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PLACEMENT DIRECTORS

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Economics, University of Maryland at College Park, expected May 2020
M.A. Economics, University of Maryland at College Park, May 2018
Post-Baccalaureate Student, North Carolina State University, Spring 2012
B.A. Economics, University of Maryland at College Park, May 2009, Cum Laude
B.A. Government & Politics, University of Maryland at College Park, May 2009, Cum Laude
B.A. History, University of Maryland at College Park, May 2009
Minor: Spanish Language, Business, and Cultures

FIELDS OF SPECIALIZATION

Primary: Political Economy
Secondary: Public Economics, Applied Microeconomics

DISSERTATION

Essays on Political Incentive Structuring and Preferences
Committee: Prof. Ethan Kaplan (Chair), Prof. Allan Drazen, Prof. Peter Murrell

JOB MARKET PAPER

“Judicial Elections and the Merit Plan: Adverse Selection and Moral Hazard Issues in State Appellate Courts”

I examine the effect of the merit plan for selecting and retaining judges on judicial decision-making. In the merit plan, a nominating commission nominates three candidates, one of whom is chosen by the Governor to serve as a judge; judges are retained through unopposed retention elections. Using panel data on state appellate courts from 1952 to 1995, I identify and examine moral hazard and adverse selection effects associated with transitions between selection and retention methods. I contribute to the literature by investigating the relationship between judicial selection and retention methods and judicial decisions, as well as by introducing methodology that allows me to simultaneously estimate separate moral hazard and adverse selection effects. I find that judges appointed through the merit plan are 5% more likely to support civil suit plaintiffs, while the institution of retention elections has no statistically significant effect on civil suit decisions. In criminal cases, by contrast, I find no effect of merit selection on support for criminal prosecutors, but do find that judges appointed before the merit plan are 9% less likely to support criminal prosecutors after retention elections are introduced. All four of these findings conform to theoretical predictions based on the incentives faced by judges.

OTHER RESEARCH PAPERS

“Political Preference Formation: Party Registration Effects of Random College Roommate Assignment,” work in progress, with Ethan Kaplan

“Gerrymandering and Political Outcomes,” work in progress, with Ethan Kaplan and Danny Kolliner

“Policy Interventions to Address Poverty in Howard County, Maryland,” Editor, PALS Program Final Report, Fall 2015

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Visiting Instructor, Department of Economics, Towson University, Fall 2019 – Spring 2020

Microeconomic Principles (Undergraduate), Fall 2019 (2 Sections) & Spring 2020 (2 Sections)

Intermediate Price Theory (Undergraduate), Fall 2019 (1 Section) & Spring 2020 (2 Sections)

Instructor, Current Issues in American Economic Policy (Undergraduate), University of Maryland, Spring 2018

Instructor, Public Finance and Public Policy (Undergraduate), University of Maryland, Summer 2015, Fall 2015, Winter 2016, Spring 2016, Summer 2016, Fall 2016, Spring 2017, Summer 2017, Fall 2017

Teaching Assistant, Inequality: Determinants and Policy Remedies, University of Maryland, Fall 2018

Teaching Assistant, Principles of Microeconomics (Undergraduate), University of Maryland, Fall 2013, Spring 2014, Fall 2014, Spring 2015

RESEARCH AND RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

Course Mentor, Partnership for Action Learning in Sustainability, University of Maryland, Fall 2015 & Fall 2016

Consultant, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, Summer 2015

Research Assistant, Center for American Politics and Citizenship, University of Maryland, Winter 2007 – Fall 2007

LANGUAGES

English (native), Portuguese (fluent), Spanish (semi-fluent)

REFERENCES

Prof. Ethan Kaplan	University of Maryland edkaplan@umd.edu	(301) 405-3501
Prof. Allan Drazen	University of Maryland drazen@umd.edu	(301) 405-3477
Dr. Cindy Clement	University of Maryland cclement@umd.edu	(301) 405-3257