

KAREN L. OWEN, Ph.D.

University of West Georgia
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Updated: September 2025

I. EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.), Political Science, The University of Georgia, August 2012
Dissertation: *We're not only Ladies. We are Politicians. Gender, Roles Models and the Decision to Run for the U.S. Congress.* Dr. Charles S. Bullock, III, Chair.

Master Public Administration (M.P.A.), The University of Georgia, May 2004

Bachelor of Arts (B.A.), Political Science, The University of Georgia, *magna cum laude*,
December 2001

II. ACADEMIC POSITIONS AND LEADERSHIP APPOINTMENTS

Dean, University College (January 2023 to present)

Dean, Honors College (February 2023 to present)

Interim Dean, University College (April 2022 to December 2022)

University of West Georgia, Carrollton, Georgia

- Lead an innovative, collaborative college focused on “Empowering every student, supporting every college.” Leadership includes management and oversight of an office with two associate deans, administrative manager, program manager, program coordinator, communications specialist, and administrative assistant. University College includes academic departments: General Education, Interdisciplinary Studies, and Department of Civic Engagement and Public Service as well as student success departments: Office of Undergraduate Research, Multicultural Achievement, Department of Academic Excellence (University Advising and Center for Academic Success - Tutoring/Coaching), and Academic Transition Programs. I direct and guide strategic priorities for ten department chairs/directors, 50 faculty, and over 75 staff, and support more than 3,000 students.
- Lead and restructure new direction for academic, scholarship, and co-curricular programs for the Honors College. Developed a new handbook for Honors students that specifies graduation requirements, redefines capstone projects, and establishes community engagement practices and responsibilities.
- Foster and build relationships with students, alumni, and donors.

Professor (with tenure) (August 2025 to present)

Director of the Thomas B. Murphy Center for Public Service (August 2021 to present)

University of West Georgia, Carrollton, Georgia

- Teach masters level courses: Public Administration and Policy and Public Policy Process, Research Methodology, Public Organizational Theory, Leadership in the Public and Nonprofit Sectors, and Administrative Law within the MPA program.

- Teach undergraduate courses: Introduction to American Government, Introduction to Political Science, Legislative Politics, Women in Politics, Judicial Process and Behavior, and Southern Politics.
- Teaching Philosophy: *Teaching is not about lecturing and imparting facts of information. It is about stimulating interest in learning and an understanding of ideas, fostering critical thinking, promoting the discussion of theories and empirical research, and encouraging students to think independently.*
- Advise within the master's program in Public Administration which includes recruiting students, marketing and outreach, and preparing graduate curriculum.
- Direct the Murphy Center for Public Service educational and learning activities which include the Murphy Distinguished Lecture Series, the LeadershipUWG/Murphy Fellows program, and program evaluation.
- Responsible for independent scholarly research in preparation for publications.

Associate Professor (with tenure)

University of West Georgia, Carrollton, Georgia (August 2021 to July 2025)

Assistant Professor of Political Science

Director of the Thomas B. Murphy Center for Public Service

University of West Georgia, Carrollton, Georgia (August 2018 to August 2021)

Assistant Professor of Political Science

Director of Master of Public Administration Program

Reinhardt University, Waleska and Alpharetta, Georgia (June 2013 to August 2017)

III. PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Founder and Board of Trustees President

VoteHer, Inc., Atlanta, Georgia (July 2020 to July 2023; paused role given academic position)

- Oversaw the operations of VoteHer, Inc, a Georgia-based nonprofit, that increases the number of women actively involved in politics
- Developed, implemented, and directed the strategic plan for VoteHer, Inc.
- Organized and facilitated educational, candidate training, and mentoring programs for women who want to engage in the political process
- Fundraised and managed grant resources and financial donations; secured more than \$15,000 in three months

Public Health and Legislative Policy Analyst

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, Georgia (October 2005 to August 2007)

- Analyzed federal, state, and local health and environmental policy and legislation
- Prepared congressional legislative and administrative agency appropriations briefing and testimony materials
- Collected and edited scientific programmatic information for the National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH) and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)

Legislative Assistant

U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. (June 2004 to September 2005)

- Researched and tracked policy and legislation involving key issues: appropriations, armed services, agriculture, budget, transportation, natural resources, taxes, and governmental oversight for the Energy and Commerce Committee
- Maintained contact with legislative, policy, and constituent organizations to prepare and review key legislation
- Prepared policy memorandum, vote justifications, and floor speeches for the congressman

