

# Sara Catherine Benesh

*Curriculum Vitae*

February 2006

## Address:

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## Education:

Doctor of Philosophy, Political Science, Michigan State University, 1999.  
Master of Arts, Political Science, Michigan State University, 1997.  
Bachelor of Arts, Political Science and English, *cum laude*, Saint Norbert College, 1995.

## Employment:

Assistant Professor of Political Science, University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee, 2001 – present.  
Assistant Professor of Political Science, University of New Orleans, 1999 – 2001.  
Instructor, Department of Political Science, Michigan State University, 1997 – 1999.

## Books:

Segal, Jeffrey A., Harold J. Spaeth, and Sara C. Benesh. 2005. *The Supreme Court in the American Legal System*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Benesh, Sara C. 2002. *The U.S. Court of Appeals and the Law of Confessions: Perspectives on the Hierarchy of Justice*. New York: LFB Scholarly Publishing.

## Peer-Reviewed Articles:

Benesh, Sara C. “Understanding Public Confidence in American Courts.” *Journal of Politics*, forthcoming.

Benesh, Sara C., Saul Brenner, and Harold J. Spaeth. 2002. “Aggressive Grants by Affirm-Minded Justices.” *American Politics Research* (formerly *American Politics Quarterly*) 30(3):219-234.

Benesh, Sara C. and Wendy L. Martinek. 2002. “State Court Decision Making in Confession Cases.” *Justice System Journal* 23(1):109-133.

Benesh, Sara C. and Malia Reddick. 2002. “Overruled: An Event History Analysis of Lower Court Reaction to Supreme Court Alterations of Precedent.” *Journal of Politics* 64(2):534-550.

Benesh, Sara C. 2001. “The Key to a Successful Prospectus: Consult An Advisor, Early and Often.” *PS: Political Science & Politics* 34(4):853-854.

Benesh, Sara C. and Susan Howell. 2001. "Confidence in the Courts: A Comparison of Users and Non-Users." *Behavioral Sciences & the Law* 19:199-214.

Reddick, Malia and Sara C. Benesh. 2000. "Norm Violation by the Lower Courts in the Treatment of Supreme Court Precedent." *Justice System Journal* 21:117-142.

Benesh, Sara C., Reggie S. Sheehan, and Harold J. Spaeth. 1999. "Equity in Opinion Assignment on the United States Supreme Court." *Jurimetrics* 39:377-389.

### **Book Chapters:**

Benesh, Sara C. 2003. "Harold J. Spaeth: The Supreme Court Computer." In *The Pioneers of Judicial Behavior*. Nancy Maveety, Editor. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.

### **Non-Peer-Reviewed Articles:**

Benesh, Sara C. 2006. "The Contribution of Visiting Judges." *University of Arizona Law Review*, forthcoming.

Benesh, Sara C. 2006. "Becoming an Intelligent User of the Spaeth Databases." *Law and Courts* 16(1):15-21.

Benesh, Sara C. 2001. "The Hierarchy of Justice and Nonpublication." *Law and Courts* 11(3):5-7.

Benesh, Sara C. and Christopher J. W. Zorn. 1998. "Data Transformations for the Analysis of Judicial Voting: Part I, The Supreme Court Judicial Database." 8 *Law and Courts* 9-12 (Summer).

### **Data Codebooks:**

Benesh, Sara C. and Harold J. Spaeth. 2003. *The Supreme Court Justice-Centered Judicial Databases: The Warren, Burger, and Rehnquist Courts*. Available on-line <http://www.as.uky.edu/polisci/ulmerproject/sctdata.htm>.

### **Book Reviews:**

Benesh, Sara C. 2003. "Book Review: *Making Law in the U.S. Courts of Appeals* (by David E. Klein)." *The Law and Politics Book Review* 13(2).

Benesh, Sara C. 2002. "Book Review: *In Defense of a Political Court* (By Terri Jennings Peretti)." *American Political Science Review* 96(1):214-215.

Benesh, Sara C. 2000. "Book Review: *Legalizing Gender Inequality: Courts, Markets, and Unequal Pay for Women in America* (by Robert L. Nelson and William P. Bridges)." *The Law and Politics Book Review* 10:111-114.

