

**Curriculum Vitae**  
**Peter S. Kierst**  
**Department of Political Science**  
**October 2, 2012**

**Educational History:**

BAFA (Theatre Arts), University of New Mexico 1977  
MA (Political Science), University of New Mexico 1980  
JD, University of New Mexico, 1984

**Employment History:**

Research Director, Governor's Commission on Higher Education (1983)

- Conducted and coordinated research for Commission examining current status and future needs of New Mexico's higher education system, with particular emphasis on how to measure success of that system; wrote initial draft of Commission's report.

Assistant Attorney General, November 5, 1984-April 1, 1986, Office of the Attorney General, Post Office Drawer 1508, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504

- Represented the State in criminal appeals; advised the Governor's Office regarding extraditions

Assistant Public Defender, April 2, 1986-September 30, 1987, Public Defender's Office, 200 Second Street NW, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102

- Represented indigent criminal defendants; scores of trials including one that lasted four weeks

Attorney, October 1, 1987-June 30, 1991, Bruce E. Pasternack, P.C., 700 Lomas NE, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102

- One of a three-lawyer office engaged in an active civil litigation practice for both plaintiffs and defendants; litigated one of the first sexual abuse cases in New Mexico, against a psychologist and the hospital where he worked, resulting in a major settlement and a criminal conviction.

Lecturer (part-time, occasional), 1988-2005, University of New Mexico, Department of Political Science

- Taught American Politics, Civil Rights Law and Policy, Constitutional Law various semesters from 1988-2001, thereafter regularly taught Constitutional Law in the Fall and Spring

semesters, and Law and the Political Community in the Summer session.

Attorney and Shareholder, July 1, 1991-June 20, 2005, Eaves, Bardacke, Baugh, Kierst and Larson, P.A., 6565 Americas Parkway NE Suite 950, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

- Represented a wide variety of clients in complex civil litigation matters; represented state officials, including three Governors of New Mexico in litigation over constitutional matters; had sole or "first chair" responsibility for such matters including all aspects of client relationship, litigation strategy, legal research, writing, discovery, and motions practice; appeared in front of the district courts, Court of Appeals and Supreme Court of New Mexico, and the United States district court, and the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals

Adjunct Professor of Law, Fall 1992-Spring 2004, University of New Mexico, School of Law

- This was a part-time volunteer position in which I, along with a number of other lawyers and judges, taught Evidence and Trial Practice to second and third year law students by conducting exercises in courtroom skills and application of the Rules of Evidence to real-life situations

Lecturer in Constitutional Law, August 2005-date, University of New Mexico, Department of Political Science

- Teach a series of four upper division undergraduate courses in Constitutional Law and theory, and the Department's introductory-level course: The Political World
- Serve as Undergraduate Advisor for the Department, meeting scores of students each semester to review the requirements of the major and minor, and assist them in completing the necessary requirements. Also in this capacity, I have worked on course assessments, and the Undergraduate Committee for scholarship awards

Attorney (of Counsel), June 20, 2005-present, Sutin, Thayer, and Browne, PC, 6565 Americas Parkway NE, Suite 1000, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102

- Assist in representing firm's clients in a variety of matters, most recently advising Governor Martinez with regard to federal grand jury subpoena issued to the Office of the Governor

### **Professional Recognition, Honors**

- AV Rating, Martindale-Hubbell (2005-date) (this is the highest possible rating for a lawyer, and is issued by the preeminent lawyer-rating service)
- New Mexico Bar Zenith Award (2008), CLE Professionalism Presentation
- Vivian Vance Award for Outstanding Contribution, Albuquerque Little Theatre (2007)
- Mortar Board Society, Maia Chapter, Faculty Recognition Award (2007)
- Order of Omega, Exceptional Instruction Award (2008)

## **Short Narrative Description of Teaching, Research and Service Interests.**

I am interested in helping students understand and think critically about the representative democratic form of government in general, and the Constitution of the United States in particular. These are the methods by which we, as a self-governing people, purport to govern ourselves. It is the nature of self-governance that it relies utterly on the informed ability of each person to exercise his or her governing authority. None of us can fulfill that task if we do not understand the principles upon which the government was established, and why, and how the system is supposed to operate. We cannot even intelligently decide to reject that system and its values if we do not accurately understand their true nature and purpose.

