

**THE RELEVANCE OF POLITICAL SCIENCE TO LAW: INVESTIGATING HOW A
SOUND KNOWLEDGE OF POLITICAL SCIENCE ENHANCES THE
PERFORMANCE OF A LAWYER IN PRACTICE**

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ABSTRACT

The study examined the relevance of Political Science to Law by investigating how a sound knowledge of Political Science enhanced the performance of lawyers in practice. Political Science and Law were closely related disciplines that contributed to the effective governance and regulation of society. While Political Science focused on the study of government, political institutions, public policy, and the exercise of power, Law was concerned with the rules and principles that regulated human conduct and promoted justice. Since laws were formulated, interpreted, and implemented within political environments, an understanding of political processes was considered essential for effective legal practice. Knowledge of Political Science enabled lawyers to understand constitutional principles, legislative processes, governance structures, policy formulation, and the relationship between government institutions. It also strengthened critical thinking, legal reasoning, and decision-making abilities, thereby improving professional competence and effectiveness in legal practice. Consequently, the study sought to highlight the importance of Political Science as a foundational discipline that contributed significantly to the academic and professional development of lawyers. The study concluded that Political Science is highly relevant to the study and practice of Law because it provides the knowledge and analytical framework necessary for understanding the political, institutional, and governance contexts within which laws are created, interpreted, and enforced. One of the recommendations made was that Law faculties should strengthen the teaching of Political Science courses within legal education curricula to enhance students' understanding of governance, public policy, and constitutional development.

KEYWORDS: Political Science, Law, Sound Knowledge, Performance, Lawyer Practice.

INTRODUCTION

Political Science and Law are closely related disciplines that contribute significantly to the organization, governance, and regulation of society. While Political Science focuses on the study of government, political institutions, public policy, political behavior, and the exercise of power, Law concerns the body of rules and

principles established to regulate human conduct, maintain social order, and promote justice. The interrelationship between these disciplines stems from the fact that laws are created, interpreted, and enforced within political environments. According to Leftwich (2021), Political Science examines how political systems function and how governmental decisions influence society, while Tamanaha (2021) asserts that law provides the framework through which societies maintain order, resolve disputes, and protect fundamental rights. Therefore, understanding political processes is essential for understanding the operation and development of legal systems.

A sound knowledge of Political Science equips legal practitioners with a deeper understanding of constitutionalism, governance, public administration, legislative processes, and policy formulation. Political Science explains how political actors, institutions, and interest groups influence the making of laws and public policies, thereby providing lawyers with insights into the rationale behind legal provisions and reforms. As noted by Heywood (2021), Political Science offers analytical frameworks for understanding political power, legitimacy, authority, and institutional development. Similarly, Head (2017) observed that knowledge of political processes enables legal professionals to appreciate how laws emerge, evolve, and respond to societal needs. This understanding strengthens legal reasoning, statutory interpretation, and constitutional analysis, thereby enhancing professional competence in legal practice.

Furthermore, the increasing complexity of governance, globalization, democratic reforms, and public policy challenges has made Political Science an indispensable component of legal education and practice. Political Science enhances lawyers' ability to analyze public policies, interpret constitutional provisions, understand judicial behavior, and address issues relating to human rights, democracy, and the rule of law. Martin & Hazelton (2022) emphasized that Political Science provides the political context necessary for understanding the development and implementation of legal norms, while Cramer (2026) argued that knowledge of political institutions improves constitutional interpretation and legal decision-making. Consequently, a sound knowledge of Political Science contributes significantly to the effectiveness, analytical capacity, and overall performance of lawyers in both academic and professional settings.

Concept of Political Science

The concept of political science has received significant scholarly attention because of its central role in understanding governance, political institutions, public policies, and the relationships between the state and its citizens. Political science refers to the systematic and scientific study of politics, government, political behavior, public administration, political institutions, political processes, and the exercise of power within societies. As noted by Leftwich (2021), political science examines how political systems are organized, how governments formulate and implement policies, and how political actors influence decision-making at local, national, and international levels. The discipline emphasizes the analysis of political authority,

governance structures, democratic processes, and the promotion of accountability, justice, and sustainable development.

Political science is also viewed as a multidisciplinary field that integrates concepts from economics, sociology, law, history, and international relations to explain political phenomena and governance practices. As noted by Heywood (2021), political science explores the nature of political power, legitimacy, authority, citizenship, public policy, and political participation while providing analytical frameworks for understanding political stability, conflict resolution, and institutional development. The discipline enables scholars and policymakers to evaluate political systems critically and formulate evidence-based solutions to contemporary governance challenges.

