



**PRINCETON**  
**Neuroscience**  
**INSTITUTE**

SAMUEL S.-H. WANG  
*Professor*  
609 258 0388 (tel)  
609 258 1028 (fax)  
sswang@princeton.edu

September 13, 2015

To the Editor:

I wish to submit your consideration my article "A Three-Prong Standard for Practical Evaluation of Partisan Gerrymandering."

My article concerns the topic of partisan gerrymandering, which has come up repeatedly before the Supreme Court. The Court has held that drawing districts for partisan advantage is a justiciable question, *i.e.* within their purview, but that no manageable standard yet exists for identifying when a state-level gerrymander has occurred. Establishing this standard requires the support of Justice Anthony Kennedy. This fall, the Court will take up the topic again, in *Harris v. Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission* (docket no. 14-232). This live case adds a degree of time-sensitivity to my submission.

I am not a law professor, but a scholar of politics and an associate of the Princeton University Program in Law and Public Affairs. I believe that concerns expressed by Justice Kennedy can be addressed by using mathematical and statistical tools to flesh out the principles set out by him and others on the Supreme Court. In my article I propose a manageable standard for partisan gerrymandering using simple statistical means. The standard consists of three tests that are simple and can be used with minimal expert assistance. To get a sense of the style of reasoning, see my article in the *New York Times*, "The Great Gerrymander of 2012," published on February 2, 2013. My work on gerrymandering has triggered substantial discussion and coverage in the *New York Review of Books*, *Rolling Stone* magazine, and the *Washington Post*.

Because my proposed standard has the potential to fundamentally influence redistricting law, I believe this work to be timely and suitable for a broad audience of legal scholars. The article is currently 16,195 words long including footnotes and captions (12,059 words counting main text alone). If it is accepted, I will be glad to work with you to develop it for publication. Thank you for your consideration of this work.

Sincerely yours,

Samuel S.-H. Wang  
Faculty Associate, Program in Law and Public Affairs

