

# Law and (Disciplinary) Order: A Dialogue about Louis Fisher, Constitutionalism, and Political Science

## Editor's Introduction

**Bruce Peabody**, *Fairleigh Dickinson University, guest editor*

**F**or more than four decades, Louis Fisher has been writing about, speaking to, and teaching scholars and political practitioners. His intellectual range has been remarkable (he moves easily from institutional research on all three federal branches to historical studies to detailed legal analyses) and his scholarly output intimidating.

As the pages of the following symposium make clear, however, one of the curious features of Fisher's career (and, per-

haps, of our discipline) has been his greater influence outside of rather than within political science. Although Fisher is trained and conversant in the debates of our field, he writes first to political leaders, their staff, policymakers, and the general public—rather than to an academic audience.

The following collection of articles is designed to survey, celebrate, and engage Fisher's research and career, but also to think through the implications (and sources) of this intellectual legacy. This symposium represents an especially timely opportunity for political science to reflect on Fisher's body of work since it comes on the heels of a 2011 APSA roundtable probing many of the same issues (and featuring many of the same scholars included herein), and his receiving of the 2012 Humphrey Award, "in recognition of notable public service by an individual trained in political science." ■

## SYMPOSIUM AUTHORS

**David Gray Adler** is the Cecil D. Andrus Professor of Public Affairs at Boise State University, where he serves as director of the Andrus Center for Public Policy. He is the author of numerous works on the Constitution and presidential power and has written extensively on the constitutional governance of war and foreign affairs. He can be reached at davidadler@boisestate.edu.

**Jasmine Farrier** is an associate professor in the department of political science at the University of Louisville. Her research focuses on congressional delegation of power in budgeting and foreign policy. Her publications include *Passing the Buck: Congress, the Budget, and Deficits* (Kentucky, 2004) and *Congressional Ambivalence: The Political*

*Burdens of Constitutional Authority* (Kentucky, 2010). Farrier's current book project is on separation of powers jurisprudence, the political question doctrine, and federal lawsuits involving members of Congress. She can be reached at jfarrier@louisville.edu.

**Louis Fisher** worked for Congress for four decades from 1970 to 2010, first as senior specialist in Separation of Powers at Congressional Research Service and later as specialist in Constitutional Law with the Law Library. Author of 20 books and more than 450 articles, he has testified 51 times before congressional committees on a range of constitutional issues. On retirement in August 2010, he joined the Constitution Project as Scholar in Residence. He had been active with the Project for the previous 10 years in such

areas as war powers and the state secrets privilege. Many of his articles, books, and congressional testimony are available at his webpage: <http://loufisher.org>. He can be reached at lfisher11@verizon.net.

**Nancy Kassop** is a professor in the department of political science and international relations at the State University of New York at New Paltz. Her research is on the presidency and law. Her most recent articles are "President Obama and Counterterrorism Policy: When Campaign Promises Meet Governing Imperatives," co-authored with Steven Goldzwig, in Julia Azari, Lara Brown and Zim Nwokora, eds., *The Presidential Leadership Dilemma: Between the Constitution and a Political Party* (Albany: SUNY Press, 2013) and "Rivals for Influence on

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## Symposium: Law and (Disciplinary) Order

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*Counterterrorism Policy: White House Staff vs. Executive Branch Legal Advisors* in *Presidential Studies Quarterly* (Vol. 43, No. 2 (June 2013)). She is a book review editor for *Presidential Studies Quarterly*. She can be reached at: [kassopn@newpaltz.edu](mailto:kassopn@newpaltz.edu).

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**Bruce Peabody** is a professor of political science at Fairleigh Dickinson University in Madison, New

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**Mitchel A. Sollenberger** is an associate professor of political science in the department of social sciences at the University of Michigan, Dearborn. He previously worked with Louis Fisher at the Congressional Research Service as an analyst in American National Government. He is the author of several books that include *The President Shall Nominate: How Congress Trumps Executive Power* (University Press of Kansas, 2008), *Judicial Appointments and Demo-*

*cratic Controls* (Carolina Academic Press, 2011), and the co-author of *The President's Czars: Undermining Congress and the Constitution* (University Press of Kansas, 2012) with Mark J. Rozell. He can be reached at [msollenb@umich.edu](mailto:msollenb@umich.edu).

**Robert J. Spitzer** is distinguished service professor and chair of the political science department at SUNY Cortland. The author of 14 books, including *Saving the Constitution from Lawyers* (Cambridge University Press, 2008), and *The Politics of Gun Control* (5th ed., 2012, Paradigm), his research interests include the American presidency and gun policy. His recent research has appeared in *Presidential Studies Quarterly* and various law reviews. He is also a regular contributor to *The Huffington Post*. He can be reached at [robert.spitzer@cortland.edu](mailto:robert.spitzer@cortland.edu).