

JERRY D. THOMAS

102 Westside Drive
Richmond, KY 40475

859.625.9877 (home)
859.622.4380 (office)

859.893.0593 (cell)
jerry.thomas@eku.edu

EDUCATION

University of Kentucky, Ph.D. Candidate in Political Science (Anticipated Defense – May 2008)

Major: American (Judicial)

Minor: Methods (Quantitative and Qualitative)

Dissertation: U.S. Courts of Appeals Review of Federal Agency Decisions: Legal Deference or Ideological Agreement

Committee: Ellen Riggle (Chair), Bradley Canon, Richard Fording, Donald Gross, Edward Jennings

Abstract: This dissertation examines models of judicial behavior in the U.S. Courts of Appeals, specifically focusing on how judges vote in cases involving federal agencies. The attitudinal model of judicial behavior dominates judicial politics scholarship, including studies examining the relationships between federal courts and agencies. Attitudinal scholars suggest judges substitute their policy preferences in place of agency preferences, and extant research often finds limited support for legal constraints as determinants of judge behavior when agency decisions are under review. Legal scholars suggest judges show deference to agencies due to agency expertise, precedent and other rule-of-law constraints. This study tests hypotheses predicting whether the large number of agency-favorable decisions made by the U.S. Courts of Appeals is a function of judges' ideological agreement with agency positions or a function of legal constraints. Using logistic regression to test data from the U.S. Courts of Appeals Database, I examine the impact of legal and attitudinal variables on the outcome of circuit court judges' reviews of agency decisions. Preliminary results suggest that ideology does inform judge votes when agency decisions are under review, but these votes are tempered by legal constraints more than previously thought.

University of Kentucky, Master of Arts in Political Science (2007)

University of South Carolina, Master of Public Administration (1994)

Coker College, Bachelor of Arts in History (1991)

TEACHING POSITIONS

Eastern Kentucky University, Visiting Assistant Professor, 2004 – present

Courses taught include:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ~ American Government | ~ Judicial Process |
| ~ Administrative Law (graduate) | ~ Public Policy |
| ~ Queer Theory & Politics | ~ Minority Group Politics |
| ~ Academic Orientation | ~ Principles of Politics & Government |

Used Blackboard to supplement in-class learning and for online courses.

Columbia College, Adjunct Professor 2000 – 2002

Taught public policy, and also guest lectured in public sector data evaluation, legislative process, change management and cultural diversity.

PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

Palmetto GBA 1999 – 2003

Manager, Palmetto Training Team

Palmetto GBA is the largest fiscal intermediary and carrier for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Supervised a staff of trainers and instructional writers responsible for training associates and management in Medicare customer service, claims processing, computer systems, budget and research. Conducted monthly proficiency testing and performance analyses. Used a learning management system (LMS) to track, report and analyze training activities. Served as key personnel in acquisition of new business contracts with responsibilities for labor market analysis, recruiting strategies, training and retention programs, employee performance evaluation, quality assurance and site selection.

Office of the Governor, State of South Carolina 1996 – 1998

Director, Governor's EXCEL Leadership Institute

Director, Staff Development & Training

Developed and directed a year-long leadership training program for mid-level managers in cabinet agencies in South Carolina. Managed the human resource development department in the Governor's Office. Developed the agency's annual accountability report. Provided workshops on presentation skills and professional development. Developed programs on cultural competency, diversity and mentoring.

Budget and Control Board, State of South Carolina 1993 – 1996

Assistant Director, South Carolina Executive Institute

The South Carolina Executive Institute is a yearlong executive education program for senior-level officials in the state. Responsible for personnel and budget administration, curriculum and materials development, computer/technology management and conference planning. Worked with core faculty from the John F. Kennedy School of Government to develop workshops for Southeast academicians and professionals on writing and teaching public administration case studies. Facilitated case-study discussion on public-sector data evaluation and public health.

Department of Health & Environmental Control, State of South Carolina 1992 – 1993

Research Assistant, Center for Health Promotion

Research and wrote a report on the effects of cigarette smoking to the state. Compiled statistical data on restaurant nutrition. Conducted personnel cost-accounting analyses. Assisted in the creation of a statewide Healthy Communities initiative.

PUBLICATIONS

"The Marriage Debate and Minority Stress," with Ellen D. B. Riggle and Sharon Rostosky. 2005. *PS: Political Science and Politics*, 35(2): 221-224.

Book Reviews

David W. Patton, Stephanie L. Witt, Nicholas P. Lovrich, and Patricia J. Frederickson, *Human Resource Management: The Public Service Perspective* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2002) in *Review of Public Personnel Administration* 25(2): 196-198. (June 2005).

