

# Eric A. Lopez

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## Academic Positions

### THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT TYLER

Director, Pre-Law Academy  
Senior Lecturer  
Lecturer

January 2024-Present  
August 2022-Present  
August 2013-July 2022

## Education

### THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

M.A., Political Science (focus in American Politics)

May 2010

- PhD. Comprehensive Examination Fields (American Politics and Comparative Politics), Passed March 2011
- Master's Thesis: *Living in Two Societies: The Effects of Transnationalism on Latino Immigrant Naturalization in America*
- Research Interests: Judicial politics, judicial nominations, American political institutions, immigration, and Latino politics

### TEXAS CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

B.A., Political Science and Sociology  
Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program

May 2007  
2006-2007

## Research Experience

### EDITOR REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

*Uncovering Texas Politics in the 21st Century* (Open Source Texas Government Text). 2020. Tyler, Texas. The University of Texas at Tyler Press. With Marcus Stadelmann and Robert Sterken.

*Game of Politics: Conflict, Power, and Representation* (Open Source U.S. Government Text). 2020. Tyler, Texas. The University of Texas at Tyler Press. With Kenneth Bryant, Jr. and Mark Owens.

### [Access Publications](#)

### CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

“Understanding Case Salience in the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.” Presented at the 2018 annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.

Discussant: *Evolving Legal Standards and Doctrinal Change*. Panel at the 2016 annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.

“From Participation to Judicial Decree: How Opinions on Same-Sex Marriage Vary in the States” (with J. Patrick Rhamey). Presented at the 2014 annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.

Chair: LGBT Equality; Public Opinion, Public Policy, and Political Representation. Panel at the 2014 annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.

“The Importance of Salience in the Circuit Courts of Appeals.” Presented at the 2013 annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.

“In Whose Interest? Examining Latino Judges Decision-Making in the Federal Circuit Courts of Appeals” (with Chad Westerland). Presented at the 2012 annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.

“Religious Voters and Justice Alito: Were Senators Held Electorally Accountable for Their Confirmation Votes?” (with Jay Wendland). Presented at the 2012 annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.

“To Reward or Punish? The Electoral Connection of Supreme Court Confirmation Votes” (with Jay Wendland). Presented at the 2011 annual meeting of the Southwestern Political Science Association, Las Vegas, NV.

“Re-Examining Latin America’s Culture of Coups: A Competing Risks Model of Leader Survival” (with J. Patrick Rhamey). Presented at the 2010 annual meeting of the International Studies Association (West Regional Conference), Los Angeles, CA.

“Moving Beyond Debate and Speculation: The Role of Federalism in Electoral College Reform” (with Jay Wendland and Nikkita Edmond). Presented at the 2010 annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.

“Living in Two Societies: The Effects of Transnationalism on Latino Immigrant Naturalization in America.” Presented at the 2010 annual meeting of the International Studies Association, New Orleans, LA.

## **Teaching Experience**

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT TYLER

Lecturer & Senior Lecturer

2013-Present

POLS 3300: Development of the First Amendment

POLS 3300: United States Constitutional Development

POLS 4320: Judicial Systems and Process

POLS 4321: American Constitutional Law

POLS 4322: The Law of Civil Liberties

POLS 4199: Politics and the United States Judiciary

POLS 4399 (1 Hour): Moot Court

POLS 4370: Internship Program

POLS 2306: Introductory Texas Politics

– Delivered face-to-face, online, and hybrid formats

POLS 2305: Introductory American Government

– Delivered face-to-face and online formats and for dual credit students

[Course Evaluations](#)

## THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

Instructor of Record 2010-2013  
PA 344: Law and Public Policy  
POL 210: Arizona and United States Constitution  
POL 309: The Judicial Process  
POL 326: American Political Thought  
POL 330: Minority Groups and American Politics  
POL 470: Constitutional Law, Federalism  
POL 471: Constitutional Law, Civil Liberties

Teaching Assistant 2008-2013  
LAW 389: Race, Sex, and Power in the Supreme Court  
– Head TA: Responsible for Conducting the Honor’s Section and evaluation/assessment of Law  
Student Teaching Fellows  
POL 201: American National Government  
POL 210: Arizona and United States Constitution  
POL 330: Minority Group Politics

## DUKE UNIVERSITY TALENT IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM

Instructor of Record November 2009  
Constitutional History, Scholar’s Weekend at Texas Christian University

Teaching Assistant Summer 2009  
Criminal Law and Mock Trial, Texas A&M University

## Additional Training

ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY EDUCATORS  
Certificate in Effective Instruction 2023

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO  
Teaching Online Academy 2021

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT TYLER  
PATSS Summer Academy 2016  
Staying Connected Online Core Curriculum Training 2015  
PATSS Summer Academy 2014  
Master Advisor Certification 2013

