

# Christopher N. Krewson

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

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## EDUCATION

### **University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI**

Ph.D. Candidate, Political Science (expected Spring 2018)

Major Field: American Politics (high pass)

Minor Fields: Political Methodology; Advanced Statistical Analysis

Research Interests: Judicial Politics; Political Institutions; Political Behavior

M.A., Political Science, May 2014

### **Brigham Young University, Provo, UT**

B.A., American Studies, December 2012

## DISSERTATION

*How Justices Shape Public Perceptions of the Supreme Court On and Off the Bench*

Committee: Ryan J. Owens (Chair), Barry C. Burden, Eleanor Neff Powell, and Alexander M. Tahk

My three-essay dissertation explores the relationships between public perceptions of the United States Supreme Court and justices' activities on and off the bench. The first two essays focus on how justices influence both their personal reputations and public perceptions of the Court through public speeches. I demonstrate this with a randomized field experiment and a randomized survey experiment. For the field experiment, I assigned law students with reservations to a public speech by Justice Sotomayor to take a survey just before or just after the event. In a separate survey experiment using Amazon Mechanical Turk, I assigned individuals in a treatment group to read news coverage of the speech before responding to survey questions. Individuals who attended the speech as well as those indirectly exposed to the speech through a news article felt more favorable toward the justice, were more likely to perceive law as the primary determinant of judicial decisions, were less inclined to view justices as political, and expressed higher levels of institutional loyalty. In the third essay, I tested whether justices alter their opinion language in order to communicate with public audiences. The essay employed regression and text analysis, including the development of a novel measure of opinion-level sensationalism (or emotional content), to investigate this argument. In harmony with my expectations, I found pre-decision public interest in a case leads justices to write opinions with language that is more emotional.

## PUBLICATIONS AND MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

Jack Edelson, Alexander Alduncin, Christopher Krewson, James A. Sieja, and Joseph Uscinski. 2017. "The Effect of Conspiratorial Thinking and Motivated Reasoning on Belief in Election Fraud." *Political Research Quarterly*. (equal contribution)

Christopher Krewson and Ryan J. Owens. 2017. "Historical Development of Supreme Court Research." In *The Routledge Handbook of Judicial Behavior*, eds. Robert Howard and Kirk Randazzo. Routledge.

Christopher N. Krewson and Ryan J. Owens. Forthcoming 2017. "The Concurring Behavior of Justice Scalia." In *The Conservative Revolution of Antonin Scalia*, eds. David A. Schultz and Howard Schweber. Lexington Press.

Christopher N. Krewson, Alexander M. Tahk, and Ryan J. Owens. "Federal Circuit Court Non-Compliance with Supreme Court Jurisprudential Regimes." *Journal of Law and Courts*. (revise and resubmit)

Christopher N. Krewson, David Lassen, and Ryan J. Owens. "Twitter and the Supreme Court: An Examination of Congressional Tweets about the Supreme Court." *Justice System Journal*. (revise and resubmit)

WORKING PAPERS	<p>“Save This Honorable Court: Shaping Public Perceptions of the Supreme Court Off the Bench.”</p> <p>“Strategic Sensationalism: Understanding the Use of Emotional Appeals in Supreme Court Opinions.”</p> <p>“Politicized Confirmation Hearings and Public Views of the Court: Evidence from a Conjoint Experiment.” (with Ryan J. Owens)</p>
CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS	<p>Krewson, Christopher. 2017. “The Role of External Actors in the Development of Supreme Court Opinions.” Presented at the 2017 annual meeting of the American Political Science Association (August 31-September 3, San Francisco, CA).</p> <p>Krewson, Christopher. 2017. “Substance and Perception: The Influence of Extra-Judicial Communications on Beliefs About the United States Supreme Court.” Presented at the 2017 annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association (April 6-9, Chicago, IL).</p> <p>Krewson, Christopher. 2017. “Know Your Audience: How Judicial Opinions Are Influenced by External Actors.” Presented at the 2017 annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association (January 12-14, New Orleans, LA).</p> <p>Krewson, Christopher. 2016. “Bridging the Methodological Divide: Predictions and Legal Scholarship.” Presented at the 2016 annual meeting of the American Political Science Association (September 1-4, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania).</p> <p>Krewson, Christopher. 2016. “Justices and Their Multiple Audiences: How Context and Audience Shape Judicial Behavior.” Presented at the 2016 annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association (April 7-10, Chicago, Illinois).</p> <p>Krewson, Christopher. 2016. “A Rush to Judgement: The Politics and Timing of Presidential Nominations.” Presented at the 2015 annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association (January 6-9, San Juan, Puerto Rico).</p> <p>Krewson, Christopher, Ryan J. Owens, and Alexander M. Tahk. 2015. “Congruence Without Compliance: Measuring Lower Court (Non)Responsiveness to Jurisprudential Regime Changes.” Presented at the 2015 annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association (April 16-19, Chicago, IL).</p> <p>Krewson, Christopher, Ryan J. Owens, and Alexander M. Tahk. 2015. “Compliance or Attrition? Re-evaluating Jurisprudential Regimes in the Courts of Appeals.” Presented at the 2015 annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association (January 15-17, New Orleans, LA).</p> <p>Krewson, Christopher, David S. Lassen, and Ryan J. Owens. 2014. “Interbranch Tweets: Examining How and Why Congress Tweets About the Supreme Court.” Presented at the 2014 annual meeting of the Law and Society Association (May 29-June 1, Minneapolis, MN).</p>
TEACHING EXPERIENCE	<p>Lecturer (University of Wisconsin-Madison): Law, Politics, and Society, Spring 2017</p> <p>Teaching Assistant (University of Wisconsin-Madison): Introduction to Statistical Methods in Political Science (graduate level), Fall 2017 Maximum Likelihood Estimation for the Social Sciences (graduate level), Fall 2017 The Supreme Court as a Political Institution, Fall 2016 The Supreme Court as a Political Institution (grader), Fall 2015 Constitutional Law: Rights and Liberties, Spring 2015 Introduction to American Politics, Fall 2014</p>
RESEARCH EXPERIENCE	<p>Project Assistant, Yaron Nili, University of Wisconsin Law School, 2017 Project Assistant, Eleanor Powell, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2015-2016 Research Assistant, Ryan Owens, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2014-2015 Research Assistant, Richard Davis, Brigham Young University, 2012</p>
WORK EXPERIENCE	<p>Research Assistant/Contractor, Research Division, Federal Judicial Center, Washington, D.C., 2012-2014 English-Second-Language Instructor, Brigham Young University, 2008-2011</p>

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS American Political Science Association (since 2016)  
Midwest Political Science Association (since 2015)  
Southern Political Science Association (since 2014)

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIP Summer Initiative Competition, Political Science Department, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2017  
Conference Presentation Competition, Graduate Department, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2016  
Prestage-Cook Travel Award, Southern Political Science Association, 2015  
Clara Penniman Fellowship, Department of Political Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2013-2014

SERVICE Managing Editor for *Constitutional Studies*, 2016-present  
Graduate Student Coordinator for American Politics Workshop, 2015-present  
Computer Services Graduate Student Representative, 2015-present

REFERENCES **Ryan J. Owens**  
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