

Banks P. Miller

School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences
Political Science Program
Public Policy & Political Economy Program
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Academic Appointments

The University of Texas at Dallas, Political Science & Public Policy

Professor, September 2023 -

Associate Professor, September 2015 -August 2023

Assistant Professor, August 2009 - August 2015

Administrative Appointments

Associate Dean of Outreach & Recruitment, EPPS, 2024-2025

Associate Dean of Graduate Education, EPPS, 2019-2020

Program Head, Political Science, 2018-2019; 2025 -

Program Head, Public Policy and Political Economy, 2018-2019; 2025 -

Director of Graduate Studies & Associate Program Head, Political Science, 2014-2018

Education

Ph.D., Political Science, Ohio State University, 2009.

J.D., University of Texas School of Law, 2004.

B.A., History, Hendrix College, 2001.

Research

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Books

1. Miller, Banks and Brett Curry. *United States Attorneys, Political Control, and Career Ambition*. 2019. Oxford University Press. Reviewed in *Law & Politics Book Review*.
2. Miller, Banks, Linda Camp Keith, and Jennifer Holmes. *Immigration Judges and U.S. Asylum Policy*. 2015. Pennsylvania Studies in Human Rights (Bert B. Lockwood, series editor). Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press. Reviewed in *International Migration Review*, *Law & Politics Book Review*, *London School of Economics Review of Books*, & *International Journal of Refugee Law*

Articles & Book Chapters

1. Miller, Banks and Brett Curry. Forthcoming. "Ideology and the Scope of Judicial Discretion: Evidence from the Federal District Courts." *Journal of Law, Economics, & Organizations*.
2. Miller, Banks and Brett Curry. Forthcoming. "From Prosecutor to Partner: Revolving Door Incentives in Federal White-Collar Prosecutions." *Journal of Law & Courts* (special issue).
3. Peinhardt, Clint and Banks Miller. Forthcoming. "Dissent Without Precedent: How Arbitrators Use Disagreement to Shape Their Careers." *Journal of International Economic Law*.
4. Miller, Banks, Brett Curry, and Maureen Stobb. Forthcoming. "The Politics of Presidential Pardons: Partisan Differences in Modern Clemency Decisions." *Social Science Quarterly*.
5. Stobb, Maureen, Banks Miller, and Brett Curry. Forthcoming. "Tradeoffs and Spillovers in U.S. Criminal Immigration Enforcement." *Policy Studies Journal*.
6. Curry, Brett and Banks Miller. 2024. "Exploring the Influence of Wealth on Judicial Decision Making." *Social Science Quarterly* 105: 1193-1204.
7. Bayram, A. Burcu and Banks Miller. 2023. "Influencing Enforcement: The Application of International Law in Independent Judiciaries—The Case of the Alien Tort Statute." *Political Research Quarterly* 76: 1959-1972.
8. Miller, Banks and Brett Curry. 2023. "When Advocates Become Adjudicators: Tracing the Effects of Prosecutorial and Public Defense Experience on Judicial Decision Making." *American Politics Research* 51: 796-804.
9. Stobb, Maureen, Banks Miller, and Josh Kennedy. 2023. "Mixed Messages & Bounded Rationality: The Perverse Consequences of REAL ID for Immigration Policy." *Policy Studies Journal* 51: 667-684.
10. Stobb, Maureen, Banks Miller, and Josh Kennedy. 2023. "Who Controls the Immigration Bureaucracy? The Relative Influence of the Three Branches over Asylum Policy Implementation." *American Politics Research* 51: 235-246.
11. Miller, Banks and Brett Curry. 2022. "Leveled Odds? Attorney Capability, Team Litigation, and Outcomes in Administrative Patent Cases." *Law & Policy* 44: 388-407.
12. Curry, Brett and Banks Miller. 2022. "The Influence of Diversity and Qualifications in Presidential Nominations: The Case of United States Attorneys." *Justice System Journal* 42: 252-270.
13. Miller, Banks and Brett Curry. 2022. "To Stay or Not to Stay: Patent Litigation in the Federal District Courts." *Journal of Law & Courts* 10: 167-188.
14. Miller, Banks, Brett Curry, and Josh Kennedy. 2021. "The Role of Advisory Committees in Bureaucratic Oversight: The Case of AGAC." *Congress & The Presidency* 48: 195-218.
15. Gray, Thomas and Banks Miller. 2021. "Swineherds and Hogs on Ice: Leadership Impacts for State Chief Judges." *American Politics Research* 49: 319-327.
16. Curry, Brett, and Miller, Banks. 2020. "American Prosecutors as Principals and Agents." In *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics*. Oxford University Press. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780190228637.013.1987>.
17. Miller, Banks, Jennifer S. Holmes, and Linda Camp Keith. 2020. "The Preferences of Political Elites and Humanitarian Immigration to the United States." *RSE: The Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences* 6: 150-161.

