

Contents

<i>List of Figures</i>	<i>page</i> xi
<i>List of Tables</i>	xiii
<i>Table of Cases</i>	xv
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	xxiii
1 Introduction	1
1.1 A Tale of Three State Court Decisions	3
1.2 A New Theoretical Approach	6
1.3 A Road Map for the Book	9
2 The Role of Precedent: A Brief History	13
2.1 The Origins of <i>Stare Decisis</i>	13
2.1.1 The Earliest Systematic Court Records: Bracton and the Year Books	14
2.1.2 The Gradual Modernization of Case Reporting	16
2.1.3 Precedent and Case Reporting in the American Colonies and the Early Post-independence Period	19
2.2 The Adoption of the Strong View of Precedent in English and American Law	22
2.2.1 Toward an Absolute View of Precedent and Back Again: England in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries	22
2.2.2 The View of Precedent in the US Courts	25
2.3 Are State Courts Bound to US Supreme Court Decisions?	30
2.3.1 When State and Federal Questions Are Mixed	34
2.4 Conclusion	38

3	A Theory of State High Court Usage of US Supreme Court Precedent	39
3.1	Decision-Making on State High Courts	40
3.2	State High Courts and US Supreme Court Precedent	42
3.3	Core Assumptions	44
3.4	A Theory of Precedent Usage by State High Courts	48
3.5	From Federal Precedent to State Policy	55
4	Conceptualizing and Measuring How State High Courts Use US Supreme Court Opinions	57
4.1	Brief History of Compliance Studies in Terms of Measurement Theory	57
4.2	Newer Research Contributions: The Gift of <i>Shepard's Citations</i>	60
4.3	Our Measure of State High Court Responses to US Supreme Court Precedents	64
4.4	Descriptive Findings from Three Empirical Applications	68
5	State High Court Responses to <i>Atkins v. Virginia</i>: Characterized by Flexibility	71
5.1	A Brief History of Death Penalty Litigation: Post- <i>Gregg v. Georgia</i>	72
5.2	Intellectual Disability and the Eighth Amendment: Controversy and Resolution	73
5.3	How States Have Dealt with <i>Atkins</i>	76
5.4	Supreme Court Post- <i>Atkins</i>	82
5.5	Application of Our Theory to <i>Atkins</i>	83
5.6	Data and Methods	86
5.7	Results and Discussion	90
5.8	Concluding Thoughts	93
6	State High Court Usage of <i>Lemon v. Kurtzman</i>: Examining a Case of Maximum Discretion	96
6.1	A Brief History of Establishment Clause Jurisprudence	98
6.2	<i>Lemon v. Kurtzman</i> : A (Failed) Attempt at a Universal Standard	100
6.3	How States Have Dealt with <i>Lemon</i>	104
6.4	Application of Our General Theory to <i>Lemon</i>	109
6.5	Data and Methods	113
6.6	Results and Discussion	115
6.7	Concluding Thoughts	118

7	State High Court Usage of <i>District of Columbia v. Heller</i> and <i>McDonald v. City of Chicago</i> : Moderate Degrees of Flexibility	121
7.1	<i>Heller</i> and <i>McDonald</i> : Establishing a Second Amendment Constitutional “Floor”	122
7.2	A Brief History of Second Amendment Case Law	123
7.3	<i>Heller</i> and <i>McDonald</i> : Cases and Immediate Aftermath	126
7.4	Research Design and Method	128
7.4.1	General Trends in State Court Responses to <i>Heller</i> and <i>McDonald</i>	128
7.5	Case Studies in State High Court Reactions to <i>Heller</i> and <i>McDonald</i>	136
7.5.1	States’ Citations and Treatments of <i>Heller</i> Prior to <i>McDonald</i>	138
7.5.2	Massachusetts’ Treatments of <i>McDonald</i> and <i>Heller</i> Post- <i>McDonald</i>	140
7.5.3	Illinois’ Treatments of <i>Heller</i> and <i>McDonald</i>	146
7.5.4	The Louisiana Supreme Court’s Discussion of <i>Heller</i> and <i>McDonald</i>	149
7.6	Conclusion	153
8	Concluding Thoughts and Future Extensions	156
8.1	Purpose and General Findings of the Book	156
8.2	Case Selection Concerns	159
8.2.1	Additional Notes on Case Selection: <i>Alden v. Maine</i>	160
8.3	Summary of Specific Findings from Our Applications	161
8.3.1	Summary of Findings from <i>Atkins</i> Chapter	162
8.3.2	Summary of Findings from <i>Lemon</i> Chapter	163
8.3.3	Summary of Findings from Second Amendment Chapter	164
8.4	Implications of Our Book	165
8.5	Future Work	166
	<i>Bibliography</i>	169
	<i>Index</i>	179