

# MICHAEL A. ZILIS

Curriculum Vitae  
Updated October 2019

## CONTACT

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120 Patterson Drive  
Lexington, KY 40506

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(859) 257-7030

## APPOINTMENTS

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### University of Kentucky

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, 2015-present

### DePaul University

Adjunct Instructor, Department of Political Science, 2014-2015

## EDUCATION

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### University of Michigan

Ph.D. Political Science, 2013

\* Fields: American Politics, Methods, Psychology

\* Recognition: APSA Edward S. Corwin Award nominee for Best Dissertation in Public Law

### Miami University

Bachelor of Arts, 2007

\* Fields: Political Science, History, Mathematics (minor)

\* Honors: *summa cum laude*, University Honors with Distinction, Political Science Honors

## RESEARCH

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### BOOK

**Zilis, Michael A.** 2015. *The Limits of Legitimacy: Dissenting Opinions, Media Coverage, and Public Responses to Supreme Court Decisions*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.

\* Recognition: 2015 Exemplary Law Book, selected by Lee Epstein for *Green Bag Almanac & Reader*

\* Reviews: *Perspectives on Politics*, *Political Science Quarterly*, *Political Studies Review*, *Journal of Supreme Court History*

### ARTICLES

**Zilis, Michael A.**, and Justin Wedeking. Forthcoming. "The Strategic Components of Rhetorical Choice: Disagreeable Rhetoric in Supreme Court Opinions." *Journal of Law and Courts*.

Mark, Alyx, and **Michael A. Zilis**. Forthcoming. “The Conditional Effectiveness of Legislative Threats: How Court Curbing Alters the Behavior of (Some) Supreme Court Justices.” *Political Research Quarterly*

\* Coverage: *Pacific Standard Magazine*, London School of Economics and Political Science Blog

Denison, Alexander, Justin Wedeking, and **Michael A. Zilis**. Forthcoming. “Negative Media Coverage of the Supreme Court: The Interactive Role of Opinion Language, Coalition Size, and Ideological Signals.” *Social Science Quarterly*

**Zilis, Michael A.** 2018. “Minority Groups and Judicial Legitimacy: Group Affect and the Incentives for Judicial Responsiveness.” *Political Research Quarterly* 71(2): 270-283.

\* Coverage: London School of Economics and Political Science Blog

Mark, Alyx, and **Michael A. Zilis**. 2018. “Restraining the Court: Assessing Accounts of Congressional Attempts to Limit Supreme Court Authority.” *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 43(1): 141-169.

Wedeking, Justin, and **Michael A. Zilis**. 2018. “Disagreeable Rhetoric and the Prospect of Public Opposition: Opinion Moderation on the U.S. Supreme Court.” *Political Research Quarterly* 71(2): 380-394.

Mark, Alyx, and **Michael A. Zilis**. 2018. “Blurring Institutional Boundaries: Judges’ Perceptions of Threats to Judicial Independence.” *Journal of Law and Courts* 6(2): 333-353.

**Zilis, Michael A.** 2018. “The Political Consequences of Supreme Court Consensus: Media Coverage, Public Opinion, and Unanimity as a Public-Facing Strategy.” *Washington University Journal of Law & Policy* 54: 229-243.

**Zilis, Michael A.**, Justin Wedeking, and Alexander Denison. 2017. “Hitting the ‘Bullseye’ in Supreme Court Coverage: News Quality in the Court’s 2014 Term.” *Elon Law Review* 9(2): 489-523.

Maltzman, Forrest, Alyx Mark, Charles R. Shipan, and **Michael A. Zilis**. 2014. “Stepping on Congress: Courts, Congress, and Inter-Institutional Politics.” *Journal of Law and Courts* 2(2): 219-240.

BOOK  
REVIEWS

**Zilis, Michael A.** 2018. Book Review of Louis Fisher, *Supreme Court Expansion of Presidential Power: Unconstitutional Leanings* (Lawrence, Kansas: University Press of Kansas). *Law and Politics Book Review* 28(4): 42-44.

**Zilis, Michael A.** 2016. Book Review of Richard Davis, *Covering the United States Supreme Court in the Digital Age* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press). *Perspectives on Politics* 14(3): 882-883.