18. Miller, Banks and Brett Curry. 2018. "Haphazard, Systematic, or Both? An Empirical Investigation of the United States Attorney Firings in 2006." *Journal of Law & Courts* 6: 379-403.
19. Curry, Brett and Banks Miller. 2017. "Case Citation Patterns in the U.S. Courts of Appeal and the Legal Academy." *Justice System Journal* 38: 164-182.
20. Miller, Banks and Brett Curry. 2017. "Small Group Dynamics, Ideology, and Decision Making on the U.S. Courts of Appeals." *Law & Policy* 39: 48-72.
21. Curry, Brett and Banks Miller. 2015. "Judicial Specialization and Decision Making in the U.S. Courts of Appeals." *Law & Social Inquiry* 40: 29-50.
22. Miller, Banks, Linda Camp Keith, and Jennifer Holmes. 2015. "Leveling the Odds: The Effect of Quality Legal Representation in Cases of Asymmetrical Capability." *Law & Society Review* 49: 209-239.
23. Keith, Linda Camp, Banks Miller, and Rachel McGuire. 2015. "Second-Order Evaluations of the European Court of Human Rights." *Journal of Law & Courts* 3: 67-93.
24. Keith, Linda Camp, Banks Miller, and Jennifer Holmes. 2015. "How Draconian are Changes to U.S. Asylum Law? A Monthly Time Series Analysis (1990-2010)." *Human Rights Quarterly* 37: 153-187.
25. Miller, Banks, Linda Camp Keith, and Jennifer Holmes. 2014. "Beyond Grant or Deny: A More Nuanced Ordering of U.S. Asylum Outcomes." *Judicature* 97: 172-178.
26. Miller, Banks and Brett Curry. 2013. "The Effect of *Per Se* Recusal Rules on Donor Behavior in Judicial Elections." *Justice System Journal* 34: 125-151.
27. Keith, Linda Camp, Jennifer Holmes, and Banks Miller. 2013. "Explaining Divergence in Asylum Grant Rates Among Immigration Judges: An Attitudinal and Cognitive Approach." *Law & Policy* 35: 261-289.
28. Miller, Banks and Brett Curry. 2013. "Experts Judging Experts: Agency Review on a Specialized Court." *Law & Social Inquiry* 38: 55-71.
29. Miller, Banks. 2010. "Describing the State Solicitors General." *Judicature* 93: 238-246.
30. Miller, Banks and Brett Curry. 2009. "Expertise, Experience and Ideology on a Specialized Court: The Case of the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit." *Law & Society Review* 43: 839-864.
31. Scherer, Nancy and Banks Miller. 2009. "The Federalist Society's Impact on the Federal Judiciary." *Political Research Quarterly* 62: 366-378.
32. Curry, Brett and Banks Miller. 2009. "Looking for Law in All the Wrong Places? Foreign Law and Support for the U.S. Supreme Court." *Politics and Policy* 36: 1094-1124.

Edited Publications

Brunell, Thomas, Robert Lowry, Banks Miller, & Thomas Gray. 2022. *State & Local Government*. Toronto: Tophatmonocle Corp.

