

focus will be on the newly released Appeals Court Data Base that should be available through the ICPSR by the beginning of the APSA Meeting. Also covered in the course will be explanations of recently added features of the Spaeth Supreme Court Data Base, including a discussion of the interface between the Appeals Court Data Base and the Supreme Court Data Base. Rounding out the presentations will be a first look at the beginning phases of the creation of a state supreme court data base that has recently been funded by the National Science Foundation.

The workshop sessions will begin with overviews of the nature and design of the three data bases. We will then proceed to present a "user's guide" to the data bases. Since the Appeals Court Data Base is likely to still be unknown to most participants, its contents will be examined in greatest detail. Brief overviews of each of the three data bases and detailed codebooks for the Appeals Court and Supreme Court data bases will be available to participants. Details for obtaining copies of each of the data bases through the ICPSR will also be available.

Following a description of the contents of the data bases, potential uses of the data bases will be explored. A roundtable discussion featuring Susan Haire, University of Georgia, Ashlyn Kuersten, University of South Carolina, and Reggie Sheehan and Malia Reddick of Michigan State will present a first set of analyses of change over time on the courts of appeals. Three specific analyses will be presented: 1) Susan Haire, "Issue Evolution on the Courts of Appeals: A Longitudinal Analysis"; 2) Ashlyn Kuersten, "Changing Influences on Decision Making in the U.S. Courts of Appeals"; and 3) Reginald Sheehan and Malia Reddick, "The Changing Nature of Litigants in the U.S. Courts of Appeals." Departing from the normal format of convention papers, each panelist will briefly describe the research question that they are seeking to answer and then describe the details of the manner in which the Appeals Court Data Base was used to investigate

their question. The emphasis will be on providing several "nuts and bolts" illustrations on the use of the data base. The presentations will conclude with a summary of the results of their analyses to date and ideas of future directions for research made possible by the availability of the data base.

The course will conclude with a roundtable on future directions for research and how the availability of these large data bases can contribute to a broadening of our scope of inquiry. Particular attention will be given to the types of projects that have already built on the Supreme Court Data Base, the ways in which the Appeals Court and Supreme Court Data Bases can be merged, and the potential for these data bases in graduate education. Tentative panel members for this roundtable are: Don Songer, University of South Carolina; Harold Spaeth, Michigan State University; Melinda Gann Hall, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; and Greg Caldeira, Ohio State University.

**Short Course 11:
Business and Politics in America:
Perspectives and Historical Patterns**
*Sponsor: Organized Section on
Politics and History*

The purpose of this course is to review approaches to the study of business-government relations and business power in America from both contemporary and historical perspectives. It will examine the long-standing and continuing debate over the power of business in America, changes in the form and extent of business political activity, the role of business in shaping health-care policy, tax policy and environmental policy, changing corporate perceptions of economic growth, the business collective action problem, potential cross-class coalitions in the post-industrial welfare state, the historical development of business ideology, and the distinctiveness of American business-government relations.

This full day course will be led by David Vogel, University of California at Berkeley, and Cathie Jo Martin, Boston University.

**Foreign Student Travel
Grants for 1996 APSA
Annual Meeting**

The American Political Science Association will again offer a limited number of travel grants for foreign graduate students studying in the U.S. to attend the APSA Annual Meeting in 1996. Through funding support from the Huang Hsing Foundation and members of the APSA, the Advanced Foreign Graduate Student Travel Grant Program will bring nearly 30 foreign students to Chicago.

APSA selects the recipients on the basis of the following guidelines:

- Recipients of awards must be studying in the United States at the time the award is offered to them.
- Recipients must be full-time graduate students. Foreign graduate students having refugee, immigrant, or tourist visa status are not eligible.
- Applicants who are furthest along in their graduate course of study and intend to return to their native country once their course of study is completed will be given preference.
- Applicants are not eligible for awards if they are receiving any U.S. government funds for either travel or academic expenses.
- Previous grant recipients are not eligible.
- The maximum award to an individual is \$300.

Applicants must complete a form available from the APSA national office and must have their department chair write a letter of support for their application. Applicants without a letter of support *will not* be considered.

The deadline for the receipt of the complete application for a travel grant to the August 28–September 1, 1996 Annual Meeting is July 5. Application forms and further information are available by calling (202) 483-2512 or e-mail twombly@apsa.com.