WORKING  
PAPERS

“The Democratic Crisis of Police Misconduct” With Nicholas Davis and Matthew Hitt. Under review

“The Presidency, Partisan Cues, and Public Perceptions of Nonelectoral Institutions.” With Ali Masood and Ryan Strickler. Under review

“Portrayals and Perceptions of the Supreme Court in a New Media Landscape.” With Justin Wedeking

“Public Perceptions of Politically Insulated Institutions: Heuristics, Inter-Institutional Linkages, and the Supreme Court.” Under review

“Immutable Traits and Perceptions of Bias in the Rule of Law: Diversification and Public Assessments of Judicial Impartiality.” With Yoshikuni Ono. Under review

“How Identity Politics Polarizes Rule of Law Opinions.” Under review

“Defying the Supreme Court: The Impact of Overt Resistance to Landmark Legal Rulings.” With Xander Borne.

“Pernicious Bias and Judicial Illegitimacy: Do Americans Perceive Diverse Judges as Inherently Biased?” With Yoshikuni Ono

“A Countermajoritarian Institution in the Public Mind: Judicial Legitimacy of the Federal Constitutional Court in Germany.” With Hyeonho Hahm

ONGOING  
PROJECTS

Portrayals and Perceptions of the Supreme Court in a New Media Landscape. National Science Foundation Grant #1849286 with Justin Wedeking. Award: \$275,000 for 2019-2021

*The Minority Rights Paradox: How Public Antipathy Towards Minority Groups Imperils the Supreme Court’s Legitimacy.* Book project

*Individual Roots of Institutional Conflict: The Origins and Consequences of Congressional Assaults on the U.S. Supreme Court.* With Alyx Mark. Book project

Positivity Symbols: Visual Imagery in News Coverage of the Judiciary. With Alexander Denison

Full Court Press: The Causes and Consequences of Executive Court Curbing. With Alyx Mark

INVITED  
TALKS &  
WORKSHOPS

*Law and Courts Workshop*, St. Louis University, October 12-13, 2018

*Speaker Series*, University of Mannheim, September 10, 2018

*The Future of the Supreme Court*, Miami University, September 22, 2016

*Judgment-Rationale Inconsistency in the Supreme Court*, Ohio State University, April 23, 2016

*ATHGO International Symposium*, World Bank, July 5-7, 2006

CONFERENCE

Midwest Political Science Association National Conference, 2011-2019

American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, 2012, 2014, 2016-2019

Kentucky Political Science Association, 2018-2019

Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, 2016, 2018

Conference on Empirical Legal Studies, 2015, 2018

Research Design for Causal Inference, 2017

Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, 2016-2017

Annual Meeting of the International Society of Political Psychology, 2012  
Northeastern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, 2006, 2011  
New York State Political Science Association Annual Conference, 2006  
International Young Researchers Conference, 2006

INTERNAL TALKS “Constitutional Controversy in the Age of President Trump,” September 18, 2017  
Political Science Research Colloquium, 2015–2019 (7x)  
2016 Presidential Election Forum Panelist, October 20, 2016

RESEARCH POSITIONS Research Assistant to Professor Charles Shipan, University of Michigan, 2009-2012  
Undergraduate Research Advisor, University of Michigan, 2011-2012  
Intern, Legal Aid Society of Cleveland, 2006  
Research Assistant to Professor Mark Sachleben, Miami University, 2005-2006  
Undergraduate Summer Scholar, Miami University, 2005

GRANTS & HONORS “Portrayals and Perceptions of the Supreme Court in a New Media Landscape,” National Science Foundation Grant #1849286 with Justin Wedeking. Award: \$275,000 for 2019-2021  
German Internet Panel (GIP), seven item allotment regarding judicial legitimacy, 2017  
*The Limits of Legitimacy*, 2015 Exemplary Law Book, *Green Bag Almanac & Reader*  
Southern Political Science Association Artinian Award, \$500 travel award, 2016  
APSA Edward S. Corwin Award (nominated), Best Dissertation in Public Law, 2014  
Rackham Dissertation Fellowship, 2013  
Gerald R. Ford Fellowship, \$3500 research grant, 2011-2013  
Rackham Predoctoral Fellowship Program (nominated), 2012  
University of Michigan Thesis Grant, 2011  
University of Michigan Department of Political Science Fellowship, 2010-2011  
IDEAS / IGERT Fellowship, Center for the Study of Complex Systems, 2007-2008

