

CHRISTOPHER J. CASILLAS

PHONE: 206-724-2237
EMAIL: chriscas@uw.edu

EDUCATION

Ph.D., January 2012, Cornell University, Government

M.A., Cornell University, Government, 2009

J.D., Seattle University School of Law, 2003 (*magna cum laude*)

B.A., University of California, Santa Barbara, Political Science, 2000 (*Honors*)

Ph.D. Exam Fields: American Politics and Public Law

Dissertation Title: "Law, Legislation, and Democracy: Cooperation and Contestation between Congress, the Supreme Court, and the Executive in the Determination of Statutory Meaning"

Committee: Theodore Lowi (chair), Richard Bensen, Robert Hockett, Peter Enns

Abstract: Lawmaking plays a central role in the study of American political institutions. Any adequate theory of lawmaking must not only explain how bills become law but must also account for the fact that any bill ever becomes law. This is because the separation of powers that divides authority for lawmaking is one of the defining features of the American constitutional system. Within that framework, any theory must explain why the separate branches of government, each with their own power bases and unique constituencies, have an incentive to cooperate with one another in the enactment, enforcement, and interpretation of a statute. In an effort to solve this puzzle, I confront much of the existing literature on interbranch relations and governance by examining one key, but understudied, aspect of congressional-judicial relations that I call "reaction bills." A reaction bill seeks to override, modify, or codify one or more federal court decisions. Having constructed a comprehensive database on reaction bills spanning a 40-year time period, I argue that this important aspect of lawmaking cannot be explained by conventional theories regarding the lawmaking process and governance in the United States. I thus suggest a new framework that is based on a more cooperative assumption with respect to how the branches interact to develop statutory law, a theory that emphasizes the role of "interbranch signaling" as a coordinating mechanism underlying this cooperation between Congress, the Executive, and the federal judiciary.

TEACHING APPOINTMENTS & COURSES TAUGHT

Instructor:

Government 1101: Individual Liberty and the U.S. Constitution, Fall 2008 (Cornell University)

Advanced Constitutional Law 320: Separation of Powers, Spring 2013, 2016 (Seattle University School of Law)

Advanced Constitutional Law 320: Guns & The Second Amendment, Spring 2015 (Seattle University School of Law)

Constitutional Law 300-E: Constitutional Law II, Fall 2017 (Seattle University School of Law)

Constitutional Law 380-E: Voting Rights and Election Law, Fall 2018 (Seattle University School of Law)

Teaching Assistant:

Government 111: Introduction to American Politics, Fall 2007 (Cornell University)

Government 161: Introduction to Political Thought, Summer 2007, 2008 (Cornell University)

Government 328: The U.S. Supreme Court – Constitutional Law, Spring 2008 (Cornell University)

Government 3222: Gun Control – Constitution, Law, and Politics, Spring 2009 (Cornell University)

PROSPECTIVE COURSE OFFERINGS

Undergraduate: Introduction to American Politics; Introduction to Public Policy; U.S. Congress; The Supreme Court; U.S. Constitutional Law

Graduate or Undergraduate: Judicial Politics; Civil Liberties & Rights; Law & Politics; The Supreme Court (graduate); Constitutional Law (graduate); The First Amendment: Theory and Practice; Public Law; Administrative Law; American Political Thought

Law: Constitutional Law; Labor Law; Employment Discrimination; Negotiation & Arbitration Skills Clinic

PUBLICATIONS

Casillas, Christopher J., Enns, Peter K, and Patrick Wohlfarth. 2011. "How Public Opinion Constrains the Supreme Court" *American Journal of Political Science* 55(1): 74-88.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

"Voter Learning in Early Primary States," Presented at the 39th Annual Meeting of the Northeastern Political Science Association, Philadelphia, PA November; November 15-17, 2007. With Michael Miller and Keith Tonsager.

"Voter Learning in Early Presidential Primaries," Presented at the 66th Annual Meeting of the Midwestern Political Science Association, Chicago, IL; April 2-6, 2008. With Michael Miller and Keith Tonsager.

"Overriding the Court: Reassessing the Rule of Law through the Congressional Override Process," Presented at the 59th Annual Meeting of the New England Political Science Association, Providence, RI; April 25-26, 2008.

"Campaign Finance and Judicial Decision-Making: Evidence from the States," Presented at the 59th Annual Meeting of the New England Political Science Association, Providence, RI; April 25-26, 2008. With Michael Miller.

"How Public Opinion Constrains the Supreme Court," Presented at the 2008 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Boston, MA: August 27-31, 2008. With Peter Enns and Patrick Wohlfarth.

"Negotiation Basics: How to Bargain from Day 1 to Ratification" Presented at the Northwest Chapter of the Labor and Employment Relations Association, Seattle, WA: April 3-4, 2014.

"Life after *Janus*: Apocalypse or Phoenix Rising?" Presented at the Northwest Chapter of the Labor and Employment Relations Association, Seattle, WA: April 5-6, 2018.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Member, American Political Science Association, 2006 to 2009

Member, Law & Courts Section, American Political Science Association, 2007 to 2009

Member, Midwest Political Science Association, 2008-2009

Member, Washington State Bar Association, 2003 to present (Bar # 34394)

Member, American Bar Association, 2018 to present

AWARDS

Cornell University, LaFeber Prize for Teaching Excellence, 2010

Seattle University School of Law, Faculty Scholar Award nominee, 2003

Seattle University School of Law, Recipient of Year-End Achievement Scholarship, 2001 & 2002

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Seattle University School of Law, Adjunct Professor of Law, 2013-present

Washington State Public Employment Relations Commission; 2018-present: Administrative Law Judge & Mediator

Cline & Casillas, Attorney-at-Law; 2014-2018: Partner in labor & employment law firm.

Cline & Associates, Attorney-at-Law, 2002-2006; 2009-2014: Legal counsel for dozens of different public sector labor organizations throughout the State of Washington representing them in front of the Public Employment Relations Commission in unfair labor practice cases and in mediation and, separately, in private grievance arbitration cases. Duties include collective bargaining, mediation, contract administration, interest arbitration, disciplinary representation and compensation analysis.

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Cornell University, 2007-2009

Starbucks Corporation, Legal Intern, 2001-2002