

Aaron J. Ley, Ph.D.

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Washington State University, Department of Political Science, 2011.

Major Fields: Public Policy and Public Administration
Subfield: Public Law & Courts

M.A., Washington State University, Political Science, 2007.

B.A., Concordia College – Moorhead, MN, Political Science, 2005.

Cum Laude

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2019 - Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Rhode Island.
- 2017 - MPA Director, Department of Political Science, University of Rhode Island.
- 2014 - Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Rhode Island.
- 2012 - 2014 Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science and Public Administration, University of North Dakota.
- 2012 - 2014 Associate Member of the Graduate School Faculty, Department of Political Science and Public Administration, University of North Dakota.
- 2011 - 2012 Lecturer, Department of Political Science and Public Administration, University of North Dakota.
- 2010 - 2011 Adjunct Professor, School of Government and Public Policy, University of Arizona.
- 2009 – 2010 Adjunct Instructor, Department of Political Science, Gonzaga University.

2007 – 2010 Graduate Student Instructor, Department of Political Science, Washington State University

PUBLICATIONS

Forthcoming. “What’s Water Got to Do With It? Place Related Symbolic Meanings Alter Residents’ Perceived Effects of Coastal Infrastructure,” (with Bryce DuBois and Katherine Lacasse). *Ecopsychology*.

2018. “Paths of Constitutional Change: How Politics Shaped the Ratification Choices During the 18th and 21st Amendments,” (with Cornell W. Clayton). *Journal of Policy History* 30 (4): 609-634.

2018. “Mobilizing Doubt: The Legal Mobilization of Climate Denialist Groups.” *Law & Policy* 40 (3): 221-242.

2016. “Vested Interests, Venue Shopping, and Policy Stability: The Long Road to Improving Air Quality in Oregon’s Willamette Valley.” *Review of Policy Research* 33 (5): 506-525.

2015. “The Adaptive Venue Shopping Framework: How Emergent Groups Choose Environmental Policymaking Venues,” (with Edward P. Weber). *Environmental Politics* 24 (5), 703-722.

2014. “The Political Foundations of *Miranda v. Arizona* and the Quarles Public Safety Exception,” (with Gordie Verhovek). *Berkeley Journal of Criminal Law* 19 (2), 206-251.

2014. “Policy Change and Venue Choice: Field Burning in Idaho and Washington,” (with Edward P. Weber). *Society & Natural Resources*. 27 (6): 645-655.

2014. “The Costs and Benefits of American Policy-Making Venues,” *Law & Society Review*, 48 (1): 91-126.

2013. “The Mysterious Persistence of Non-Consensual Norms on the U.S. Supreme Court,” (with Kathleen E. Searles and Cornell W. Clayton). *Tulsa Law Review*, 49 (1) (Summer): 99-124.

BOOK CHAPTERS / BOOK REVIEWS

2021. “Book Review: *The Conservation Constitution: The Conservation Movement and Constitutional Change, 1870-1930*.” University Press of Kansas. *Review of Politics*, 83 (1): 117-120.

2019. "Book Review: *The Myth of the Litigious Society: Why Americans don't Sue.*" University of Chicago Press. *Law & Politics Book Review*, 29(1): 8-11.
2017. "Endangered Species," in *Today's Environmental Issues: Democrats and Republicans*, ed. Teri J. Walker. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO.
2017. "Grazing," (with Leah Boisclair) in *Today's Environmental Issues: Democrats and Republicans*, ed. Teri J. Walker. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO.
2017. "Hazardous Waste Disposal," (with Bridget Hall) in *Today's Environmental Issues: Democrats and Republicans*, ed. Teri J. Walker. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO.
2016. "Book Review: *Debating the American State: Liberal Anxieties and the New Leviathan, 1930-1970.*" University of Pennsylvania Press. *Law & Society Review*.
2014. "Book Review: *Regulating Obesity? Government, Society, and Questions of Health.*" Oxford University Press. *Law & Politics Book Review*, 24 (9): 490-492.
2014. "The Department of the Interior and its Precursors: History, Responsibilities, and Policies (1800s-present)," (with Edward P. Weber) in *The Guide to U.S. Environmental Policy*, eds. Sally Fairfax and Edmund Russell. New York: CQ Press.
2014. "Book Review: *Father, Son, and Constitution: How Justice Tom Clark and Attorney General Ramsey Clark Shaped American Democracy.*" University Press of Kansas. *Law & Politics Book Review*, 24 (2): 58-62.