Benesh, Sara C. 2000. "Book Review: *The Activist Advocate: Policy Making in State Supreme Courts* (by Charles S. Lopeman)." *The Justice System Journal* 21:354-357.

### **Encyclopedia Entries:**

- Benesh, Sara C. 2006. "Miranda v. Arizona" and "Exceptions to Miranda." In *An Encyclopedia of American Constitutional Rights and Liberties*. John Scheb and Otis Stephens, Editors. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, forthcoming.
- Benesh, Sara C. 2002. "Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Co. v. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, 462 U.S. 669 (1983)." In *Historical and Multicultural Encyclopedia of Women's Reproductive Rights in the United States*. Judith A. Baer, Editor. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press.
- Benesh, Sara C. 2002. "Louisiana." In *Legal Systems of the World: A Political, Social, and Cultural Encyclopedia*. Herbert Kritzer, Editor. Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO.
- Benesh, Sara C. 2002. "Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District," "Shapiro v. Thompson," and "Wallace v. Jaffree." In *The Encyclopedia of American Law*. David Schultz, Editor. Facts on File, Inc.
- Benesh, Sara C. 2002. "West Virginia v. Barnette," "Minersville v. Gobitis," "Employment Division v. Smith," and "Church of Lukumi v. City of Hialeah." In *Encyclopedia of American Religion and Politics*. Paul Djupe and Laura Olson, Editors. Facts on File, Inc.
- Benesh, Sara C. 2000. "Courts of Appeals," "Decision-Making," and "Reporting of Opinions." In *Encyclopedia of the Supreme Court*. Thomas T. Lewis and Richard L. Wilson, Editors. Pasadena, CA: Salem Press.

### **Grants and Contracts:**

- National Science Foundation, SBR-9911054. "Collaborative Research – Individual-Level Analysis of Supreme Court Justices: A Modification of the United States Supreme Court Judicial Databases." Co-Principal Investigator. (With Harold J. Spaeth). Total \$98,078. 2000-2001.
- Faculty Initiative for Technology in Teaching Award*. University of New Orleans, 2000-2001.
- Edward Artinian Travel Award*. Southern Political Science Association, 2000.
- Summer Research Stipend. "Modeling the Relationship Between the Supreme Court and the Courts of Appeals." University of New Orleans, 1999-2000.

### **Grants and Contracts Applications:**

- National Science Foundation, with Rorie Spill Solberg, Oregon State University, "Collaborative Research – ADVANCE Leadership Award: Judicial Women's Working Networks." Total \$200,000. UNDER REVIEW. Submitted July 15, 2005.

### **Manuscripts Under Review:**

- Benesh, Sara C. and Harold J. Spaeth. 2006. "What Explains Dissensus? A Test of the Legal and Attitudinal Models." Under review at *American Politics Research*.

### **Manuscripts Under Preparation for Submission:**

Benesh, Sara C., Susan Haire, and Erin Kaheny. "The Amateur Effect: Variance, Not Voting."

Karaman, Tatyana A. and Sara C. Benesh. "Non-Majority Case Selection: The Societal Impact of the Rule of Four."

Benesh, Sara C. and Harold J. Spaeth. "Salient to Whom? A Potential Measure of Salience to the Justices."

Benesh, Sara C. "Modeling the Supreme Court – Circuit Court Relationship Formally."

### **Conference Papers:**

Benesh, Sara C. and Jason Czarnecki. "The Effect of Legal Methods on Judicial Decisions in the Seventh Circuit." To be presented at the 2006 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association Meeting.

Luse, Jennifer K., Sara C. Benesh and Wendy L. Martinek. "The Effect of the *Lemon* Regime on Courts of Appeals Decision Making." To be presented at the 2006 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association.

Benesh, Sara C. "The Contribution of Visiting Judges." Presented at University of Arizona Law School, *Conference on the Ninth Circuit*, September 30, 2005.

Benesh, Sara C. and Harold J. Spaeth. 2005. "What Explains Dissensus? A Test of the Legal and Attitudinal Models." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.

Benesh, Sara C. and Wendy L. Martinek. 2005. "Principals, Compliance, and Jurisprudential Regimes: Confession Decisions in State Courts of Last Resort." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, New Orleans, LA.

