

# Abigail V. Hassett

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

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## EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Professor, Transylvania University, beginning Fall 2025

## EDUCATION

Ph.D., Political Science, *University of South Carolina*, 2025

B.A., Political Science and Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies,  
*Stetson University*, 2019

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

U.S. Federal Courts · Appellate Attorneys · Legal Careers and Ambition · Nominations

## TEACHING INTERESTS

Constitutional Law · U.S. Federal Courts · Congress · Separation of Powers

## PUBLISHED RESEARCH

**Abigail V. Hassett**, Elizabeth A. Lane, and Jessica A. Schoenherr. 2024. “A Matter of Great Importance”: Interest Groups, the Senate Judiciary Committee, and Supreme Court Confirmation Hearings”, in *Open Judicial Politics*, 3rd ed., eds. Jennifer Segal Diascro, Rorie L. Solberg, and Eric N. Waltenburg. Oregon State University Open Textbook Initiative.

**Abigail V. Hassett** and Kirk A. Randazzo. 2024. “Education versus Experience? An Elite Legal Dynasty Among Federal Judges in the United States” in *Informality and Judicial Institutions: Comparative Perspectives*, eds. Björn Dressel, Raul Sanchez-Uribarri, and Alexander Stroh. Edinburgh University Press.

## IN PROGRESS

**Abigail V. Hassett** and Adam G. Rutkowski. “You Did What?!” Questioning Federal Judicial Nominees’ Prior Political Activity.” Under Review.

**Abigail V. Hassett**. “Unified We Stand: Judicial Ambition, Partisan Politics, and the Senate Confirmations of Lower Court Nominees.” Working Paper.

**Abigail V. Hassett** “Seeking the Heights: Judicial Ambition and Elevations from the U.S. District Courts.” Working Paper.

## GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Russell J. and Dorothy S. Bilinski Dissertation Fellow, 2024-2025.  
*Bilinski Education Foundation*. \$40,000.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS	Louisiana State University. “Some of Them Went to Yale: Ambition, Legal Careers, and Nominations to the Federal Bench”. February 2025.
	Stetson University, University Honors Program. “Perspectives on Post-Graduate Life.” February 2021.
	Stetson University, University Honors Program. “What is Graduate School, Anyways? The Perspective of a Recent Alumna.” March 2020.
CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Southern Political Science Association: 2021, 2023, 2024</li> <li>– Midwest Political Science Association: 2024, 2025</li> <li>– “Informality and Judicial Institutions,” hosted at the International Institute for the Sociology of Law, Oñati, Spain: 2022</li> </ul>
AWARDS AND HONORS	Honorable Mention, Best Graduate Student Paper for “Unified We Stand: Judicial Ambition, Partisan Politics, and the Senate Confirmation of Lower Court Nominees,” Law and Courts Section, <i>American Political Science Association</i> , 2025.
TEACHING EXPERIENCE	<p>University of South Carolina <i>Instructor of Record</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– POLI 452: The Judicial Process</li> </ul>
RESEARCH EXPERIENCE	<p>Research Assistant: Jessica Schoenherr (Summer 2024)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– “Collaborative Proposal: Precedent Altering Opinions and Collegiality on the U.S. Supreme Court.” Funded by the National Science Foundation.</li> </ul> <p>Research Assistant: Kirk Randazzo (January 2022—August 2023)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– “Decision Making in U.S. District Courts: Building a Multi-User Database.” Funded by the National Science Foundation.</li> </ul>
SERVICE	<p><i>University of South Carolina</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Panel chair, <i>Political Science Graduate Symposium</i> (2025)</li> <li>– Mock Trial Judge, <i>Fifth Annual Soda City Trials</i> (2023)</li> <li>– Vice President, <i>Political Science Graduate Student Association</i> (2020–2021)</li> <li>– Finance Committee, <i>University of South Carolina Graduate Student Association</i> (2020–2021)</li> </ul> <p><i>Community</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Alpha Chi Omega Foundation Scholarship Committee, <i>Alpha Chi Omega Foundation</i> (2019–Present)</li> <li>– Kappa Nu Kappa Alumnae Chapter President, <i>Alpha Chi Omega Fraternity for Women</i> (2022–2024)</li> <li>– Theta Upsilon Chapter Relations and Standards Advisor, <i>Alpha Chi Omega Fraternity for Women</i> (2019–2022)</li> </ul>

OTHER  
RELEVANT  
EXPERIENCE

*Bok Tower Gardens*, Lake Wales, FL (June 2016 — August 2017)  
Anton Brees Carillon Library and Chao Archives Intern

PROFESSIONAL  
ASSOCIATIONS

Southern Political Science Association · Midwest Political Science Association  
· Phi Beta Kappa

Last updated June 3, 2025