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

2019. "Rhode Island's Coal-Fired Conflict: How Closed-Cycle Cooling Towers Altered the Views(heds) of Mount Hope Bay Residents." Research presented at the annual meeting of the New England Political Science Association, Portland, ME, Apr. 25-27.
2018. "Dismantling a Dirty Dozen: How Environmental Stakeholders Saved the Bay using the Clean Water Act." Research presented at the annual meeting of the Western Political Science Association, San Francisco, CA, Mar. 29-Apr. 1.
2017. Panel Chair and Discussant: Policy in the US. Participation at the annual meeting of the New England Political Science Association, Providence, RI, Apr. 20-22.
2017. "Mobilizing Doubt: The Legal Mobilization of Climate Denialist Groups." Research presented at the annual meeting of the New England Political Science Association, Providence, RI, Apr. 20-22.

2016. “Mobilizing Doubt: The Legal Mobilization of Climate Denialist Groups.” Research presented at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, Philadelphia, PA, Sep. 1-4.

2016. “Paths of Constitutional Change: How Politics Shaped the Ratification Choices During the 18th and 21st Amendments,” (with Cornell W. Clayton). Research presented at the annual meeting of the Western Political Science Association, San Diego, CA, Mar. 24-26.

2015. Panel Chair and Discussant: Takin’ it to the Streets: Legal Mobilization in the United States and Abroad. Participation at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, San Francisco, CA, Sep. 3-5.

2015. Panel Chair and Discussant: Policy Networks and Policy Arenas. Participation at the annual meeting of the Western Political Science Association, Las Vegas, NV, Apr. 2-4.

2015. “The Pacific Northwest Smoke Wars: The Adaptive Venue Shopping Framework and the Pursuit of Environmental Policy Goals.” Research presented at the annual meeting of the Western Political Science Association, Las Vegas, NV, Apr. 2-4.

2014. Invited Participant: Insights From Recently Published Work in *Law & Society Review*, “The Costs and Benefits of American Policy-Making Venues.” Participation at the annual meeting of the Law & Society Association Meeting, Minneapolis, MN, May 29-Jun. 01.

2014. Chair: Public Interest Litigation and Rights Discourse from Left to Right. Participation at the annual meeting of the Western Political Science Association, Seattle, WA, Apr. 17-19.

2014. “Constitutional Choices: The Ratification of the 21st Amendment through State Conventions.” Research presented at the annual meeting of the Western Political Science Association, Seattle, WA, Apr. 17-19.

2014. “Constitutional Choices: The Ratification of the 21st Amendment through State Constitutional Conventions.” Research presented at the annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, New Orleans, LA, Jan. 9-11.

2014. Discussant: Constitutional Law and Jurisprudence. Participation at the annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, New Orleans, LA, Jan. 9-11.

2013. “Impasse: Cooperative and Union Officials Discuss the Difficulties in Resolving the Lockout of Union Members at American Crystal Sugar Processing Plants,” (with Curtis Stofferahn). Research presented at the annual meeting of the Rural Sociological Society, New York City, NY, Aug. 7-9

2013. “Alternative Service Delivery Prospects and Use in the Rural Context: The Case of North Dakota,” (with Dana Harsell and Robert S. Wood). Research presented at the annual meeting of the New York Political Science Association, Syracuse, NY, Apr. 19-20.

2013. “Practicality and Privatization in a Rural Context: Data and Analysis from North Dakota,” (with Dana Harsell and Robert S. Wood). Research presented at the annual meeting of the Western Political Science Association, Hollywood, CA, Mar. 28-30.

2013. “Field Burning Politics in the Pacific Northwest: The Relative Costs and Benefits of Policymaking in the Legislature, Executive, and Judiciary.” Research to be presented at the annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, Orlando, FL, Jan 3-5.

2012. “Lockout: Deterioration of Cooperative and Union Relations,” (with Curtis Stofferahn). Research presented at the annual meeting of the Rural Sociological Society, Chicago, IL, Jul. 25-28.

2012. “Choosing Venues: The Logic of Choice in Policy Markets for Field Burning,” (with Edward P. Weber). Research presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, Apr 12-15.

2012. Discussant: The Interplay of Law and Policy. Participation at the annual meeting of the Western Political Science Association, Portland, OR, Mar. 22-24.

2012. “From the Circuit Courts to the Supreme Court: An Analysis of Cross-Institution Behavior,” (with J. Mitchell Pickerill). Research presented at the annual meeting of the Western Political Science Association, Portland, OR, Mar. 22-24.

2010. “The Relative Costs and Benefits of Litigation: The Case of Inland Northwest Field Burning Policy in the Legislature, Executive, and Judiciary.” Research presented at the annual meeting of the Western Political Science Association, San Francisco, CA, Apr 2.

2009. “The Legal and Political Dynamics of Field Burning Policy in the Inland Northwest.” Research presented before the Graduate Student and Professional Association’s Research Exposition, Pullman, WA, Nov. 10.

