

# Abby K. Wood

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## CONTACT

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Gould School of Law  
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## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

**USC Gould School of Law**, Los Angeles, CA  
Professor of Law, Political Science, and Public Policy, 2021 –  
Associate Professor of Law, Political Science, and Public Policy, 2017 – 2021  
Assistant Professor of Law, Political Science, and Public Policy, 2014 – 2017

**University of Chicago School of Law**, Chicago, IL  
Class of 1949 Visiting Associate Professor of Law, Fall 2019

## ADDITIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Commissioner, California Fair Political Practices Commission, 2021 –

Member, California Fair Political Practices Commission’s Task Force on Digital Advertising Transparency, 2020 –

Member, Federal Bipartisan Campaign Finance Task Force, 2015 – 2018

United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, San Francisco, CA, *Law Clerk*,  
Chambers of the Hon. John T. Noonan, Jr. 2012-2013

## JOURNAL ARTICLES

[15] Aneja, Abhay, Jacob M. Grumbach, and Abby K. Wood. 2021. “Financial Inclusion in Politics”, *New York University Law Review* (forthcoming, vol. 71, May 2022).

[14] Wood, Abby K. and Christian Grose. Forthcoming. “Campaign Finance Transparency Affects Legislators’ Election Outcomes and Behavior.” *American Journal of Political Science*.

[13] Abby K. Wood. 2021. “Learning from Campaign Finance Disclosures.” *Emory Law Journal* (forthcoming).

[12] Abby K. Wood. 2020. “Facilitating Accountability for Online Political Advertisements.” *Ohio State Technology Law Journal* 16(2): 520-557.

[11] Grose, Christian & Abby K. Wood. 2019. “Randomized experiments by government institutions and American political development.” *Public Choice* 185(3): 405-413, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11127-019-00704-5>

[10] Stein, Robert, et al., 2019. “Waiting to Vote in the 2016 Presidential Election: Evidence from a Multi-jurisdiction Study.” *Political Research Quarterly*, <https://doi.org/10.1177/1065912919832374>

[9] Elmendorf, Christopher S. & Abby K. Wood. 2018 “Elite Political Ignorance: Law, Data, and the Representation of (Mis)Perceived Electorates”. *U.C. Davis Law Review* 52(2) (lead article).

[8] Abby K. Wood & Ann M. Ravel. 2018. “Fool Me Once: Government Regulation of “Fake News” and other Online Political Advertising.” *Southern California Law Review* 91(6): 1223-78.

- [7] Abby K. Wood. 2018. "Campaign Finance Disclosure". *Annual Review of Law & Social Science* 14(1). <https://www.annualreviews.org/doi/abs/10.1146/annurev-lawsocsci-110316-113428>
- [6] Mann, Christopher B., et al., 2018. "Pedagogical Value of Polling Place Observation By Students." *PS: Political Science & Politics*. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1049096518000550>
- [5] Wood, Abby K. and David E. Lewis. 2017. "Agency Performance Challenges and Agency Politicization" *Journal of Public Administration, Research, and Theory* 27(4): 581-595.
- [4] Michalski, Roger M. and Abby K. Wood. 2017. "Twombly and Iqbal at the State Level" (with Roger M. Michalski) *Journal of Empirical Legal Studies*, 14(2): 424-469.
- [3] Wood, Abby K. and Douglas M. Spencer. 2016. "In the Shadows of Sunlight: The Effects of Transparency on State Political Campaigns," *Election Law Journal* 15(4): 302-329.
- [2] Jensenius, Francesca and Abby K. Wood. 2016. "Caught in the Act but not Punished: On Elite Rule of Law and Deterrence," *Penn State Journal of Law & International Affairs*. 686(4).
- [1] Spencer, Douglas M. and Abby K. Wood. 2014. "Citizens United, States Divided: An Empirical Analysis of Independent Political Spending," *Indiana Law Journal* 89(1):315-372.

BOOK  
CHAPTERS

- [2] Stein, Robert, et al., "Polling Place Quality and Access" in *The Future of Election Administration* (Kathleen Hale and Bridgett A. King, eds., Palgrave, 2019).
- [1] "Charm and Punishment: How the Philippines' Leading Man Became Its Most Famous Prisoner." *Prosecuting Heads of State* (Ellen Lutz and Caitlin Reiger, eds., Cambridge University Press, 2009).

