical Effect of Speech-Suppressing Appeals to the First Amendment." *Journal of Politics* 80(1):309-313.

Hansford, Thomas G., and Brad T. Gomez. 2015. "Reevaluating the Sociotropic Economic Voting Hypothesis." *Electoral Studies* 39:15-25.

Gomez, Brad T., and Thomas G. Hansford. 2015. "Economic Retrospection and the Calculus of Voting." *Political Behavior* 37(2):309-329.

Publications: Peer-Reviewed Articles, continued

Nicholson, Stephen P., and Thomas G. Hansford. 2014. "Partisans in Robes: Party Cues and Public Acceptance of Supreme Court Decisions." *American Journal of Political Science* 58(3):620-636.

Hansford, Thomas G., and Kristen Johnson. 2014. "The Supply of Amicus Curiae Briefs in the Market for Information at the U.S. Supreme Court." *Justice System Journal* 35(4):362-382.

Uribe, Alicia, James F. Spriggs, II, and Thomas G. Hansford. 2014. "The Influence of Congressional Preferences on Legislative Overrides of Supreme Court Decisions." *Law & Society Review* 48(4):921-945.

Hansford, Thomas G., James F. Spriggs, II, and Anthony Stenger. 2013. "The Information Dynamics of Vertical *Stare Decisis*." *Journal of Politics* 75(4):894-906.

Hansford, Thomas G. 2011. "The Dynamics of Interest Representation at the U.S. Supreme Court." *Political Research Quarterly* 64(4):749-764.

Hansford, Thomas G., and Brad T. Gomez. 2010. "Estimating the Electoral Effects of Voter Turnout." *American Political Science Review* 104(2):268-288.

Hansford, Thomas G., Elisha Carol Savchak, and Donald R. Songer. 2010. "Politics, Careerism, and the Voluntary Departures of U.S. District Court Judges." *American Politics Research* 38(6):986-1014.

Damore, David F., Thomas G. Hansford, and A.J. Barghothi. 2010. "Explaining the Decision to Withdraw from a U.S. Presidential Nomination Campaign." *Political Behavior* 32(2):157-180.

Gomez, Brad T., Thomas G. Hansford, and George A. Krause. 2007. "The Republicans Should Pray for Rain: Weather, Turnout, and Voting in U.S. Presidential Elections." *Journal of Politics* 69(3):649-663.

Savchak, Elisha Carol, Thomas G. Hansford, Donald R. Songer, Kenneth L. Manning, and Robert A. Carp. 2006. "Taking It to the Next Level: The Elevation of District Court Judges to the U.S. Courts of Appeals." *American Journal of Political Science* 50(2):478-493.

Hansford, Thomas G. 2004. "Information Provision, Organizational Constraints, and the Decision to Submit an Amicus Curiae Brief in a U.S. Supreme Court Case." *Political Research Quarterly* 57(2):219-230.

Hansford, Thomas G. 2004. "Lobbying Strategies, Venue Selection, and Organized Interest Involvement at the U.S. Supreme Court." *American Politics Research* 32(2):170-197.

Publications: Peer-Reviewed Articles, continued

Massie, Tajuana D., Thomas G. Hansford, and Donald R. Songer. 2004. "The Timing of Presidential Nominations to the Lower Federal Courts." *Political Research Quarterly* 57(1):145-154.

Spriggs, II, James F., and Thomas G. Hansford. 2002. "The U.S. Supreme Court's Incorporation and Interpretation of Precedent." *Law & Society Review* 36(1):139-159.

Spriggs, II, James F., and Thomas G. Hansford. 2001. "Explaining the Overruling of U.S. Supreme Court Precedent." *Journal of Politics* 63(4):1091-1111.

Hansford, Thomas G., and David F. Damore. 2000. "Congressional Preferences, Perceptions of Threat, and Supreme Court Decision Making." *American Politics Quarterly* 28(4):490-510.

Spriggs, II, James F., and Thomas G. Hansford. 2000. "Measuring Legal Change: The Reliability and Validity of *Shepard's Citations*." *Political Research Quarterly* 53(2):327-341.

Damore, David F., and Thomas G. Hansford. 1999. "The Allocation of Party Controlled Campaign Resources in the House of Representatives, 1989-1996." *Political Research Quarterly* 52(2):371-385.

