

# David A. Hughes, Ph.D.

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- CONTACT INFORMATION** University of Louisiana at Lafayette  
Department of Political Science  
P.O. Box 43581  
Lafayette, LA 70503
- ☎ 706.255.3393  
✉ david.hughes@louisiana.edu  
🌐 <https://davidhughesphd.com>
- EMPLOYMENT** Associate Professor and Anthony Moroux Endowed Professor, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Department of Political Science, 2024 to present
- Associate Professor, Auburn University at Montgomery, Department of Political Science and Public Administration, 2021 to 2024
- Assistant Professor, Auburn University at Montgomery, Department of Political Science and Public Administration, 2016 to 2021
- EDUCATION** Ph.D., Political Science, University of Georgia, 2016 (with distinction). Dissertation committee: Richard L. Vining, Jr. (chair), Scott Ainsworth, Keith Dougherty, and Teena Wilhelm
- B.S., Political Science and History, University of Montevallo, 2011 (*summa cum laude*)
- AREAS OF EXPERTISE** American politics, political institutions, law and courts, the separation of powers, state politics, state courts, southern politics, applied game theory, statistics and data analysis
- PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES**
- Wilhelm, Teena and **David A. Hughes**. Forthcoming. “Judicial Institutions, Independence, and the Separation of Powers.” *Political Research Quarterly*.
- Boyea, Brent, **David A Hughes**, Marcy Shieh, and Kayla Canelo. Forthcoming. “The Evolution of State Courts Research in the 21st Century.” *State Politics & Policy Quarterly*.
- Hood, M. V. III, **David A. Hughes**, and Seth McKee. 2025. “MAGA Trumps the Incumbency Advantage in a Dueling Incumbent Primary.” *American Politics Research*, 53(2): 103-13.
- Vining, Richard L., Teena Wilhelm, **David A. Hughes**, and Aidan González. 2024. “Diversity of Judicial Leadership in the American States.” *Polity*, 56(3): 408-33.
- Hughes, David A.**, Teena Wilhelm, and Xuan Wang. 2023. “Updating PAJID Scores for State Supreme Court Justices (1970-2019).” *State Politics & Policy Quarterly*, 23(4): 463-70.
- Wilhelm, Teena, Richard L. Vining, Jr., and **David A. Hughes**. 2023. “Chief Justice Selection Rules and Judicial Ideology.” *State Politics & Policy Quarterly*, 23(3): 267-82.
- Hughes, David A.** 2023. “Local Media Coverage of Candidates for State Supreme Courts.” *Justice System Journal*, 43(3): 238-59.

Howard, Nicholas O. and **David A. Hughes**. 2022. "Revisiting Senatorial Courtesy and the Selection of Judges to the U.S. Courts of Appeals." *Political Research Quarterly*, 75(1): 61-75.

**Hughes, David A.** 2021. "Judicial Institutions and the Political Economy of Retirements." *Political Behavior*, 43: 1-27.

**Hughes, David A.** 2020. "Does Local Journalism Stimulate Voter Participation in State Supreme Court Elections?" *Journal of Law and Courts*, 8(1): 95-126.

Vining, Richard L. Jr., Teena Wilhelm, and **David A. Hughes**. 2019. "The Chief Justice as Effective Administrative Leader: The Roles of Policy Scope and Interbranch Relations." *Social Science Quarterly*, 100(4): 1358-68.

**Hughes, David A.** 2019. "New-Style Campaigns in State Supreme Court Retention Elections." *State Politics & Policy Quarterly*, 19(2): 127-54.

**Hughes, David A.**, Richard L. Vining Jr., and Teena Wilhelm. 2017. "The Politics of the U.S. Federal Judiciary's Requests for Institutional Reform." *Social Science Quarterly*, 98(5): 1277-95.

**Hughes, David A.**, Teena Wilhelm, and Richard L. Vining Jr. 2015. "Deliberation Rules and Opinion Assignment Procedures in State Supreme Courts: A Replication." *Justice System Journal*, 36(4): 395-410.

