

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION  
The University of Michigan  
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

Mariah A. Zeisberg, assistant professor of political science, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of political science, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D. 2006 Princeton University  
B.A. 1999 University of Texas, Austin

Professional Record:

2006 – present Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Michigan  
2005 – 2006 Gilbane Post-doctoral Fellow in Political Theory, Brown University

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Zeisberg gives students a sophisticated understanding of the nature of the Constitution, the authorized interpreters of the document, and the political consequences of contests over interpretation. She has developed a diverse teaching portfolio and student evaluations of her courses are consistently high. She contributes centrally to a critical area of the undergraduate curriculum, and focuses particularly on developing students' writing skills. She is also a valued mentor of graduate students, contributing not only to their intellectual development as scholars but actively mentoring their teaching as well.

Research – Professor Zeisberg has a distinctive approach to theorizing the U. S. constitution. Her scholarly approach produces innovative and provocative insights on a range of important issues – war powers, judicial elections, coercive acquisition of territory, and the engagement of citizens with their Constitution. She has published four peer-reviewed articles and a book chapter, completed two manuscript articles, and has a forthcoming book which many feel will be a major contribution to the study of constitutional politics.

Recent and Significant Publications:

War Powers: The Politics of Constitutional Authority, Princeton University Press, forthcoming 2013.

“The relational conceptions of war powers,” in The Limits of Constitutional Democracy, J. K. Tulis and S. Macedo (eds.), Princeton University Press, 2010, pp. 168-193.

“Should we elect the U.S. Supreme Court?” *Perspectives on Politics*, 7(4), 2009, pp. 785-803.

Service – Professor Zeisberg has served on important committees and coordinated two workshops in her department. She has also served as subfield coordinator for the “public law” field, and reviewed manuscripts for a range of journals.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A)

“Zeisberg is well known and respected by the front rank of scholars within constitutional studies, and her special approach to constitutional questions positions her for a leadership role in the field. These factors make her worthy of tenure in any top political science department.”

Reviewer (B)

“I believe Prof. Zeisberg is producing some of the most important new work bearing on constitutional theory and American constitutional development. ... Zeisberg draws on extensive expertise in public law and in American political development, and speaks importantly to major issues in those fields.”

Reviewer (C)

“This is an extremely strong portfolio, and contains work of the highest quality and importance. ... Mariah’s standing in her areas of expertise and scholarly research is at the very top. In my judgement [sic] the argument deployed in her book on war powers is nothing short of revolutionary for the both the study of American political development and Constitutional law.”

Reviewer (D)

“There are some impressive aspects of Professor Zeisberg’s analyses. She understands the challenges of devising constitutional theory in a post-realist universe. She is attempting to incorporate political considerations while still maintaining a constitutional sensibility. She has good knowledge of some important constitutional episodes.”

Reviewer (E)

“Professor Zeisberg is one of the two most talented members of a very talented junior public law cohort. Her War Powers: A Political Theory of Constitutional Judgment...will be [a] blockbuster university press book. ... her stature in the field is already that of an established scholar. Her official title should reflect her uncontested unofficial stature.”

Reviewer (F)

“...she has exposed a real gap in Balkin’s account of constitutional legitimacy. Balkin’s response...essentially concedes the point and offers a needed clarification.”

Reviewer (G)

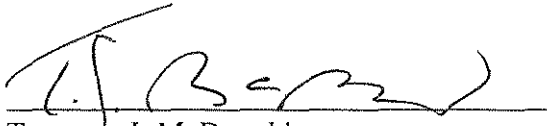
“Zeisberg is an excellent scholar of constitutional theory and the normative side of public law—parts of the study of constitutional law and practice that political science has gradually ceded to law schools. Zeisberg’s scholarship has real potential to reclaim important ground, and to demonstrate the distinctive contributions that political science and theory have to make to constitutional scholarship. ...[War Powers] is stunningly good; I had not expected anything like it, and am astonished and delighted by it.”

Reviewer (H)

“I also thought the article in *Perspectives [on Politics]* on electing the Supreme Court was excellent, well balanced, informed by her own brand of theory in non-obvious ways. ... it is clear that Zeisberg has produced a serious body of work...”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Zeisberg is well-respected in her field. She is an innovative teacher and an active mentor to students at all levels. Her service record is strong. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Assistant Professor Mariah A. Zeisberg be promoted to the rank of associate professor of political science, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.



Terrence J. McDonald  
Arthur F. Thurnau Professor,  
Professor of History and Dean  
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

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