My interest in the introductory class is to orient the students to the political world, the various forms of governance employed in it, and what governments do. To equip them, in short, with a vocabulary of politics so they can understand current events better, and go on to more advanced study. At the upper division, my goal is to arm students with accurate and in-depth information, and to help train them in critical thinking about that information so they can do their jobs in a free, self-governing society. I do not imagine any of my students doubts my belief in the essential worth of the Constitution's values, but I emphasize to them that they, as free people, are at liberty to accept or reject those values as they see fit, and to determine for themselves how well we are preserving those values, and how best to do that in the future. My job is not answer all those questions for them---I would not even if I could---but to help equip them with information and analytical skills so that they can answer them for themselves.

I do not do "research" in the academic sense; I produce no works of scholarship. But the field of Constitutional Law is constantly changing, and I am constantly reading and assessing the developments in the law in order to keep my classes current. My service work is focused on being the department's Undergraduate Advisor. I take this role very seriously. I know from my own experience, and my daughter's recent college experience, how valuable an informed and sympathetic advisor can be to an undergraduate. In addition, I value the work I do with the Undergraduate Committee. I think we have thoughtfully addressed the issues put before us, and it is the primary source of my interaction with other members of the faculty. This has improved my advising, and also my instruction of the introductory level course by making me more aware of the needs of the other members of the faculty

## Teaching Achievements:

### Classroom Teaching:

Fall 2012	POLS 110	<a href="#">001</a>	11510	The Political World	107
Fall 2012	POLS 300	<a href="#">001</a>	27340	T: Constitution & Dem Theory	43
Fall 2012	POLS 315	<a href="#">001</a>	11592	Constitutional Law-Powers	65
Fall 2012	POLS 499	<a href="#">007</a>	12265	Independent Study	3
Summer 2012	POLS 303	<a href="#">001</a>	17825	Law in the Political Community	17
Summer 2012	POLS 499	<a href="#">003</a>	18236	Independent Study	1
Spring 2012	POLS 110	<a href="#">001</a>	11510	The Political World	104
Spring 2012	POLS 316	<a href="#">001</a>	26675	Constitutional Law-Liberties	62
Spring 2012	POLS 317	<a href="#">001</a>	33966	Constitutional Law-Rights	60
Spring 2012	POLS 499	<a href="#">013</a>	21643	Independent Study	1
Fall 2011	POLS 110	<a href="#">001</a>	11510	The Political World	143
Fall 2011	POLS 300	<a href="#">001</a>	27340	T: Constitution & Dem Theory	47
Fall 2011	POLS 315	<a href="#">001</a>	11592	Constitutional Law-Powers	62
Fall 2011	POLS 499	<a href="#">013</a>	21643	Independent Study	1
Summer 2011	POLS 303	<a href="#">001</a>	17825	Law in the Political Community	22
Spring 2011	POLS 110	<a href="#">001</a>	11510	The Political World	119
Spring 2011	POLS 316	<a href="#">001</a>	26675	Constitutional Law-Liberties	62
Spring 2011	POLS 317	<a href="#">001</a>	33966	Constitutional Law-Rights	61
Spring 2011	POLS 499	<a href="#">013</a>	21643	Independent Study	2

Fall 2010	POLS 110	<a href="#">001</a>	11510	The Political World	149
Fall 2010	POLS 300	<a href="#">001</a>	27340	T: Constitution & Dem Theory	59
Fall 2010	POLS 315	<a href="#">001</a>	11592	Constitutional Law-Powers	69
Fall 2010	POLS 499	<a href="#">013</a>	21643	Independent Study	1
Summer 2010	POLS 303	<a href="#">001</a>	17825	Law in the Political Community	42
Summer 2010	POLS 499	<a href="#">003</a>	18236	Independent Study	1
Spring 2010	POLS 110	<a href="#">001</a>	11510	The Political World	132
Spring 2010	POLS 316	<a href="#">001</a>	26675	Constitutional Law-Liberties	64
Spring 2010	POLS 317	<a href="#">001</a>	33966	Constitutional Law-Rights	62
Spring 2010	POLS 497	<a href="#">015</a>	36544	Senior Thesis	1
Spring 2010	POLS 499	<a href="#">013</a>	21643	Independent Study	3
Fall 2009	POLS 110	<a href="#">001</a>	11510	The Political World	136
Fall 2009	POLS 300	<a href="#">001</a>	27340	T: Constitution & Dem Theory	59
Fall 2009	POLS 315	<a href="#">001</a>	11592	Constitutional Law-Powers	74
Summer 2009	POLS 303	<a href="#">001</a>	17825	Law in the Political Community	21
Summer 2009	POLS 499	<a href="#">003</a>	18236	Independent Study	3
Spring 2009	POLS 110	<a href="#">001</a>	11510	The Political World	122
Spring 2009	POLS 316	<a href="#">001</a>	26675	Constitutional Law-Liberties	77
Spring 2009	POLS 317	<a href="#">001</a>	33966	Constitutional Law-Rights	70
Spring 2009	POLS 497	<a href="#">015</a>	36544	Senior Thesis	2
Fall 2008	POLS 110	<a href="#">001</a>	11510	The Political World	143
Fall 2008	POLS 300	<a href="#">001</a>	27340	T: Constitution & Dem Theory	53