Haire, Susan, Barry Edwards, and **David A. Hughes**. 2013. "The Voting Behavior of President Obama's Appointees on the U.S. Courts of Appeals." *Judicature*, 97(3): 137-143.

## BOOK CHAPTERS

**Hughes, David A.** and Nathan Jordan. Forthcoming. "Alabama: The Political Evolution of a One-Party State." In *The New Politics of the Old South: An Introduction to Southern Politics*, Eighth Edition. Edited by Charles S. Bullock, III and Mark J. Rozell. Rowman and Littlefield: Lanham, Maryland.

**Hughes, David A.** 2024. "Decision Making on U.S. State Courts." In *The Research Handbook on Judicial Politics*. Edited by Michael P. Fix and Matthew Montgomery. Elgar Publishing.

**Hughes, David A.** 2022. "Alabama: Polarized and Uncompetitive." In *The New Politics of the Old South: An Introduction to Southern Politics*, Seventh Edition. Edited by Charles S. Bullock, III and Mark J. Rozell. Rowman and Littlefield: Lanham, Maryland.

**Hughes, David A.** 2018. "Alabama: Race, Realignment, and One-Party Politics." In *The New Politics of the Old South: An Introduction to Southern Politics*, Sixth Edition. Edited by Charles S. Bullock, III and Mark J. Rozell. Rowman and Littlefield: Lanham, Maryland.

## PAPERS UNDER REVIEW

"The Racial Integration of a Deep South Judiciary." With Nathan Jordan. (*Invited to revise and resubmit*)

"Women's Judiciary Access: The Case of Alabama." With Brenna Armstrong and Nathan Jordan. (*Invited to revise and resubmit*)

**BOOKS IN PREPARATION**      *The Separation of Powers, Judicial Institutions and Legitimacy in American States.*  
With Teena Wilhelm.

**PAPERS IN PREPARATION**      “The Partisan Realignment of Southern State Courts.” With Seth McKee.

“Revisiting Senatorial Courtesy and Appointments to U.S. District Courts.” With Nicholas O. Howard and Philip Warncke.

“Dangerous (Legal) Language: Building a Lexical Model of State Court Ideology.” With Jake Truscott and Michael Romano.

**BOOK REVIEWS**      **Hughes, David A.** 2022. “*US Supreme Court Doctrine in the State High Courts, 2020*,” Michael P. Fix and Benjamin J. Kassow, New York: Cambridge University Press.” *Law and Politics Book Review*, Vol. 32 (8).

**Hughes, David A.** 2019. “*Judicial Elections in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, 2017*,” Edited by Chris W. Bonneau and Melinda Gann Hall, New York: Routledge Press.” *Law and Politics Book Review*, Vol. 29 (3): 31-3.

**Hughes, David A.** 2014. “*The Behavior of Federal Judges: A Theoretical and Empirical Study of Rational Choice, 2013*,” Lee Epstein, William M. Landes, and Richard A. Posner, Cambridge: Harvard University Press.” *The Journal of Politics*, Vol. 76 (2).

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

- Undergraduate courses
  - Introduction to American Politics
  - Introduction to Law and Legal Reasoning
  - Introduction to Game Theory
  - State and Local Government
  - Research Design and Methodology
  - Survey Research Methodology
  - Judicial Politics
  - Southern Politics
  - Civil Rights Law
  - Constitutional Law: Rights and Liberties
  - Constitutional Law: Institutional Powers
- Graduate courses
  - Southern Politics
  - Judicial Politics
  - Linear Regression Analysis
  - Maximum Likelihood Estimation
  - Survey Research Methodology
  - Research Design
  - Capstone Seminar