Legislative Analyst/Lobbyist

Ford Motor Company, Southeastern Governmental Affairs (December 2001 to October 2002)

- Researched and analyzed federal, state, and local transportation and auto industry policy and legislation
- Developed and fostered contact and relationships with legislators, policy leaders, and constituent organizations for education on impactful policies and review of legislation and administrative regulation
- Prepared legislative packets and decided PAC contributions to legislators

IV. RESEARCH

RESEARCH INTERESTS

American Institutions, specifically Congress and Georgia General Assembly, Southern Politics, Women's Roles in Public Service, Elections, and Redistricting

BOOKS

Charles S. Bullock, III & Karen L. Owen. 2021. *Special Elections: The Backdoor Entrance to Congress*. Oxford University Press.

Karen L. Owen. 2017. *Women Officeholders and the Role Models who Pioneered the Way*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books.

ARTICLES & CHAPTERS

Karen L. Owen. 2022. "Georgia: Rebirth of Two-Party Competition in a Growing Deep South State." In *Presidential Swing States*, edited by David Schultz and Rafael Jacob. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books imprint of Rowman & Littlefield.

Karen L. Owen. 2019. "The National Committee for an Effective Congress." In *Political Groups, Parties and Interest Groups that Shaped America*, Scott Ainsworth and Brian Harward, editors, ABC-CLIO publishers.

Charles S. Bullock, III, Susan MacManus, Karen L. Owen, Corttney Penberthy, Ralph Reid, and Brian McPhee. 2014. "Your Honor" is a Female: A Multistage Electoral Analysis of Women's Successes at Securing State Trial Court Judgeships." *Social Science Quarterly*, 95: 1322-1345.

Charles S. Bullock, III & Karen Owen. 2012. "Marshall v. Scott in Georgia's Eighth Congressional District: The Power of Incumbency Fails." In *Cases in Congressional Campaigns*. Randall E. Adkins and David A. Dulio, editors. New York: Routledge Press: 181-200.

Charles S. Bullock, III & Karen L. Owen. 2009. "Alternative Paths to the Bench: Recruitment of Women to Become Judges in Georgia." *Georgia Political Science Association Online Publication Proceedings*.

Charles S. Bullock, III & Karen L. Padgett Owen. 2007. "Partisan Change and Consequences for Lobbying: Two-Party Government Comes to the Georgia Legislature." *State and Local Government Review*, 39: 61-71.

Susan McManus, Charles S. Bullock III, Karen L. Padgett, and Brittany Penberthy. 2005. "Women at the Local Level: Are County and School Board Positions Becoming More Desirable in Plugging the Pipeline to Higher Office?" in *Women in Politics: Outsiders or Insiders?*, 4th edition. Lois Duke Whitaker, editor, Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall: 117-136.

EXPERT LITIGATION CONSULTING & TECHNICAL REPORTS

Karen L. Owen. 2021. "Redistricting's Surprising Impact on women." Essay with Larissa Martinez. *Atlanta Journal Constitution*. November 5, 2021.

Karen L. Owen. Expert Opinions/Technical Reports provided in each of the following legal cases:

Wright v. Sumter County Board of Elections and Registration, No. 1:14-CV-42 (WLS, M.D.Ga.),
Georgia State Conference of the NAACP, et al., v. Fayette County Board of Commissioners, et al., No. 3:11-cv-123-TCB,
Lee v. Virginia State Board of Elections, No. 3:15-CV-357 (E.D. Va),
Common Cause, et al v. Lewis, No. 18-CVS-014001 (North Carolina Superior Court, Wake County),
Thompson v. Merrill., No. 2:16-cv-783-ECM-SMD (M.D. Al), and
NEOCH et al. V. LaRose, No. 1:23-cv-00026-DCN (N.D. Ohio)

MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS

Thomas Hunter and Karen L. Owen. *The Women's Offices: Alabama's Unique History of Female Officeholding in three Constitutional Offices*. Book Project.

Karen L. Owen, Keith Lee, and James LaPlant. *Run: The 2022 US Senate Race in Georgia*. Book Project

Karen L. Owen and Mark Owens. "Redistricting in Texas: Public Interest and Opinion." Paper under Academic Journal Review.

Karen L. Owen. "The Distinctive Roles of Female Congressional Staff."

