

Matthew E. Baker Department of Political Science matthew.baker@uga.edu
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180 Baldwin Hall
Athens, GA 30602 *Updated August 2022*

Education **University of Georgia**, School of Public and International Affairs
Ph.D. Candidate (expected May 2023), School of Public and International Affairs
Graduate Research Assistant
Dissertation: *Framing the Law: Judges and Jury Instructions*
Committee: Christina L. Boyd (chair), Susan B. Haire, Geoffrey Sheagley,
Roberto F. Carlos (UT-Austin), and Morgan Hazelton (Saint Louis University)

This book-style dissertation on judges and jury instructions in federal criminal trial courts tackles three related empirical questions: (1) how do judges' preferences and professional backgrounds impact their decision-making on jury instructions, (2) what impact do jury instructions have on verdicts, and (3) do a judge's race and sex impact his or her use of implicit bias jury instructions? To answer these questions I will collect and analyze a new dataset of federal district court cases including docket sheets, case filings, jury instructions, judicial biographies, sentencing data, and district-level case reports.

Field Exams: American Politics (major); Methodology (minor)

University of Florida, Levin College of Law
J.D., *cum laude*, 2013

University of Central Florida
B.A., Political Science, Minor in History, *magna cum laude*, 2009

Publications "Release Roulette: The Rural-Urban Pretrial Detention Divide in Florida"
University of Florida Journal of Law and Public Policy, 32(1): 1-48 (Fall 2021).

This article surveys pretrial detention's history, costs, and how justice is meted out differently in rural and urban counties, especially in Florida. Using a variety of data sources, I empirically explore Florida's pretrial detention system finding, among other insights, Florida's rural counties detain individuals at a rate 35% higher than their urban counterparts.

"The Effects of Judge Race and Sex on Pretrial Detention Decisions"
with Ethan D. Boldt, Christina L. Boyd and Roberto F. Carlos,
Justice System Journal 42(3-4): 341-358. (2021).

We empirically examine the effects of judge sex and race and defendant sex and race on judge's bail decisions. Using newly collected data we find several important judge and defendant-based differences

"Book Review: *The Judicial Tug of War* by Adam Bonica and Maya Sen"
with Christina L. Boyd, *Law and Politics Book Review* Vol. 31(6) (2021).

Working Papers

“Congressional Constraint? The Review *In Absentia* Immigration Removal Orders in the Federal Circuit Courts”

with Christina L. Boyd, Roberto F. Carlos, Margaret H. Taylor
and Elise Blasingame (under review at Political Research Quarterly)

We examine the effect of statutory guidance and judges’ preferences in the federal circuit court review of denied motions to reopen in absentia orders. Our findings indicate that statutory factors like the adequacy of the government’s notice and the presence of exceptional circumstances to justify nonappearance affect the likelihood of immigrant success in reopening an *in absentia* order.

“From Roadside Stops to the Courthouse Stairs: Defendant Race and the Attorney’s Role in Routine Cases”

with Todd Collins (revise and resubmit at Journal of Law and Courts)

We explore how a traffic court defendants receive different results as a result of their race and having an attorney represent them, finding Latino defendants are the least likely to receive sentence reductions and negative effects being mitigated through having legal representation.

“Why the ‘Haves’ Don’t Always Come Out Ahead: When Federal Prosecution Fails”
with Ethan D. Boldt (in progress)

We use empirical analysis to determine whether there are systematic factors that lead to prosecutors, the “ultimate repeat players”, to lose in federal court.

Conference Presentations

New Directions in Law & Society Conference, UMass Amherst, 2022 (Accepted)
“Thumb on the Scale: Judge Drafted Jury Instructions”

Midwest Political Science Association, 2022

“Who Tips the Scale? Judge Characteristics and Jury Instructions”

UCF Undergraduate Law Forum, 2022

“Who Tips the Scale? Judge Characteristics and Jury Instructions”

Teaching

University of Georgia, Department of Political Science
Criminal Law, Spring 2022

University of Central Florida, Department of Legal Studies

Legal Research, Fall 2022, Fall 2019, Summer 2019, Spring 2019

Professionalism and Civility in the Law, Summer 2022, Fall 2021, Summer 2021

Law and Society, Spring 2021, Summer 2020, Spring 2020

Law and the Legal System, Summer 2019

Legal Writing, Spring 2019

Individual Liberties and the Law, Fall 2018

University of Central Florida, Department of Political Science

American National Government, Spring 2019, Spring 2018

Research Experience
Graduate Student Project Manager, 2022-Present
“Creating the Judicial Database and Research Agenda”
 Under NSF Grant SES-2141551 held by Christina L. Boyd

Graduate Research Assistant, 2021-2022
 David Cottrell. *Incumbency and Gerrymandering*. University of Georgia.

Graduate Research Assistant, 2020-2021
 Christina L. Boyd. *Judicial Politics*. University of Georgia.

Teaching Certifications
University of Central Florida
 IDL 6543 Interactive Distributed Learning Certified, Summer 2019
10 Week training to develop completely online courses
Completed development of “Law and Society” course

Awards and Fellowships
University of Georgia
 Travel Award, *New Directions in Law and Society Conference* 2022
 Lauth Fellowship 2019-2020
 UGA Mekis Scholarship 2019-2020
 Zell Miller Scholarship Fall 2019
 Askew Scholarship Fall 2019

University of Florida
 Dean’s List: Spring 2011, Fall 2011, Spring 2012
 Pro Bono Outstanding Achievement Certificate

University of Central Florida
 Political Science “Shining Knight” Alumnus, July 2017
 Burnett Honors College Graduate, 2009

Research Skills
 Stata, R, L^AT_EX

Discipline Service
Reviewer
 Justice System Journal, Socius

Professional Experience
Law Offices of Matthew Baker, P.A
 November 2018-July 2019

Public Defender’s Office, Ninth Judicial Circuit, Orange County, Florida
 September 2013-November 2018
Assistant Public Defender, Circuit Court
 Conducted 25 Jury Trials as counsel of record.

University of Central Florida, Mock Trial Program Coach
 August 2016-July 2019
Trial Team Coach

Professional
Memberships

The Florida Bar, September 2013-Present

American Political Science Association

Southern Political Science Association

Midwest Political Science Association

Florida Supreme Court Certified County Court Mediator (inactive)

Community
Engagement

Volunteer Attorney, Florida Rights Restoration Coalition,
Fines and Fees Modification, May 2021-Present

Instructor, Continuing Legal Education (CLE) Course
Digital Evidence, February 2019

Instructor, Public Defender Summer Intern Seminar
Digital Evidence, May 2018

Guest Speaker, Florida Virtual School Safe Driving Seminar
Effects of a DUI, April 2017

Guest Lecturer, UCF Legal Studies
Evidence Course, Spring 2017, Patricia Cashman

Guest Speaker, UCF Legal Studies,
Capstone Course Fall 2016, Marc Consalo

References Christina L. Boyd, J.D., Ph.D.
Professor of Political Science
Lauth Public Affairs Professor
Courtesy Appointment, School of Law
Department of Political Science
University of Georgia
Athens, GA 30602
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Susan B. Haire, Ph.D.
Department Chair & Professor
Department of Political Science
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Roberto F. Carlos, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Department of Government
The University of Texas at Austin
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