Awarded First Place in Social and Administrative Sciences Category

2009. “The Legal and Political Dynamics of Field Burning Policy in the Inland Northwest.” Research presented before the Washington State University Legal Studies Group, Pullman, WA, Nov. 4.

2009. “Understanding Adversarial Legalism: An Analysis of Three Pacific and Inland Northwest States.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Law & Society Association, Denver, CO, May 30.

2008. “From the Circuit Courts to the Supreme Court: An Analysis of Cross-Institution Voting Behavior,” (with J. Mitchell Pickerill). Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Southwestern Political Science Association, Las Vegas, NV, Mar. 14.

2007. “The Mysterious Persistence of Non-Consensual Norms on the U.S. Supreme Court,” (with Cornell W. Clayton). Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Pacific Northwest Political Science Association, Spokane, WA, Oct. 19.

2007. “Supreme Court Justices upon Promotion to the Supreme Court,” (with J. Mitchell Pickerill). Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, Apr. 14.

2006. “Elevating Circuit Court Judges to the Supreme Court,” (with J. Mitchell Pickerill). Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Pacific Northwest Political Science Association, Bend, OR, Oct. 20.

COURSES TAUGHT & SCHEDULED

The Politics of the Narragansett and Mount Hope Bays (University of Rhode Island).

Graduate-Level Seminar in Public Policy Problems (University of Rhode Island).

Political Science Seminar in Public Policymaking (University of Rhode Island).

Graduate-Level Seminar in The Policy-Making Process (University of Rhode Island).

American Government (Washington State University, Gonzaga University, University of North Dakota)

Politics of Public Administration (University of North Dakota).

American Constitution – Governmental Powers (University of North Dakota, University of Rhode Island).

American Constitution – Civil Liberties (University of North Dakota).

American Public Policy (Washington State University).

Introduction to Public Administration (Washington State University).

Environmental Politics and Policy (University of Rhode Island).

The Judicial Process (Washington State University, University of Rhode Island).

Bureaucracy, Politics, and Public Policy (University of Arizona).

Macro Policy Analysis for International Competitiveness (University of Arizona).

Graduate-Level Seminar in Public Administration (University of North Dakota, University of Rhode Island).

Graduate-Level Administrative Law (University of North Dakota).

INVITED TALKS/GUEST LECTURES/PRESENTATIONS

Colorado State University, US Environmental Politics and Policy Series. April 16, 2018. “Mobilizing Doubt: The Legal Mobilization of Climate Denialist Groups.”

Panelist, University of Rhode Island, Climate Change Science in an Age of Misinformation. April 22, 2016. “The Legal Mobilization of Climate Denialist Groups.”

University of North Dakota, North Dakota Girls State. June 12, 2014. “The North Dakota Supreme Court.”

University of North Dakota, North Dakota Girls State. June 9, 2014. “North Dakota District Courts.”

University of North Dakota, North Dakota Girls State. June 8, 2014. “North Dakota Municipal Courts.”

University of North Dakota, North Dakota Girls State. June 13, 2013. “The North Dakota Supreme Court.”

University of North Dakota, Center for Instructional and Learning Technologies Teaching with Technology Seminar. June 13, 2013. “Blogging and Micro-Blogging to Stimulate Student Interaction and Discussion.”

University of North Dakota, North Dakota Girls State. June 10, 2013. “North Dakota District Courts.”

University of North Dakota, North Dakota Girls State. June 9, 2013. “North Dakota Municipal Courts.”

University of North Dakota. September 17, 2012. “Constitution Day and Citizenship Day: A Discussion of Judicial Independence.”

Jinling High School AP Honors Seminar, Nanjing, China. March 28 – April 15, 2011. “Lectures in Global Environmental Politics.”

Nanjing University, Nanjing, China. March 3, 2011. “American Film and Politics: Oliver Stone, ‘W,’ and the Role of Religion in American Politics.”

LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY & OTHER GOVERNMENT SERVICE

The Town of Bristol Recycling Program: A Policy Analysis (with Devina Thakur), 2018.

Rhode Island Senate Judiciary Committee, Hearing on S. 177, An Act Relating to Public Records – Access to Public Records, 02/07/2017. Signed into law by Governor Gina Raimondo.

Rhode Island House Judiciary Committee, Hearing on H. 5098, An Act Relating to Public Records – Access to Public Records, 01/18/2017. Signed into law by Governor Gina Raimondo.

Rhode Island House Judiciary Committee, Hearings on H-8124, An Act Relating to Public Records – Access to Public Records, 05/18/2016.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

NASPAA New Directors Institute and Consensus-Building Workshop, October 14, 2015.