DISSERTATION

Karen L. Owen. 2012. *We're not only Ladies. We are Politicians. Gender, Roles Models and the Decision to Run for the U.S. Congress*. Ph.D. dissertation written under the direction of Charles S. Bullock, III, Committee: Jamie L. Carson, Susan Haire, and Ryan Bakker.

CONFERENCE PAPERS & PRESENTATIONS

Karen L. Owen and Thomas Hunter. "Shoe Leather Wins Victory: Agnes Baggett Begins Her Record-Breaking Career in Alabama Politics." Paper presented at the Citadel's Symposium on Southern Politics, Charleston, South Carolina, March 6-8, 2024.

Karen L. Owen. "Women in Politics Panel." Panel Presentation at Georgia Political Science Association's Annual Meeting, Savannah, Georgia, November 9-11, 2022.

Karen L. Owen, Keith Lee and James LaPlant. "Run Herschel Run." Book Panel Presentation at Georgia Political Science Association's Annual Meeting, Savannah, Georgia, November 9-11, 2022.

Karen L. Owen, Keith Lee and James LaPlant. "Run Herschel Run." Paper presented at the Citadel's Symposium on Southern Politics, Charleston, South Carolina, March 3-5, 2022.

Karen L. Owen and Mark Owens. "Redistricting in Texas: Public Interest and Opinion." Paper presented at the Citadel's Symposium on Southern Politics, Charleston, South Carolina, March 3-5, 2022.

Karen L. Owen. "Georgia: Rebirth of Two-Party Competition in a Growing Deep South State." Paper presented at the Georgia Political Science Association's Annual Meeting, Savannah, Georgia, November 10-12, 2021.

Karen L. Owen & Thomas Hunter. "The Black Widow of Alabama Politics: Sibyl Pool Becomes Secretary of State." Paper presented at the Citadel's Symposium on Southern Politics, Charleston, South Carolina, March 4-6, 2020.

Karen L. Owen & Charles S. Bullock, III. "Are Special Elections to Congress the Bellwether to Other Elections or Just Local, Partisan Affairs?" Paper presented at the Southern Political Science Association's Annual Meeting, Austin, Texas, January 17-19, 2019.

Karen L. Owen. *Women Officeholders and the Role Models who Pioneered the Way*. Author Meets Critics at the Southern Political Science Association's Annual Meeting, Austin, Texas, January 17-19, 2019.

Karen L. Owen, Mark Owens & Mason Miller. "Framing the Picture: Lessons from Statutory Law and Judicial Precedents on Voter Identification." Paper presented at the Southern Political Science Association's Annual Meeting, Austin, Texas, January 17-19, 2019.

Karen L. Owen & Thomas Hunter. "The Women's Offices: Alabama's Unique History of Female Officeholding in three Constitutional Offices." Paper presented at the Georgia Political Science Association's Annual Meeting, Savannah, Georgia, November 8-10, 2018.

Karen L. Owen and Morgan Padgett. “*Not to Die*: Legal Representation for Capital Offenses.” Paper presented at the Georgia Political Science Association’s Annual Meeting, Savannah, Georgia, November 8-10, 2018.

Karen L. Owen & Charles S. Bullock, III. “The Special Election Primary Runoff in Georgia’s Sixth Congressional District.” Paper presented at the Citadel’s Symposium on Southern Politics, Charleston, South Carolina, March 1-2, 2018.

Thomas Hunter & Karen L. Owen. “The Women’s Offices: Alabama’s Unique History of Female Officeholding in three Constitutional Offices.” Paper presented at the Citadel’s Symposium on Southern Politics, Charleston, South Carolina, March 1-2, 2018.

Karen L. Owen & Mark Owens. “Redistricting as a Hurdle for Female Incumbents in the South.” Paper presented at the Citadel’s Symposium on Southern Politics, Charleston, South Carolina, March 1-2, 2018.

Charles S. Bullock, III & Karen L. Owen. “The Special Election Primary in Georgia’s Sixth Congressional District.” Paper presented at the Georgia Political Science Association’s Annual Meeting, Savannah, Georgia, November 9-11, 2017.

Karen L. Owen & Mark Owens. “Growth and Geography in the South: Representation in the North Carolina and Texas State Legislatures.” Paper presented at the Citadel’s Symposium on Southern Politics, Charleston, South Carolina, March 3-4, 2016.

Karen L. Owen & Mark Owens. “The Electoral Connection and Ensuing Influence of Political Role Models” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, Illinois, April 16-19, 2015.

