

Levin College of Law
Office of the Dean

Merritt McAlister
Interim Dean and Levin, Mabie & Levin Professor of Law

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January 21, 2025

MEMORANDUM

TO: Full-Time Faculty, Levin College of Law

FROM: Merritt McAlister, Interim Dean

RE: Faculty Meeting Agenda, January 28, 2025

Our ninth Faculty Meeting of the 2024-2025 academic year will take place in the Faculty Lounge on the third floor of Holland Hall on Tuesday, January 28, 2025. The meeting will begin at 12:00 noon and will end no later than 1:30 pm.

The agenda is as follows:

1. Action Item: Approve Faculty Meeting Minutes for December 11, 2024, attached (Dean McAlister)
2. Action Item: Approve Fall 2024 graduates, attached (Dean McAlister)
3. Action Item: Approval of Courtesy Appointment, attached (Dean McAlister)
4. Action Item: Vote on Associate Professor offer to Alex Erwin (Dean McAlister & Lidsky, chair)
5. Information Item: Appointments Update (Bambauer, J., Brauner, co-chairs)
6. Information Item: Academic Success and Bar Strategy Update (Lopez, chair)

If you are unable to attend, please contact Peter Molk, who will discuss available options. Otherwise, I look forward to seeing you.

UF Levin College of Law Faculty Meeting Minutes
December 11, 2024 - 12:00 noon

PRESENT ON ZOOM: Rachel Arnov-Richman, Derek Bambauer, Stacy Biggart, Yariv Brauner, Karen Burke, Juan Caballero, Dennis Calfee, Julian Cook, Lisa De Sanctis, Donna Eng, Donna Erez-Navot, William Hamilton, Christopher Hampson, David Hasen, Berta Hernandez-Truyol, Jiaying Jiang, Benjamin Johnson, Lea Johnston, Elizabeth-Ann Katz, Zachary Kaufman, Matthew Kim, Gary Lawson, Sabrina Lopez, Lynn LoPucki, Charlene Luke, Pedro Malavet, Jonathan Marshfield, Merritt McAlister, Grayson McCouch, Timothy McLendon, Silvia Menendez, Peter Molk, Thinh Nguyen, Lars Noah, Jane O'Connell, Robert Rhee, Joan Stearns Johnsen, Stacey Steinberg, John Stinneford, Derek Wheeler, Steven Willis, Sarah Wolking, Danaya Wright

NOT PRESENT: Annie Brett, Judy Clausen, Charles Collier, Teresa Drake, Barbara Evans, Mark Fenster, Ben Fernandez, Thomas Haley, Kristen Hardy, Thomas Hawkins, Mindy Herzfeld, Heather Kolinsky, Elizabeth Lear, Lyrisa Lidsky, Tracey Maclin, Katheryn Russell-Brown, Paige Snelgro, Amy Stein, Lee-ford Tritt, Michael Wolf, Wentong Zheng

Meeting called to order at 12:00 pm.

1. Action Item: Approve Faculty Meeting Minutes for December 6, 2024. (Dean McAlister)

Interim Dean McAlister presented, and faculty considered the faculty meeting minutes for December 6, 2024.

Outcome: Minutes were approved.

2. Action Item: Presentation of revised grade appeal policy from the Academic Standards Committee (Arnov-Richman, chair)

Professor Arnov-Richman presented the revised grade appeal policy. Faculty considered and discussed the policy as presented and considered possible amendments to the policy.

An amendment was proposed which would create an exception for instructors to petition academic affairs for a waiver. An amendment was proposed to exclude students who caused a breach of their own anonymity. An amendment was proposed and withdrawn related to LLM students who are permitted to do additional work to improve their grade.

Outcome: Academic affairs waiver amendment was approved. Amendment regarding anonymity breach was approved. Policy approved with the approved amendments.

3. Action Item: Presentation of Post-Tenure Review Standards from the Promotion and Tenure Committee (P&T Committee, Faculty Council)

Professor Johnston presented and faculty considered Post Tenure Review Standards to present to the Provost's office

Outcome: Proposal approved as presented.

4. Action Item: Action Item: Presentation of Tyler Lattimore for Heirs Property Clinic visiting faculty. (Dean McAlister)

Dean McAlister presented Tyler Lattimore as a visiting faculty member. Faculty discussed and considered the candidate.