Other Publications

Hansford, Thomas G. 2019. Book Review of *Perceptions of a Polarized Court: How Division Among Justices Shapes the Supreme Court's Public Image*. (Michael F. Salamone. 2018. Temple University Press). *Public Opinion Quarterly* 83(4):839-841.

Hansford, Thomas G. 2017. "Vertical Stare Decisis." In *The Oxford Handbook of U.S. Judicial Behavior*, eds. Lee Epstein and Stefanie A. Lindquist. Oxford University Press.

Hansford, Thomas G. 2017. Book Review of *Ideology in the Supreme Court* (Lawrence Baum. 2017. Princeton University Press). *Law and Politics Book Review* 27(8):131-132.

Hansford, Thomas G., and Stephen P. Nicholson. 2008. "When $t=1$ and $N=2$: Creating a Political Science Program at a New Research University." *PS: Political Science & Politics* 41(2):371-374.

Hansford, Thomas G. 2003. Book Review of *Popular Justice: Presidential Prestige and Executive Success in the Supreme Court* (Jeff Yates. 2002. SUNY Press). *Journal of Politics* 65(4):1266-1267.

Grants

"Estimating the Locations of Interests, Governments, and Justices in Legal Policy Space." National Science Foundation (SES-135192; \$271,074), 3/2014 - 2/2017. (with Sarah Depaoli)

Grants, continued

“Economic Retrospection and Voting.” Faculty Research Grant Award (\$4,191), UC Merced, 3/2011-5/2012.

“The Advocacy Network at the U.S. Supreme Court.” Faculty Research Grant Award (\$4,634), UC Merced, 4/2009-6/2010.

“Supreme Court Responses to Congressional Overrides.” Faculty Research Grant Award (\$3,475), UC Merced, 5/2007 - 6/2008.

“The Political Determinants of the Expansion of the Federal Judiciary.” Research and Productive Scholarship Award (\$6,200), University of South Carolina, 4/2003 - 6/2004.

“A Systematic Examination of the Supreme Court’s Interpretation of Precedent.” College of Liberal Arts Scholarship Support Grant (\$8,958), University of South Carolina, 5/2002 - 5/2003.

Data Resource

Hansford, Thomas G., Sarah Depaoli, and Kayla S. Canelo. 2018. *The Amici Space Project*.
<http://amicispace.ucmerced.edu>.

Working Papers (available at <http://faculty.ucmerced.edu/thansford/research.html>)

Hansford, Thomas G., Sarah Depaoli, and Kayla S. Canelo. “Estimating the Ideal Points of Organized Interests in Legal Policy Space.”

Hansford, Thomas G., Sarah Depaoli, and Kayla S. Canelo. “State Advocacy and Representation at the U.S. Supreme Court.”

Hansford, Thomas G., Eddie Lucero, Chanita Intawan, and Ricardo Robles. “The Effect of State Supreme Court Selection Method on Perceptions of the U.S. Supreme Court.”

Honors and Awards

Academic Senate Award for Distinction in Research, UC Merced, 2012.

Pi Sigma Alpha Award for best paper delivered at the 2001 Southern Political Science Association meeting, “Organized Interests and the Decision to Submit an Amicus Curiae Brief in a U.S. Supreme Court Case.”

ICPSR Clogg Scholarship, to attend the ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods, 1997.

Conference Papers and Invited Talks

“State Judicial Context and Implicit Perceptions of the U.S. Supreme Court.” Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, 2019. (with Eddie Lucero and Chanita Intawan)

“State Judicial Context and Implicit Perceptions of the U.S. Supreme Court.” Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, 2018. (with Eddie Lucero, Chanita Intawan, and Stephen P. Nicholson)

“State Advocacy and Representation at the U.S. Supreme Court.” Law & Courts Conference, Duke University, 2017. (with Sarah Depaoli and Kayla Canelo)

“The Location of U.S. Solicitors General in the Supreme Court’s Policy Space.” Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, 2017. (with Sarah Depaoli and Kayla Canelo)

“State Advocacy and Representation at the U.S. Supreme Court.” Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, 2017. (with Sarah Depaoli and Kayla Canelo)

“Do We (Implicitly) View the Supreme Court as Political?” Center for American Political Responsiveness Conference on the U.S. Judicial System in a Trump Presidency, Pennsylvania State University, 2017.