## University Service

### CURRENT SERVICE

Faculty Member: CAS Curriculum Committee Fall 2024-Present  
Faculty Member: Political Science Faculty Search Committee Fall 2023-Present  
Faculty Mentor: Patriot Student Mentoring Program Fall 2019-Present  
Faculty Member: Department’s Core Assessment Committee Spring 2018-Present  
Faculty Supervisor: LSAT Preparation Course Spring 2018-Present  
Faculty Mentor: Pi Sigma Alpha Fall 2015-Present  
Academic Advisor: Department of Political Science Fall 2015-Present  
Academic Advisor: Pre-Law Minor Fall 2015-Present  
Faculty Mentor: Pre-Law Society Fall 2013-Present

- Student Placements: The University of Texas at Austin School of Law, Texas Tech School of Law, University of Houston Law Center, SMU Dedman School of Law, South Texas College of Law (Houston), Texas A&M University School of Law (Forth Worth), UNT-Dallas College of Law, Thurgood Marshall School of Law (Houston), University of Miami School of Law, Mississippi College of Law (Jackson), The University of Wisconsin Law School, The University of Idaho School of Law, New England School of Law (Boston), Mitchell Hamline School of Law

#### PAST SERVICE

Chair: CAS Curriculum Committee	Fall 2023-Spring 2024
Faculty Member: CAS Governance Committee	Fall 2022-Spring 2024
Faculty Member: CAS Governance Committee	Fall 2016-Fall 2018
Faculty Member: Political Science Faculty Search Committee	Fall 2015-Spring 2016
Faculty Member: Department Tenure and Promotion Committee	Summer 2016
CAS Representative: University Retention and Graduation Rates	Spring 2016
Faculty Member: Political Science Faculty Search Committee	Fall 2014-Spring 2015
Graduate Mentor: University of Arizona Assurance Scholars Program	2012-2013
President: SGPP's Graduate Student Association. (Arizona)	Spring 2009-Fall 2010
Judge: Graduate and Professional Student Council's Travel Grants. (Arizona)	2010

#### Professional Service

Member: LSAC Pre-Law Advisory Council	Fall 2023-Present
Reviewer: <i>Journal of Politics</i> .	2011 & 2012
Mentor: APSA Mentor Initiative	2012-2015

#### PANEL PARTICIPATION

"Defining Your Role and Success." LSAC Newcomers Workshop.	August 2024
"Building Resilience and Community in Pre-Law Advising." 2024 PLANC Conference	June 2024
"Applicant Insights from Pre-Law Advisors." LSAC Ambassador Webinar Series	January 2024

#### Awards

##### THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT TYLER

Stipend: PATSS Summer Academy. \$4000.	2017
Stipend: PATSS Summer Academy. \$6000.	2016
Grant: Online Core Curriculum. Office of Academic Innovation and Student Success. \$7000.	2015
Stipend: PATSS Summer Academy. \$6000.	2014

#### Community Involvement

##### INVITED TALKS

Presenter: UT-Tyler High School Counselor Conference.	2021
Moderator: "Let's Discuss the 2020 Elections." UT-Tyler.	2020
Presenter: "Understanding What Makes 2016 Different." Web Historical Society.	2016
Panelist: Smith County League of Women Voters Candidate Forum.	2016
Presentation: "Amending the U.S. Constitution." Smith County League of Women Voters.	2015
Presentation: "Public Opinion and Same-Sex Marriage in the States." Web Historical Society.	2015
Presentation: "Should Same-Sex Marriage Be Legal?" Patriot Talon Talks.	2014
Lecture: "Media and the Federal Courts." University of Arizona	2013
Presenter: "How Minorities Vote in America." Tucson Jewish Community Center.	2012
Lecture: "Politics of the Supreme Court." Law 389 Honors Workshop (Arizona Law School)	2012
Presentation: "The Electoral College." Pima County League of Women Voters Debate.	2010

## MEDIA PARTICIPATION

Quoted in “With redistricting underway, here’s how partisan gerrymandering impacts Texans.” KERA News (Dallas, Texas). October 7, 2021.

Interviewed by KLTV 7 (Tyler, Texas) for segment on “History, law experts give their perspective on REL name change debate.” September 18, 2017.

Interviewed by KTBB 97.5FM (Tyler, Texas) for segment on the Supreme Court without Justice Scalia. February 24, 2016.

Interviewed by KLTV 7 (Tyler, Texas) for segment on “Without Scalia, Future of Texas SCOTUS Cases Uncertain.” February 15, 2016.

Quoted in “Justice Scalia Successor Court Shift SCOTUS Balance of Power.” CBS 19 News (Tyler, Texas). February 15, 2016.

Quoted in “Updated Marriage License Applications Now Available.” ABC 12 News (Tyler, Texas). June 26, 2015.