Outcome: Approved as presented.

Meeting adjourned at 1:22 pm.

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Faculty

FROM: Brian S. Mitchell, Esq. *Brian S. Mitchell*
Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs
Levin College of Law

DATE: December 16, 2024

RE: Fall 2024 Graduation

Listed below students have applied for graduation for the Fall 2024 semester. We recommend approval of the following candidates.

Juris Doctor

Mark Kelly
Matthew Robinson
Sarah Semnyetzky

Juris Doctor & Master of Laws in Taxation

Danielle Brouillette
Chloe Denney
Gus Formato
Mori Harris
Mordechai Krasnjanski
Cheslee Mathis
Menachem Schulgasser
Angela Silva
Zachary Torres
Jackson Wewers

Juris Doctor & Master of Laws in International
Taxation

Christopher Gatzke

Master of Laws in Taxation

Emily Bumbulis
Stephanie Galvis
Kaitlin Gibbs
David Heeren
Amy Hogue
Laurence Howard
James Ivanov
George Izquierdo
Emily Lethbridge
Olivia Sica
Katie Stephens

Master of Laws in International Taxation

Abdulrahman Bin Zuayr
Giordi Candia Heredia

JAKE S. TRUSCOTT, PH.D

University of Florida
jaketruscott@ufl.edu

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

University of Florida (Gainesville, FL)
Department of Political Science
Assistant Professor

August 2024 - Present

Center for C-SPAN Scholarship & Engagement
Purdue University (West Lafayette, IN)
Postdoctoral Research Associate

July 2023 - June 2024

EDUCATION

University of Georgia (Athens, GA)
Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) in Political Science
Major Focus: American Politics
Minor Focus: Formal Theory

August 2018 - May 2023

University of Nevada, Reno (Reno, NV)
Dual Bachelor of Arts (B.A)
Major: Political Science
Major: International Affairs (*Specialization: Law, Diplomacy, and Organization*)

August 2015-May 2018

George Mason University (Arlington, VA)
Semester Exchange Program (The Fund for American Studies)
Internship: The United States Supreme Court, Office of the Clerk of Court

Fall 2016

RESEARCH INTERESTS

American Institutions, Judicial Politics and Processes, Computational Social Science, Models of Spatial Voting, Natural Language Processing, Machine Learning, and American Political Development.

TEACHING INTERESTS

Judicial Politics and Behavior, American Institutions, Constitutional Law, Criminal Justice Administration, Research Design, Research Methods, Computational Social Science (Data Analysis and Visualization, Text as Data, Natural Language Processing, and Machine Learning).

PUBLICATIONS

Ornstein, J. T., Blasingame, E. N., & Truscott, J. S. (2024). How to train your stochastic parrot: Large language models for political texts. *Forthcoming at Political Science Research and Methods*.

Truscott, J. S. (2024). A Social Media Platform Model of Supreme Court News. *Political Research Quarterly*, 10659129241248586.

Truscott, J. S. (2024). Analyzing the Rhetoric of Supreme Court Confirmation Hearings. *Journal of Law and Courts*, 12(1), 45-66.

Truscott, J. S., & Wilhelm, T. (2023). Explaining congressional support for the federal judiciary. In *Research Handbook on Law and Political Systems* (pp. 122-138). Edward Elgar Publishing.

Truscott, J. S. (2022). The Supreme Spectacle: An Analysis of Public Attendance at the Supreme Court. *Justice System Journal*, 43(3), 470-481.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Measuring Judicial Ideology Through Text. Co-Author: Michael K. Romano (Shenandoah University). Revise and Resubmit (*Journal of Law and Courts*)

Amici as Information: Re-Examining the Influence of Amicus Curiae in an Information-Bolstering Environment. Co-Author: Bryce Dietrich (Purdue University)

The Politicization of Turnover in the Lower Federal Courts. Co-Author: Dr. Richard Vining (University of Georgia)

Do Oral Arguments Influence the Language of Majority Opinions? Co-Authors: Dr. Bryce Dietrich (Purdue University) and Dr. Maya Sen (Harvard University)

Untitled Research Using C-SPAN Archives. Co-Author: Dr. Bryce Dietrich (Purdue University) A Multi-modal Analysis of Emotional Arousal and Activation in Supreme Court Confirmation Hearings. Co-Author: Dr. Myriam Shiran (CCSE)

