

Maxwell H.H. Mak
Curriculum Vitae

Department of Political Science
John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY
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Academic Appointments

Associate Professor, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY, 2016 - Present

Assistant Professor, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY, 2009 - 2016

Instructor, Stony Brook University, 2006 - 2009

Education

Ph.D., Political Science, Stony Brook University, 2009.

Examination Fields: American Politics, Methodology, Political Economy

Dissertation: Hierarchical Constraints and the Choices Judges Make: Judicial Decision-Making at the U.S. Courts of Appeals

Committee: Jeffrey A. Segal (advisor), Scott J. Basinger, Brandon L. Bartels, Matthew J. Lebo (chair), Lee Epstein (outside member, Northwestern University)

M.A., Political Science, Stony Brook University, 2006.

B.A., Political Science, University of California, Davis, 2002.

Research Interests

Judicial Politics, Public Law, Congressional Behavior and Elections, Political Methodology

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Basinger, Scott J., and Maxwell Mak. 2020. "The 'New Normal' in Supreme Court Confirmations: Hyper-Partisanship in the Trump Era" *Congress and the Presidency*, DOI: [10.1080/07343469.2020.1733708](https://doi.org/10.1080/07343469.2020.1733708).

Mak, Maxwell and Andrew H. Sidman. 2020. "Separate Opinion Writing under Mandatory Appellate Jurisdiction: Three-Judge District Court Panels and the Voting Rights Act" *Journal of Empirical Legal Studies* 17 (1): 116-138.

- Mak, Maxwell, and Jennifer G. Rutledge. 2019. "The Diffusion of Collaborative Justice: The Politics of Learning in the Development of Drug Courts." *Justice System Journal* 40 (3): 238-258.
- Basinger, Scott J., and Maxwell Mak. 2016. "Forecasting the Senate vote on the Supreme Court vacancy." *Research & Politics* July 2016: 1-8.
- Johnston, Christopher D., Maxwell Mak, and Andrew H. Sidman. 2016. "On the Measurement of Judicial Ideology," *Justice System Journal* 37: 169-188.
- Mak, Maxwell, Andrew H. Sidman, and Udi Sommer. 2013. "Is *Certiorari* Contingent on Litigant Behavior? Petitioners' Role in Strategic Auditing" *Journal of Empirical Legal Studies* 10: 54-75.
- Basinger, Scott J., and Maxwell Mak. 2012. "The Changing Politics of Supreme Court Confirmations." *American Politics Research* 40: 737-763.
- Basinger, Scott J., and Maxwell Mak. 2010. "The Changing Politics of Federal Judicial Nominations." *Congress and the Presidency* 37: 157-175.
- Segal, Jeffrey A., and Maxwell Mak. 2009. "Out of the Sample and One Step Ahead: Forecasting Supreme Court Confirmation Votes." *Justice System Journal* 30: 123-138.
- Sidman, Andrew H., Maxwell Mak, and Matthew J. Lebo. 2008. "Forecasting Non-Incumbent Presidential Elections: Lessons Learned from the 2000 Election." *The International Journal of Forecasting* 24: 237-256.

Other Publications

- Review of *The Limits of Judicial Independence* by Tom S. Clark. 2012. *Journal of Politics* 74: e27.
- Contributing Author (see below). 2008. *Encyclopedia of U.S. Campaigns, Elections, and Electoral Behavior*, ed. Kenneth F. Warren. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.
Entries with Andrew S. Sidman (page numbers follow entries)
 "Congressional Elections," 130-134
 "Determinants of Vote Choice, An Overview," 180-182
 "Election Outcome Forecast Models," 208-210
 "Government Spending as a Campaign Issue." 284-285
 "Suffrage," 771-774

Honors and Awards

- PSC-CUNY Research Award, Cycle 46. Funding (\$5892.23) approved for July 2015 to June 2016.

National Science Foundation Dissertation Improvement Grant, Division of Social and Economic Sciences, Law and Social Sciences Program (Award #0719000). Funding (\$11,725) approved for July 2007 to June 2009.

Westview Press Award, Best Paper by a Graduate Student, 2007 for “Pork, Awareness, and Ideological Consistency: The Effects of Distributive Benefits on Vote Choice.”

Excellence in Teaching Award. 2007. Political Science Department, Stony Brook University.

Departmental Fellowship, 2005-2009, Stony Brook University, Political Science.

Conference Participation

“The Politics of Dissent: Separate Opinion-Writing on Three-Judge District Court Panels” with Andrew H. Sidman. Paper Presented at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association. Chicago, IL.

“‘The New Normal’ in Supreme Court Confirmation Voting: Hyper-Partisanship in the Trump Era” with Scott J. Basinger. Presented at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association. Austin, TX.

“Voting Rights on Appeal” with Andrew H. Sidman. Paper Presented at the 2018 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association. Chicago, IL.

“Collegiality on Trial: Three Judge Panels and the Voting Rights Act” with Andrew H. Sidman. Presented at the 2017 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.

“Strategic Applications of Public Opinion: Decision-Making and Compliance at the U.S. Courts of Appeals” with Christopher D. Johnston and Andrew S. Sidman. Presented at the 2015 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.

“Get the Party Started: An Examination of the Influence of Presidential Approval on Party Unity in Congress” with Andrew S. Sidman. Presented at the 2014 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.

