

The Politics of Disgrace

The Politics of Disgrace

The Role of Political Scandal in American Politics

SECOND EDITION

Nancy E. Marion
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*This book is dedicated to
my parents and the JAM-D Club*

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Introduction

Despite efforts to stop them, political scandals continue to occur in the American political system. Some make the media more than others; some have more effects than others; some are more damaging than others. But they all have impacts on the people directly involved, the immediate constituency, the public as a whole, and even the political system.

This second edition of *The Politics of Disgrace* is an effort to revisit political scandals and define their role in politics and in society. This edition has many new features that distinguish it from the first edition. One is the addition of new scandals as politicians make mistakes in judgment and then try to hide those errors from the public. New scandals that have emerged during the Obama administration have occupied both the media and administration personnel, and have influenced the president's reputation and the public's perception of him. Scandals such as Benghazi and the IRS scandal have been serious events in the Obama presidency with possible long-term implications. Because of that, they and other scandals associated with the Obama Administration are included in this edition of the book. A second new feature of this edition of Political Scandals is a chapter on state and local scandals. Written by Stacy Leiter, this chapter focuses on the impact of scandals at the state and local level. Other chapters have been updated to include the newest political scandals exposed in the media.

These additional materials will keep readers aware of the faux pas of our politicians, and let them choose for themselves if the behavior of our elected officials is simply bad judgment or truly scandalous.