<b>DOCTORAL COMMITTEES</b>	Troy Chen. 2023. <i>Examining the Causes of Variation among States' Safe Drinking Water Act Violations</i> . Auburn University. In fulfillment of a doctoral degree in Public Administration and Public Policy. Role: Committee Member.
<b>MASTER'S THESES</b>	<p>Katelyn Brewton. 2023. "Financial Literacy and Its Impact on Economic Well-Being." Auburn University at Montgomery. In fulfillment of a master's degree in Public Administration. Role: Principal Advisor.</p> <p>Christal Chapman. 2023. "The CROWN Act: A Movement for Hair Justice." Auburn University at Montgomery. In fulfillment of a master's degree in Public Administration. Role: Principal Advisor.</p> <p>Teraney Eatmon. 2023. "The Effect of Education Funding and Crime in Communities." Auburn University at Montgomery. In fulfillment of a master's degree in Public Administration. Role: Principal Advisor.</p> <p>Emmanuel Tieku. 2023. "What Explains the Variability of Inflation in Ghana?" Auburn University at Montgomery. In fulfillment of a master's degree in Public Administration. Role: Principal Advisor.</p> <p>Shabrittany Williams. 2023. "A Sober Drive Can Save Lives." Auburn University at Montgomery. In fulfillment of a master's degree in Public Administration. Role: Principal Advisor.</p>
<b>RECENT HONORS, AWARDS, &amp; GRANTS</b>	<p>University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Selected as Constitution Day Keynote Speaker (2025)</p> <p>University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Nominated for Outstanding Faculty Advisor Award (2025)</p> <p>University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Appointment as Associate Member of Graduate Faculty to Five-Year Term (2024)</p> <p>University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Appointment as Anthony Moroux Endowed Professor in Political Science (2024)</p> <p>University of Louisiana at Lafayette Research Travel Grant (2024): A \$1,500 award to present research at the 2025 annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association</p> <p>Auburn University at Montgomery Graduate Student Research and Advisory Council Grant (2024): A \$5,000 award to conduct public opinion research on the 2024 Republican primary election for Alabama's First Congressional District with a graduate student</p> <p>Auburn University at Montgomery Graduate Student Research and Advisory Council Grant (2024): A \$2,688 award to conduct research on state supreme court death penalty cases between 2000 and 2020 and their coverage among local news reporters with a graduate student</p> <p>Auburn University at Montgomery Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Grant (2024): A \$3,000 award to conduct public opinion research on the 2024 Republican primary election for Alabama's First Congressional District with an</p>

undergraduate student

Auburn University at Montgomery Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Grant (2024): A \$3,000 award to conduct research on the racial integration of Alabama's Circuit Courts with an undergraduate student

Auburn University at Montgomery Lectures Committee Award (2024): A \$3,000 award to host distinguished scholars' keynote addresses for Auburn University at Montgomery's 2024 Southern Studies Conference

Alabama Humanities Alliance (2023): A \$1,500 award to host a distinguished scholar's keynote address for Auburn University at Montgomery's 2023 Southern Studies Conference

Auburn University at Montgomery Lectures Committee Award (2023): A \$4,000 award to host distinguished scholars' keynote addresses for Auburn University at Montgomery's 2023 Southern Studies Conference

Auburn University at Montgomery Lectures Committee Award (2021): A \$2,000 award to host a distinguished scholar's keynote address for Auburn University at Montgomery's 2022 recognition of Constitution Day

Auburn University at Montgomery Lectures Committee Award (2020): A \$1,500 award to host a distinguished scholar's keynote address for Auburn University at Montgomery's 2020 recognition of Constitution Day

## **CONFERENCE PAPERS**

"Separation of Powers, Court Curbing, and Judicial Legitimacy in American States." Presented at the 2025 annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association. With Teena Wilhelm.

"Revisiting Senatorial Courtesy and Appointments to U.S. District Courts." Presented at the 2025 annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association. With Nicholas O. Howard and Philip Warncke.

"The Racial Integration of the Alabama Judiciary." Presented at the 2024 annual meeting of the North Carolina Political Science Association. With Nathan Jordan.

"The Racial Integration of the Alabama Judiciary." Presented at the 2024 biennial meeting of the Symposium on Southern Politics at the Citadel. With Nathan Jordan.

"The Evolving Role of Local Journalism and State Supreme Court Decision-Making in Death Cases." Presented at the 2024 annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association.

"Selecting Diverse Chief Justices in the American States." Presented at the 2023 annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association. With Teena Wilhelm, Richard L. Vining, Jr., and Aidan Gonzalez.

