

## **KIRSTEN L. WIDNER**

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### **ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, KNOXVILLE, August 1, 2020 - present  
Assistant Professor of Political Science

EMORY UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, 2007 - 2013

Initially hired as a Post-Graduate Fellow in Law, 2007

Appointed as Clinical Instructor / Director of Policy and Advocacy, January 2010

### **EDUCATION**

EMORY UNIVERSITY, DEPT. OF POLITICAL SCIENCE, Ph.D., 2020

UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO SCHOOL OF LAW, J.D., *cum laude*, 2007

UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO, B.S. in Organizational Behavior, *college honors*,  
2002

### **PUBLICATIONS**

#### Book

*Race, Gender, and Political Representation: Toward a More Intersectional Approach* (with Beth Reingold and Kerry L. Haynie) (Oxford University Press 2021).

Awarded the 2021 Richard F. Fenno prize from the Legislative Studies Section of APSA.

#### Political Science Journals

"Legislating at the Intersections: Race, Gender, and Representation" (with Beth Reingold and Rachel Harmon), *Political Research Quarterly*, 2020; 73(4):819-33.

#### Law Reviews

"In Defense of the Black/White Binary: Reclaiming a Tradition of Civil Rights Scholarship" (with Roy L. Brooks), *Berkeley J. Afr.-Am. L. & Pol'y*, 2010; 12:107-44. Anthologized in *Critical Race Theory: The Cutting Edge* (Richard Delgado and Jean Stefancic eds., 3d ed.) (2013, Temple University Press).

"Comment, Continuing the Evolution: Why California Should Amend Family Code Section 8616.5 to Allow Visitation in All Postadoption Contact Agreements," *San Diego L. Rev.* 2007; 44:355-86.

#### Other

"Women of color won congressional seats in record numbers. How will they legislate?" *The Monkey Cage* blog at the *Washington Post*, available at: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2020/11/24/women-color-won-congressional-seats-record-numbers-how-will-they-legislate/>

"More than Voting," *Atlanta Lawyer* (Nov. 2012).

Practitioners' Guide, *Improving Offender Accountability in CSEC Cases: Tools for Investigating and Prosecuting Adult Exploiters* (with Darlene Lynch and Kosha Tucker) (first edition 2011 and second edition 2012), available at: <http://bartoncenter.net/http://bartoncenter.net/work/childwelfare/CSEC.html>.

Policy Paper, *Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Georgia: Service Delivery and Legislative Recommendations for State and Local Policy Makers* (with Darlene Lynch) (2007), available at: [http://bartoncenter.net/uploads/fall2011updates/status\\_other/CSEC-recs-for-policy-makers.pdf](http://bartoncenter.net/uploads/fall2011updates/status_other/CSEC-recs-for-policy-makers.pdf).

## **PAPERS UNDER REVIEW**

*Interest Groups and Social Media Usage: How Do Organizations' Posts Differ Across Facebook and Twitter?* (with Maggie MacDonald and Anna Gunderson).

## **WORKING PAPERS**

*Who Do You Trust? Voter Evaluations of Candidates' Intersectional Identities* (with Elizabeth Wiener).

*The Political Determinants of Successful Gun Violence Legislation* (with Sarah Shalf).

*Lobbying in Public: Interest Group Activity on Social Media* (with Maggie MacDonald and Anna Gunderson).

*Pursuing Change or Pursuing Credit? Litigation and Credit Claiming on Social Media* (with Maggie MacDonald and Anna Gunderson)

*Rule Choice in the U.S. Court of Appeals* (with Micheal Giles).

*The Politics of Religious Exemptions in U.S. Federal Courts* (with Benjamin R. Hertzberg, Daniel Arnon, and Micah Schwartzman).

## **SELECTED PRESENTATIONS**

*Pursuing Change or Pursuing Credit? Litigation and Credit Claiming on Social Media* (with Maggie MacDonald and Anna Gunderson), Midwest Political Science Association Conference, April 2021

*Pursuing Change or Pursuing Credit? Litigation and Credit Claiming on Social Media* (with Maggie MacDonald and Anna Gunderson), Southern Political Science Association Conference, January 2021

*Lobbying Inside (and) Out: Interest Group Behavior on Social Media* (with Maggie MacDonald and Anna Gunderson), American Political Science Association Conference, September 2020.

*Explorations in Intersectional Policymaking* (with Kerry L. Haynie and Beth Reingold), American Political Science Association Conference, August 2019.

*Structural Inequality Among Nonprofits: How Choice of Constituency Constrains Organizational Options*, Southern Political Science Association Conference, January 2019.

*Advocacy for the Powerless: How Interest Groups Approach the Representation of Non-Voters*, American Political Science Association Conference, September 2018.

*Advocacy for the Powerless: How Interest Groups Approach the Representation of Non-Voters*, Midwest Political Science Association Conference, April 2018.

*Intersecting Issues? Race, Gender, and Race\*Gender in State Policymaking* (with Beth Reingold and Rachel Harmon), American Political Science Conference, September 2017.

*Policy Pioneers and Social Control* (with Anna Gunderson), Midwest Political Science Association Conference, April 2017.

*Rule Choice in the U.S. Courts of Appeals*, Midwest Political Science Association Conference, April, 2016.

*One Parent, Two Parent, Three Parent, More?* Workshop on the Transformation of the Family and the Recognition and Regulation of Intimate Lives at Emory Law School, December 2013.

*Advocating for Children of Incarcerated Parents*, National Association of Counsel for Children Conference, Atlanta, August 2013.

*Getting a Seat at the Big Kids' Table: Increasing Consideration of Children's Interests in Public Policy Debates*, Corporate Rights v. Children's Interests Workshop, University of British Columbia, October 2012.