Brunell, Thomas, Robert Lowry, Banks Miller, & Thomas Gray. 2022. *Introduction to American National Government*. Toronto: Tophatmonocle Corp.

Miller, Banks & Jennifer Holmes, eds. 2017. *Readings in American State and Local Government (1st Ed.)*. Dubuque, IA: Kendall Hunt.

Miller, Banks & Jennifer Holmes, eds. 2017. *Readings in American National Government (1st Ed.)*. Dubuque, IA: Kendall Hunt.

Other Publications

Miller, Banks. 2022. Review of *The Politics of Federal Prosecution*, by Christina L. Boyd, Michael J. Nelson, Ian Ostrander, and Ethan D. Boldt. *Law & Politics Book Review* 31: 148-150.

Curry, Brett and Banks Miller. 2019. "It is not just Paul Manafort. This is why white-collar criminals often evade harsh punishment." *Washington Post*, March 18.

Miller, Banks. 2014. Review of *Lives in the Balance: Asylum Adjudication by the Department of Homeland Security*, by Andrew Schoenholtz, Phillip G. Schrag, and Jaya Ramji-Nogales. *Law & Politics Book Review* 24: 558-562.

Miller, Banks. 2005. *Mississippi v. Johnson*. In *Encyclopedia of the Supreme Court* ed. David Schultz. New York: Facts on Files, Inc.

Work in Progress

Clint Peinhardt and Banks Miller. Arbitrators in ISDS Cases.

Banks Miller and Brett Curry. The Wealth of Federal Judges.

Banks Miller and Brett Curry. Attorneys Fees.

Maureen Stobb, Banks Miller, and Josh Kennedy. Immigration Policy and Immigration Adjudication.

Thomas Gray and Banks Miller. Court Coalitions and State Chief Judges.

Data

Immigration Judges and U.S. Asylum Policy at doi:10.7910/DVN/26474. Data for replication of analyses in *Immigration Judges and U.S. Asylum Policy*

Fields of Research & Teaching Interest

Judicial Politics, Judicial Decision Making, Lawyers, & Legal Policy (esp. immigration and patents)

Invited Presentations

"Mixed Messages & Bounded Rationality: The Perverse Consequences of REAL ID for Immigration Policy." Art of Science Podcast, September 2023.

"Ex Ante Discrimination in the U.S. Refugee System." Russell Sage Foundation, April 2019.

"Social Disruption in Germany and the U.S." American Council on Germany and DFW World Affairs Council, March 2019.

"Immigration Judges and U.S. Asylum Policy," with Linda Camp Keith and Jennifer Holmes. School of Public Policy and the Department of Political Science at the University of California, Riverside. March, 2016.

"Immigration Judges and U.S. Asylum Policy," with Linda Camp Keith and Jennifer Holmes. Administrative Conference of the United States. April, 2015.

Conference Presentations

"Enforcement of Human Trafficking Laws in the States." With Maureen Stobb & Brett Curry. Presented at the 2025 Midwest Political Science Association Conference.

"Dissents by Arbitrators in ISDS Cases." With Clint Peinhardt. Presented at the 2025 Midwest Political Science Association Conference.

"Presidential Pardons," with Brett Curry & Maureen Stobb. Presented at the 2025 Midwest Political Science Association Conference.

"Customary International Law in U.S. Courts," with Burcu Bayram. Presented at the 2022 American Political Science Association Conference.

"Special Nominees: United States Attorneys and Federal Judicial Selection," with Brett Curry. Presented at the 2019 Southern Political Science Association Conference.

"Here Today, Gone Tomorrow: Progressive Ambition and the Behavior of United States Attorneys," with Brett Curry. Presented at the 2018 Southern Political Science Association Conference.

"Principals and Prosecutors: U.S. Attorneys and the Enforcement of Criminal Policy," with Brett Curry. Presented at the 2017 American Political Science Association Conference.

"Monitoring of U.S. Attorneys," with Brett Curry. Presented at the 2017 Southern Political Science Association Conference.

