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## **The Relationship Between the Ideology of Candidates for State Supreme Courts and the Contribution Preferences of Male and Female Donors**

Aleksandra P. Moskal  
School of Industrial Engineering, Purdue University  
[amoskal21@gmail.com](mailto:amoskal21@gmail.com)

Eric N. Waltenburg  
Department of Political Science, Purdue University  
[ewaltenb@purdue.edu](mailto:ewaltenb@purdue.edu)

### **Abstract**

To what extent does a candidate's gender and ideological disposition affect the contribution decisions of the financiers of state judicial elections? Using data from *FollowTheMoney.org* and the Bonica and Woodruff (2015) common space measures of state judicial ideology, we find both a 'gender affinity' effect and an effect of ideology. More specifically, we find that women financiers provide greater support to more liberal women candidates, whereas the contribution decisions of male financiers are oriented to conservative male candidates and to candidacies where their contributions might be expected to have a greater effect on the electoral outcome. We argue this pattern of contribution decisions affects the ideological composition of the state bench.

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