Benesh, Sara C. 2003. "Supreme Court Supervision in Unpublished Courts of Appeals Decisions." Presented at the *Arleen Carlson Symposium on American Politics: The Judiciary in America*. University of Minnesota, February 20-23, 2003.

Benesh, Sara C., Susan Haire, and Erin Kaheny. 2003. "The Amateur Effect: Variance, Not Voting." Presented at the 2003 Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Philadelphia, PA.

Benesh, Sara C. 2002. "The Hierarchy of Justice and Nonpublication." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.

Benesh, Sara C. 2002. "How to Use the Spaeth Databases." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southwestern Political Science Association, New Orleans, LA, March. Available on-line at the Ulmer Project at the University of Kentucky, <http://www.as.uky.edu/polisci/ulmerproject/>.

Karaman, Tatyana A. and Sara C. Benesh. 2002. "Non-Majority Case Selection: The Societal Impact of the Rule of Four." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.

- Benesh, Sara C. 2001. "The Hierarchy of Justice and Nonpublication." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association as part of a roundtable on Studying the Courts of Appeals.
- Benesh, Sara C. and Harold J. Spaeth. 2001. "Real Consensus: Individual Justice Agreement on Case Issues and Legal Provisions." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, Atlanta, GA.
- Benesh, Sara C. and Harold J. Spaeth. 2001. "Salient to Whom? A Potential Measure of Salience to the Justices." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, San Francisco.
- Benesh, Sara C. 2000. "Individual-Level Analysis of Supreme Court Justices: A Revision of the Spaeth Database." Presented at the Fifth Annual Conference on the Scientific Study of Judicial Politics, Columbus, OH, October 19-21, 2000.
- Benesh, Sara C. 2000. "The Transition from Graduate Student to Graduate Faculty – Some Thoughts." Presented at the Law and Courts-Sponsored Short Course "Professional Development" at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Washington, DC, August 30, 2000.
- Benesh, Sara C. 2000. "Are These the Unloved?: The Correlates of Public Support for the Lower Courts." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, Savannah, GA.
- Benesh, Sara C. 2000. "Modeling the Supreme Court – Circuit Court Relationship Formally." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL. 2000.
- Benesh, Sara C. and Wendy L. Martinek. 2000. "Does it Matter Which Agent?: Comparing the Influence of the Supreme Court on Decision Making on the U.S. Courts of Appeals With Its Influence on the State Courts of Last Resort." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Washington, DC.
- Benesh, Sara C. and Wendy L. Martinek. 2000. "State-Federal Judicial Relations: The Case of State Supreme Court Decision Making in Confession Cases." Presented at *Federalism and the Courts: A National Conference*. Athens, Georgia.
- Benesh, Sara C., Robert Lowry, Reggie S. Sheehan, and Harold J. Spaeth. 1999. "Strategic Equity: Opinion Assignment on the United States Supreme Court." Presented at the Third Annual Conference on the Scientific Study of Judicial Politics, East Lansing, MI.
- Benesh, Sara C., Saul Brenner, and Harold J. Spaeth. 1998. "Conditions Associated with the Outcome-Prediction Strategy in Cert Voting on the Supreme Court." Presented at the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Boston, MA.
- Benesh, Sara C. and Malia Reddick. 1998. "Overruled: An Event History Analysis of Lower Court Reaction to Supreme Court Alteration of Precedent." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.
- Benesh, Sara C. 1997. "Confession Cases in American Courts: Perspectives on the Hierarchy of Justice." Presented at the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.

## **Works in Progress – 2005**

Benesh, Sara C., Hebert Kritzer, and Mark Richards. “Jurisprudential Regimes in Confession Cases.”

Benesh, Sara C. and Wendy L. Martinek. *Formal and Empirical Applications in the Study of Judicial Politics and Behavior*. Book Prospectus. Authors of chapters to include Jeff Segal, Georg Vanberg, David Nixon, Christopher Zorn, Steven VanWinkle, Stefanie Lindquist, Virginia Hettinger, and others.

Benesh, Sara C. and Harold J. Spaeth. “Judicial Activism and Ideology: Testing the Conservative Complaints.”

Marlowe, Justin and Sara C. Benesh. “Municipal Court Performance: The Supremacy of Non-Lawyer Judges.”