## TEACHING

HONORS University of Kentucky College of Arts & Sciences Outstanding Teacher, 2019  
University of Kentucky Outstanding Teacher (finalist), 2019  
Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship for Excellence in Teaching (nominated), 2018

COURSES Judicial Politics (undergraduate, graduate), American Political Institutions (graduate), Constitutional Law, First Amendment Rights, Politics of Law and Courts, Law and the Political System, Public Opinion, The American Presidency, Introduction to American Government, Research Internship, Honors Capstone

TRAINING & EXPERIENCE Center for the Enhancement of Learning & Teaching Workshop, University of Kentucky, 2016  
MyGuru, Senior Tutor, 2010-2015  
Walter Gross Jr. Family Student-Athlete Development Center, Miami University, 2006-2007

Bernard B. Rinella, Jr. Learning Center, Miami University, 2005-2007

PEDAGOGICAL WRITING Skoskiewicz, Mark, Lucas Fink, and **Michael A. Zilis**. 2015. *Plan, Prepare and Perform: A Strategic Approach to Test Prep*. E-book

## SERVICE

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PHD COMM. Alexander Denison, Travis Taylor

RESEARCH LAB Olivia Antigua, Alexander Borne, Bear Brown, Hannah Britt, Erica Cherry, Elizabeth Dade, Tanner Dowdy, Samuel Harmon, Joshua Hollan, Danielle Hunt, Paige Kregor, Caitlin Neuhaus, Eric Poore, Brady Rice, Jacinda Rivas, Eteri Tsintsadze-Maase, Desiree Wilson, Brianna Vollman, Thomas Wright, Courtney Vice, Vanshika Vij, Adam Weissler, Rachele Yohe

HON. THESIS Alexander Borne, Elizabeth Dade, Sydney Darwin, Kathryn Price

INDEPEND. STUDY Olivia Antigua, Samuel Harmon, Danielle Hunt, Brady Rice

DEPARTMENT Director of Public Relations, 2019  
Political Science Research Colloquium Coordinator, 2017-2019  
Graduate Program Committee, 2018-2019  
Faculty Publications Wall, 2017-2019  
Vandenbosch Outstanding Legal Studies Paper Award Committee, 2017-2019  
Faculty Hiring Committee, 2017  
Undergraduate Program Committee, 2015–2017

COLLEGE / UNIVERSITY Advisor, UK Moot Court, 2019  
Advisor, UK Constitution Club, 2019  
Outside Dissertation Examiner  
Daniel Joseph, Department of Anthropology, 2019  
William Spriggs, Department of English, 2018  
Andrew Patrick, Department of History, 2017  
2016 Presidential Election Forum Panelist  
Faculty Mentoring Program, College of Arts & Sciences, 2015

DISCIPLINE Associate Editor, *Journal of Law and Courts*, 2019  
APSA Long Term Mentoring Program, 2018-2019  
APSA Law and Courts Teaching and Mentoring Award Committee, 2017-2018  
APSA Law and Courts Service Award Committee, 2016-2017

MEDIA ABC News 36, Lexington (2x); Gray TV, Washington D.C.; LEX 18 NBC, Lexington (7x); Middle Eastern News Agency, Egypt; WKYT CBS, Lexington; UK Student News Network (2x); UK Now; *USA Today*; WION TV India

DISCUSSANT / CHAIR Midwest Political Science Association National Conference, American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Law and Society Association Annual Meeting

REVIEWER *American Political Science Review*; *American Journal of Political Science*; *Journal of Politics*; *Political Research Quarterly*; *Politics, Groups, and Identities*; *Law and Society Review*; *Journal of Law and Courts*; *Journal of Empirical Legal Studies*; *Perspectives on Politics*; *Oxford Research Encyclopedia*; *Law and Politics Book Review*; *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*; George Mason University Press