Alice T. Clark Mentoring Program, Second Year Program, University of North Dakota, Sep 2013 – May 2014.

Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research Summer Program, University of Michigan, June 24, 2013 – July 19, 2013.

Alice T. Clark Mentoring Program, University of North Dakota, Aug 2012 – May 2013.

Teaching with Technology, University of North Dakota, Summer 2012 (2 Week Seminar).

SCHOLARSHIPS/ FELLOWSHIPS/ AWARDS / GRANTS

Real Jobs Rhode Island Policy Evaluation Grant, Co-Investigator, \$150,000 (2015-2018).

University of North Dakota, College of Business and Public Administration, Summer Project Grant (2013).

University of North Dakota, Senate Scholarly Activities Committee, Travel Grant (2013).

University of North Dakota, College of Business and Public Administration, Teaching and Learning Grant (2012).

University of North Dakota, Senate Scholarly Activities Committee, Travel Grant (2012)

Washington State University, Department of Political Science - Most Outstanding Ph.D. Student (2010).

Washington State University, Graduate Student Association - Professionalization Grant (2009).

Thomas S. Foley Center for Public Policy and Public Service - Alice O. Rice Legislative Studies Fellowship (2009).

Concordia College Excellence Scholarship (2002-2005).

MEDIA APPEARANCES

End of Legislative Session Analysis, GoLocalProv Live, Providence, RI, 06/27/2018.

Bill of Rights Day Discussion, "Main Street," Prairie Public Radio, Grand Forks, ND, 12-16-2013.

Analysis of the Supreme Court's Decision to Strike Down Section III of DOMA, "KVLV Valley News Live 6:30 Point of View," Fargo, ND, 06-26-2013.

The PATRIOT Act and the Obama Administration's Collection of Cell Phone Data, "KVLV Valley News Live," Fargo, ND, 06-07-2013.

North Dakota Abortion Law Analysis, "Main Street," Prairie Public Radio, Grand Forks, ND, 03-27-2013.

Election Night Analysis with Mike McFeely, CBS-Affiliate KFGO 790 AM, Fargo, ND, 11-06-2012.

DISCIPLINE / COMMUNITY / UNIVERSITY / DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

Bristol Town Councilor, 2018 – Present.

Board of Directors, Bristol-Warren Education Foundation, 2017-2018 (Chairperson of Community Outreach Committee).

Secretary, University of Rhode Island Chapter, American Association of University Professors, 2017 – 2018.

Western Political Science Association Dissertation Award Committee, 2016-2017.

Assessment Reviewer, University of Rhode Island, Summer 2015 & Summer 2017.

Committee Member, Herbert Jacob Book Prize, Law & Society Association, 2014-2015.

Higher Education Panel, “Reflections on First Year Experience,” University of North Dakota, 09/11/2013.

Alice T. Clark Mentoring Program Panel, “Making the Most out of your First Year,” University of North Dakota, 09/05/2013.

Committee Member, U-PAC, North Dakota Public Employees Association Political Action Committee, 08/09/2013 – 05/15/2014.

Faculty Teaching with Technology Showcase, University of North Dakota, 02/20/2013.

North Dakota Public Employees Association, Committee on Political Education, 08/2012 – 08/2013.

Faculty Representative, North Dakota Public Employees Association Chapter 41, 09/2011 – 09/2012.

Advisor, University of North Dakota University Democrats, 09/2011 – 05/2013.

Editorial Assistant, *Political Research Quarterly*, 08/2006 – 06/2008.

Research Assistant, Division of Governmental Studies and Services, Washington State University Hazard Mitigation Plan, 05/2006 – 08/2006.

Editorial Assistant, *Law & Courts* newsletter for the Law & Courts organized section of the American Political Science Association, 11/2005 – 09/2007.

Peer-review activities: *Environmental Politics*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *American Politics Research*, *State Politics and Policy Quarterly*, *Society & Natural Resources*, *Sociological Inquiry*, and *Law & Society Review*.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

I am a “baseball park chaser” and it is my life-long goal to travel to every Major League Baseball park in the country. In these travels I am sometimes accompanied by my dog, Newman, who is a “rabid” Minnesota Twins fan.

REFERENCES

J. Mitchell Pickerill, Dissertation Committee Co-Chair
Associate Professor of Political Science
Department of Political Science
Northern Illinois University

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(815) 753-7056

Cornell W. Clayton, Dissertation Committee Co-Chair
Distinguished Professor of Political Science
Director, Thomas S. Foley Center for Public Policy and Public Service
Department of Political Science
Washington State University
PO Box 644880
801 Johnson Tower
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Ulysses Dubach Professor of Political Science
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Dana Harsell
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Associate Professor
Department of Political Science and Public Administration
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