

## Thomas G. Hansford

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### **Academic Employment**

Professor of Political Science, University of California, Merced, 2016-.  
Associate Professor of Political Science, University of California, Merced, 2008-2016.  
Assistant Professor of Political Science, University of California, Merced, 2006-2008.  
Assistant Professor of Political Science, University of South Carolina, 2001-2006.

### **Education**

Ph.D., Political Science, 2001, University of California, Davis.  
B.A., Political Science, 1993, Saint Mary's College of Maryland, *magna cum laude*.

### **Publications: Peer-Reviewed Book**

Hansford, Thomas G., and James F. Spriggs, II. 2006. *The Politics of Precedent on the U.S. Supreme Court*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

### **Publications: Peer-Reviewed Articles**

Canelo, Kayla S., Thomas G. Hansford, and Stephen P. Nicholson. N.d. "The Paradoxical Effect of Speech-Suppressing Appeals to the First Amendment." *Journal of Politics*, forthcoming.

Hansford, Thomas G., Chanita Intawan, and Stephen P. Nicholson. N.d. "Snap Judgment: Implicit Perceptions of a (Political) Court." *Political Behavior*, forthcoming.

Hansford, Thomas G., and Brad T. Gomez. 2015. "Reevaluating the Sociotropic Economic Voting Hypothesis." *Electoral Studies* 39:15-25.

Gomez, Brad T., and Thomas G. Hansford. 2015. "Economic Retrospection and the Calculus of Voting." *Political Behavior* 37(2):309-329.

Nicholson, Stephen P., and Thomas G. Hansford. 2014. "Partisans in Robes: Party Cues and Public Acceptance of Supreme Court Decisions." *American Journal of Political Science* 58(3):620-636.

Hansford, Thomas G., and Kristen Johnson. 2014. "The Supply of Amicus Curiae Briefs in the Market for Information at the U.S. Supreme Court." *Justice System Journal* 35(4):362-382.

## **Publications: Peer-Reviewed Articles, continued**

- Uribe, Alicia, James F. Spriggs, II, and Thomas G. Hansford. 2014. "The Influence of Congressional Preferences on Legislative Overrides of Supreme Court Decisions." *Law & Society Review* 48(4):921-945.
- Hansford, Thomas G., James F. Spriggs, II, and Anthony Stenger. 2013. "The Information Dynamics of Vertical *Stare Decisis*." *Journal of Politics* 75(4):894-906.
- Hansford, Thomas G. 2011. "The Dynamics of Interest Representation at the U.S. Supreme Court." *Political Research Quarterly* 64(4):749-764.
- Hansford, Thomas G., and Brad T. Gomez. 2010. "Estimating the Electoral Effects of Voter Turnout." *American Political Science Review* 104(2):268-288.
- Hansford, Thomas G., Elisha Carol Savchak, and Donald R. Songer. 2010. "Politics, Careerism, and the Voluntary Departures of U.S. District Court Judges." *American Politics Research* 38(6):986-1014.
- Damore, David F., Thomas G. Hansford, and A.J. Barghothi. 2010. "Explaining the Decision to Withdraw from a U.S. Presidential Nomination Campaign." *Political Behavior* 32(2):157-180.
- Gomez, Brad T., Thomas G. Hansford, and George A. Krause. 2007. "The Republicans Should Pray for Rain: Weather, Turnout, and Voting in U.S. Presidential Elections." *Journal of Politics* 69(3):649-663.
- Savchak, Elisha Carol, Thomas G. Hansford, Donald R. Songer, Kenneth L. Manning, and Robert A. Carp. 2006. "Taking It to the Next Level: The Elevation of District Court Judges to the U.S. Courts of Appeals." *American Journal of Political Science* 50(2):478-493.
- Hansford, Thomas G. 2004. "Information Provision, Organizational Constraints, and the Decision to Submit an Amicus Curiae Brief in a U.S. Supreme Court Case." *Political Research Quarterly* 57(2):219-230.
- Hansford, Thomas G. 2004. "Lobbying Strategies, Venue Selection, and Organized Interest Involvement at the U.S. Supreme Court." *American Politics Research* 32(2):170-197.
- Massie, Tajuana D., Thomas G. Hansford, and Donald R. Songer. 2004. "The Timing of Presidential Nominations to the Lower Federal Courts." *Political Research Quarterly* 57(1):145-154.
- Spriggs, II, James F., and Thomas G. Hansford. 2002. "The U.S. Supreme Court's Incorporation and Interpretation of Precedent." *Law & Society Review* 36(1):139-159.
- Spriggs, II, James F., and Thomas G. Hansford. 2001. "Explaining the Overruling of U.S. Supreme Court Precedent." *Journal of Politics* 63(4):1091-1111.