Predictions as Inference (Working Title). Co-Authors: Dr. Benjamin Johnson (University of Florida) and Dr. Logan Strother (Purdue University)

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Feldman, A. & Truscott, J. (2024, July 1). 2023 Stat Review. Empirical SCOTUS . Retrieved from <https://empiricalscotus.com/2024/07/01/2023-stat-review/>

Truscott, J. (2023, August 1). The Supreme Court: Where Everyone Knows Your Name. EmpiricalSCOTUS. Retrieved from: <https://empiricalscotus.com>

Truscott, J. & Feldman, A. (2022, July 28). Lengthier opinions and shrinking cohesion: Indications for the future of the Supreme Court. *SCOTUSblog*. Retrieved from www.scotusblog.com

Drukman, J. (2020, October 23). UGA students more than twice as likely to favor Biden over Trump for president, according to survey data. *The Red & Black*. Retrieved from www.redandblack.com (Mentioned)

Truscott, J. (2019, July 24). GUEST COLUMN: 7 things to expect from the next Democratic primary debate. *The Red & Black*. Retrieved from www.redandblack.com

Truscott, J. (2019, January 8). GUEST COLUMN: Hosting a 2020 presidential debate could offer an incredible opportunity for UGA. *The Red & Black*. Retrieved from www.redandblack.com

Singleton, R. (2018, November 1). Too close to call: Polling conducted by UGA predicts a tight gubernatorial race. *The Red & Black*. Retrieved from www.redandblack.com (Mentioned)

MEDIA COVERAGE

Biskupic, J. (2024, November 8). The last best hope for Supreme Court liberals: Amy Coney Barrett. CNN. Retrieved from <https://www.cnn.com/2024/11/08/politics/amy-coney-barrett-supreme-court-liberal-last-best-hope/index.html>

Joseph, J. (2024, August 1). Unpacking the Supreme Court: Why it's not just a MAGA stronghold, and how the justices really vote. FOXNEWS . Retrieved from <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/unpacking-supreme-court-why-its-not-just-maga-stronghold-how-justices-really-vote>

Biskupic, J. (2024, July 30). Exclusive: The inside story of John Roberts and Trump's immunity win at the Supreme Court. CNN . Retrieved from <https://www.cnn.com/2024/07/30/politics/supreme-court-john-roberts-trump-immunity-6-3-biskupic>

Quinn, M. (2024, July 3). 4 major takeaways from the Supreme Court's most consequential term in years. CBS News . Retrieved from <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/supreme-court-takeaways-trump-chevron-abortion/> Wall Street Journal Editorial Board. (2024, July 2). The 'MAGA Supreme Court' Doesn't Exist. The Wall Street Journal . Retrieved from <https://www.wsj.com/articles/supreme-court-term-donald-trump-joe-biden-chuck-schumer-sonia-sotomayor-7ea655b3?mod=hpopinpos1>

Marimow, A. (2024, July 2). As Trump dominated the docket, divided Supreme Court moved boldly to the right. The Washington Post . Retrieved from <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2024/07/02/supreme-court-2024-conservative-power-trump/>

Blackman, J. (2024, July 2). Which circuit had the highest reversal rate? Reason . Retrieved from <https://reason.com/volokh/2024/07/02/which-circuit-had-the-highest-reversal-rate/>

Barnes, R. (2023, July 1). Supreme Court delivered big conservative wins, and a mixed message. The Washington Post . Retrieved from <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2023/07/01/supreme-court-term-conservative-wins/>

Hurley, L. (2023, July 2). 'Unabashed': Justice Jackson marks her first year on the Supreme Court unafraid to stake her own position. NBCNews . Retrieved from <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/supreme-court/unabashed-justice-jackson-marks-first-year-supreme-court-unafraid-stak-rcna87424>

Adler, J.H. (2023, July 1). Looking Back on the Supreme Court's 2022-23 Term. reason . Retrieved from <https://reason.com/volokh/2023/07/01/looking-back-on-the-supreme-courts-2022-23-term/>

Marimow, A.E. (2023, July 2). Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson's bold debut and independent streak. The Washington Post . Retrieved from <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2023/07/02/ketanji-brown-jackson-first-term/>

Thomas-DeVeaux, A. & Fuong, H. (2023, July 7). The Supreme Court Had A Few Surprises This Year. That Doesn't Make It Moderate. FiveThirtyEight . Retrieved from <https://fivethirtyeight.com/features/the-supreme-court-had-a-few-surprises-this-year-that-doesnt-make-it-moderate/amp/>

Bravin, J. (2023, July 7). John Roberts and Brett Kavanaugh Are Now the Supreme Court's Swing Votes. The Wall Street Journal . Retrieved from <https://www.wsj.com/articles/john-roberts-and-brett-kavanaugh-are-now-the-supreme-courts-swing-votes-8f90c4f6>

Schonfeld, Z. (2023, July 8). How John Roberts exhibited his power in the Supreme Court's biggest decisions. The Hill . Retrieved from <https://thehill.com/regulation/court-battles/4085653-how-john-roberts-exhibited-his-power-in-the-supreme-courts-biggest-decisions/>

Gresko, J. (2023, July 3). The Supreme Court just issued its biggest rulings of the year. Here's what you need to know. The Associated Press . Retrieved from <https://abcnews.go.com/amp/US/wireStory/supreme-court-issued-biggest-rulings-year-100567223>

Wagner, J., Douglas-Gabriel, D., Barnes, R., Berman, M., Vazquez, M., & Alfaro, M. (2023, June 30). Supreme Court's halt on student loan relief isn't end of Biden's effort. The Washington Post. Retrieved from <https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2023/06/30/student-loan-forgiveness-supreme-court-decision/link-TZTU6TZRRVBH3H2OMAD2IP7SG4>

Gigot, P., Strassel, K., McGurn, B., & Peterson, K. (2023, July 3). What did we learn from the latest Supreme Court term? - opinion: Potomac Watch - WSJ Podcasts. The Wall Street Journal. Retrieved from <https://www.wsj.com/podcasts/opinion-potomac-watch/what-did-we-learn-from-the-latest-supreme-court-term/6377bbf1-168b-4c05-8b34-1291e3771c42>

Sherman, M. & Gresko, J. (2023, April 27). SUPREME COURT NOTEBOOK: Gender gap persists at arguments. The Associated Press. Retrieved from <https://apnews.com/article/supreme-court-ketanji-jackson-diversity-1e77336b8958b33ee65e6e2f4a6a9377>

Feldman, A. (2023, May 8). A New Landscape Unfolds: Supreme Court Oral Arguments in the 2022-2023 Term. Empirical SCOTUS . Retrieved from <https://empiricalscotus.com/2023/05/08/a-new-landscape-unfolds-supreme-court-oral-arguments-in-the-2022-2023-term/>

Zoller, M. (2022, July 5). Listen: Jake Truscott talks Supreme Court decisions. AccessWDUN. Retrieved from <https://accesswdun.com/article/2022/7/1114689/listen-jake-truscott-talks-supreme-court-decisions>

Drukman, J. (2020, October 23). UGA students more than twice as likely to favor Biden over Trump for president, according to survey data. The Red & Black. Retrieved from www.redandblack.com (Mentioned)

Singleton, R. (2018, November 1). Too close to call: Polling conducted by UGA predicts a tight gubernatorial race. The Red & Black. Retrieved from www.redandblack.com

TEACHING

University of Florida

POS4931: Judicial Politics Fall 2024
POS6933: Judicial Politics (Graduate) Fall 2024
POS4931: Supreme Court Spring 2025
POS2041: American Federal Government Spring 2025

University of Georgia

POLS 1101: Introduction to American Government Spring 2021
POLS 3600: Criminal Justice Administration Fall 2021, 2022

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

American Political Science Association (APSA) 2022
Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) 2021, 2022
Southern Political Science Association (SPSA) 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024

AWARDS & GRANTS

Sidney M. Robinson Memorial Scholarship (\$1,500)2017
Peter Mekis Memorial Scholarship (\$6,500)2018-2023
2022 Summer Research Grant, University of Georgia Graduate School (\$1,500) ...2022 Gosnell Prize for
Excellence in Political Methodology, PolMeth2022

RESEARCH SKILLS

Programming Languages	R and Python
Statistical Software	Stata, Excel, and R
APIs and Machine Learning	Twitter API v1 & v2, Unsupervised Learning Models (GPT-3), Supervised Learning (Bag of Words, Naive Bayes, etc.)

REFERENCES

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Additional References Available on Request