*The Least of These: Children, Animals, and Competition for Compassion*, An Uncomfortable Conversation: Human Use of Animals Workshop at Emory Law School, March 2012.

Panelist, *Women, Families and Communities*, BLSA Conference, Atlanta, March 2012.

*Promoting Financial Security for Children Aging Out of Foster Care*, Georgia CASA Conference, March 2012.

*Helping Foster Youth Keep What Little They Have*, Youth Law Conference, Georgia, November 2011.

*Increasing Civic Engagement*, Georgia Association for Women Lawyers CLE, Atlanta Georgia, October 2011.

*Improving Children's Mental Health Through Juvenile Code Reform*, Carter Center Mental Health Forum, May 2011.

*Considerations During Direct and Cross Examination of Children* (with Temika Murray), Council of Juvenile Court Judges Conference, May 2011.

Panelist, *Human Trafficking and the Law*, John Marshall Law School, February 2011.

Panelist, *Human Trafficking and Violence Against Women*, Georgia Women's Assembly, November 2010.

*Legislative Reform to Protect Runaway and Homeless Youth*, State Bar of Georgia Continuing Education Program, November 2010.

*The Child Witness on Direct and Cross* (with Temika Murray), Youth Law Conference, Atlanta GA, October 2010.

*Recent Case Law on Children and the Internet*, Practicing Law in the Digital Age CLE, State Bar of Georgia Young Lawyers Division, June 2010.

Moderator, *Georgia Attorney General Candidates Debate*, State Bar of Georgia Young Lawyers Division, April 2010.

*Interviewing Child Clients*, Youth Law Conference, Atlanta Georgia, November 2009.

Panelist, *Human Trafficking as a Human Rights Violation*, Emory Public Interest Committee Conference, October 2009.

*Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children*, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Child Abuse and Neglect Conference, November 2008.

*Representing Commercially Sexually Exploited Children* (with Katherine Mullen and Melanie Shapiro), National Association of Counsel for Children Conference, August 2008.

*Issues Affecting Youth in Long-Term Foster Care*, part of CLE seminar "From Model Code to Legislative Action: Changing Children's Law in Georgia," ICLE, Georgia, May 2008.

*Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: Findings and Recommendations*, Future Not a Past Campaign, Georgia, December 2007.

## **AWARDS, GRANTS, AND FELLOWSHIPS**

2021 Richard F. Fenno Prize for *Race, Gender, and Political Representation: Toward a More Intersectional Approach*

Mellon Humanities Ph.D. Interventions Grant, Summer 2018

Scholars Strategy Network Graduate Fellow, Fall 2016- Spring 2018

Scholarly Inquiry and Research at Emory (SIRE) Fellow, 2019 - 2020

## **TEACHING**

University of Tennessee, Knoxville  
Judicial Process and Policy Making

Law in American Society

Constitutional Law: Sources of Power and Restraint

Emory University, Department of Political Science  
Public Policy (Fall 2019)

Supreme Court (co-taught with Micheal Giles, Fall 2016)

Intro to American Politics (grader, Spring 2017 and Spring 2018)

Intro to International Relations (teaching assistant, Spring 2016)

Emory University, School of Law  
Public Policy Clinic (2007 - 2013)

Legislative Advocacy Clinic (2007 - 2013)

Child Welfare Law & Policy (2007 - 2013)

## **SELECTED MEDIA**

"Stopping Traffic," *Emory Magazine*, Spring 2017

"Amendment 2: Funding The Fight Against Child Sex Trafficking in Georgia,"  
*Georgia Public Broadcasting*, November 3, 2016

"Universities must remain gun free," *Emory Wheel*, February 17, 2016

"Fighting Child Sex Trafficking by Penalizing Adult Entertainment?" *WABE*,  
February 20, 2015

"New State Commission Report on Human Trafficking in Georgia: Another View," *WABE*, January 28, 2013

"Georgia juvenile justice reform recommendations would lock up fewer to save millions," *Atlanta Journal Constitution*, December 19, 2012

"Juvenile Justice Overhaul for Georgia," *Georgia Public Broadcasting*, July 19, 2012

"Different state laws on human trafficking hinder crackdown," *Associated Press*, December 1, 2011

"Sex-Trafficked Teens Find Protection in Georgia Law," *Ms. Magazine*, May 26, 2011.

"N.Y. Struggles to Aid Child Prostitutes," *Washington Post*, July 13, 2008.

## **SERVICE**

Emory University, School of Law

Public Interest Law Committee Member

Experiential Education Committee Member

Mock Trial Coach

Moot Court Judge

Professionalism Program Instructor

University of San Diego, School of Law

*San Diego Law Review*, Executive Comments Editor & Symposium Coordinator

Moot Court, National Team Member and Coach

Academic Success Fellow, Property Law

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND ACTIVITIES**

Active member in good standing, State Bar of Georgia

Inactive member in good standing, State Bar of California

Member, American Political Science Association, Midwest Political Science Association, and Southern Political Science Association

Member and 2016-2018 Georgia Chapter Graduate Fellow, Scholars Strategy Network

Exam grader, Supreme Court of Georgia Office of Bar Admissions, August 2013 - Present

Member, Children and the Courts Committee, State Bar of Georgia, 2012 - Present

Policy Mentor, Georgia Women's Policy Institute, 2013 - Present

Co-Chair, Juvenile Law Committee, Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia, 2008-2011

Co-Director of CLE, State Bar of Georgia Young Lawyers Division, 2009-2010

Chair, Workplace and Public Policy Committee, Georgia Association for Women Lawyers 2011 to 2012

NITA-Trained Trial Skills Instructor

Chair, Board of Directors, Georgia Rescue and Restore, 2010 - 2013

Registered Lobbyist, State of Georgia, 2008 to 2013