Furthermore, political science encompasses the study of political institutions, electoral systems, political parties, constitutions, public policy, and citizen participation in governance. As noted by UNDP (2022), effective political institutions promote democratic governance by ensuring transparency, accountability, rule of law, citizen engagement, and inclusive decision-making. Political science therefore provides practical knowledge that supports the development of responsive institutions capable of addressing social, economic, and political challenges while protecting the rights and freedoms of citizens.

In addition, political science emphasizes comparative analysis and empirical research in examining political systems across different countries and regions. As noted by International IDEA (2023), comparative political analysis enables researchers to identify best governance practices, assess democratic performance, evaluate electoral integrity, and recommend institutional reforms that strengthen democratic governance. Through quantitative and qualitative research methods, political scientists generate reliable evidence that informs public policy formulation, governance reforms, and political development.

Concept of Law

The concept of law has received significant scholarly attention because of its fundamental role in regulating human behavior, maintaining social order, protecting individual rights, and promoting justice within society. Law refers to a body of rules, principles, and regulations established and enforced by recognized authorities to govern the conduct of individuals, institutions, and governments. As noted by Tamanaha (2021), law provides the framework through which societies establish order, resolve disputes, protect fundamental rights, and ensure accountability among citizens and public institutions. The discipline emphasizes justice, equity, the rule of law, and the peaceful resolution of conflicts in both domestic and international contexts.

Law is also viewed as a dynamic system that reflects the social, political, economic, and cultural values of society while adapting to emerging challenges and changing circumstances. As noted by Twining (2021), law extends beyond statutory provisions and judicial decisions to include legal institutions, customary practices,

constitutional principles, and international legal norms that collectively shape governance and social relationships. Studying law helps people comprehend their legal rights, responsibilities, and obligations while advancing equality, justice, and legal certainty in society.

Constitutional law, criminal law, civil law, administrative law, commercial law, international law, labor law, and environmental law are only a few of the branches of law that are used to manage particular facets of institutional governance and human interaction. As noted by United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) (2022), effective legal systems strengthen the rule of law by promoting access to justice, combating corruption, protecting human rights, and ensuring equal treatment before the law. Consequently, law serves as an essential instrument for maintaining peace, safeguarding democratic governance, and fostering sustainable national development.

The Relevance of Political Science to Law

The study of the structure, functioning, and regulation of society is the focus of the closely connected fields of political science and law. Law is concerned with the set of laws and principles designed to control human behavior, settle disputes, and uphold justice, whereas Political Science concentrates on the study of government, political institutions, public policy, political behavior, and power relations. Because legal systems are developed, interpreted, and applied in political contexts, these two fields are inextricably linked. Therefore, a grasp of political science gives scholars, legislators, judges, and legal professionals the information they need to comprehend how political institutions affect the evolution of the law and the administration of justice (Martin & Hazelton, 2022).

Political science offers a thorough grasp of the development of legal systems, which is one of its main contributions to the field of law. Legislators, CEOs, political parties, interest groups, and individuals all participate in the political processes that give rise to laws; they do not exist on their own. Political science describes how laws are passed, constitutions are created, and legal reforms are influenced by political beliefs. Legal professionals can better understand why specific laws exist, how they evolve over time, and the public interests they aim to safeguard by having a thorough understanding of these political processes (Head, 2017). Also, political science improves knowledge of governance and constitutional law. Constitutions guarantee citizens' rights and liberties, specify the organization of government, and allocate authority among its several branches. Political science studies ideas that constitute the basis of constitutional legislation, including democracy, federalism, separation of powers, checks and balances, election systems, and constitutionalism. Political science-trained attorneys are better able to assess governmental acts, interpret constitutional requirements, and comprehend the connection between political authority and the law. (Cramer, 2026).

Political science plays a major role in the creation and drafting of legislation. In legislative institutions, elected representatives carry out the political task of enacting statutes. Legislative conduct, political negotiations, policy formulation, public engagement, lobbying, and interest-group influence during the legislative process are all explained by political science. This information helps lawyers comprehend the

political factors influencing statutory provisions and evaluate legislative intent. Additionally, it makes it possible for legislators to create laws that address the needs of modern society. (Zamboni, 2026).

