

Acknowledgments

I owe a special debt of gratitude to those people who poked, prodded, and pushed me to improve this book with helpful comments in presentations and written drafts: at the University of Wisconsin, Karen Bogenschneider, David Canon, Rudy Espino, Mike Franz, Jess Gilbert, Dave Parker, Travis Ridout, Kendra Smith, Joe Soss, Kathy Cramer Walsh, Graham Wilson, and John Witte; my colleagues at the University at Albany, Scott Barclay, Cheng Chen, Peter Breiner, Sally Friedman, and Bruce Miroff. I am grateful for comments I have received from a host of scholars, especially Kathleen Sullivan, Priscilla Yamin, and Gwynn Thomas and to the reviewers of this manuscript for their thoroughness. I have been fortunate to work with a very professional editorial staff at Stanford University Press, in particular Amanda Moran and Jared Smith. There are three people who have made especially noteworthy contributions to this project: Alisa Rosenthal, who told me my original idea was “boring” and encouraged me to write this book instead; Paul Manna, my “shadow advisor,” for spending many early mornings sketching out this project; and most especially John Coleman, for absolutely everything.

I am appreciative of financial assistance and research support I have received along the way. This book was made possible with funding from the Dirksen Center for Congressional Research, the University of Wisconsin Dissertator Fellowship, and with assistance from the Institute for Legal Studies at the University of Wisconsin and the APSA Centennial Center. For seemingly thankless research assistance, I thank Bob Comis and Wes Nishyama for their hard work.

Finally, though all of the above individuals (and many more) contributed to my growth as a scholar, I wish to thank my family and friends for their support over the past six years. This book is dedicated to the memory of my grandmother, Mathea, and my great uncles, who never saw the book’s completion but would have raised quite a toast if they had.