

Abigail V. Hassett

CONTACT INFORMATION

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EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Professor of Political Science, Transylvania University

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

Kirk A. Randazzo, **Abigail V. Hassett**, and Anna Puente. 2026. “The Judicial Balancing Act: Ideology, Law, and Legitimacy in Supreme Court Decisions” in *Divided Nation*, eds. Jamie Carson and Ryan Williamson. De Gruyter.

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-Urribarri, and Alexander Stroh. Edinburgh University Press.

IN PROGRESS

Abigail V. Hassett, Jonathan M. King, and Jessica A. Schoenherr. “Recuse Me? Public Perceptions of Supreme Court Justice Recusal Behavior” Working Paper.

Carolina Bermejo Goodwin and **Abigail V. Hassett**. “Who Pays Attention? Hispanic and Latino Responses to Community-Relevant Supreme Court Cases.” Working Paper.

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 – Southern Political Science Association: 2021, 2023, 2024, 2026
– Midwest Political Science Association: 2024, 2025
– “Informality and Judicial Institutions,” hosted at the International Institute for the Sociology of Law, Oñati, Spain: 2022

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, *American Political Science Association*, 2025.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE Transylvania University *Instructor of Record*
– PS 1014: Introduction to U.S. Politics — Fall 2025, Winter 2026
– PS 3144: The Legal System — Fall 2025
– PS 3174: Constitutional Law: Institutional Powers — Winter 2026
– FYS 0004: Music and Politics — Fall 2025

University of South Carolina *Instructor of Record*
– POLI 452: The Judicial Process — Spring 2024

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE Research Assistant: Jessica Schoenherr (Summer 2024)
– “Collaborative Proposal: Precedent Altering Opinions and Collegiality on the U.S. Supreme Court.” Funded by the National Science Foundation.

Research Assistant: Kirk Randazzo (January 2022—August 2023)
– “Decision Making in U.S. District Courts: Building a Multi-User Database.” Funded by the National Science Foundation.

SERVICE *University of South Carolina*
– Panel chair, *Political Science Graduate Symposium* (2025)
– Mock Trial Judge, *Fifth Annual Soda City Trials* (2023)
– Vice President, *Political Science Graduate Student Association* (2020–2021)

- Finance Committee, *University of South Carolina Graduate Student Association* (2020–2021)

Community

- Alpha Chi Omega Foundation Scholarship Committee, *Alpha Chi Omega Foundation* (2019–Present)
- Kappa Nu Kappa Alumnae Chapter President, *Alpha Chi Omega Fraternity for Women* (2022–2024)
- Theta Upsilon Chapter Relations and Standards Advisor, *Alpha Chi Omega Fraternity for Women* (2019–2022)

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 January 21, 2026