“Don’t Speak? The Paradoxical Effect of Speech-Suppressing Appeals to the First Amendment.” Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, 2017. (with Kayla Canelo and Stephen P. Nicholson)

“Estimating the Ideal Points of Organized Interests in Legal Policy Space.” Annual Meeting of the Law and Society Association, 2016. (with Sarah Depaoli)

“Estimating the Ideal Points of Organized Interests in Legal Policy Space.” Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, 2015. (with Sarah Depaoli)

“Public Perceptions of a (Somewhat) Political Court.” Princeton University, 2015.

“The Political Court?” Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, 2015. (with Chanita Intawan and Steve Nicholson)

“Linguistic Complexity and Public Acceptance of Supreme Court Decisions.” Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, 2014. (with Chelsea Coe)

“Estimating the Location of the States in Legal Policy Space.” Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, 2014. (with Sarah Depaoli)

“Source Cues, Acceptance of Decisions, and the Political Supreme Court.” University of Maryland, 2014.

Conference Papers and Invited Talks, continued

“Attention to Precedent in a Judicial Hierarchy.” Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, 2014. (with Jim Spriggs)

“Attention to Precedent in a Judicial Hierarchy.” Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, 2013. (with Jim Spriggs)

“Economic Retrospection and the Calculus of Voting.” Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, 2013. (with Brad Gomez)

“The Ideological Basis of Congressional Overrides of Supreme Court Opinions.” Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, 2013. (with Jim Spriggs and Alicia Uribe)

“Economic Perceptions and Vote Choice (and Voter Turnout).” Center for New Institutional Social Sciences, Washington University in St. Louis, 2013.

“Using the Amici Network to Measure the ex ante Ideological Loading of Supreme Court Cases.” Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, 2012.

“Partisans in Black Robes: Source Cues and Public Acceptance of Supreme Court Decisions.” Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, 2012. (with Steve Nicholson)

“The Information Dynamics of Vertical *Stare Decisis*.” Department of Economics, Loyola Marymount University, 2012.

“Using Objective Local Economic Conditions to Estimate the Effect of Perceptions of National Economic Conditions on Vote Choice.” Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, 2011. (with Brad Gomez)

“How the Lower Courts Inadvertently Help the Supreme Court Shape Precedent.” California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, 2011.

“The Legal Advocacy Network at the Supreme Court.” Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, 2011.

“Using Objective Local Economic Conditions to Estimate the Effect of Subjective National Economic Evaluations on Vote Choice.” Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, 2011. (with Brad Gomez)

“The Information Dynamics of Vertical *Stare Decisis*.” Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, 2010. (with Jim Spriggs and Tony Stenger)

“The Legal Advocacy Network.” Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, 2010.

Conference Papers and Invited Talks, continued

“Economic Retrospection and Voter Turnout.” Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, 2010. (with Brad Gomez)

“The Information Dynamics of Vertical *Stare Decisis*.” Annual Meeting of the Western Political Science Association, 2010. (with Jim Spriggs and Tony Stenger)

“Assessing the Dynamics of Interest Representation at the U.S. Supreme Court.” Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, 2009.

“Interests and Institutions: The Causes and a Consequence of Organized Interest Activity at the U.S. Supreme Court.” Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, 2008. (with Kristen Johnson)

“Who Benefits from High Turnout?” Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, 2008. (with Brad Gomez)

“Explaining Levels of Organized Interest Activity at the U.S. Supreme Court.” Annual Meeting of the Western Political Science Association, 2008. (with Kristen Johnson)

“The Interpretation of Precedent in a System of Separated Powers: Supreme Court Responses to Congressional Overrides.” Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, 2008. (with Jim Spriggs)

“Supreme Court Responses to Congressional Overrides.” Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, 2007. (with Jim Spriggs)

“Heterogeneous Candidate Motivations, Perceptions of Competitiveness, and the Winnowing Effect in Presidential Nomination Campaigns.” Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, 2006. (with A.J. Barghothi and David F. Damore)

“Future Career Expectations and Strategic Retirements from the U.S. District Courts.” Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, 2005. (with Elisha Savchak and Donald R. Songer)

“The Linkage between the Weather and Voter Turnout: Fact or Fiction?” Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, 2005. (with Brad T. Gomez and George Krause)

“Taking It to the Next Level: The Elevation of District Judges to the U.S. Courts of Appeals.” Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, 2004. (with Elisha Savchak and Donald R. Songer)

“Explaining the Decision to File an Amicus Curiae Brief Alone or with a Coalition of Interests.” Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, 2004.