WORKING PAPERS

- "Show Me the Money: Candidate Selection Based on Campaign Finance Transparency" *Revise and resubmit at Political Behavior*
- "Decentralized Legislative Oversight of Bureaucratic Policy Making" (with Janna King Rezaee and Sean Gailmard) *Revise and resubmit at Journal of Theoretical Politics*
- "Mind the (Participation) Gap: Vouchers, Voting, and Visibility" (with Christopher Elmendorf and Doug Spencer) *Revise and resubmit at American Politics Research*
- "Facebook Political Ads And Accountability: Outside Groups Are Most Negative, Especially When Hiding Donors or Disappearing" (with Shomik Jain) *under review*
- "The Political Economy of COVID-19 Policy Choices: Stay-at-Home Orders and Worker Political Efficacy in the States" (with Pamela Clouser McCann)
- "Divided We Govern" (with Brian Feinstein)
- "To See or Not to See? Campaign Finance Disclosure and Voter Competence"

OTHER WRITING

“Random Audits and Regulatory Compliance” in *Regulatory Review*, Nov 21, 2019, <https://www.theregreview.org/2019/11/21/wood-grose-random-audits-regulatory-compliance/>

“The FEC’s Institutional Predicament” in *Administrative & Regulatory Law News*, fall 2019 (lead article)

“Hillary Clinton, My Daughter, and Me” in *The Hillary Effect* (Jennifer Merolla and Rachel VanSickle-Ward, eds., 2020, Bloomsbury)

“Campaign Finance Disclosure” in *Money in American Politics: An Encyclopedia* (David Schultz, ed., ABC-CLIO, 2018).

AMICUS WRITING  
AND CONGRESSIONAL  
TESTIMONY

Brief *Amici Curiae* from Legal Scholars of Campaign Finance in Support of Petitioners, *Representative Lieu, et. al., v. FEC*, No. 19-1398, July 22, 2020 (author, with nine law professors joining). The brief argued that *SpeechNow.org v. FEC*, which created so-called “Super PACs”, was wrongly decided.

California Senate’s Standing Committee on the Judiciary, regarding SB 27, the Presidential Tax Transparency and Accountability Act, April 2019

California Senate’s Standing Committee on Elections and Constitutional Amendments, regarding SB 149, the Presidential Tax Transparency and Accountability Act, April 2017

OP-EDS

“Citizens United turns 10 today. Here’s what we’ve learned about dark money”, Washington Post Monkey Cage, January 21, 2020.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2020/01/21/citizens-united-turns-10-today-heres-what-weve-learned-about-dark-money/>

“Elizabeth Warren’s Pinky Promises with Little Girls”, NBC News THINK, Sept. 18, 2019, <https://www.nbcnews.com/think/opinion/elizabeth-warren-s-selfie-my-daughter-went-viral-because-pinkie-nena1055561>

“How will the Michael Cohen and Duncan Hunter scandals affect the November election? Here’s what our research finds” (with Christian R. Grose), Washington Post Monkey Cage, August 28, 2018,

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2018/08/28/come-november-how-will-voters-react-to-the-cohen-and-hunter-revelations-heres-what-our-research-finds>

“Open up the black box of political advertising” (with Christopher S. Elmendorf and Ann Ravel), San Francisco Chronicle Op-Ed, Sept. 23, 2017,

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/opinion/openforum/article/Open-up-the-black-box-of-political-advertising-12221372.php>

“Disclosure can Encourage Political Speech” (with Michael Gilbert), The Hill, Oct. 21, 2016,

<https://thehill.com/blogs/pundits-blog/campaign/302152-disclosure-can-encourage-political-speech>