Karen L. Owen & Mark Owens. “Gender Consequences of Modern Redistricting in the South.” Paper presented at the Citadel’s Symposium on Southern Politics, Charleston, South Carolina, March 6-7, 2014.

Karen L. Owen. “Reaching for the Political Stars: The Influence of Political Role Models on Women’s Ascension to Congress.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, New Orleans, Louisiana, August 30-September 2, 2012.

Karen L. Owen and Mark Owens. “Position Taking by Female Politicians: The Electoral Connection and Ensuing Influence of Political Role Models.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Seattle, Washington, September 1-3, 2011.

Karen L. Owen. “Watch out boys! We’re not only Ladies; we’re politicians. Women’s Ascension to Elected Office, 1866 to 1964.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, Illinois, March 31-April 3, 2011.

Karen L. Owen. “Ascending the Political Ladder? Assessing Female State Legislators through Candidate Emergence and Electoral Success for the U.S. House of Representatives.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, Atlanta, Georgia, January 7, 2010.

Karen L. Owen. “Watch out, boys! We are Risin’.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Georgia Political Science Association, Callaway Gardens, Pine Mountain, Georgia, November 2009.

Karen L. Owen & Charles S. Bullock, III. "Alternative Paths to the Bench: Women and Minorities Recruitment to Become Judges in Georgia." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Georgia Political Science Association. Savannah, GA, November 2008.

Charles S. Bullock, III & Karen L. Padgett. "Partisan Change and Consequences for Lobbying: Two-Party Government Comes to the Georgia Legislature." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association. Chicago, IL, April 2004.

V. INVITED PRESENTATIONS

Guest Judge, "National Civics Bee." For the Coweta-Newnan Chamber of Commerce and Coweta County Schools System Regional competition. March 17, 2025.

Guest Moderator, "A Conversation with Former Governors." Murphy Center for Public Service. Georgia Institute of Technology. March 12, 2025.

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/wh22dryecvgw5grdj6jqd/Governors-Fireside-Chat.mp4?rlkey=epiu7y98kv5nidkurn0mr9wu&st=y3afdhyo&dl=0>

Guest Speaker, "Politics in Georgia." For the Carrollton Rotary Club. June 18, 2024.

Guest Speaker, Radio Commentator on Georgia Public Broadcast's *Political Rewind*, January 2019 to present.

Guest Lecturer, "Political Elections in Georgia: Midterms and Gubernatorial." For the Sertoma Club, Carrollton, Georgia. March 11, 2024.

Guest Lecturer, "Political Elections in Georgia: Midterms and Gubernatorial." For the Sertoma Club, Carrollton, Georgia. October 18, 2022.

Guest Lecturer, "Political Elections in Georgia: Midterms and Gubernatorial." For the Lions Club, Carrollton, Georgia. October 11, 2022

Guest Panelist, "Redistricting: What to Expect." For Women's Public Leadership Network, September 22, 2021.

Guest Lecturer, "Women Running for Office." University of Texas, Tyler. July 15, 2021.

Guest Panelist, "Rankin Circle – Georgia Politics Outlook." For Women's Public Leadership Network. June 8, 2021.

Guest Lecturer, "Encouraging more women in politics." League of Women Voters, Texas, May 22, 2021.

Guest Lecturer, "Encouraging more women in politics." League of Women Voters, Carrollton, GA. April 15, 2021.

Guest Panelist, "Beyond Voting: Ways to Get Engaged on Election Day." For Women's Public Leadership Network. August 24, 2020.

<https://www.facebook.com/WomensPublicLeadership/videos/1553814145008212/>

Guest Presenter, "The Four Speakers Symposium: Thomas B. Murphy." At The Southern Studies

Symposium. Macon, Georgia, February 1, 2020.

Guest Speaker, “Women’s Roles in the 2018 Elections.” The Power Hour on UWG’s Wolf Radio. November 13, 2018.

Guest Presenter, “Women’s Emergence as Candidates in the 2018 Electoral Season” at the League of Women Voters, Carrollton Chapter, September 24, 2018.

Guest Presenter & Workshop Leader/Speaker on Topics of Leadership, Management, Local Government Administration and Budget at the Georgia Public Defenders Council’s Annual Meeting, Savannah, Georgia. July 23-25, 2017.

TEDxEmory Talk. Prepared a TEDx talk “Why Women Seek Elective Office.” April 1, 2017.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f9g-3C2PrkQ>

Guest Lecturer, *Women Officeholders and the Role Models who Pioneered the Way* at Reinhardt University’s President’s College, Lake Arrowhead Community, Georgia, April 27, 2017.

