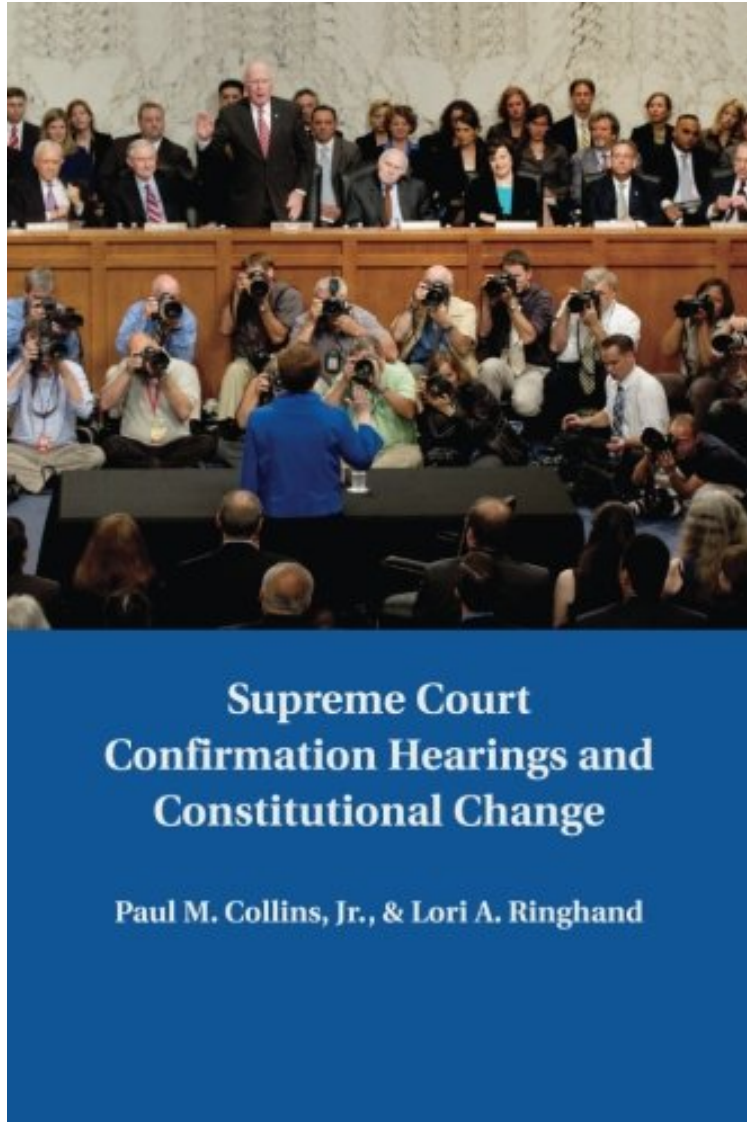


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Supreme Court Confirmation Hearings and Constitutional Change

Paul M. Collins, Lori A. Ringhand

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Paul M. Collins, Lori A. Ringhand : Supreme Court Confirmation Hearings and Constitutional Change before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Supreme Court Confirmation Hearings and Constitutional Change:

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Before Supreme Court nominees are allowed take their place on the high Court, they must face a moment of democratic reckoning by appearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee. Despite the potential this holds for public input into the direction of legal change, the hearings are routinely derided as nothing but empty rituals and political grandstanding. In this book, Paul M. Collins, Jr., and Lori A. Ringhand present a contrarian view that uses both empirical data and stories culled from more than seventy years of transcripts to demonstrate that the hearings are a democratic forum for the discussion and ratification of constitutional change. As such, they are one of the ways in which "We the People" take ownership of the Constitution by examining the core constitutional values of those permitted to interpret it on our behalf.

Supreme Court Confirmation Hearings and Constitutional Change was recognized by Choice as a 2014 Outstanding Academic Title. "This book does exactly what a scholarly manuscript ought to do: It offers a novel theoretical interpretation of a long-known phenomenon, makes arguments backed up with empirical evidence and accompanied by real-life examples, and makes one think. While it remains debatable whether theirs is the 'right' view of the phenomenon under study, it is absolutely the case that it ought to be taken seriously and widely discussed and debated." Sara C. Benesh, University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee, Law Society "It is unusual that a book challenges a strong conventional wisdom and persuasively argues against it, but in Supreme Court Confirmation Hearings and Constitutional Change Paul Collins and Lori Ringhand successfully do just that. ...In summary, this is a great book and a must read for anybody who feels the confirmation hearings lack meaning in our constitutional system of government." Justin Wedeking, University of Kentucky, Perspectives on Politics About the Author Paul M. Collins is Director and Professor of Legal Studies at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. His research focuses on understanding the democratic nature of the judiciary, interdisciplinary approaches to legal decision making, and social movement litigation. The recipient of numerous research awards, he has published articles in the Journal of Empirical Legal Studies, the Journal of Politics, Law and Social Inquiry, the Law Society , the Notre Dame Law , Political Research Quarterly, and other journals. Collins is also the author of Friends of the Supreme Court: Interest Groups and Judicial Decision Making, which received the 2009 C. Herman Pritchett Award from the Law and Courts Section of the American Political Science Association.