By offering insights into judicial politics and conduct, political science also contributes significantly to the administration of justice. Judicial decisions are frequently impacted by institutional structures, political circumstances, public policy considerations, and constitutional principles, even though judges are intended to maintain objectivity. Political science helps legal scholars comprehend judicial independence, judicial accountability, and the wider effects of court rulings on democracy and government by examining the relationships between courts, legislatures, executives, and other political institutions (Martin & Hazelton, 2022).

When it comes to creating and carrying out public policy, political science is equally important. Numerous laws are created to accomplish policy goals in fields including economic development, healthcare, education, taxes, environmental protection, and security. While law provides the legal foundation for implementing these rules, political science examines how policies are formulated, implemented, monitored, and evaluated. Governments are able to create laws that effectively address societal issues and advance sustainable development when both disciplines are integrated (Head, 2017).

The field fosters a deeper comprehension of the rule of law and human rights. Democratic government, political engagement, accountability, transparency, and the defense of civil liberties—all essential tenets of contemporary legal systems—are all examined in political science. In order to defend constitutional rights, oppose the misuse of power by the government, and uphold democratic institutions, legal professionals rely on political science ideas. Therefore, the study of political systems aids in the creation of legal frameworks that uphold social fairness and safeguard individual liberties (Cramer, 2026).

Political science is essential to the study of international law. The development and implementation of international legal norms are directly impacted by key fields of political science, including international relations, diplomacy, foreign policy, global governance, and international organizations. To properly interpret treaties, conventions, and international accords, legal professionals practicing international law must be knowledgeable about political discussions, state sovereignty, international cooperation, and geopolitical interests. Therefore, political science offers the political framework for the development and application of international legal rules (Martin & Hazelton, 2022).

Peace building and conflict resolution are further aided by political science. Constitutional crises, public unrest, election disagreements, and legal rights breaches are common outcomes of political confrontations. Political science investigates the reasons behind political instability and suggests methods for resolving disputes amicably, including discussion, negotiation, mediation, power sharing, and institutional changes. By offering legal processes for resolving disputes, upholding agreements, and safeguarding justice, law supports these mechanisms. Thus, the relationship between the two fields fosters social order and political stability (Cramer, 2026).

By adding multidisciplinary methods of analysis, Political Science enhances legal study. In order to comprehend legal institutions and judicial decision-making, modern legal studies increasingly incorporates empirical research, comparative politics, institutional analysis, public policy evaluation, and quantitative approaches. Instead of depending only on doctrinal analysis, this multidisciplinary method expands legal knowledge and allows attorneys to assess legal issues within their political, economic, and social settings. By promoting more evidence-based approaches to legal reform and governance, the increasing cooperation between political scientists and legal scholars has enhanced both fields..

Political science is becoming more and more relevant to law in modern democracies as a result of growing globalization, technological development, constitutional revisions, and changing governance issues. Understanding political institutions, public administration, election procedures, and policy creation is necessary for effective legal systems. Strong legal institutions that support accountability, constitutionalism, and the rule of law are also necessary for good political governance. Because political science offers the political knowledge required to comprehend how laws are created, interpreted, implemented, and reformed within society, it continues to be an essential discipline for legal education, legal practice, judicial administration, public policy, and democratic governance.

Effect of Sound Knowledge of Political Performance in Law

Both political science and law deal with societal governance, the use of power, the administration of justice, and the defense of citizens' rights, they are closely related academic fields. Law focuses on the legal concepts, rules, and processes that govern human behavior, whereas Political Science studies political institutions, government structures, public policies, political behavior, and state relations. A solid grasp of political science gives law students and practitioners a more comprehensive understanding of the political context in which laws are created, interpreted, put into effect, and upheld. By strengthening legal reasoning, analytical thinking, constitutional interpretation, and professional competence, this interdisciplinary link improves overall legal academic and professional performance (Cramer, 2026).

The improvement of constitutional interpretation is one of the most important consequences of having a solid understanding of political science on legal performance. Political ideas including democracy, sovereignty, federalism, the separation of powers, checks and balances, and the rule of law serve as the foundation for constitutional law. Pupils who possess sufficient knowledge of political science are more equipped to comprehend the institutional, political, and historical settings in which constitutional provisions function. They can accurately interpret constitutional provisions, evaluate court rulings critically, and recognize the interdependence of governmental institutions thanks to this better understanding. Because they have the legal and political viewpoints required for successful constitutional analysis, these students do better in constitutional law classes and legal practice (Cramer, 2026).