GRANTS &  
AWARDS

- 2017 New Initiatives Grant in Election Science – MIT Election Data and Science Lab and Madison Initiative of the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation (\$14,000)
- 2016 CA FWD Research Grant (\$20,000)
- 2014 Bedrosian Center Research Grant, USC (\$5,000)
- 2011 Mike Synar Graduate Research Fellowship, Institute for Governmental Studies, U.C. Berkeley
- 2010 U.C. Berkeley Empirical Legal Studies Fellowship
- 2010 Dean's Normative Time Fellowship, U.C. Berkeley
- 2009 National Science Foundation, Empirical Implications of Theoretical Models Grant
- 2008 National Science Foundation, IGERT Fellowship
- 2004 Chayes International Public Service Fellowship, Harvard Law School
- 2004 Fletcher School Merit Award
- 2000 Thomas W. Knuckles Award for Ethics and Human Rights, Austin College
- 2000 Austin College Leadership Fellowship

PRESENTATIONS  
(UPCOMING & PAST  
3 YEARS)

- “Measuring State Capture”, University of Wisconsin School of Law (invited), June 2021
- “Divided We Govern”, Gray Center Roundtable on Presidential Administration and Political Polarization, George Mason University (invited), June 2021
- “Facebook Political Ads And Accountability”, Virtual Conference on Political Advertising, Wesleyan University (invited), May 2021
- “The Political Economy of COVID-19 Policy Choices: Stay-at-Home Orders and Worker Political Efficacy in the States”, Midwest Political Science Assoc. Annual Meeting, April 2021
- “Financial Inclusion in Politics”, University of Toronto School of Law, Law & Economics Workshop (invited), March 2021
- “The Political Economy of COVID-19 Policy Choices: Stay-at-Home Orders and Worker Political Efficacy in the States”, University of Michigan Center for Political Studies Workshop (invited), April 2021
- “The Political Economy of COVID-19 Policy Choices: Stay-at-Home Orders and Worker Political Efficacy in the States”, Durham University (invited), December 2020
- “Campaign Finance Transparency Affects Legislative Candidate Performance at the Polls”, Wharton School of Business, University of Pennsylvania (invited), September 2020
- Elections: What Could Go Wrong? And What Can Be Done About It?*, Stanford Law School, May 2020 (invited but declined due to scheduling conflict)
- “Learning from Campaign Finance Disclosures”, Emory University School of Law (invited), February 2020
- “Transparency and Accountability for Online Political Ads”, Ohio State University School of Law (invited), January 2020
- “Campaign Finance Transparency Affects Legislative Candidate Performance at the Polls”, Conference on Empirical Legal Studies, Pomona, CA, November 2019
- “Campaign Finance Transparency Affects Legislative Candidate Performance at the Polls”, University of Chicago School of Law (invited), November 2019
- “Campaign Finance Transparency Affects Legislative Candidate Performance at the Polls”, Northwestern University School of Law (invited), October 2019

“Campaign Finance Transparency Affects Legislative Candidate Performance at the Polls”, University of Wisconsin – Madison (invited), October 2019

“Campaign Finance Transparency Affects Legislative Candidate Performance at the Polls”, University of Iowa School of Law (invited), September 2019

“Lessons on Corruption from Judge Noonan”, Conference Honoring Judge Noonan’s Intellectual Legacy, U.C. Berkeley (invited), September 2019

“Campaign Finance Transparency Affects Legislative Candidate Performance at the Polls”, USC Political Institutions and Political Economy workshop, August 2019

“Show Me the Money: ‘Dark Money’ and the Informational Benefit of Campaign Finance Disclosure”, Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, April 2019

“Mind the (Participation) Gap: Vouchers, Voting, and Visibility”, Center for Law and Social Sciences Workshop (USC), February 2019

“Campaign Finance Transparency Affects Legislative Candidate Performance at the Polls”, University of California, San Diego, American Politics Speaker Series (invited), January 2019

“Mind the (Participation) Gap: Vouchers, Voting, and Visibility”, Southern Political Science Association Conference (Austin, TX) January 2019

“Campaign Finance Transparency Affects Legislative Candidate Performance at the Polls”, Conference on American Political Development and Causal Inference, USC (invited), January 2019

“Campaign Finance Transparency Affects Legislative Candidate Performance at the Polls”, University of Virginia Law and Economics Workshop (invited), November 2018

“Mind the (Participation) Gap: Vouchers, Voting, and Visibility”, Conference on Empirical Legal Studies (poster), November 2018