### **Publications: Peer-Reviewed Articles, continued**

- Hansford, Thomas G., and David F. Damore. 2000. "Congressional Preferences, Perceptions of Threat, and Supreme Court Decision Making." *American Politics Quarterly* 28(4):490-510.
- Spriggs, II, James F., and Thomas G. Hansford. 2000. "Measuring Legal Change: The Reliability and Validity of *Shepard's Citations*." *Political Research Quarterly* 53(2):327-341.
- Damore, David F., and Thomas G. Hansford. 1999. "The Allocation of Party Controlled Campaign Resources in the House of Representatives, 1989-1996." *Political Research Quarterly* 52(2):371-385.

### **Other Publications**

- Hansford, Thomas G. 2017. "Vertical Stare Decisis." In *The Oxford Handbook of U.S. Judicial Behavior*, eds. Lee Epstein and Stefanie A. Lindquist. Oxford University Press.
- Hansford, Thomas G., and Stephen P. Nicholson. 2008. "When  $t=1$  and  $N=2$ : Creating a Political Science Program at a New Research University." *PS: Political Science & Politics* 41(2):371-374.
- Hansford, Thomas G. 2003. Book Review of *Popular Justice: Presidential Prestige and Executive Success in the Supreme Court* (Jeff Yates. 2002. Albany, NY: SUNY Press). *Journal of Politics* 65(4):1266-1267.

### **Working Papers** (available at <http://faculty.ucmerced.edu/thansford/research.html>)

- Hansford, Thomas G., and James F. Spriggs, II. "Attention to Precedent in a Judicial Hierarchy."
- Hansford, Thomas G., and Chelsea Coe. "Linguistic Complexity and Public Acceptance of Supreme Court Decisions."
- Hansford, Thomas G., Sarah Depaoli, and Kayla S. Canelo. "Estimating the Ideal Points of Organized Interests in Legal Policy Space."
- Hansford, Thomas G., and Sarah Depaoli, and Kayla S. Canelo. "Estimating the Location of the States in Legal Policy Space."

### **Grants**

- "Estimating the Locations of Interests, Governments, and Justices in Legal Policy Space." National Science Foundation (SES-135192; \$271,074), 3/2014 - 2/2017. (with Sarah Depaoli)
- "Economic Retrospection and Voting." Faculty Research Grant Award (\$4,191), UC Merced, 3/2011-5/2012.

## **Grants, continued**

“The Advocacy Network at the U.S. Supreme Court.” Faculty Research Grant Award (\$4,634), UC Merced, 4/2009-6/2010.

“Supreme Court Responses to Congressional Overrides.” Faculty Research Grant Award (\$3,475), UC Merced, 5/2007 - 6/2008.

“The Political Determinants of the Expansion of the Federal Judiciary.” Research and Productive Scholarship Award (\$6,200), University of South Carolina, 4/2003 - 6/2004.

“A Systematic Examination of the Supreme Court’s Interpretation of Precedent.” College of Liberal Arts Scholarship Support Grant (\$8,958), University of South Carolina, 5/2002 - 5/2003.

## **Honors and Awards**

Academic Senate Award for Distinction in Research, UC Merced, 2012.

Pi Sigma Alpha Award for the best paper delivered at the 2001 Southern Political Science Association meeting, “Organized Interests and the Decision to Submit an Amicus Curiae Brief in a U.S. Supreme Court Case.”

ICPSR Clogg Scholarship, to attend the ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods, 1997.

## **Conference Papers and Invited Talks**

“The Location of U.S. Solicitors General in the Supreme Court’s Policy Space.” To be presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, 2017. (with Sarah Depaoli and Kayla Canelo)

“State Advocacy and Representation at the U.S. Supreme Court.” Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, 2017. (with Sarah Depaoli and Kayla Canelo)

“Do We (Implicitly) View the Supreme Court as Political?” Center for American Political Responsiveness Conference on the U.S. Judicial System in a Trump Presidency, Pennsylvania State University, 2017.