## **Other Conference Participation:**

Chair and Discussant, “Judicial Politics in Latin America,” Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, January 2006.

Discussant, “Politics in Lower Courts,” Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, September 2005.

Discussant, “The Politics of Legal Doctrine,” Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, April 2005.

Chair, “Constructing Judicial Legitimacy,” Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, September 2004.

Discussant, “The Rehnquist Court: Direction, Personalities, and Context,” Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, March 2003.

Discussant, “The Senate and Judicial Selection,” Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, Savannah, GA, November 2002.

Chair, “The Role of Interest Groups in Choosing Judges,” Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, Savannah, GA, November 2002.

Panelist, “Law & Courts Methodological Symposium II: Data Collection and Management,” Annual Meeting of the Southwestern Social Science Association, March 2002.

Discussant, “Hierarchy and Judicial Outcomes,” Annual Meeting of the Southwestern Political Science Association, March 2002.

Panelist, “Roundtable: The U.S. Court of Appeals: What Should Be Studied?” Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, March 2001.

Discussant, “The Interaction of Attitudes and Precedent in Judicial Decision Making,” Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, September 2001.

Discussant, “Stability and Change in Decision Making on Appellate Courts,” Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, November 2001.

### **Invited Conferences:**

*Conference on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.* University of Arizona Law School, September 30 – October 1, 2005.

*Judicial Selection and a Republican Form of Government.* Sponsored by The Johnson Foundation and the American Bar Association. Wingspread Conference Center, Racine, WI, March 28-30, 2003.

*Arleen Carlson Symposium on American Politics: The Judiciary in America.* University of Minnesota, Department of Political Science, February 20-23, 2003.

*Ideal Point Estimation Conference.* Washington University in St. Louis, September 20-22, 2002. Sponsored by the Weidenbaum Center on the Economy, Government and Public Policy and the Department of Political Science.

*Midwest Law and Society Retreat.* University of Wisconsin – Madison, September 2002.

### **Invited Talks and Other Outreach:**

- “Ideology or Interpretative Philosophy: Testing the Legal and Attitudinal Models on the Seventh Circuit.” Marquette University Law School Visiting Faculty Workshop Series, April 2006.
- “On Presenting at Conferences.” Featured Speaker, University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee, Political Science Graduate Student Association, March 2006.
- “On Choosing a Dissertation Topic.” Featured Speaker, University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee, Political Science Graduate Student Association, February 2006.
- “Graduate School Planning Workshop.” Featured Speaker, St. Norbert College Career Services, De Pere, WI. October 13, 2005.
- “Constitutional Interpretation in Times of Crisis.” Featured Speaker and co-Organizer, University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee, Observance of Constitution Day. September 14, 2005.
- “O’Connor’s Replacement.” Interview with Arizona Metro Source. A Division of Westwood One. July 19, 2005.
- “The End of Term Cases; Chief Justice’s Retirement?” Interview with Ben Merens, *Weekday Programming with Ben Merens*, The Ideas Network, Wisconsin Public Radio. Aired June 29, 2005.
- “The Death Penalty in Wisconsin.” Interview with Dave Edwards, *At Ten with Dave Edwards*, WUWM, Milwaukee Public Radio. Aired January 14, 2003.
- “UWM Political Scientist on Death (Penalty) Watch.” Interview with Terry Higgins, University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee News Services and Publications. Available online at [http://www.uwm.edu/News/PR/02.11/death\\_penalty.html](http://www.uwm.edu/News/PR/02.11/death_penalty.html).
- “The Supreme Court and Civil Liberties.” Featured Speaker, Wauwatosa West High School, AP United States Government and Politics Class. January, 2003.
- “The State of the Discipline – Research on the Lower Federal Courts.” Featured Speaker, Department of Political Science, University of Minnesota, February 21, 2003.
- “The U.S. Court of Appeals and the Law of Confessions: Perspectives on the Hierarchy of Justice.” Featured Speaker, *Law and Legal Institutions Brown Bag*, University of Wisconsin, Madison, April 2002.
- “Civil Liberties in the Aftermath of 9/11.” Featured Speaker, *American Association of University Women*, Waukesha, WI, October 2002.
- “Studying the Courts: An Alternative to Law School.” Featured Speaker, *Forms of Inquiry: A Faculty Lecture Series*. Honors Program, University of New Orleans, 2000.