"Substantive/Descriptive Representation on the Bench: How Does the Public View Decisions Based on the Race of the Judge?," with Nancy Scherer. Presented at the 2015 American Political Science Association Conference.

"Ideology, Judicial Specialization, and the Diffusion of Precedent," with Brett Curry. Presented at the 2015 Western Political Science Association Conference.

"Integrating Local Context into a Cognitive Model of Asylum Decision Making," with Linda Camp Keith and Jennifer Holmes. Presented at the 2014 Midwest Political Science Association Conference.

"Evaluating the European Court of Human Rights," with Linda Camp Keith and Rachel McGuire. Presented at the 2014 Southern Political Science Association Conference.

"Quality Representation in Asylum Hearings," with Linda Camp Keith and Jennifer Holmes. Presented at the 2014 Southern Political Science Association Conference.

"Repeat Campaign Contributors and Decision Making in the U.S. Supreme Courts," with Bennet Min and Brett Curry. Presented at the 2013 Midwest Political Science Association Conference.

"The Influence of Specialization and Ideology on Appellate Court Decision Making in Anti-trust Cases," with Brett Curry. Presented at the 2012 Midwest Political Science Association Conference.

"Perceptions of the Efficacy of the U.S. Courts," with Nancy Scherer. Presented at the 2012 Midwest Political Science Association Conference.

"Judicial Disqualification and Campaign Contributions in the U.S. States: The Case of Alabama." Presented at the 2011 American Political Science Association Conference.

"Subject Matter Expertise and Judging on the U.S. Courts of Appeals." Presented at the 2011 Law & Society Association Conference.

"Understanding Subject Matter Expertise on the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals," with Brett Curry. Presented at the 2010 Midwest Political Science Association Conference.

"Experts Judging Experts: The Role of Expertise in Reviewing Agency Decision Making," with Brett Curry. Presented at the 2010 Southern Political Science Association Conference.

"Experts in Crime: The Effect of an Exclusively Criminal Docket on Judicial Behavior," with Dino Christenson and Brett Curry. Presented at the 2009 & 2011 Southern Political Science Association Conference.

"State Solicitors in State Litigation." Presented at the 2008 American Political Science Conference.

"State Success in State Supreme Courts." Presented at the 2008 State Politics Conference.

"State Success in State Supreme Courts." Presented at the 2008 Midwest Political Science Association Conference.

"Reassessing the Voting Behavior of Minority and Female Judges on the Federal Bench," with Nancy Scherer and Brett Curry. Presented at the 2008 Midwest Political Science Association Conference.

"Decision Making on the Federal Circuit Court," with Brett Curry. Presented at the 2008 Southern Political Science Association Conference.

"The Supreme Court, Foreign Law, and its Consequences for Public Support," with Brett Curry. Presented at the 2007 Midwest Political Science Association Conference.

"The Federalist Society's Impact on the Federal Bench," with Nancy Scherer. Presented at the 2006 Midwest Political Science Association Conference.

Teaching Experience

Instructor, Honors Reading: Authoritarianism in America (undergraduate), UT Dallas, 2019

Instructor, Law & Courts Proseminar (graduate), UT Dallas 2011-2019, 2021-

Instructor, Judicial Politics (undergraduate), UT Dallas 2010-2016, 2020-

Instructor, Introduction to American Government (undergraduate), UT Dallas, 2010-2013, 2020-

Instructor, Constitutional Law (undergraduate), UT Dallas, 2019-

Instructor, Constitutional Law (graduate), UT Dallas, 2009-2015

Instructor, Law & the Policy Process (graduate), UT Dallas, 2009-2016, 2019-

Instructor, Law, Science, & Policy, UT Dallas, (undergraduate), 2015-17, 2021-

Instructor, American Politics Proseminar, 2021-

Professional Activities & Service

Member, Faculty Personnel Review Committee, EPPS, UT Dallas, 2023-2024.

Member, Committee on Education Policy, UT Dallas, 2022-.

Member, Texas Transfer Advisory Committee (for Political Science), Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, 2022-2025.