Conference Papers and Invited Talks, continued

“The Political Determinants of the Expansion of the Federal Judiciary.” Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, 2003.

“The U.S. Supreme Court’s Interpretation of Precedent.” Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, 2003. (with James F. Spriggs, II)

“Lower Federal Court Responses to the Supreme Court’s Interpretation of Precedent.” Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, 2003. (with James F. Spriggs, II)

“The Timing of Presidential Nominations to the Lower Federal Courts.” University of North Carolina, 2003.

“The Political Determinants of the Creation of Federal Judgeships.” Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, 2002.

“Predicting the Unpredictable: An Examination of the Uncertainty Surrounding Supreme Court Nominees.” Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, 2002.

“Nature and Timing of the U.S. Supreme Court’s Interpretation of Precedent.” Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, 2002. (with James F. Spriggs, II).

“The Timing of Presidential Nominations to Lower Federal Courts.” Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, 2001. (with Tajuana D. Massie and Donald R. Songer).

“Organized Interests and the Decision to Submit an Amicus Curiae Brief in a U.S. Supreme Court Case.” Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, 2001.

“Organized Interests, Lobbying Strategies, and the U.S. Supreme Court: Selecting the Cases in which to Submit Amicus Curiae Briefs.” Annual Meeting of the Western Political Science Association, 2001.

“Organized Interest Lobbying Strategies and the Decision to Participate at the U.S. Supreme Court as Amicus Curiae.” Conference on the Scientific Study of Judicial Politics, 2000.

“Lobbying Strategies, Venue Selection, and Organized Interest Involvement at the U.S. Supreme Court.” Annual Meeting of the Western Political Science Association, 2000.

“Explaining Legal Change: A Micro-Level Analysis of the U.S. Supreme Court’s Incorporation and Interpretation of Precedent.” Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, 1999. (with James F. Spriggs, II).

“Explaining the Overturning of Precedent.” Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, 1998. (with James F. Spriggs, II).

Conference Papers and Invited Talks, continued

“The Winnowing Effect in Presidential Nomination Campaigns.” Annual Meeting of the Western Political Science Association, 1998. (with David F. Damore).

“Congressional Preferences, Perceptions of Threat, and Supreme Court Decision Making: An Empirical Examination of the Separation of Powers.” Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, 1997. (with David F. Damore).

“Does Party Support Pay? The Allocation of Party Controlled Campaign Resources in the House of Representatives, 1989-1994.” Annual Meeting of the Western Political Science Association, 1997. (with David F. Damore).

“A Fading Cue? The Significance of Amicus Curiae Briefs in Supreme Court Agenda Setting.” Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, 1996. (with David F. Damore and James E. Beach).

Graduate Courses Taught

Quantitative Analysis of Political Data II (UCM)

Judicial Politics (UCM)

Elections and Representation (UCM)

Seminar in Public Law (USC)

American Government and Politics (USC)

Research Methods in Political Science: Maximum Likelihood Estimation (USC)

Undergraduate Courses Taught

Advanced Analysis of Political Data (UCM)

Analysis of Political Data (UCM)

Statistical Inference (UCM)

Governmental Power & the Constitution (UCM)

Liberty, Equality, & the Constitution (UCM)

Judicial Politics (UCM)

Seminar on Law, Courts, and the Public (UCM)

The Public Constitution (UCM SPARK Seminar)

Judicial Process (USC)

Law and Society (USC)

Constitutional Law (USC)

Professional Service

Reviewer: *Acta Politica*; *American Journal of Political Science*; *American Political Science Review*; *American Politics Research*; Cambridge University Press; *Comparative Political Studies*; Conference on Empirical Legal Studies; *Electoral Studies*; *Interest Groups & Advocacy*; *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*; *Journal of Empirical Legal Studies*; *Journal of Experimental Political Science*; *Journal of Law and Courts*; *Journal of Law, Economics, & Organization*; *Journal of Legal Studies*; *Journal of Political Institutions and Political Economy*; *Journal of Political Science*; *Journal of Politics*; *Judicature*; *Justice System Journal*; *Law & Social Inquiry*; *Law & Society Review*; *Legislative Studies Quarterly*; National Science Foundation; Oxford University Press; *Party Politics*; *Political Analysis*; *Political Behavior*; *Political Geography*; *Political Psychology*; *Political Research Quarterly*; *Politics, Groups, and Identities*; *Polity*; *Public Choice*; *Public Opinion Quarterly*; *Publius*; *Research and Politics*; Sage Publications; *Social Science Journal*; *Social Science Quarterly*; University of Michigan Press; *Weather, Climate, and Society*