“Don’t Speak? The Paradoxical Effect of Speech-Suppressing Appeals to the First Amendment.” Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, 2017. (with Kayla Canelo and Stephen P. Nicholson)

“Estimating the Ideal Points of Organized Interests in Legal Policy Space.” Annual Meeting of the Law and Society Association, 2016. (with Sarah Depaoli)

“Estimating the Ideal Points of Organized Interests in Legal Policy Space.” Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, 2015. (with Sarah Depaoli)

## **Conference Papers and Invited Talks, continued**

“Public Perceptions of a (Somewhat) Political Court.” Princeton University, 2015.

“The Political Court?” Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, 2015. (with Chanita Intawan and Steve Nicholson)

“Linguistic Complexity and Public Acceptance of Supreme Court Decisions.” Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, 2014. (with Chelsea Coe)

“Estimating the Location of the States in Legal Policy Space.” Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, 2014. (with Sarah Depaoli)

“Source Cues, Acceptance of Decisions, and the Political Supreme Court.” University of Maryland, 2014.

“Attention to Precedent in a Judicial Hierarchy.” Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, 2014. (with Jim Spriggs)

“Attention to Precedent in a Judicial Hierarchy.” Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, 2013. (with Jim Spriggs)

“Economic Retrospection and the Calculus of Voting.” Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, 2013. (with Brad Gomez)

“The Ideological Basis of Congressional Overrides of Supreme Court Opinions.” Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, 2013. (with Jim Spriggs and Alicia Uribe)

“Economic Perceptions and Vote Choice (and Voter Turnout).” Center for New Institutional Social Sciences, Washington University in St. Louis, 2013.

“Using the Amici Network to Measure the ex ante Ideological Loading of Supreme Court Cases.” Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, 2012.

“Partisans in Black Robes: Source Cues and Public Acceptance of Supreme Court Decisions.” Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, 2012. (with Steve Nicholson)

“The Information Dynamics of Vertical *Stare Decisis*.” Department of Economics, Loyola Marymount University, 2012.

“Using Objective Local Economic Conditions to Estimate the Effect of Perceptions of National Economic Conditions on Vote Choice.” Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, 2011. (with Brad Gomez)

## **Conference Papers and Invited Talks, continued**

“How the Lower Courts Inadvertently Help the Supreme Court Shape Precedent.” California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, 2011.

“The Legal Advocacy Network at the Supreme Court.” Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, 2011.

“Using Objective Local Economic Conditions to Estimate the Effect of Subjective National Economic Evaluations on Vote Choice.” Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, 2011. (with Brad Gomez)

“The Information Dynamics of Vertical *Stare Decisis*.” Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, 2010. (with Jim Spriggs and Tony Stenger)

“The Legal Advocacy Network.” Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, 2010.

“Economic Retrospection and Voter Turnout.” Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, 2010. (with Brad Gomez)

“The Information Dynamics of Vertical *Stare Decisis*.” Annual Meeting of the Western Political Science Association, 2010. (with Jim Spriggs and Tony Stenger)

“Assessing the Dynamics of Interest Representation at the U.S. Supreme Court.” Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, 2009.

“Interests and Institutions: The Causes and a Consequence of Organized Interest Activity at the U.S. Supreme Court.” Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, 2008. (with Kristen Johnson)

“Who Benefits from High Turnout?” Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, 2008. (with Brad Gomez)

“Explaining Levels of Organized Interest Activity at the U.S. Supreme Court.” Annual Meeting of the Western Political Science Association, 2008. (with Kristen Johnson)

“The Interpretation of Precedent in a System of Separated Powers: Supreme Court Responses to Congressional Overrides.” Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, 2008. (with Jim Spriggs)

“Supreme Court Responses to Congressional Overrides.” Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, 2007. (with Jim Spriggs)

“Heterogeneous Candidate Motivations, Perceptions of Competitiveness, and the Wining Effect in Presidential Nomination Campaigns.” Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, 2006. (with A.J. Barghothi and David F. Damore)

## **Conference Papers and Invited Talks, continued**

“Future Career Expectations and Strategic Retirements from the U.S. District Courts.” Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, 2005. (with Elisha Savchak and Donald R. Songer)

“The Linkage between the Weather and Voter Turnout: Fact or Fiction?” Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, 2005. (with Brad T. Gomez and George Krause)

“Taking It to the Next Level: The Elevation of District Judges to the U.S. Courts of Appeals.” Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, 2004. (with Elisha Savchak and Donald R. Songer)

“Explaining the Decision to File an Amicus Curiae Brief Alone or with a Coalition of Interests.” Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, 2004.

