

# Karson Pennington Ray

[in linkedin.com/in/karsonpennington](https://www.linkedin.com/in/karsonpennington) ✉ [karson.pennington98@uga.edu](mailto:karson.pennington98@uga.edu)

## EDUCATION

---

- University of Georgia** August 2020-Present  
*Ph.D. Candidate, Political Science & International Affairs, expected graduation May 2025*  
**Major field:** American Politics  
**Minor field:** Political Theory
- University of Georgia** August 2018-May 2020  
*M.A. Political Science & International Affairs*  
**Thesis:** *To Assign or Not to Assign? Opinion Assignment at the Supreme Court*  
**Committee:** Christina L. Boyd (chair), Richard Vining, Susan Haire
- University of Georgia** August 2016-May 2020  
*B.A. Political Science, B.A. History*  
*Magna Cum Laude, High Honor Graduate*

## PUBLICATIONS

---

- “Constructing the Supreme Court: How Race, Ethnicity, and Gender Have Affected Presidential Selection and Senate Confirmation Hearings.”**  
Christina L. Boyd, Paul M. Collins Jr, Lori A. Ringhand and **Karson A. Pennington** in *Polity* 55, no. 2 (2023): 400-409.

## TEACHING

---

- POLS 1101: Introduction to American Government** | *Instructor of Record* Fall 2024 & Spring 2025  
University of Georgia, Department of Political Science
- POLS 3600: Criminal Justice Administration** | *Instructor of Record* Spring 2024 & Spring 2025  
University of Georgia, Criminal Justice Studies Program
- POLS 4780: Special Topics in Law, Judicial Politics** | *Instructor of Record* Maymester 2023  
University of Georgia, SPIA a Firenze Study Abroad Program
- POLS 4760: Supreme Court Politics** | *Instructor of Record* January 2023-May 2023  
University of Georgia, Department of Political Science
- POLS 3600: Criminal Justice Administration** | *Teaching Assistant* Fall 2022 & Fall 2023  
University of Georgia, Criminal Justice Studies Program

## RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

---

- “Access to Justice: Technology in the Criminal Courtroom”** Dissertation in Progress  
Committee: Teena Wilhelm (chair), Christina L. Boyd, Susan Haire, Harrison Frye
- “Race and Gender in Judicial Selection in the United States.”** Final Manuscript Submitted  
with Christina L. Boyd, Matthew E. Baker, and Aidan Gonzalez in Michael P. Fix and Matthew Montgomery, eds.  
*Research Handbook on Judicial Politics*. Edward Elgar Publishing.

**“Intersectionality and the U.S. Courts of Appeals”**  
with Susan Haire, Alyson Hendricks-Benton, Gbemende Johnson, Vanisha Kudumuri

In Progress

**“Short-Circuiting: How Trump-Appointees Disrupt the Status Quo in Immigration Decisions”** In Progress  
with Mariliz Kastberg-Leonard

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

---

**American Political Science Association** September 2024  
*Access to Justice: Technology in the Criminal Courtroom*

**Southern Political Science Association** January 2024  
*Intersectionality and the U.S. Courts of Appeals* with Susan Haire, Alyson Hendricks-Benton, Gbemende Johnson, and Vanisha Kudumuri

**Midwest Political Science Association** April 2022  
*Redistricting and the State Supremes* with Teena Wilhelm and Austin Petrie

**Southern Political Science Association** January 2021  
*Short-Circuiting: How Trump-Appointees Disrupt the Status Quo in Immigration Decisions* with Mariliz Kastberg-Leonard

## SKILLS

---

HTML/CSS, Excel, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

## HONORS & AWARDS

---

**Upper-Level Political Science Teaching Assistant Award** May 2024  
University of Georgia, Department of Political Science

**Mekis Award for Political Philosophy Scholarship** May 2021  
University of Georgia, Department of Political Science

## FUNDING & GRANTS

---

**Summer Doctoral Research Assistantship** May-June 2024  
University of Georgia, Graduate School

**Graduate Doctoral Assistantship** August 2020-Present  
University of Georgia, Department of Political Science

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

---

**Graduate Research Assistant** 2021-2023  
*“Creating the Judicial Database and Research Agenda”*  
Under NSF Grant SES-2141551 held by Christina L. Boyd

**Graduate Research Assistant** 2019-2023  
Christina L. Boyd. *Judicial Politics*. University of Georgia.

**Graduate Research Assistant** 2020-2021  
Susan B. Haire. *Judicial Politics*. University of Georgia.