Member, Nominations Committee of the Law and Courts Section of the American Political Science Association, 2017-18

Member, Editorial Board for the *Law & Courts Newsletter*, 2011-2017

Member, Best Journal Article Award Committee of the Law and Courts Section of the American Political Science Association, 2011, 2017

Member, Best Conference Paper Award Committee of the Law and Courts Section of the Southern Political Science Association, 2015

Head, Judicial Politics, Legal Politics, and Public Law Section of the Annual Meeting of the Western Political Science Association, 2013

Head, Judicial Politics Section of Annual Meetings of the Midwest Political Science Association, 2006, 2010

Panel Chair/Discussant/Critic: Annual Meetings of the American Political Science Association (2017), Midwest Political Science Association (2006, 2007, 2010, 2012, 2019), Southern Political Science Association (2004, 2007, 2008, 2011)

University Service

UC Merced:

Chair/Co-Chair, Political Science Search Committees, 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11, 2012-13, 2013-14, 2018-19, 2020-21

Member, Political Science Speakers Committee, 2020-21

Chair, Merced Division of the Academic Senate, 2019-20

Member, Academic Council (UC-wide), 2019-20

Member, UC Merced Chancellor Search Advisory Committee (& Faculty Subcommittee), 2019-20

Member, Political Science Graduate Admissions and Awards Committee, 2019-20

Member, Academic Senate's Committee on Committees, 2009-10, 2018-19
Chair, Political Science Graduate Program, 2015-18
Chair, Academic Senate's Committee on Committees, 2011, 2017-18
Member, University Committee on Committees (UC-wide), 2011, 2017-18
Vice Chair, Political Science Unit, 2014-17
Member, Executive Committee for the School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts, 2016-17
Member, Space Committee for the School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts, 2016-17
Member, Political Science Search Committees, 2011-12, 2015-16, 2016-17
Member, Political Science Lab Committee, 2015-16, 2018-19, 2020-21
At-Large Member, Merced Divisional Council of the UC Academic Senate, 2014-16
Vice Chair, Political Science Graduate Program, 2014-15
Chair/Director, Political Science Undergraduate Program, 2007-09, 2010-2011, 2013, 2014-2015
Chair, Political Science Graduate Admissions and Awards Committee, 2014-15
Member, Political Science Advisory Committee, 2013-14
Member, Political Science PhD Proposal Committee, 2012-2013
Chair, Political Science Unit, 2012
Member, Social and Cognitive Sciences Graduate Admissions Committee, Spring 2012
Vice Chair, Committee on Committees, 2010
Member, Spiess Award (for service to the Academic Senate) Committee, 2010
Faculty Accreditation Officer, Political Science, 2008-10, 2013
Vice Chair, Committee on Rules and Elections, 2008-10
Chair, Social and Cognitive Sciences Graduate Admissions Committee, 2007-10
Member, UC Merced Strategic Academic Planning Committee, 2007-09
Member, Steering Committee for the UC Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation, 2007-09
Member, Philosophy Search Committee, 2007-08
Member, Child Care Center Committee (and Facilities Subcommittee), 2007-08
Member, Graduate and Research Council, 2006-08
Member, School of Social Science, Humanities and Arts Curriculum Committee, 2006-07
Co-chair, Committee for the Establishment of the Political Science Major, 2006-07
Founding Faculty Member for Political Science

University of South Carolina:

Ph.D. Placement Director, 2005-06
Faculty Senator, University of South Carolina, 2004-06
Co-organizer, Political Science Research Workshop, 2001-05
Member, American Politics/Methodology Search Committee, 2004-05
Elected member, Departmental Advisory Committee, 2002-04
Member, Graduate Curriculum Revision Committee, 2002-03