

Karson Pennington Ray

 [linkedin.com/in/karson-pennington-ray](https://www.linkedin.com/in/karson-pennington-ray)  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

RESEARCH

“Redistricting and Party Loyalty in the State Supreme Courts.”

Teena Wilhelm, Garrett Vande Kamp, **Karson A. Pennington**, and Austin Petrie in *Journal of Law and Courts*.
Currently under Review and Resubmit. 2024.

“Race and Gender in Judicial Selection in the United States.”

Matthew E. Baker, Christina L. Boyd, Aidan Gonzalez and **Karson A. Pennington** in Michael P. Fix and Matthew Montgomery, eds. *Research Handbook on Judicial Politics*. Edward Elgar Publishing. 2024.

“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.

UNDER REVIEW/WORKING PAPERS

“Access to Justice: A Balancing Act with Technology in the Criminal Courtroom” Dissertation in Progress
Committee: Teena Wilhelm (chair), Christina L. Boyd, Susan Haire, Harrison Frye

“Intersectionality and the U.S. Courts of Appeals”

In Progress

with Susan Haire, Alyson Hendricks-Benton, Gbemende Johnson, Vanisha Kudumuri

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

TEACHING

POLS 1101H: Introduction to American Government, Honors <i>Instructor of Record</i> University of Georgia, Department of Political Science and Morehead Honors College	Spring 2025
POLS 3600: Criminal Justice Administration <i>Instructor of Record</i> University of Georgia, Criminal Justice Studies Program	Spring 2024 & Spring 2025
POLS 1101: Introduction to American Government <i>Instructor of Record</i> University of Georgia, Department of Political Science	Fall 2024
POLS 4780: Special Topics in Law, Judicial Politics <i>Instructor of Record</i> University of Georgia, SPIA a Firenze Study Abroad Program	Maymester 2023
POLS 4760: Supreme Court Politics <i>Instructor of Record</i> University of Georgia, Department of Political Science	Spring 2023
POLS 3600: Criminal Justice Administration <i>Teaching Assistant</i> University of Georgia, Criminal Justice Studies Program	Fall 2022 & Fall 2023

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Southern Political Science Association <i>Intersectionality and the U.S. Courts of Appeals</i> with Susan Haire, Alyson Hendricks-Benton, Gbemende Johnson, and Vanisha Kudumuri	January 2024
Midwest Political Science Association <i>Redistricting and the State Supremes</i> with Teena Wilhelm and Austin Petrie	April 2022
Southern Political Science Association <i>Short-Circuiting: How Trump-Appointees Disrupt the Status Quo in Immigration Decisions</i> with Mariliz Kastberg-Leonard	January 2021

HONORS & AWARDS

Upper-Level Political Science Teaching Assistant Award University of Georgia, Department of Political Science	May 2024
Mekis Award for Political Philosophy Scholarship University of Georgia, Department of Political Science	May 2021

FUNDING & GRANTS

Summer Doctoral Research Assistantship University of Georgia, Graduate School	May-June 2024
Graduate Doctoral Assistantship University of Georgia, Department of Political Science	August 2020-Present

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Research Assistant <i>"Creating the Judicial Database and Research Agenda"</i> Under NSF Grant SES-2141551 held by Christina L. Boyd	2021-2023
Graduate Research Assistant Christina L. Boyd. <i>Judicial Politics</i> . University of Georgia.	2019-2023
Graduate Research Assistant Susan C. Haire. <i>Judicial Politics</i> . University of Georgia.	2020-2021

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Reach Out and Read Georgia

2022-Present

Serves as Communications Specialist for Reach Out and Read Georgia, a nonprofit organization that provides literacy resources to pediatric offices across Georgia.

Miss Georgia Scholarship Competition

2021-2022

Represented Georgia at the 100th Miss America Competition as Miss Georgia 2021; awarded an Equity and Justice scholarship at Miss America for efforts to increase access to literacy; served as a mentor for hundreds of young women and girls across the state; traveled 35,000 miles across Georgia as a literacy advocate.