WORKING PAPERS

"Gatekeeping in the U.S. Courts of Appeals"

"Minority Group Confidence in the Federal Judiciary"

“Marriage Ban Amendments and GLB Well-Being: The 2006 Election.” (with Ellen Riggle, Sharon Rostosky and Sharon Horne)

PROFESSIONAL MEETING PRESENTATIONS

“Marriage Ban Amendments and GLB Well-Being: The 2006 Election.” 2007. American Political Science Association (APSA), Chicago, IL (with Ellen Riggle, Sharon Rostosky and Sharon Horne).

“Paradox of Court-Agency Relationships: U.S. Courts of Appeals Review of Agency Decisions, 1982-1996.” 2006. South Eastern Conference for Public Administration (SECoPA), Athens, GA.

“Judicial Confidence and Court Legitimacy through the Lenses of Sexual Minorities in the U.S.” 2006. Kentucky Political Science Association (KPSA), Richmond, KY.

“Ethics in Local Government: A Case Study.” 2005. Robert L. Kline Conference on the Management of Local Government, Louisville, KY.

GRANTS

Active Learning Grant (\$5,000) from Department of Government, Eastern Kentucky University (2006). Grant funded a trip to Washington, DC for judicial process students to observe the Supreme Court and conduct research at the Library of Congress.

Diversity in Curriculum Grant (\$2,300) from Eastern Kentucky University (2006). Received a grant to develop a queer theory and politics course. The purpose of the course is to promote diversity on campus through the curriculum.

Active Learning Grant (\$1,500) from Department of Government, Eastern Kentucky University (2006). Grant funded trip for students to present research projects at the South East Conference of Public Administration (SECoPA) in September 2006.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND SERVICE

American Political Science Association, 2005 – present

 Sexuality and Politics Section Board Member, 2007 – present

 Midwest Chapter, 2005 – present

 LGBT Caucus Secretary, 2007 – present

American Society for Public Administration – S.C. Chapter Board Member, 1993 – 1995

Government Finance Officers’ Association, 1994 – 1996

International Personnel Management Association, 1994 – 1996

National Association of Training & Development Directors, 1996 – 2003

EASTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY SERVICE

First Year Book Facilitator, 2004 – 2006

Family Weekend Committee Faculty Representative, 2004

Truman Scholarship Committee, 2004 – present

Department of Government: Student-Faculty Relations Committee, 2004 – present

Department of Government: Academic Practices and Awards Committee, Chair 2006 – 2007

Student Life Awards Selection Committee, 2007

Associate Director of Residence Life Search Committee, 2007

COMMUNITY SERVICE

University of South Carolina MPA Advisory Board, 1993
Coker College Alumni Association Board Member, 1996 – 1997
South Carolina Gay and Lesbian Pride Movement Board Member, 1996 – 1998
South Carolina Gay and Lesbian Business Guild Board Member, 1999 – 2000
Kentucky Fairness Alliance: Bluegrass Chapter Steering Committee, 2004 – 2005
Kentucky Fairness Alliance: Gray Dove Chapter Steering Committee, 2004 – present

CERTIFICATIONS

Public Manager (State of South Carolina)
Training Director (Langevin Learning Services)
Facilitator (Development Dimensions International)
Career Counselor (State of South Carolina)

HONORS AND AWARDS

William Chambers Coker Scholarship, 1987 – 1988
Susanne G. Linville Scholarship, 1988 – 1991
Pi Sigma Alpha (Political Science Honor Society), 2004 – present

REFERENCES

Ellen D. B. Riggle, Ph.D.

Professor and Dissertation Director
Department of Political Science
University of Kentucky
1615 Patterson Office Tower
Lexington, KY 40506 – 0027
(859) 257-7036
E.Riggle@uky.edu

Sara Zeigler, Ph.D.

Professor of Political Science and Chair
Department of Government
Eastern Kentucky University
521 Lancaster Avenue, 117 McCreary Hall
Richmond, KY 40475
(859) 622-5931
Sara.Zeigler@eku.edu

Bradley C. Canon, Ph.D.

Professor of Political Science
Department of Political Science
University of Kentucky
1615 Patterson Office Tower
Lexington, KY 40506 – 0027
(859) 257-4895
POL140@uky.edu

John Wade, Ph.D.

Interim Dean
College of Arts and Sciences
Eastern Kentucky University
521 Lancaster Avenue, Roark 105
Richmond, KY 40475
(859) 622-1405
John.Wade@eku.edu