

# ISAAC UNAH

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## PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Associate Professor	UNC-Chapel Hill, 2003--Present
Visiting Scientist & Program Director	Law and Social Sciences Program, <i>National Science Foundation</i> August 2005-2007
Assistant Professor	UNC-Chapel Hill, July 1997– June 30, 2003
Research Assistant Professor	UNC-Chapel Hill, July 1995-June 30, 1997
Instructor	Stony Brook University, May 1992-June 1994

## PERSONAL DATA

Citizenship: United States

## EDUCATION

Ph.D. 1995, Political Science, Stony Brook University. *Fields of Specialization*: Judicial Politics; Regulatory & Bureaucratic Politics; Capital Punishment

M.A. 1991, Political Science, Stony Brook University

B.S. 1989, Economics & Management Science (*distinction*), SUNY College at Cortland

## PUBLICATIONS

### BOOKS

Forthcoming 2008. *The U.S. Supreme Court in American Politics*. New York: Palgrave-Macmillan Press.

1998. *The Courts of International Trade: Judicial Specialization, Expertise, and Bureaucratic Policy Making*. Ann Arbor: The University of Michigan Press.

### REFEREED ARTICLES IN ACADEMIC OUTLETS

2008. "Judicial Review." *International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, ed. William A. Darity. New York: Thompson Gale/ Macmillan Reference USA

2008. "Federalism." *International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, ed. William A. Darity. New York: Thompson Gale/ Macmillan Reference USA

2006. "The Effects of Race, Gender, and Location on Prosecutorial Decision to Seek the Death Penalty in South Carolina." *University of South Carolina Law Review*, Vol. 58:161-210 (with Michael J. Songer)

2006. "U.S. Supreme Court Decision Making, Case Salience, and the Attitudinal Model." *Law &*

*Policy* 28: 295-320, (with Ange-Marie Hancock).

2003. "Explaining Corporate Litigation Activity in an Integrated Framework of Interest Mobilization." *Business and Politics* 5:65-94

2001. "The Incidence and Structure of Conflict on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit." *Law & Policy* 23:69-93

1997. "Specialized Courts of Appeals' Review of Bureaucratic Actions and the Politics of Protectionism." *Political Research Quarterly* 50:851-878

1995. "Specialized Courts, Bureaucratic Agencies, and the Politics of U.S. Trade Policy." *American Journal of Political Science*, 39:529-557 (with Wendy L. Hansen and Renee J. Johnson)

#### REVIEW ESSAYS

2002. *Judicial Politics in the D.C. Circuit Court* by Christopher P. Banks, (The Johns Hopkins University Press), *American Political Science Review* 96:202-203

2001. *Continuity and Change on the United States Courts of Appeals* by Donald R. Songer, Reginald S. Sheehan, and Susan B. Haire (University of Michigan Press, 1999). *Journal of Politics* 64:294-297

1996. "The Supreme Court's Institutional Stature and Role in Public Policymaking" *Policy Studies Journal* 24:679-685.

#### PAPERS IN THE PIPELINE

- "Economic Conditions, Gubernatorial Politics, and the Risk of Execution in the American States." Revise and Resubmit, *Criminology*
- "Race, Politics, and the Process of Capital Punishment in North Carolina" (with John Charles Boger).
- "Electoral Proximity, Candidate Competition, and Prosecutorial Decision to Seek the Death Penalty" Revise and Resubmit, *Law and Policy*
- "Political Culture, Race, and the Implementation of the Death Penalty in the United States" (with Marco Steenbergen)
- "On the Success of State and Local Government Litigation in the U.S. Supreme Court" (With Sarah Martin).

#### RESEARCH REPORT

*Race and the Death Penalty in North Carolina: An Empirical Analysis (1993-1997)*, with John Charles Boger. Funded by the Common Sense Foundation, Raleigh NC. September 16, 2001

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2006. "Economic Conditions, Gubernatorial Politics, and the Risk of Execution in the American States," presented at the annual meetings of the Law and Society Association, Baltimore, MD. July 6-9.

2005. "Race, Political Culture, and the Duration of Death Row Inmates in the United States." Presented at the Southern Political Science Association, New Orleans, LA. May 6-8 (with Marco Steenbergen).

2004. "Explaining the Success of Organizational Criminals in Court." Presented at the Southern Political Science Association, New Orleans, LA. January 7-9.

2003. "Electoral Proximity and Prosecutorial Decision to Seek the Death Penalty." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Philadelphia, PA. August 31.

