

Patrick C. Wohlfarth

Curriculum Vitae

Department of Government and Politics
University of Maryland, College Park
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College Park, MD 20742

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Academic Appointments

Professor, Department of Government and Politics, University of Maryland, College Park, 2023–present

Interim Director of Law & Society Minor, MLAW Programs, University of Maryland, College Park, 2026–present

Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of Government and Politics, University of Maryland, College Park, 2023–present

Co-Director of Graduate Studies and Placement, Department of Government and Politics, University of Maryland, College Park, 2020–2023

Associate Professor, Department of Government and Politics, University of Maryland, College Park, 2017–2023

Assistant Professor, Department of Government and Politics, University of Maryland, College Park, 2011–2017

Post-Doctoral Fellow, Center for Empirical Research in the Law & Department of Political Science, Washington University in St. Louis, 2010–2011

Education

Ph.D., Political Science, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2010
Advisors: Kevin T. McGuire (co-chair), Georg Vanberg (co-chair)

M.A., Political Science, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2006

B.A., Music, University of Maryland Baltimore County, 2004
Linehan Artist Scholar; Graduated *Magna Cum Laude*; Departmental Honors
Minor: Political Science

Publications

Scholarly Books

- Black, Ryan C., Ryan J. Owens, and Patrick C. Wohlfarth. 2024. *Cognitive Aging and the Federal Circuit Courts: How Senescence Influences the Law and Judges*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

- Recipient of the 2025 *C. Herman Pritchett Award* for the best book on law and courts (Law and Courts Section of the American Political Science Association).
- Research findings cited in:
 - * *New York Times*. January 15, 2026. “The Judge in the Maduro Case Is 92. All Eyes Will Be on His Stamina.”
 - * *Bloomberg Law News*. September 28, 2023. “Newman Sanction Renews Debate Over Aging Judges’ Lifetime Tenure.”
 - * *Legal Ethics Roundup*. September 28, 2023. “Legal Ethics Roundup No. 9.”
 - * *Reuters*. September 21, 2023. “Older US judges’ Cognitive Aging may Affect Opinion Writing, Study Finds.”
- Black, Ryan C., Ryan J. Owens, Justin Wedeking, and Patrick C. Wohlfarth. 2020. *The Conscientious Justice: How Supreme Court Justices’ Personalities Influence the Law, the High Court, and the Constitution*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
 - Reviewed by:
 - * Fix, Michael P. 2020. “Giving the Strawman a Brain: Integrating Law and Politics in Understanding the Supreme Court.” *The Journal of Politics* 82(4).
 - * Howard, Robert M. 2020. *Law and Politics Book Review* 30(10): 154-157.
 - * Parker, Christopher M. 2021. *Political Science Quarterly* 136(2): 374-376.
 - * Bowers, M. W. 2020. *Choice Reviews* (December).
 - * Sawa, Paul R. 2020. *Canadian Law Library Review* 45(3): 17.
- Black, Ryan C., Ryan J. Owens, Justin Wedeking, and Patrick C. Wohlfarth. 2016. *U.S. Supreme Court Opinions and Their Audiences*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
 - Reviewed by:
 - * Stephenson, Donald Grier, Jr. 2017. *Journal of Supreme Court History* 42(3): 337-355.
 - * Bailey, Michael A. 2017. *Law and Politics Book Review* 27(3): 47-48.
 - Identified as: “Exemplary Legal Writing 2016: Books, Five Recommendations,” Lee Epstein. *The Green Bag 2017 Almanac and Reader*.

Journal Articles

- Black, Ryan C., Ryan J. Owens, and Patrick C. Wohlfarth. 2023. “Considering Constitutional Change: Survey Evidence on Public Attitudes Toward Term Limits for Federal Judges.” *New Political Science* 45(2): 335-358.
- Ura, Joseph Daniel and Patrick C. Wohlfarth. 2022. “Greater Public Confidence in the U.S. Supreme Court Predicts More Jurisdiction Stripping.” *Political Science Research and Methods* 10(4): 831-839.