Guest Lecturer, *Women Officeholders and the Role Models who Pioneered the Way* at R.T. Jones Regional Library (Sequoyah Regional Library System), Canton, Georgia, March 13, 2017.

Guest Speaker, “Women’s Roles in Leadership.” At the State of Georgia’s YMCA Model United Nations. Jimmy Carter Presidential Library, March 6, 2017.

Guest Speaker/Lecturer, “Women in History and Politics” to Reinhardt University’s Price School of Education (EDU), May 2, 2016.

Guest Speaker, “We’re Not Only Ladies. We are Politicians.” At the Reinhardt University’s Faculty Colloquium, April 7, 2016.

Guest Speaker, the U.S. Constitution and the State of Georgia’s Constitution at Reinhardt University’s Constitution Day, September 2014.

Guest Lecturer, “Current Governmental Rules and Policies.” Presented at the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association, Decatur, Georgia, May 2014.

Guest Speaker, Editorial Board Presentation for the *Journal of Politics*. Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association. New Orleans. January 2008.

Guest Speaker, “How Local Governments React to Illegal Immigration” at the George C. Graham Graduate Student Symposium. Vanderbilt University. Fall 2007.

Guest Speaker, *A Guidebook: Creating a County Government Youth Academy* at the Association County Commissioners of Georgia Annual Board of Managers Meeting. September 2003.

VI. PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS & GOVERNANCE

Director of the Thomas B. Murphy Center for Public Service, University of West Georgia, August 2018 to present.

Committee Member, University of West Georgia, Strategic Steering Planning Team, Fall 2020 to present.
Committee Member, University College, Ad Hoc Committee on School Creation and Vision, 2020.

PROFESSIONAL & COMMUNITY SERVICE

Advisory Board Member, Capitol Policy Leadership Institute, 2024 to present.
President, The Georgia Political Science Association, Georgia, November 2021 to November 2022.
Executive Board Member, The Georgia Political Science Association, Georgia, November 2018 to 2021
Advisory Board Member, Women's Public Leadership Network, Atlanta, Georgia and Washington, D.C., August 2018 to present.
Member, Cherokee County Historical Society, Canton, Georgia, November 2017 to 2020.

PROFESSIONAL AWARDS & EXTERNAL FUNDING

Connecting Georgia and Uzbekistan: A Unique Leadership Development Experience, University of West Georgia external grant recipient from US Embassy-Tashkent, Uzbekistan, Co-Principal Investigator. Awarded \$188,000.

Connecting Atlanta and Uzbekistan: A Unique Global and Civic Leadership Development Experience, University of West Georgia external grant recipient from US Embassy-Tashkent, Uzbekistan, Co-Principal Investigator. Awarded \$250,000 grant.

VoteHer, Inc. Grant Recipient for Women's Training Programs. Awarded \$12,000.

University System of Georgia, Executive Leadership Institute (ELI), Class of 2024-2025.

Conservative Policy Leadership Institute (now, Capitol Policy Leadership Institute), Class of 2022.

American Enterprise Institute (AEI) – Leadership Network graduate, Class of 2020-2021.

American Political Science Association's Women, Gender and Politics, *Public Engagement Award*, 2021.

University of West Georgia's *Best of the West* Award for Strategic Imperative, 2020

Outstanding Junior Faculty Member Award nominee, University of West Georgia's College of Social Sciences, 2020.

Outstanding Service Award nominee, University of West Georgia's College of Social Sciences, 2020.

University of West Georgia's *Best of the West* Award for Strategic Imperative, 2019

Outstanding Junior Faculty Member Award, University of West Georgia's College of Social Sciences, 2019 (\$500)

Excellence in Service Award, University of West Georgia's Department of Political Science, 2019

Outstanding Teaching Award nominee, University of West Georgia's College of Social Sciences, 2019

Elizabeth Bailey Moss Faculty Mentor Award, 2017, Reinhardt University

Faculty Research and Scholarship Award, 2017, Reinhardt University

Jane England Teaching Excellence Award, 2015-2016, Reinhardt University (\$500)

MPA Student of the Year 2004

UGA Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award, 2003 and 2004

NASS New Millennium Young Voters Summit Fellow, 2004

Richard B. Russell Fellow, 2000

Cherokee High School, Valedictorian, Class of 1998

VII. REFERENCES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST