

Nicholas Short

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EDUCATION

Harvard University

PhD Candidate, Government and Social Policy

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

MS, Technology and Policy, 2016

U.C. Hastings College of the Law

JD, 2007

U.C. Berkeley

BA, History; BA, Astrophysics with Honors, 2002

DISSERTATION

Summary: The American knowledge economy should not be thought of as a political strategy for producing new scientific or technological knowledge, per se, or as a polity shaped by the demands of highly educated workers. It is instead a political strategy for generating economic prosperity that relies intensely on the production of commodified forms of knowledge, or intellectual property (IP). During the crucial years of knowledge economy development, from 1980-1992, elected officials successfully resisted voter demands for policies like increasing financial support for higher education but indulged business demands to fundamentally alter central institutions of American political economy—including courts, universities, and institutions for negotiating trade agreements—in ways that made IP an increasingly lucrative capital asset. By relying on market-oriented neoliberal reforms, like stronger IP rights, the American knowledge economy generates and exacerbates many forms of political and economic inequality, and it inherently complicates the Democratic Party’s position on antitrust enforcement.

Committee Members: Dan Carpenter (chair), Ryan Enos, Kathleen Thelen

RESEARCH INTERESTS

American political economy
The law, politics, and policy of the American knowledge economy
Law and social policy

TEACHING INTERESTS

Primary: Intellectual Property, Antitrust, American Political Economy

Secondary: Federal Civil Procedure, Evidence, Environmental Law, Legislation, Administrative Law

RESEARCH PROJECTS IN PROGRESS

“[The Distributional Consequences of the American Knowledge Economy](#)”. First draft in progress; to be completed in Sep. 2021.

“[Is Antitrust’s Consumer Welfare Standard Anti-Democratic? Evidence from a Survey Experiment](#),” with Jacob Brown and Sophie Hill. Second pilot study using DLABSS in progress. Full survey to be implemented in Nov. 2021.

“[The Politics of the American Knowledge Economy](#)”. Apr. 20, 2021. Under review at Studies in American Political Development.

“[Antitrust Reform in Political Perspective: A Constructive Critique for the Neo-Brandeisians](#)”. Feb. 26, 2021. Submitted to multiple law reviews in Aug 2021.

“[Political Contributions by American Inventors](#)”. July 7, 2021. Submitted to the American Political Science Review.

[“Financial Innovation in the 21st Century: Evidence from U.S. Patents”](#), with Josh Lerner, Amit Seru, and Yuan Sun. July 1, 2021. NBER Working Paper No. 28980.

[“Antitrust Deregulation and the Politics of the American Knowledge Economy”](#). Dec. 17, 2019.

[“Concentration in the Ownership of U.S. Patents”](#). Apr. 19, 2019. Workshopped in May 2019. Project on hold; main empirical results likely to be incorporated into book project.

LAW REVIEW PUBLICATIONS

Nicholas Short. 2016. [“The Political Economy of the Research Exemption in American Patent Law.”](#) Fordham Intellectual Property, Media, and Entertainment Law Journal, 26, 3, pp. 573-623.

Nicholas Short. 2016. [“A Research Exemption for the 21st Century.”](#) Michigan Journal of Law Reform Caveat, 50, 1.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“Political Contributions by American Inventors,” American Political Economy conference, Philadelphia, Mar. 6, 2020.

“Antitrust Deregulation and the Politics of American Knowledge Economy,” Eighth Meeting of The Society for the Study Of Economic Inequality (ECINEQ), Paris, France, July 3-5, 2019.

“Mergers and Acquisitions and Top Income Shares,” First Conference of the World Inequality Database, Paris, France, December 15, 2017.

RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Harvard Business School

Research Assistant, Prof. Josh Lerner 2017-2020

- Replicated results of stock market event study estimating patent value
- Designed and coded machine learning algorithms for identifying financial technology patents

Harvard Department of Government

Research Assistant, Prof. Jennifer Hochschild Summer 2018

- Identified all federal appellate courses dealing with collection of DNA pursuant to databank statutes
- Coded outcomes and linked to data on judicial ideology and appointing president

Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati P.C.

Associate Attorney, Patents and Innovation Practice 2013-2014

Winston & Strawn LLP

Associate Attorney, Intellectual Property Group 2007-2013

- Handled all aspects of litigating patent and trade secret matters in state and federal court
- First chaired a two-week jury trial involving a prisoner civil rights dispute in federal court

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Fellow, *American Democracy*, with Roberto Unger and Cornell West Spring 2021

Teaching Fellow, *American Government: A New Perspective*, with Paul Peterson Fall 2020

Teaching Fellow, *The Politics of Economic Inequality*, with Tom Remington Spring 2019, 2020

Teaching Fellow, *Data*, with David Kane Fall 2018

SELECTED AWARDS AND HONORS

Bok Center Certificate for Distinction in Teaching, Harvard University.

James M. and Cathleen D. Stone Ph.D. Scholar in Inequality and Wealth Concentration, Harvard Inequality and Social Policy Program.

Graduate study funded by the Russell Goldsmith Graduate Student Aid Fund supporting students who are examining how government can foster job creation and economic growth.

BAR ADMISSIONS

California
Massachusetts
Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit
Multiple Federal District Courts

REFERENCES

Scholarship:

Daniel Carpenter

Allie S. Freed Prof. of Government
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Research Assistance:

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Harvard Business School
Rock Center for Entrepreneurship, Room 314
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