- Black, Ryan C., Ryan J. Owens, Justin Wedeking, and Patrick C. Wohlfarth. 2021. "Conscientiousness and Supreme Court Confirmation Hearings in the Senate Judiciary Committee." *British Journal of American Legal Studies* 10(3): 379-408.
- Gimpel, James, Tristan Hightower, and Patrick C. Wohlfarth. 2021. "The Geography of Law: Understanding the Origin of State and Federal Redistricting Cases." *Political Research Quarterly* 74(4): 779-794.
- Black, Ryan C., Ryan J. Owens, Justin Wedeking, and Patrick C. Wohlfarth. 2021. "On Estimating Personality Traits of U.S. Supreme Court Justices." *Journal of Law and Courts* 9(2): 371-396.
- Fogarty, Brian, Nasser Qadri, and Patrick C. Wohlfarth. 2020. "Personalizing the U.S. Supreme Court Through Attention to Individual Justices." *Social Science Quarterly* 101(2): 825-841.
- Owens, Ryan J. and Patrick C. Wohlfarth. 2019. "The Influence of Home State Reputation and Public Opinion on Federal Circuit Court Judges." *Journal of Law and Courts* 7(2): 187-214.
- Black, Ryan C., Ryan J. Owens, Justin Wedeking, and Patrick C. Wohlfarth. 2017. "Supreme Court Opinions and Audiences." *Washington University Journal of Law & Policy* 54: 169-180.
- Owens, Ryan J. and Patrick C. Wohlfarth. 2017. "Public Mood, Previous Electoral Experience, and Responsiveness Among Federal Circuit Court Judges." *American Politics Research* 45(6): 1003-1031.
- Enns, Peter K., Nathan Kelly, Takaaki Masaki, and Patrick C. Wohlfarth. 2017. "Moving Forward with Time Series Analysis." *Research and Politics* 4(3): 1-7.
- Black, Ryan C., Ryan J. Owens, Justin Wedeking, and Patrick C. Wohlfarth. 2016. "The Influence of Public Sentiment on Supreme Court Opinion Clarity." *Law & Society Review* 50(3): 703-732.
- Enns, Peter K., Nathan Kelly, Takaaki Masaki, and Patrick C. Wohlfarth. 2016. "Don't Jet-tison the General Error Correction Model Just Yet: A Practical Guide to Avoiding Spurious Regression with the GECM." *Research and Politics* 3(2): 1-13.
- Owens, Ryan J., Alexander Tahk, Patrick C. Wohlfarth, and Amanda C. Bryan. 2015. "Nominating Commissions, Judicial Retention, and Forward-Looking Behavior on State Supreme Courts: An Empirical Examination of Selection and Retention Methods." *State Politics & Policy Quarterly* 15(2): 211-238.
- Owens, Ryan J. and Patrick C. Wohlfarth. 2014. "State Solicitors General, Appellate Expertise, and State Success Before the United States Supreme Court." *Law & Society Review* 48(3): 657-685.
- Enns, Peter K. and Patrick C. Wohlfarth. 2013. "The Swing Justice." *The Journal of Politics* 75(4): 1089-1107.
- Owens, Ryan J., Justin Wedeking, and Patrick C. Wohlfarth. 2013. "How the Supreme Court Alters Opinion Language to Evade Congressional Review." *Journal of Law and Courts* 1(1): 35-59.

- Casillas, Christopher J., Peter K. Enns, and Patrick C. Wohlfarth. 2011. “How Public Opinion Constrains the U.S. Supreme Court.” *American Journal of Political Science* 55(1): 74-88.
- Ura, Joseph Daniel and Patrick C. Wohlfarth. 2010. “‘An Appeal to the People’: Public Opinion and Congressional Support for the Supreme Court.” *The Journal of Politics* 72(4): 939-956.
- Wohlfarth, Patrick C. 2009. “The Tenth Justice? Consequences of Politicization in the Solicitor General’s Office.” *The Journal of Politics* 71(1): 224-237.

Chapters in Edited Volumes

- Enns, Peter K. and Patrick C. Wohlfarth. 2017. “Making Sense of the Supreme Court-Public Opinion Relationship.” In *Handbook of Judicial Behavior* (pp. 180-195), eds. Robert M. Howard and Kirk Randazzo. New York: Routledge Press.

Book Reviews

- Wohlfarth, Patrick C. 2019. Review of: *The Supreme Court: An Analytic History of Constitutional Decision Making*, by Tom S. Clark. *Law and Politics Book Review* 29(9): 110-113 (October 2019).

Awards & Fellowships

Teaching Awards

- Excellence in Teaching Award, College of Behavioral & Social Sciences, University of Maryland, College Park, 2015.

