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978-1-107-00432-0 - The Unwieldy American State: Administrative Politics Since the New Deal

Joanna L. Grisinger

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The Unwieldy American State

The Unwieldy American State offers a political and legal history of the administrative state from the 1940s through the early 1960s. After Progressive Era reforms and New Deal policies shifted a substantial amount of power to administrators, the federal government's new size and shape made one question that much more important: How should agencies and commissions exercise their enormous authority? In examining procedural reforms in light of postwar political developments, Joanna L. Grisinger shows how administrative law was shaped outside the courts. Using the language of administrative law, parties debated substantive questions about administrative discretion, effective governance, and national policy and designed reforms accordingly. In doing so, they legitimated the administrative process as a valid form of government.

Joanna L. Grisinger is currently a senior continuing lecturer at the Center for Legal Studies at Northwestern University. She has received fellowships and research support from the Miller Center of Public Affairs, the William Nelson Cromwell Foundation, the Harry S. Truman Library Institute, the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library Association, Clemson University, and The University of Chicago.

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*for my parents
and for Manish*

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Abbreviations

ABA	American Bar Association
ACLU	American Civil Liberties Union
APA	Administrative Procedure Act
APSA	American Political Science Association
CAB	Civil Aeronautics Board
CPSC	Consumer Product Safety Commission
CSC	Civil Service Commission
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FAA	Federal Aviation Administration
FCC	Federal Communications Commission
FPC	Federal Power Commission
FSA	Federal Security Agency
FTC	Federal Trade Commission
HUAC	House Un-American Activities Committee
ICC	Interstate Commerce Commission
INS	Immigration and Naturalization Service
IRS	Internal Revenue Service
NLRB	National Labor Relations Board
OPA	Office of Price Administration
PACGO	President's Advisory Committee on Government Organization
RFC	Reconstruction Finance Corporation
SEC	Securities and Exchange Commission
TVA	Tennessee Valley Authority
USDA	Department of Agriculture
WPB	War Production Board

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