“The Political Determinants of the Expansion of the Federal Judiciary.” Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, 2003.

“The U.S. Supreme Court’s Interpretation of Precedent.” Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, 2003. (with James F. Spriggs, II)

“Lower Federal Court Responses to the Supreme Court’s Interpretation of Precedent.” Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, 2003. (with James F. Spriggs, II)

“The Timing of Presidential Nominations to the Lower Federal Courts.” University of North Carolina, 2003.

“The Political Determinants of the Creation of Federal Judgeships.” Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, 2002.

“Predicting the Unpredictable: An Examination of the Uncertainty Surrounding Supreme Court Nominees.” Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, 2002.

“Nature and Timing of the U.S. Supreme Court’s Interpretation of Precedent.” Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, 2002. (with James F. Spriggs, II).

“The Timing of Presidential Nominations to Lower Federal Courts.” Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, 2001. (with Tajuana D. Massie and Donald R. Songer).

“Organized Interests and the Decision to Submit an Amicus Curiae Brief in a U.S. Supreme Court Case.” Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, 2001.

### **Conference Papers and Invited Talks, continued**

“Organized Interests, Lobbying Strategies, and the U.S. Supreme Court: Selecting the Cases in which to Submit Amicus Curiae Briefs.” Annual Meeting of the Western Political Science Association, 2001.

“Organized Interest Lobbying Strategies and the Decision to Participate at the U.S. Supreme Court as Amicus Curiae.” Conference on the Scientific Study of Judicial Politics, 2000.

“Lobbying Strategies, Venue Selection, and Organized Interest Involvement at the U.S. Supreme Court.” Annual Meeting of the Western Political Science Association, 2000.

“Explaining Legal Change: A Micro-Level Analysis of the U.S. Supreme Court’s Incorporation and Interpretation of Precedent.” Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, 1999. (with James F. Spriggs, II).

“Explaining the Overturning of Precedent.” Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, 1998. (with James F. Spriggs, II).

“The Winnowing Effect in Presidential Nomination Campaigns.” Annual Meeting of the Western Political Science Association, 1998. (with David F. Damore).

“Congressional Preferences, Perceptions of Threat, and Supreme Court Decision Making: An Empirical Examination of the Separation of Powers.” Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, 1997. (with David F. Damore).

“Does Party Support Pay? The Allocation of Party Controlled Campaign Resources in the House of Representatives, 1989-1994.” Annual Meeting of the Western Political Science Association, 1997. (with David F. Damore).

“A Fading Cue? The Significance of Amicus Curiae Briefs in Supreme Court Agenda Setting.” Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, 1996. (with David F. Damore and James E. Beach).

### **Graduate Courses Taught**

Quantitative Analysis of Political Data II (UCM)

Judicial Politics (UCM)

Elections and Representation (UCM)

Seminar in Public Law (USC)

American Government and Politics (USC)

Research Methods in Political Science: Maximum Likelihood Estimation (USC)



## **Undergraduate Courses Taught**

Advanced Analysis of Political Data (UCM)  
Analysis of Political Data (UCM)  
Statistical Inference (UCM)  
Governmental Power & the Constitution (UCM)  
Liberty, Equality, & the Constitution (UCM)  
Judicial Politics (UCM)  
Seminar on Law, Courts, and the Public (UCM)  
Judicial Process (USC)  
Law and Society (USC)  
Constitutional Law (USC)