Fall 2008	POLS 315	<a href="#">001</a>	11592	Constitutional Law-Powers	69
Fall 2008	POLS 499	<a href="#">013</a>	21643	Independent Study	1
Summer 2008	POLS 317	<a href="#">001</a>	16308	Constitutional Law-Rights	40
Spring 2008	POLS 110	<a href="#">001</a>	11510	The Political World	104
Spring 2008	POLS 300	<a href="#">002</a>	32602	T: Wrtnng a New US Constitution	40
Spring 2008	POLS 316	<a href="#">001</a>	26675	Constitutional Law-Liberties	61
Spring 2008	POLS 499	<a href="#">014</a>	21643	Independent Study	1
Fall 2007	POLS 110	<a href="#">001</a>	11510	The Political World	144
Fall 2007	POLS 300	<a href="#">005</a>	27340	T: Constitution & Dem Theory	66
Fall 2007	POLS 315	<a href="#">001</a>	11592	Constitutional Law-Powers	65
Fall 2007	POLS 499	<a href="#">014</a>	21643	Independent Study	1
Summer 2007	POLS 200	<a href="#">001</a>	12063	American Politics	17
Summer 2007	POLS 303	<a href="#">001</a>	14840	Law in the Political Community	31
Spring 2007	POLS 110	<a href="#">001</a>	11510	The Political World	85
Spring 2007	POLS 316	<a href="#">001</a>	26675	Constitutional Law-Liberties	58
Spring 2007	POLS 317	<a href="#">001</a>	26680	Constitutional Law-Rights	67
Spring 2007	POLS 499	<a href="#">014</a>	21643	Independent Study	2
Fall 2006	POLS 110	<a href="#">001</a>	11510	The Political World	148
Fall 2006	POLS 300A	<a href="#">001</a>	11556	T: Dem-Const Theory	45
Fall 2006	POLS 315	<a href="#">001</a>	11592	Constitutional Law-Powers	59
Fall 2006	POLS 499	<a href="#">014</a>	21643	Independent Study	3

### **Undergraduate Student Mentoring:**

As Undergraduate Advisor for the Department, I have informally mentored scores of majors and minors as they progressed towards their degrees. This also includes the many, many students whom I have advised and counseled during and after the process of applying to and attending law school.

### **Curriculum Development or Teaching Administrative Positions:**

2005-date. Undergraduate Advisor. It is my job to advise majors and minors on completion of the department's requirements, to approve and classify transfers of courses from other colleges and universities, and to provide guidance and direction as requested as students make their way through the undergraduate process. I see hundreds of students every year in my office. I developed carbonless versions of the "Plan of Study for the Major/Minor" forms the department uses so that the student and I both had a record of our conversation, and the student's progress towards completion of the degree requirements on the date we met. The form is then available to the student and me for future consultation. This was a simple move, but it has eliminated much doubt and confusion. I have adopted policies designed to get the students into my office as early in the process as possible, so that we can get them on a good track towards timely completion of the degree. When I first took this job I encountered several students who had misinformation about where they were with regards to completing the major or minor, and what was required of them. I think my efforts to reach the students sooner, and have a definite record of what we discussed, have paid off because it has been several years since I have seen a problem of that sort. I think these efforts have been successful as it has been years since I have had a student come in with a misunderstanding of the status of the major or minor.

### **Service:**

2005-date: I have served as a member of the Undergraduate Committee. In that capacity I have helped develop departmental policies regarding the completion of the major and the minor, helped complete the department's work on the undergraduate assessment program, and have served on the committee to award the department's scholarship funds.

For the past several years I have served as faculty sponsor of the College Republicans, and of the Lacrosse Team. Neither one of these groups calls on me for much work, but from time to time I have been able to assist them with some troublesome issues related to organization and administration, and I enjoy my interaction with them.

**Scholarly Achievements:**

**Chapter in Edited Volume:**

“The Judicial System” in New Mexico Government (now titled Governing New Mexico), ed. F. Chris Garcia, Paul Hain, Gilbert St. Clair and Kim Seckler, UNM Press (3<sup>rd</sup> ed. revised 2006), pp.127-144



