

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

A project of this size cannot possibly be written without contributions from a large contingent of witting and unwitting collaborators. Although it is impossible to thank by name all the people who have contributed their immense understanding of courts and Brazilian politics to this book, a few stand out.

Various ideas in this book were first inflicted on audiences at conferences held by the ABCP, ALACIP, APSA, BRASA, IPSA, LASA, and SPSA, whom I thank for bringing my arguments into focus. Articles that contributed to this book's arguments were also carefully reviewed and greatly improved by the editors and reviewers at *Comparative Politics*, the *Brazilian Journal of Political Economy*, and *América Latina Hoy*, as well as by Lourdes Sola and Laurence Whitehead, who invited me to contribute to their fantastic 2006 Oxford volume. Portions of the resulting chapters are gratefully reprinted with the publisher's permission.

The manuscript reviewers at Stanford University Press have been particularly generous. David Fleischer and Rogelio Pérez-Perdomo offered encouraging and constructive feedback. To his probable chagrin, Daniel Brinks agreed to surrender his anonymity as a reviewer and helpfully commented on some chapters repeatedly, drawing out the key arguments ahead. I have benefited throughout the editorial process from the guidance of the editors at Stanford University Press, and especially from David Horne's close editorial eye.

The research and writing of this book have been facilitated and enhanced by ties to a number of institutions: Georgetown University, a generous home for many years, where Kerry Pace, Maria Snyder, and Tatiana Mollazadeh were instrumental in keeping me afloat financially and somewhat organized in other regards; the Centro Brasileiro de Estudos e Pesquisas Judiciais (CEBEPEJ), where Kazuo Watanabe, Maria Tereza Sadek, and Marco Antonio Lorencini helped me find my footing early on; the Braudel Institute and Tendências Consultoria Integrada, two institutions filled with friends from my first stay in Brazil during the mid-1990s; the Fulbright Commission, which funded much of the early research, and the Fundação de Amparo à Pesquisa do Estado de São Paulo (FAPESP), which funded its conclusion;

the OAB and the AMB, whose members were so welcoming of my inquiries; the Department of Political Science at the University of São Paulo, where my colleagues have been consistently encouraging and welcoming of the *gringo* in their midst; and Lourdes Sola, the late Eduardo Kugelmas, Maria Rita Loureiro, and Moisés Marques, members of the FAPESP-financed working group that has provided me with a stimulating intellectual nest for several years. Other individuals who deserve special mention for helping put me on the right research track include Paulo Calmon, Rafael Favetti, Norman Gall, Eduardo Leite, Carlos Lopes, Jens Ludwig, Marcus André Melo, Naomi Moniz, Guilherme da Nóbrega, Nilson Oliveira, Carlos Pereira, Bill Prillaman, Marcelo Santos, and Bruno Speck.

The list of scholars who have read and commented on portions of this text is embarrassingly long, including Susan Alberts, Rogério Arantes, Zuleika Arashiro, Christina Bobrow, Maria da Glória Bonelli, Rachel Bowen, Ernani Carvalho, Luciana Gross Cunha, Lisa Hilbink, Taeko Hiroi, Andrei Koerner, Leany Lemos, Mary Fran Malone, Lesley McAllister, Cristina Pacheco, Tony Pereira, Tim Power, Dina Shehata, and Cliff Welch. Thanks to all, and my apologies and thanks to anyone I may have inadvertently overlooked.

Diana Kapiszewski and Julio Ríos-Figueroa have been especially pleasant, patient, and generous with their time and ideas, and much of the thinking in the pages ahead reflects their influence. Diana's help as an especially well-informed editor and hard-nosed critic of multiple iterations of the text was extraordinarily valuable, and greatly improved the ideas expressed here. My work with Julio on the comparison between Brazil and Mexico has helped to solidify and broaden the reach of many of the arguments laid out ahead. As always, although they should claim much of the credit, neither Diana nor Julio, nor anyone else mentioned here, carries any share of my blame for possible errors or omissions.

Four scholars without whom this book could not have been written are John Bailey, Gerald Mara, Arturo Valenzuela, and Linn Hamnergren. Together they have coached me, broadened my intellectual approach, guided me to new findings, and otherwise driven me forward. Without wishing to withdraw merit from any of the others, John Bailey's continuing advice, counsel, and friendship—long after his formal responsibilities were officially dispatched—is a testament to why he is held in such high regard by students and colleagues.

It goes without saying, although it is worth saying nonetheless, that I'd never have set off down this path were it not for my mother and father, whose example is as encouraging as anything they've ever taught me. Finally, this book is dedicated to the woman who holds an inordinate share of the blame for my enduring interest in Brazil.