2002. "Race and the Process of Capital Punishment in the New South." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Boston MA. August 30-September 1 (with John Charles Boger)

2001. "Race, Institutional Rules, and the Politics of Capital Punishment in the New South: Evidence from the "new" North Carolina." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association. San Francisco, CA. August 30-September 2, (with John Charles Boger)

2001. "The Death Penalty in North Carolina" Presented at the annual meeting of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, Airlie Virginia, July 20-21. (*Invited Presentation*)

2001. "Litigating Death: An Empirical Analysis of Race and the Death Penalty in North Carolina." Presented at the Southeast Regional Civil Rights Conference. Sheraton Hotel-Chapel Hill, N.C. April 23-27

2000. "Determinants of Corporate Litigation Activity" Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, September 1-3, 2000 Washington D.C.

2000. "Supreme Court Decision Making, Subissue Saliency, and the Attitudinal Model." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association. April 27-30 Chicago IL

1999. "Issue Evolution in American Trade Policy." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Public Choice Society. New Orleans, LA, April 12-14 (with William R. Keech)

1998. "Differential Effects of the Attitudinal Model on Subissues Before the Supreme Court." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Boston, MA. September 3-6 (with Ange-Marie Hancock).

1998. "The Switch in Political Party Alignment in International Trade Politics" Presented at the

Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Boston, MA. September 3-6 (with William R. Keech)

1997. "An Exploration of Judicial Conflict in the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals." Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago IL, April 9-12

1996. "Specialized Court of Appeals Review of Bureaucratic Actions and the Politics of Protectionism." Presented at the Conference on the Scientific Study of Judicial Politics. Washington University - St. Louis, November 15-16

1995. "Taming the Shrewd through Judgment: Judicial Influence Over U.S. Trade Policy Implementation" Presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago. *This paper received an Honorary Mention from the law and courts section of APSA as the best paper presented in 1995 in the area of law and courts.* Paper eventually published in the *Political Research Quarterly*

1995. "Judicial Specialization and Administrative Agencies: The U.S. Court of International Trade" Presented at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, Chicago, IL

1995. "Judicial Specialization and Deference to Administrative Agencies" Presented in the annual meeting of the New York State Political Science Association, New York City.

1993. "How The Supreme Court Decided Civil Rights Cases: 1954-1989" Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Washington D.C.

1993. "The Role of the Courts in U.S. Trade Policy-Making." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Washington D.C. September 2-5 (with Renee J. Johnson and Wendy L. Hansen).

1993. "The Reciprocal Effects of Political Intolerance and Education." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Northeastern Political Science Association, Newark, NJ

### **Public Presentations on Behalf of the National Science Foundation**

- 2006. Funding Opportunities at NSF for Law and Social Science Research, Presented at the Law and Society Association Meetings, Baltimore MD, July 7.
- 2006. "Things to Consider in Assessing your Educational Plan" Quality Education for Minorities (QEM) Network Conference, Memphis TN, January 16.
- 2005. "Funding Empirical Research." Vanderbilt University November 29.
- 2005. "Funding Empirical Research." Tennessee State University, November 30.
- 2005. "Opportunities at the National Science Foundation for funding empirical

research” Presented at the Court-Administrative Dispute Resolution Conference, Federal Judicial Center, Washington D.C. November 17.

- 2005. “Obtaining Research Grants from the Law and Social Science Program of the National Science Foundation.” American Political Science Association, Washington D.C. September 3.

### ***Related Activities***

Discussant, 2006. Panel on Judicial Specialization, American Political Science Association, Chicago IL

Invited Panelist: “Race and the Application of the Death Penalty in North Carolina” North Carolina Central University School of Law, November 16, 2001

Participant, 1997. 2nd Annual Conference on the Scientific Study of Judicial Politics, Emory University, Atlanta, GA. November 14-16

Discussant, 1997. “Governments in Courts” Panel. Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Washington, D.C.

Discussant, 1993. "State of the State Bureaucracy" Panel. Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL

Manuscript Reviewer: *National Science Foundation; American Journal of Political Science; Journal of Politics; Law and Policy; Public Choice; Political Research Quarterly; Law and Society Review; Addison Wesley Longman Press; McGraw Hill; Social Science Quarterly; Criminology and Public Policy; Public Administration Review; SUNY Press*

### ***Presentations to UNC and Other University Audiences***

Commencement Address to the Class of 2005, Tompkins Cortland Community College, Dryden New York, April 19, 2005

“An Exploration of Race and America’s Death Row Populations.” Presented to MURAP, UNC-Chapel Hill June 8, 2004

“The Death Penalty in North Carolina, 1993-1997”. Presented to MURAP, UNC-Chapel Hill, June 24, 2003