### **Courses Taught:**

- American Government (Honors and Regular Sections)
- American Judicial Process
- Civil Rights and Civil Liberties
- Civil Liberties Since 9/11 (online course)
- Methods of Political Research (Undergraduate Statistics)
- Graduate Seminar in Judicial Politics
- Political Science Research Techniques (Graduate Statistics)
- Comparative Judicial Politics (Graduate Directed Reading)
- Judicial Behavior (Graduate and Undergraduate Directed Reading)
- Scope and Methods of Political Analysis III (Advanced Graduate Statistics)
- Obscenity and the First Amendment (Freshman Seminar, online course)
- The Supreme Court

### **Other Potential Courses:**

- Constitutional Law
- Moot Court
- Comparative Legal Systems
- Law and Society
- Women and the Law
- Ethnicity, Religion, and Race in American Politics
- American Political Institutions (Graduate Seminar)

### **Professional Service:**

#### **University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee**

- Member, Graduate Committee, 2004 – present.
- Director of Undergraduate Studies, 2002 – 2004.
- Chair, Public Law Search Committee, 2003.
- Member, Blue Ribbon Committee on Undergraduate Evaluation, 2003.
- Undergraduate Committee/Advisor, 2001 – 2002.
- Women’s Studies/Political Science Search Committee, 2001.
- Directed two political science internships (778-399), Fall 2001.
- Directed one political science internship (778-399), Spring 2002.
- Directed three political science internships (POL SCI 489), Fall 2002.
- Directed two political science internships (POL SCI 489), Spring 2003.
- Directed one political science internship (POL SCI 489), Fall 2005.
- Directing one political science internship (POL SCI 489), Spring 2006.
- Directed one capstone course paper, Fall 2001.
- Directed three capstone course papers, Spring 2002.
- Directed three capstone course papers, Fall 2002.
- Directed three capstone course papers, Spring 2003.
- Directed three capstone course papers, Fall 2003.
- Directed two capstone course papers, Spring 2004.
- Directed three capstone course papers, Fall 2004.
- Directed three capstone course papers, Spring 2005.
- Directed two capstone course papers, Fall 2005.
- Directing five capstone course papers, Spring 2006.
- Directed two independent study courses (POL SCI 699), Fall 2002.

- Directed one independent study course (POL SCI 699), Spring 2003.
- Directed three Masters Theses (Chris Dobbertean, successfully defended December 2002; Kerry Kreinitz, successfully defended December 2003; Jennifer Luse, successfully defended May 2005).
- Member, one Dissertation Committee (Kate Scheurer)

#### **Law and Courts Section, APSA**

- Member, Nominations Committee, 2005-2006.
- Chair, McGraw Hill Award Committee, 2004-2005.
- Member, Law and Courts Graduate Student Travel Awards Selection Committee, 2004-2005.
- Member, Executive Committee, 2003-2005.
- Member, Wadsworth Publishing Award Committee, 2002-2003.
- Member, Nominations Committee, 1999-2000.
- Panelist, Law and Courts Section-Sponsored Short Course: *Professional Development for New Political Scientists*, American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, September 2000.

#### **Other Service**

- Editorial Board Member, *Justice System Journal*, 2005-present.
- Editorial Board Member, *Law and Courts Newsletter*, 2005-present.
- Editorial Board Member, *American Politics Research*, 2002-present.
- Manuscript reviewer for *American Political Science Review*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *Journal of Politics*, *Justice System Journal*, *American Politics Research*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *Canadian Journal of Political Science*, *American Review of Politics*, *Encyclopedia of Social Measurement*, *Law and Policy*, *Social Science Quarterly*, *Law and Society Review*, *Political Behavior*.
- Grant reviewer for *National Science Foundation*.
- Intern, *American Political Science Review*, 1997-1998.

#### **Professional Affiliations:**

- American Political Science Association
- Law and Courts Section, APSA
- Political Methodology Section, APSA
- Midwest Political Science Association
- Southern Political Science Association
- American Judicature Society
- Judicial Working Groups