## **Professional Service**

Reviewer: *Acta Politica*; *American Journal of Political Science*; *American Political Science Review*; *American Politics Research*; Cambridge University Press; *Comparative Political Studies*; Conference on Empirical Legal Studies; *Electoral Studies*; *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*; *Journal of Empirical Legal Studies*; *Journal of Law and Courts*; *Journal of Law, Economics, & Organization*; *Journal of Legal Studies*; *Journal of Politics*; *Journal of Political Science*; *Judicature*; *Justice System Journal*; *Law & Social Inquiry*; *Law & Society Review*; *Legislative Studies Quarterly*; National Science Foundation; Oxford University Press; *Party Politics*; *Political Analysis*; *Political Behavior*; *Political Psychology*; *Political Research Quarterly*; *Politics, Groups, and Identities*; *Polity*; *Public Choice*; *Publius*; *Research and Politics*; Sage Publications; *Social Science Journal*; *Social Science Quarterly*; University of Michigan Press; *Weather, Climate, and Society*

Member of the Editorial Board, *Law & Courts Newsletter*, 2011-present

Member of Best Conference Paper Award Committee, Law and Courts Section of the Southern Political Science Association, 2015

Head of the Judicial Politics, Legal Politics, and Public Law Section of the Annual Meeting of the Western Political Science Association, 2013

Member of Best Journal Article Award Committee, Law and Courts Section of the American Political Science Association, 2011, 2017.

Head of the Judicial Politics Section of Annual Meetings of the Midwest Political Science Association, 2006, 2010

Panel Chair/Discussant/Critic: Annual meetings of the American Political Science Association (2017), Midwest Political Science Association (2006, 2007, 2010, 2012), Southern Political Science Association (2004, 2007, 2008, 2011)

## University Service

### *UC Merced:*

Chair, Political Science Graduate Program, 2015-  
Vice Chair of the Political Science Unit, 2014-2017  
Member of the SSHA Executive Committee, 2016-2017  
Member of the SSHA Space Committee, 2016-2017  
Member, Political Science Lab Committee, 2015-2016  
At-Large Member of the Merced Divisional Council of the UC Academic Senate, 2014-2016  
Vice Chair of the Political Science Graduate Program, 2014-2015  
Chair of the Political Science Undergraduate Program, 2014-2015  
Chair of the Graduate Admissions Committee, Political Science, 2014-2015  
Member of the Political Science Advisory Committee, 2013-2014  
Member of the Political Science PhD Proposal Committee, 2012-2013  
Chair of the Political Science Unit, 2012  
Member of the Social and Cognitive Sciences Graduate Admissions Committee, Spring 2012  
Undergraduate Director, Political Science, 2007-09, 2010-2011, 2013  
Member of the UC-wide University Committee on Committees, 2011  
Member of the Merced Divisional Council, 2011  
Chair of the Committee on Committees, 2011  
Vice Chair of the Committee on Committees, 2010  
Member of the Committee on Committees, 2009-2010  
Chair of Political Science Search Committees, 2010-11, 2012-13, 2013-14  
Co-chair of Political Science Search Committees, 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10  
Member of Political Science Search Committee, 2011-12, 2015-16, 2016-17  
Member of the Spiess Award (for service to the Academic Senate) Committee, 2010  
Chair of Program Assessment Committee, Political Science, 2009-2010  
Faculty Accreditation Officer, Political Science, 2008-2010, 2013  
Vice Chair of the Committee on Rules and Elections, 2008-2010  
Chair of the Graduate Admissions Committee, Social and Cognitive Sciences, 2007-10  
Member of UC Merced's Strategic Academic Planning Committee, 2007-09  
Member of Steering Comte. for the UC Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation, 2007-09  
Member of Philosophy Search Committee, 2007-08  
Member of the Child Care Center Committee (and Facilities Subcommittee), 2007-08  
Member of the Graduate and Research Council, 2006-08  
Member of School of Social Science, Humanities and Arts Curriculum Committee, 2006-07  
Co-chair of the Committee for the Establishment of the Political Science Major, 2006-07  
Founding Faculty Member for Political Science

***University of South Carolina:***

Ph.D. Placement Director, 2005-06

Faculty Senator, University of South Carolina, 2004-06

Co-organizer of the Political Science Research Workshop, 2001-05

Member of American Politics/Methodology Search Committee, 2004-05

Elected member of the Departmental Advisory Committee, 2002-04

Member of the Graduate Curriculum Revision Committee, 2002-03

Member of 8 Ph.D. dissertation, 1 MA thesis, and 2 Honors thesis committees

Member of numerous American Politics and Methodology Ph.D. comp. exam committees