“Forecasting Supreme Court Confirmation Votes in the Senate” with Scott J. Basinger. Paper Prepared for the 2014 Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, New Orleans, LA.

“The Rapid Expansion of Drug Courts: Exploring the Diffusion of Judicial Reforms” with Jennifer G. Rutledge. Presented at the 2013 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.

- “The Diffusion of Collaborative Justice: Political and Institutional Factors in the Development of Drug Courts” with Marco Carvajal and Jennifer G. Rutledge. Presented at the 2012 John Jay International Conference, New York, NY.
- “The Diffusion of Therapeutic Jurisprudence” with Jennifer G. Rutledge. Presented at the 2012 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.
- “Measurement and Conceptualization of Ideology at the Lower Federal Courts” with Christopher D. Johnston and Andrew H. Sidman. Presented at the 2011 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.
- “Public Opinion and the U.S. Courts of Appeals: The Case of Abortion” with Christopher D. Johnston and Andrew H. Sidman. Presented at the 2010 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Washington, D.C.
- “Content-Neutrality Jurisprudential Regime: Free Expression Cases at the U.S. Courts of Appeals.” Presented at the 2010 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.
- “Congress and the Court: Religious Free Exercise Cases at the U.S. Courts of Appeals.” Presented at the 2009 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.
- “A State Level Forecast of the 2008 Presidential Election.” with Andrew H. Sidman. Presented at the 2008 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Boston, MA.
- “Unburdened: Adjudication of Abortion Cases at the U.S. Courts of Appeals.” Presented at the 2008 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.
- “Petition and Review: Strategic Litigant and Auditing at the U.S. Courts of Appeals.” Presented at the 2008 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.
- “The Effects of Public Opinion and the Choices Justices Make.” with Andrew H. Sidman. Presented at the 2007 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.
- “Rogue Agents: The Impact of Principal Preferences on the Choices Judges Make.” Presented at the 2007 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.
- “Rally-Around-the-Flag and the Supreme Court: Judicial Decision-Making during Times of War or Crisis.” with Naser L. Javaid. Presented at the 2007 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.

“A Bit of a Bad Mood: A Reexamination of the Search for Influence of Popular Sentiment on the Choices Judges Make.” with Andrew O’Geen and Andrew H. Sidman. Prepared for the 2007 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association.

“A New Approach to the Study of Rolling Cross-Sectional Design Surveys.” with Andrew H. Sidman. Prepared for the 2007 Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, New Orleans, LA.

“Advice and Contempt: Obstruction of Nomination to the Federal Circuit Courts of Appeals.” with Scott J. Basinger. Presented at the 2006 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Philadelphia, PA.

“The Effects of Distributive Benefits on Turnout and Voting in House Elections, 2000 to 2004.” with Andrew H. Sidman. Prepared for the 2006 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Philadelphia, PA.

“A Zip-Code Based Correction for Non-Response.” with Leonie Huddy, Stanley Feldman, Ivana Eterovic, Inna Burdein, and Linda Pfeiffer. Presented at the 2006 Annual Meeting of the American Association for Public Opinion Research, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

“Repeat Players: A Reexamination of Litigator Experience at the Supreme Court.” Presented at the 2006 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.

“Pork, Awareness, and Ideological Consistency: The Effects of Distributive Benefits on Vote Choice.” with Andrew H. Sidman. Presented at the 2006 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.

Teaching Experience

John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY, Department of Political Science
LWS 378/9 (formerly 398/9): Law and Society Internship
POL 235: Judicial Process and Politics
POL 301 (formerly 230): Principles of Constitutional Government
POL 305 (formerly 430): Civil Rights and Civil Liberties
POL 385/386/389/489: Supervised Undergraduate Research Experience
POL 401/420: Senior Seminar in Law, Courts and Politics (Judicial Decision-Making)
POL 435: Judicial Process and Politics
POL 409: Colloquium for Research in Government and Politics

Stony Brook University, Department of Political Science
POL 320: Constitutional Law
POL 325: Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

Research Experience

Research Assistant to Jeffrey A. Segal, Spring 2007, Summers 2006 and 2008

Research Assistant to Scott J. Basinger, Spring and Summer 2005
Software Specialist, Center for Survey Research, Stony Brook University, 2005 - 2006

Professional Activities

Affiliations (Member): American Political Science Association, Midwest Political Science Association
Referee: *American Political Science Review*, *American Politics Research*, *Journal of Politics*, *Justice System Journal*

College Service

Co-Director, Office of Undergraduate Research, 2013-2015
Council of Major Coordinators, 2013-2015
Assistant Director, Office of Undergraduate Research, 2012-2013
Advisory Board Member, Office of Undergraduate Research 2011-2012

Department Service

Co-Coordinator, Law and Society Major (2013 - 2015)
Governance Committee for the Law and Society Major (2011 - present)
Co-Editor, Political Science Department Newsletter (2013-2014)
Search Committee Member, Law and Society Faculty Search (Fall 2012)
Committee to Refine Law and Courts Concentration A in the Political Science Major (2009 to present)
Committee to Develop a 200-Level Undergraduate Methods Course in the Political Science Major (Spring 2010 to Spring 2011)

References

Jeffrey A. Segal
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