

DOI: 10.3998/mpub.12079561

184 pages | 19 tables | 7 figures

Hardcover | 2023 | \$70.00 U.S. ISBN 978-0-472-07630-7

Paper | 2023 | \$24.95 U.S. ISBN 978-0-472-05630-9

Open Access ISBN 978-0-472-90369-6



"Blending incisive theoretical foundations, impressive original data, and rich descriptive insight, Administering Justice is a tour de force on the role chief justices play in state politics. It is a must-read for anyone interested in courts and state politics, but also offers broader insight into political leadership and institutional performance."

—Greg Goelzhauser, Utah State University

ADMINISTERING JUSTICE

Placing the Chief Justice in American State Politics

Richard L. Vining Jr. and Teena Wilhelm

Administering Justice examines the leadership role of chief justices in the American states, including how those duties require chief justices to be part of the broader state political environment. Vining and Wilhelm focus extensively on the power of chief justices as public spokespersons, legislative liaisons, and reform leaders. In contrast to much existing research on chief justices in the states, this study weighs their extrajudicial responsibilities rather than intracourt leadership. By assessing the content of State of the Judiciary remarks delivered over a period of sixty years, Vining and Wilhelm are able to analyze the reform agendas advanced by chief justices and determine what factors influence the likelihood of success. These analyses confirm that chief justices engage with state politics in meaningful ways and that reactions to their proposals are influenced by ideological congruence with other political elites and the scope of their requests. Administering Justice also examines the chief justice position as an institution, provides a collective profile of its occupants, and surveys growing diversity among court leaders.

Richard L. Vining Jr. is Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Georgia.

Teena Wilhelm is Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Georgia.

ORDER ONLINE AND SAVE 30% WITH DISCOUNT CODE UMF23!