“An Empirical Analysis of the Application of Capital Punishment in North Carolina, 1993-1997.” Presented at the Law and Policy seminar series, UNC School of Law. April 24, 2002

“Institutional Rules and Politics in the Application of Capital Punishment in North Carolina” Presented to the American Politics Research Groups, UNC Chapel Hill. July 13, 2001

“Race as a ‘Silent’ Aggravating Factor in the Application of Capital Punishment in North

Carolina, 1993-1997” Presented to Participants in the Minority Undergraduate Research Assistantship Program (MURAP). Peabody Hall, UNC Chapel Hill. May 29, 2001

“Processing and Deciding Cases in the United States Supreme Court” Presented to the Faculty of Law, University of Asmara, Eritrea. May 15, 2001.

“Criminal Justices and the Death Penalty in the United States.” University of Asmara, Eritrea. May 9, 2001

“Conducting a Research Workshop”, University of Asmara May 9, 2001

“Supreme Court Decision Making, Subissue Salience, and the Attitudinal Model” Presented at the American Politics Research Group, August 27, 1999

“The Role of Ideology in Supreme Court Decision Making” Presented to Faculty Fellows and Student Participants in MURAP, July 6, 1999

“Modern Supreme Court Decisions in Civil Rights.” Presented to Faculty Fellows and Student Participants in MURAP, June 11, 1996

“Career Opportunities in Political Science.” Presented to undergraduate participants in the UNC Office of Student Counseling STAR Program. October 24, 1996

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

- Editorial Board Member, *Law and Society Review* 2008-2011
- Member of the Executive Council, Law and Society Association, 2008
- Corwin Award Selection Committee for the Best Dissertation in 2006, Law and Courts Section of APSA
- Congressional Quarterly Award Committee for Best Conference paper on Law and Courts, 2006
- Member of the Executive Council, Southern Political Science Association
- Law and Courts Section Chair and Panel Organizer, Midwest Political Science Association Meeting, 2003
- McGraw Hill Award for best political science journal article in the area of law and courts, 2001
- “Selection Committee” Law and Courts Section of APSA, 1997
- “Best Graduate Student Paper” Law and Courts Section of APSA, 1996

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

The United States Supreme Court (undergraduate); Judicial Process (graduate and undergraduate); Junior/Senior Seminar in Politics and Law (undergraduate); American Civil Liberties and Civil Rights under the Constitution (undergraduate); Policy Analysis and Evaluation (graduate). Political Economy of U.S. Trade Policy (undergraduate); Urban Politics (graduate and undergraduate)

### ***Related Activities***

*Research Supervisor*, Minorities and Women Research Assistantship Program, State University

of New York at Stony Brook; summer 1993

Moore Undergraduate Research Assistanship Program (MURAP), UNC-Chapel Hill, 1996; 1998, 2000, 2002, 2004, 2005.

*Graduate Assistant* to Myrna C. Adams, President of "OpenMind," a national organization for increasing minority representation in higher education; summer 1991

*Teaching Assistant* to Wendy L. Hansen, Political Economy of U.S. Trade Policy, State University of New York, Stony Brook; fall 1991

*Department-wide Teaching Assistant*, Department of Economics, State University of New York, College at Cortland, 1988-1989

*Tutor* in economics, Educational Opportunity Program (EOP), State University of New York, College at Cortland, 1988-1989

## **RESEARCH INTERESTS**

Judicial politics; Crime and Justice; Public policy & Bureaucratic Behavior;

## **RESEARCH/PUBLICATION GRANTS**

- \$4000.00 University of North Carolina Research Council, 2002
- \$3000.00; Center for the Study of the American South, 2002
- \$25,000.00; Common Sense Foundation and N.C. Council of Churches, 2000 \$1,200.00; Junior Faculty Development Grant, UNC Research Council, 1996
- \$176.00; UNC-Chapel Hill Publication Grant, 1997-98

## **ACADEMIC AWARDS/HONORS**

- 1995-1997: Thurgood Marshall Post-Doctoral Fellowship, UNC Chapel Hill
- 1994-1995: Dissertation Research Fellowship for under-represented minorities, SUNY, Stony Brook
- 1993: Graduate student travel award for attendance of annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, Washington, D.C.
- 1992-1993: Teaching and Research Fellowship, SUNY, Stony Brook
- 1989-1991: Turner Graduate Fellowship for under represented minority students, SUNY, Stony Brook
- 1988-1989: Empire State Scholarship for minority students, SUNY, College at Cortland
- 1988-1989: Lifetime Member, Omicron Delta Epsilon, national undergraduate honor society in economics