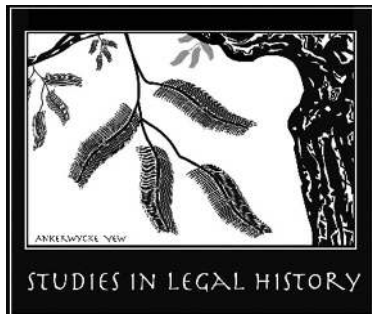


Monitoring American Federalism

Monitoring American Federalism examines some of the nation's most significant controversies in which state legislatures have attempted to be active partners in the process of constitutional decision-making. Christian G. Fritz looks at interposition, which is the practice of states opposing federal government decisions that were deemed unconstitutional. Interposition became a much-used constitutional tool to monitor the federal government and organize resistance, beginning with the Constitution's ratification and continuing through the present affecting issues including gun control, immigration, and healthcare. Though the use of interposition was largely abandoned because of its association with nullification and the Civil War, recent interest reminds us that the federal government cannot run roughshod over states, and that states lack any legitimate power to nullify federal laws. Insightful and comprehensive, this appraisal of interposition breaks new ground in American political and constitutional history, and can help us preserve our constitutional system and democracy.

Christian G. Fritz is Emeritus Professor of Law at the University of New Mexico School of Law. He is the author of *American Sovereigns: The People and America's Constitutional Tradition before the Civil War*.



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www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781009325578

DOI: 10.1017/9781009325608

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First published 2023

Printed in the United Kingdom by TJ Books Limited, Padstow Cornwall

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

ISBN 978-1-009-32557-8 Hardback

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*To my wife Marlene and to Professor Robert Middlekauff,
dedicated scholar and teacher*

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Acknowledgments

No one conceptualizes, writes or struggles with a book alone. During the creation of this work, I have received much appreciated support and encouragement from many friends and hiking buddies, including Teresa Colwell, Ken Finney, David W. Greenthal, Mike Jacobs, Walter Kopp, Janet and Rob McCray, Linde Mohr, Maryann Phipps, Arthur Rypinski, and Glenn Westreich. Joe Franaszek, as ever, has been a tremendous sounding board during the countless miles we've trekked over the years and he deserves credit for pointing me towards Southern legislatures during the Civil War.

My family has also been an indispensable source of strength and I am blessed with two wonderful sisters, Marilu Reid and Diana Boyce. While seeing little of the manuscript but much of the author, their loving presence is very much a part of this book. Nana has had my back even before I could walk and her pride in the completion of this project is reciprocated by my gratitude for all that she has meant to me. Her three daughters, Jessica Solberg, Nikki Boyce, and Kaitlin Boyce (and their loved ones) have also left their mark on this book through their care and concern for the author. Alea Rae Boyce Yokom was born during the pandemic and the final stages of this work and she will never really know how much joy her arrival has brought to all of us.

Numerous colleagues and friends have also provided important help. Tony Freyer, Ron Formisano, and Mel Yazawa each gave valuable feedback on an earlier introduction to the book and Todd Estes read a version of Chapters 1 and 3 as well as the Introduction and made extremely helpful suggestions. Reid Mitchell provided a close reading of the entire manuscript late in the process, and John D. Gordan III undertook that task twice – each time saving me from

Acknowledgments

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egregious errors. Their commitment to the author and the project is deeply appreciated.

For thirty-five years I have had the benefit of the staff of the law library of the University of New Mexico (UNM) School of Law. With this book, as with preceding publications, I am most grateful for their assistance in locating and providing elusive source material. My colleagues and friends from my time at the law school, Barbara Bergman and April Land, have done much to lift my spirits.

Two additional friends and colleagues at UNM School of Law deserve special recognition: Michael Browde and Jim Ellis. Each brought profound knowledge of American constitutional law along with unstinting support for the author and commitment to this book. Each has read versions of this work multiple times – in Michael’s case an astonishing three times – on each occasion making this a far better book than it otherwise would have been. I am humbled by their friendship and their gift of time.

I am grateful for two wonderful editors. Sally Barringer Gordon, my editor for the Studies in Legal History, expressed early enthusiasm for the book, has been a joy to work with, and has provided extraordinarily helpful guidance in facilitating the review process. I also wish to thank Cecelia Cancellaro, my editor at Cambridge University Press, who challenged me to reduce the length of the manuscript and, in so doing, helped me produce a much better book. Thanks are also due to Ken Moxham for excellent copyediting.

Teachers often impact their students in ways that go unnoticed. As a young history graduate student at Berkeley, I was fortunate to have numerous role models – although none finer than Robert Middlekauff. During a lunch more than ten years ago, Professor Middlekauff made an insightful observation that led me to a broader study of the nature of political representation in America and, in particular, changes in the relationship between representatives and their constituents as a consequence of the widespread acceptance of popular sovereignty. The present book represents a digression from that much broader study of the history of American democracy.

My greatest debt is to my wife, Marlene Keller. It has been my great fortune to have married a Berkeley-trained historian and superb editor who has courageously – and at the risk of marital harmony – *always* told me the truth about my writing. Her commitment to the editing and refinement of this book makes it as much her book as mine.