"Chief Justice Selection and Ideology: An Update." Presented at the 2022 annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association. With Teena Wilhelm and Richard L. Vining, Jr.

"Information Heuristics in Judicial Elections Using an Experimental Design." Pre-

- sented at the 2021 annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association.
- “Local Media Coverage of Candidates for State Supreme Courts.” Presented at the 2020 annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association.
- “Local Media and the Unraveling of Democratic Linkages in Judicial Politics.” Presented at the 2019 annual meeting of the American Political Science Association.
- “Court Curbing as Environmental Position-Taking.” Presented at the 2019 annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association. With Nicholas O. Howard.
- “Judicial Representation in Alabama.” Presented at the 2019 annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association.
- “Covering the Courts: Journalism and the Electoral Connection in State Supreme Courts.” Presented at the 2018 annual meeting of the State Politics and Policy Conference.
- “Court Curbing as Environmental Position-Taking.” Presented at the 2018 annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association. With Nicholas O. Howard.
- “Patterns of Descriptive Representation in Alabama’s Judiciary.” Presented at the 2018 annual meeting of the Alabama Political Science Association. With Rania Marwan.
- “Court-Curbing as Environmental Position-Taking.” Presented at the 2018 annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association. With Nicholas O. Howard.
- “Ideology on the U.S. Courts of Appeals.” Presented at the 2018 annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association. With Nicholas O. Howard.
- “The Political Economy of State Supreme Court Retirements.” Presented at the 2017 annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association.”
- “Presidential Leadership Strategy and Legislative Relations in International Agreement-Making.” With Kiki Caruson. Presented at the 2017 annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association.”
- “Judicial Polarization on State Supreme Courts.” With Christopher Hare and Ryan Bakker. Presented at the 2017 annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association.
- “Judicial Visibility and Accountability on State Supreme Courts.” Presented at the 2017 annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association.
- “The Medium is Not the Message: Judicial Accountability, Visibility, and Posturing.” Presented at the 2016 annual meeting of the Public Choice Society.
- “Interbranch Politics and Federal Court Reform.” With Richard L. Vining, Jr. and Teena Wilhelm. Presented at the 2016 annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association.
- “An Information-Based Theory of Judicial Choice with an Application to State Supreme Courts.” Presented at the 2015 annual meeting of the American Political Science Association.

“Judicial Visibility as a Form of Accountability” Presented at the 2015 annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association.

“Constraint at the Ideological Extremes: Testing Attitudes and Legal Regimes.” With Gordon Ballingrud. Presented at the 2015 annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association.

“Judicial Visibility, Information Asymmetries, and Voter Welfare: Do Electorally Accountable Judiciaries Promote Voter Welfare?” Presented at the 2014 annual meeting of the American Political Science Association.

“Are Amicus Briefs Still a Reliable Signaling Device?: An Examination of Certiorari Decisions and Amicus Citations at the U.S. Supreme Court.” With Daniel J. Hoppe. Presented at the 2014 annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association.

“An Economic Analysis of State Supreme Court Retirements.” Presented at the 2014 annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association.

“U.S. Supreme Court Doctrine and the Role of the Chief Justice.” Presented at the 2013 annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association.

“Civil Liberties and the Determinants of Local Newspaper Coverage of State Supreme Courts.” With Sara Hiers. Presented at the 2013 annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association.

#### **OTHER WRITING**

“In Many States, Simple Elections to Keep or Fire Judges Have Become a Partisan Mess.” *London School of Economics U.S. Centre*. 27 February 2019. [goo.gl/tDe7tS](https://www.lse.ac.uk/USCentre/press-releases/2019/02/27/in-many-states-simple-elections-to-keep-or-fire-judges-have-become-a-partisan-mess/).

“How Republican Missteps Turned Alabama Blue.” *The Conversation*. 13 December 2017. [goo.gl/HkDkeu](https://www.theconversation.com/how-republican-missteps-turned-alabama-blue/2017/12/13).