“Campaign Finance Transparency Affects Legislative Candidate Performance at the Polls”, Emory University Political Institutions and Methodology Colloquium (invited), September 2018

“Campaign Finance Transparency Affects Legislative Candidate Performance at the Polls”, USC Gould School of Law faculty workshop, September 2018

“Reforming the Campaign Finance System”, Harvard Kennedy School’s conference on Inequality, Democracy, and America’s Future (invited), August 2018

“Mind the (Participation) Gap: Vouchers, Voting, and Visibility”, American Law and Economics Association annual meeting, Boston, MA, May 2018

“Mind the (Participation) Gap: Vouchers, Voting, and Visibility”, Midwest Political Science Association annual meeting, Chicago, IL, April 2018

“Show Me the Money: ‘Dark Money’ and the Informational Benefit of Campaign Finance Disclosure”, American Association of Law Schools annual meeting, San Diego, Jan. 2018

DOCTORAL  
DISSERTATION  
COMMITTEES

USC Political Science and International Relations: David Ebner (U. Delaware),  
Thora Giallouri (Fort Lewis College), Kelebogile Zvobgo (William & Mary),  
Taylor Dalton

TEACHING

University of Chicago School of Law  
Administrative Law and Regulatory Policy (fall term, 2019)

University of Southern California Gould School of Law  
Administrative Law and Regulatory Policy (2014- )  
Analytical Methods for Lawyers (2015 - )  
Money In Politics (2016 - )

University of California, Berkeley (graduate student instructor)  
Supreme Court and Public Policy (2012)  
Introduction to Empirical Analysis and Quantitative Methods (2010 - 2011)  
Comparative Politics (2010)

Tufts University, Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy  
International Human Rights Law (2008)  
International Legal Research and Writing (2007 - 2009)

Tufts University  
International Law (2007 coordinating instructor, 2006 teaching assistant)

OTHER  
PROFESSIONAL  
SERVICE

Referee: Cambridge University Press, *American Political Science Review*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *Journal of Politics*, *Journal of Law, Economics, and Organizations*, *Journal of Empirical Legal Studies*, *Political Behavior*, *Election Law Journal*, *Law and Society Review*, *British Journal of Political Science*, *Political Science Quarterly*, *American Politics Research*, *Politics & Gender*, *Congress and the Presidency*, *Research & Politics*, *Journal of Urban Affairs*, *Journal of Public Affairs*

Co-Organizer: Political Economy and Public Law (PEPL X) (June 2017); Southern California Law and Social Science Forum (March 2015) Workshop on Experimental Methods at USC (December 2014).

Discussant: Conference on Empirical Legal Studies (2014, 2019), Southern Political Science Association (2015, 2019), Annual Meeting, Midwest Political Science Association (2015, 2019, 2021), USC Political Institutions and Political Economy (2018), USC Symposium on Election Administration and Technology (2020)

Program Committees: Conference on Empirical Legal Studies (2019)

USC Gould Committee Service: Admissions Committee (2020 - ), Clerkship Committee (2014 - 2020, co-chair 2016-2018), Ad Hoc Committee on Sexual Harassment (2018)

Other service: Board of Directors, National Institute for Money in Politics (2018 - 2021), Board of Directors, OpenSecrets (2021- )

EDUCATION

University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, CA  
Ph.D., Political Science  
*Thesis title: Exposing Malfeasance: Anti-Corruption Laws in the Fifty States*

Harvard Law School, Cambridge, MA  
J.D.  
Senior Editor, *International Law Journal*

Tufts University, Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Medford, MA  
M.A.L.D.

Austin College, Sherman, TX  
B.A., Spanish, *Summa cum laude*

OTHER LEGAL  
EMPLOYMENT

Step toe & Johnson LLP, Washington, D.C., *Summer Associate*

National Democratic Institute for International Affairs, Washington, D.C., *Researcher*

World Bank, Poverty Reduction and Economic Management Network for Latin America and Caribbean region (LAC-PREM), Washington, D.C., *Consultant*

United States Agency for International Development, Cairo, Egypt, *Legal Intern*

Baker Botts LLP, Dallas, TX, *Legal Assistant Clerk*

BAR ADMISSION

New York, 2008