Students' comprehension of legislative procedures is also enhanced by a solid background in political science. Legislators, political parties, executives, pressure groups, and voters all participate in the political decision-making process that results

in laws. Political science shows how discussions, agreements, committee assessments, and voting processes transform public policies into laws. Because they recognize the legislative intent behind legal provisions, law students who comprehend these legislative mechanisms are better able to read legislation. This knowledge improves statutory interpretation abilities and helps students perform better academically in legislation, public law, and administrative law courses.

Political science also improves legal reasoning and critical thinking. Students must assess facts, understand legal sources, compare court decisions, and create strong legal arguments as part of their legal education. Analytical reasoning, policy analysis, comparative governance, and assessment of political institutions are all equally important components of political science. Law students can assess difficult legal situations objectively, find alternative legal answers, and provide well-reasoned decisions based on constitutional principles and public policy considerations thanks to the intellectual abilities they gain from Political Science. Improved performance in the classroom, exam success, and professional legal practice are all greatly enhanced by such multidisciplinary expertise (Sharma, Zhang, & Whalen, 2026).

The enhancement of students' comprehension of public administration and governance is another significant outcome. Governmental actions, such as administrative decisions, public procurement, taxation, environmental control, election administration, and public service delivery, give rise to several legal challenges. Students studying political science are introduced to bureaucracy, administrative accountability, policy implementation, and the organization and operations of governmental institutions. With this understanding, law students may comprehend how legal frameworks impact governance and how public institutions implement legal principles. As a result, individuals do better in legal courses pertaining to public policy, administrative law, and public law.

Students' understanding of political science also enhances their respect for democratic governance and human rights. Civil freedoms, political engagement, equality, justice, accountability, and constitutional democracy are all studied in political science. These ideas are fundamental to contemporary legal systems and are commonly used in international human rights law and constitutional litigation. Legal problems involving constitutional rights, electoral justice, judicial scrutiny, and governmental accountability can be more effectively analyzed by students who comprehend democratic concepts. By allowing aspiring attorneys to apply legal ideas in suitable political and social circumstances, this more comprehensive view enhances both academic achievement and professional legal ability (Cramer, 2026).

Furthermore, political science makes a substantial contribution to the study of international law. Understanding international politics, diplomacy, foreign policy, global governance, and international institutions is essential to comprehending international legal relations. Through institutions like the United Nations, African Union, and regional groups, political science explains how states make treaties, settle conflicts, and work together. Law students can comprehend the political factors affecting international legal responsibilities, treaty implementation, and conflict settlement thanks to this foundation. They thus exhibit enhanced academic achievement in comparative legal studies and international law.

Advocacy and legal communication skills are enhanced by political science understanding. Debate, persuasive communication, negotiation, public speaking, and policy analysis are all encouraged by political science. Because attorneys frequently present arguments before judges, negotiate settlements, counsel clients, and create legal documents, these skills are crucial to legal education. In moot court exercises, classroom presentations, legal writing, and professional advocacy, students who have honed their communication and analytical skills through political science are frequently more self-assured. Higher academic accomplishment and practical legal effectiveness are directly influenced by these competencies.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, Political Science is highly relevant to the study and practice of Law because it provides the knowledge and analytical framework necessary for understanding the political, institutional, and governance contexts within which laws are created, interpreted, and enforced. A sound knowledge of Political Science enhances a lawyer's ability to understand constitutional principles, legislative processes, public policy formulation, judicial behavior, human rights, and the operation of governmental institutions. It also strengthens critical thinking, legal reasoning, problem-solving, and decision-making skills, thereby improving professional competence and effectiveness in legal practice. As contemporary legal issues become increasingly intertwined with political, economic, and social developments, lawyers require a comprehensive understanding of political processes and governance structures to perform their duties effectively. Therefore, Political Science remains an indispensable discipline for legal education and practice, contributing significantly to the development of competent legal professionals, the promotion of justice and democracy, the protection of human rights, and the strengthening of the rule of law in society.

RECOMMENDATION

1. Law faculties should strengthen the teaching of Political Science courses within legal education curricula to enhance students' understanding of governance, public policy, and constitutional development.
2. Lawyers and law students should regularly participate in seminars, workshops, and conferences on political and governance issues to broaden their professional knowledge and analytical skills.
3. Academic institutions should encourage interdisciplinary research between Political Science and Law to promote a deeper understanding of contemporary legal and governance challenges.

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