Member, EPPS Faculty Advisory Committee, 2021-2022.

Chair, Judicial politics faculty search, 2021.

Member, School of Economic, Political, & Policy Sciences Dean Search, 2019.

Member, Ad Hoc Committee on Study Abroad, UT Dallas, 2019.

Chair, Comparative judicial politics faculty search, 2017.

Chair, Judicial politics faculty search, 2016.

Member, American politics faculty search, 2016.

Director of Graduate Studies & Associate Program Head, Political Science Program, UT Dallas, 2014-2018.

Program Committee, Political Science Program, UT Dallas, 2009-2011, 2013-2018.

Committee on the Core Curriculum, UT Dallas, 2016-2018.

Intellectual Property Advisory Committee, UT Dallas, 2015-2019.

Auxiliary Services Committee, UT Dallas, 2014-2015

EPPS Academic Review and Scholarship Committee, UT Dallas, 2014-2016.

Committee on Effective Teaching, EPPS, UT Dallas, 2010-2012.

Field Exam Committee (Law & Courts); Core Exam Committee (Political Science).

Mock Court/Moot Trial Judging, UT Dallas, 2009-2017.

Referee for Social Science Research Council Pre-Dissertation Proposal Development Fellowship competition (SSRC DPDF), 2015-2016.

Reviewer: National Science Foundation–Law and Social Sciences (ad hoc), Oxford University Press, University of California Press, Routledge Press, *American Journal of Political Science*, *American Politics Research*, *American Political Science Review*, *Electoral Studies*, *European Sociological Review*, *International Organizations*, *Journal of Law & Courts*, *Journal of Law & Policy*, *Journal of Politics*, *Justice System Journal*, *Law & Society Review*, *Policy Studies Journal*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *Publius*, *State Politics & Policy Quarterly*.

Grants

National Science Foundation, to study decision making at the Board of Immigration Appeals (pending). August 2025.

Russell Sage Foundation, to study judicial wealth and decision making (not awarded). Fall 2021.

NEC Foundation of America, to study the effectiveness of technical interventions to reduce gun violence (not awarded). Summer 2019.

EPPS Alumni Council Research Grant, UT Dallas, to gather data on the decision making of the Board of Immigration Appeals (awarded). Spring 2015.

EPPS Alumni Council Research Grant, UT Dallas, to gather data on campaign contributions to state supreme court judges (awarded). Summer 2012.

National Science Foundation, to gather information on decision making of Immigration Judges (not awarded). Fall 2011.

Dean's Seed Grant, UT Dallas, to gather data on Immigration Judges and Asylum Officers from the federal government (awarded). Fall 2011.

Catalyst Grant, UT Dallas, to study the link between judicial decision and campaign contributions (awarded). Summer 2010- Summer 2011.

Awards & Honors

Special Faculty Development Assignment, UT Dallas (awarded for Spring 2018 semester)

University of Texas System, Regents Outstanding Teaching Award, UT Dallas-EPPS Nominee, Tenure-track faculty, 2012.

EPPS Outstanding Teaching Comet Award (nominee), 2012-2013, 2013-2014, 2014-2015.

APSA Travel Grant, American Political Science Association, 2008.

Prestage-Cook Travel Grant, Southern Political Science Association, 2008.

Dissertation Improvement Grant, Alumni Grants for Graduate Research and Scholarship, Ohio State University, 2008.

Graduate Fellow, American Academy of Political and Social Science, 2007-2008.

University Fellowship, The Ohio State University, 2004-2005.

Associate Editor, *Texas Law Review*, 2003-2004.

Member, *Texas Law Review*, 2002-2003.

Dean's Achievement Award, University of Texas School of Law, Social Science and the Law, 2004.

Professional Memberships

Member, Center for Interdisciplinary Law and Policy Studies, Moritz College of Law, The Ohio State University, 2004-2009

Member, State Bar of Texas (inactive), 2004-

Member, American Political Science Association, 2004-; Southern Political Science Association, 2007- ; Midwest Political Science Association, 2006-

Last updated: June 3, 2026