“Defying Trump, Alabama GOP Picks Roy Moore and Embraces the Same Old Politics of Rage.” *The Conversation*. 27 September 2017. [goo.gl/DzxtHV](https://www.theconversation.com/defying-trump-alabama-gop-picks-roy-moore-and-embraces-the-same-old-politics-of-rage/2017/9/27)

#### **RECENT UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

Pre-Law Program Advisor, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, 2024 to present

Pre-Law Society Advisor, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, 2024 to present

Bachelor of Political Science Assessment Revision Committee, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, 2024 to 2025

Southern Studies Conference Director, Auburn University at Montgomery, 2022 to 2024

Tenure and Promotion Committee, Auburn University at Montgomery, 2022

Graduate Student Research Council, Auburn University at Montgomery, 2021 to 2024

AUM Polling Center Director, Auburn University at Montgomery, 2020 to 2024

Joint Doctoral Program Comprehensive Exam Committee, Auburn University at Montgomery, 2018 to 2024

Core Curriculum Committee, Auburn University at Montgomery, 2020 to 2023

Constitution Day Coordinator, Auburn University at Montgomery, 2016 to 2022

**JOURNAL  
REFEREE**

*American Journal of Political Science*      *Politics, Groups, and Identities*

*American Political Science Review*      *Publius: The Journal of Federalism*

*Journal of Experimental Criminology*      *Social Science Quarterly*

*Journal of Law and Courts*      *Social Science Review*

*Journal of Political Science Education*      *Southern Studies*

*Political Behavior*      *State & Local Government Review*

*Political Communication*      *State Politics & Policy Quarterly*

*Political Research Quarterly*

**RECENT PRO-  
FESSIONAL  
SERVICE**

Editorial Board Member, *State Politics & Policy Quarterly*, 2025 to present

Search Committee Member, *Journal of Law and Courts* Editorial Team Search, 2025-present

Panel Discussant and Chair, "State and Lower Federal Courts." Annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association. 2025

Panel Chair, "The Doctrines of the Roberts Court." Annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association. 2024

Co-webmaster (with Shane Gleason and Allison Trochesset), American Political Science Association's organized section for Law and Courts, 2021 to 2023

Panel Discussant and Chair, "Appellate Procedure and Selection in the Nation." Annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association. 2023

Panel Discussant and Chair, "Federal Judicial Selection." Annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association. 2022

Panel Participant, "Transitioning from Graduate School to Academia." Annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association. 2022

Panel Discussant and Chair, "Judicial Elections in the U.S. States." Annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association. 2021

Panelist, "Navigating the Academic Job Market as a Junior Scholar." Southern Studies Conference at Auburn University at Montgomery. 2021

Panelist, "Navigating the Academic Job Market as a Junior Scholar." Southern Studies Conference at Auburn University at Montgomery. 2020

Panel Chair, “Food Narratives of an Evolving South.” Southern Studies Conference at Auburn University at Montgomery. 2020

**RECENT  
COMMUNITY  
SERVICE**

Appeared on KRVS radio’s Bayou Politique to discuss tariffs and the economic impact (April 2025)

Appeared on KATC TV to discuss the politics of the Super Bowl halftime show in New Orleans, Louisiana (February 2025)

Gave lecture to the Acadiana Kiwanis Club on the federal transition from the Biden to Trump administrations (December 2024)

Gave lecture to the League of Women Voters of New Iberia, Louisiana about the Electoral College (November 2024)

Appeared on KATC TV for live coverage of the 2024 presidential election (November 2024)

Appeared on KATC TV to discuss school funding in Lafayette Parish, Louisiana (November 2024)

Appeared on KLFY TV to discuss lawsuit challenging placement of Ten Commandments in Louisiana public school classrooms (November 2024)

Appeared on KRVS radio’s Bayou Politique to discuss the outcomes of the 2024 presidential election (November 2024)

Appeared on WBMA TV to discuss 2024 presidential and congressional elections (November 2024)

**SOFTWARE**

STATA, R, WinBUGS, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, Microsoft

**REFERENCES**

Available upon request

Last Updated: January 2026