Research Awards

- C. Herman Pritchett Award for the best book on law and courts, Law and Courts Section of the American Political Science Association, 2025: *Cognitive Aging and the Federal Circuit Courts: How Senescence Influences the Law and Judges* (Oxford University Press).
- Elmer Plischke Faculty Research Award, Department of Government and Politics, University of Maryland, College Park, 2025: *Cognitive Aging and the Federal Circuit Courts: How Senescence Influences the Law and Judges* (Oxford University Press).
- Elmer Plischke Faculty Research Award, Department of Government and Politics, University of Maryland, College Park, 2021: *The Conscientious Justice: How Supreme Court Justices’ Personalities Influence the Law, the High Court, and the Constitution* (Cambridge University Press).
- Neal Tate Award for Outstanding Paper in Judicial Politics, Southern Political Science Association (with Ryan J. Owens), 2013.
- Best Paper by an Emerging Scholar Award, Midwest Political Science Association (with Christopher Ellis), 2012.

- James W. Prothro Award for Outstanding Research by a Graduate Student, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2008 & 2010.

Fellowships & Grants

- Research and Scholarship Award: “Supreme Court Justices, Their Motives, and Judicial Behavior,” University of Maryland Graduate School, 2016 (\$9,000).
- Dean’s Research Initiative Grant: “Collaborative Research: The Supreme Court, the Media, and Public Opinion,” University of Maryland, College Park, 2012 (\$15,030).
- National Science Foundation Dissertation Improvement Grant: “How the Prospect of Judicial Review Shapes Bureaucratic Decision Making,” 2009–2010 (SES-0921670; \$12,000).
- Thomas M. Uhlman Summer Research Fellowship, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2009.
- Duke University–University of North Carolina American Politics Research Group Summer Research Fellowship: 2006, 2007, 2008.
- Future Faculty Fellowship Program, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2007.

Conference Presentations

- Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association: 2008, 2009, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2017, 2022, 2023.
- Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association: 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2022, 2023.
- Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association: 2007, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2019, 2020, 2023.
- Annual Meeting of the European Political Science Association: 2014, 2016, 2017.
- Annual Meeting of the Western Political Science Association: 2015, 2017.
- Annual Meeting of the Southwestern Political Science Association: 2018.
- Annual Meeting of the Northeastern Political Science Association: 2018.
- Annual Meeting of the Michigan Political Science Association: 2018.

Teaching Experience

University of Maryland, College Park

- Law or Politics? The U.S. Supreme Court and Individual Rights (Carillon Communities; undergraduate Big Question course)
- Law or Politics? The U.S. Supreme Court and the Meaning of the Constitution (undergraduate Big Question course)
- Seminar in American Politics: The U.S. Supreme Court (undergraduate)

- American Government (undergraduate)
- Quantitative Methods for Political Science (graduate)
- Advanced Quantitative Methods for Political Science (graduate)
- Dissertation Prospectus Seminar (graduate)
- Time Series Analysis (graduate)

Washington University in St. Louis

- Topics in Politics: Constitutional Politics in the United States (undergraduate)

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

- Introduction to Government in the United States (undergraduate)
- The Adversary Systems (undergraduate)

Professional Service

- Editorial Board, *Journal of Law and Courts*, 2019–2020.
- Editorial Board, *Law & Society Review*, 2013–2016.
- Manuscript Referee:
American Journal of Political Science; *American Political Science Review*; *American Politics Research*; *British Journal of Political Science*; *Cambridge University Press*; *CQ Press*; *De Gruyter Press*; *Journal of Empirical Legal Studies*; *Journal of Law and Courts*; *Journal of Law & Empirical Analysis*; *Journal of Political Science*; *The Journal of Politics*; *Justice System Journal*; *Law & Social Inquiry*; *Law & Society Review*; *Legislative Studies Quarterly*; *Norton Press*; *PLOS ONE*; *Political Analysis*; *Political Behavior*; *Political Research Quarterly*; *Political Science Quarterly*; *Political Studies*; *Presidential Studies Quarterly*; *Public Choice*; *Public Opinion Quarterly*; *Publius: The Journal of Federalism*; *Sage Press*; *Social Science Quarterly*; *Socio-Economic Review*; *State Politics & Policy Quarterly*; *Statistics, Politics and Policy*; *Temple University Press*.
- *Journal of Law and Courts* Best Paper Award Committee, Law & Courts Section of the American Political Science Association, 2025.
- Discussant, “The U.S. Supreme Court in the News,” American Political Science Association, 2023.
- Discussant, “The Politics of Confirmation,” Southern Political Science Association, 2019.
- Nominations Committee, Law & Courts Section of the American Political Science Association, 2017-2018.
- Panel Chair & Discussant, “The Supreme Court in the Contemporary Political Landscape,” Northeastern Political Science Association, 2018.

- Discussant, “Public Opinion on Judicial Decision Making,” Midwest Political Science Association, 2018.
- Law & Courts Section Chair, Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, 2017.
- Discussant, “Local and State Courts,” Western Political Science Association, 2017.
- Panel Chair, “Comparative Judicial Politics: Institutional Development and Change,” Southern Political Science Association, 2016.
- Panel Chair & Discussant, “The Supreme Court and the Separation of Powers,” Southern Political Science Association, 2015.
- Judicial Politics Section Chair, Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, 2014.
- Discussant, “Attorneys and Oral Argument on the U.S. Supreme Court,” Midwest Political Science Association, 2014.
- Teaching and Mentoring Award Committee, Law & Courts Section of the American Political Science Association, 2012-2013.
- Panel Chair & Discussant, “Public Opinion and Judicial Politics,” Midwest Political Science Association, 2013.
- Discussant, “Interest Groups in the Judiciary,” Midwest Political Science Association, 2012.
- Discussant, “The Political Environment of Bureaucracies,” Midwest Political Science Association, 2011.
- Discussant, “Legislatures and Courts,” Southern Political Science Association, 2011.
- Panel Chair & Discussant, “Assessments of Judicial Policymaking,” Southern Political Science Association, 2010.

University of Maryland Service

University Service

- Plan of Organization Review Committee (Chair), University of Maryland Senate, 2024–2027.
- Executive Committee, University of Maryland Senate, 2024–2026.
- Global Health Undergraduate Advisory Committee, 2025–2026.
- Subcommittee on the Higher Education Shared Values Resolutions, University of Maryland Senate Executive Committee, 2025.
- Governance, Leadership, and Administration Working Group, Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) Accreditation, 2024–2025.
- Faculty Representative, University of Maryland Senate, 2023–2026.
- Graduate Council, University of Maryland Graduate School, 2021–2023.

- Committee on Graduate Programs, Curricula, and Courses, University of Maryland Graduate School, 2022–2023.
- Search Committee, Director of Graduate Studies, School of Public Policy, 2022.
- Maryland Summer Scholars Award Selection Committee, 2021.

College Service

- Wayne V. McIntosh Celebration of Life Program Committee (Chair), College of Behavioral & Social Sciences, 2026.
- Charles A. Caramello Distinguished Dissertation Award Committee, College of Behavioral & Social Sciences, 2021.
- College Awards Review Committee, College of Behavioral & Social Sciences: 2017, 2018.
- Excellence in Teaching Award Committee, College of Behavioral & Social Sciences, 2016.

Departmental Service

- Executive Committee, 2017–2019; 2020–present.
- Undergraduate Studies Committee (Chair), 2023–present.
- AEP Review Committee, Chair (Senior Lecturer), 2025.
- APT Review Committee (Full Professor), 2025.
- Internal Review & Self-Study Committee, 2024–2025.
- Faculty Coordinator Search Committee, 2024.
- Faculty Workload Policy Committee (Chair), 2023–2024.
- Professional Track Faculty Search Committee, 2023.
- Director of Administrative Services Search Committee, 2023.
- Graduate Studies Committee (Chair), 2019–2023.
- Graduate Admissions Committee, 2015–2019; 2020–2023.
- American Politics Tenure Track Faculty Search Committee, 2022.
- Merit Pay Committee: 2013, 2015, 2022.
- Faculty Workload Committee (Chair), 2020–2021.
- American Politics Field Chair, 2017–2019.
- Internal Review & Self-Study Committee, 2017–2018.
- American Politics Workshop Coordinator, 2015–2017.
- Graduate Studies Committee, 2013–2015.
- Undergraduate Studies Committee, 2012–2014.

- Undergraduate Honors Thesis Advisor:
 - Naina Soni, 2012–2013 (Duke University School of Law)
 - Erin Omahen, 2013–2014 (Federal Bureau of Investigation)
 - Ella Cady, 2016–2017 (University of California, Berkeley School of Law)
 - Emily Suter, 2020–2021 (University of Maryland Law School)
 - Abigail Holisher, 2020–2021 (George Washington University Law School)
 - Matthew Zinno, 2024–2025 (Ph.D. Student, Brown University) — *Winner of the Winston Family Award for Best Honors Thesis*
 - Maja Durkovic, 2026–2027, In progress
- Dissertation Advisor: Victoria Worley
- Dissertation Committee Member:
 - Jonathan Hensley, 2015
 - Rebecca Richardson (Criminology), 2018
 - Zachary Scott, 2020
 - Robert Campana, 2022
 - Tristan Hightower, 2024
 - William King Leroy (Economics), 2025
 - Dixin Li (Criminology), 2026
- Faculty Mentor, Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program, 2013.

Updated July 2026.