

TEACHING INTERESTS

Introduction to Legal Analysis, Research, and Communication; Introduction to Legal Advocacy; Advanced Legal Writing and Editing; Employment Law; upper-level writing courses or seminars in persuasive writing and writing for practice.

EDUCATION

University of Michigan Law School, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

J.D., May 1996

- Executive Note Editor, *Michigan Journal of International Law*, 1995-1996
- Member, *Michigan Journal of International Law*, 1994-1995
- Jaffe Scholarship Recipient, 1994-1995
- Writing and Advocacy Certificate of Merit (highest grade), 1994

Duke University, Durham, North Carolina. A.B., *cum laude with distinction*, Political Science and History, May 1993.

- Recipient of Alona E. Evans Award for Best Paper in International Law for honors thesis, *When Extradition Fails: A Study of Foreign Abductions by the United States* (1993)
- Robert McNeal Vaughn Scholarship, 1989-1993; Wesley Taylor Scholarship, 1989-1993
- Member, Undergraduate Judicial Board, 1991-1993

London School of Economics. Study abroad, Fall 1991.

EXPERIENCE

Emory University School of Law, Atlanta, Georgia

2002-2015; 2018-present

Positions Held: Coordinator for Legal Writing and Professor of Practice (2023–present); Lecturer in Law (2021–23); Visiting Professor of Practice (2018–21); Instructor, Legal Writing, Research & Advocacy Program (2002–15).

Courses Taught: Introduction to Legal Analysis, Research, and Communication (“ILARC”); Introduction to Legal Advocacy (“ILA”); Advanced Legal Writing and Editing; Employment Law.

- First-Year ILARC/ILA Course (2002-2015; 2018-present)
 - Fall semester focuses on analysis, predictive legal writing, and research. Assignments are a closed universe of research memo and an open universe of research memo, both on an issue of state law. This year, I am adding what I call a “partner’s meeting” after the final open memo is due. Students will meet with me one-on-one to explain how they would advise the client given their research and conclusion in the open memo.
 - Spring semester focuses on both written and oral advocacy. Assignments are an appellate brief (draft with feedback and final), an oral argument (practice and final), and two professional emails (one to client, one to supervisor). This year, I am adding a closed universe of research brief during the first month of spring semester, with a short oral argument after.
 - Integrated AI into legal writing and research instruction starting in 2023.
 - Developed my own memo and brief problems, as well as the two email assignments, “partner’s meeting” assignment, a writing lab for in-class guided editing, and in-class exercises.
 - I use “live review” for both the draft open memo (fall) and draft appellate brief (spring). I meet with each student for one hour and we go over their draft together. Each student leaves with my comments on their drafts as well as the notes they take on our conversation.
- Advanced Legal Writing and Editing (2023-present)
 - Upper-level legal writing course covering multiple types of legal writing, including complaints and answers, demand letters, memos, persuasive facts and storytelling, briefs, and contracts. This year, I have revised the syllabus to follow the timeline of needs for a particular client (a corporation hiring a

VP of Sales). The students will start by drafting questions to interview the client in one class, then will take the answers to those questions to draft a contract for the new executive in the next. The syllabus follows the timeline of the executive breaching the contract and the legal writing that is subsequently required.

- Course covers high-level editing techniques, tone, purpose, and audience.
- Employment Law (2021-24)
 - Developed original course materials, including class notes, PowerPoints, writing assignments, and in-class exam.
 - Developed in-class exercise simulating an EEOC mediation of a religious discrimination claim between an employer and employee.
- Leadership and Administration: Coordinator for ILARC/ILA (2023-present); Chair, Contract Faculty Review Committee-LRW Subcommittee (2025-26); Chair, Hiring Committee, ILARC/ILA visiting professors (2025).
- Coordinator for Legal Writing (2023-present): Emory Law does not have a director for legal writing; instead, the Coordinator serves that function.
 - Led the development and implementation of Emory's upper-level writing curriculum.
 - Successfully advocated for more favorable renewal terms for legal writing faculty.
 - Successfully advocated for increased RA/TA budget for legal writing faculty.
 - Work with administration on budget allocation and related financial matters, resulting in increased professional development funds for legal writing faculty.
 - Serve as liaison between the legal writing faculty and the administration.
 - Serve as representative for legal writing faculty in weekly "Students of Concern" meeting with the Associate Dean of Students.
 - Worked with registrar on class scheduling and creating policies related to legal writing, including consequences for failing.
 - Created and implemented training and mentorship program for new legal writing faculty; served as mentor to new faculty.
 - Plan and lead regular meetings of legal writing faculty.
 - Started a yearly newsletter email highlighting scholarship, hiring, and success of legal writing faculty.
 - Proposed and have advocated for a writing center at the law school, which is now in the planning stages.
- Committee Service:
 - Curriculum Committee (2008-2010, 2026-27)
 - Committee on Bar Success (2025-26)
 - Section 208/Open Expression and Academic Freedom Committee (2024-present)
 - Community Building Committee (2023-2025)
 - Contract Faculty Review Committee (2023-2025)
 - Hiring committee for Director of Student Engagement and Conduct (2024)
 - Hiring committee, ILARC/ILA (2023-2024)
 - Library Committee (2011-2012)
 - Academic Standing Committee (2011-2012).
- Student and Community Engagement:
 - Planned and presented two "lunch and learn" programs for students on writing for law practice, organized by the Black Law Students Association
 - Panelist, "Faculty to 1Ls: What Faculty Expect and How to Deliver" during 1L Orientation (2025)
 - Panelist, HBCU Pre-Law Tour for visiting prospective HBCU students, part of 2025 HBCU Summit
 - Group leader, Accepted Students Day (2024, 2025)
 - Title IX Faculty Advocate for student (2019)
 - Group leader, Professionalism Program for 1Ls (multiple years)
 - Served students at annual 3L Spaghetti Dinner (multiple years)
 - Started and maintain law school's Little Free Pantry (2024-present)

- Started and maintain law school's professional clothes closet for students (2024-present).
- Student Advising: Served as advisor for more than 30 student comments and directed research projects.
- External Service:
 - LWI Professional Status Committee (2026-28)
 - LWI Public Relations, Social Media, Website & LWIC Committee (2026-28)
 - Co-Chair, Legal Writing Institute One-Day Conference, Emory Law School (December 2010)
 - LWI New Member Committee (2009-2010).

Writing Coach, Atlanta, Georgia

Summer 2023-present

Provide private instruction and coaching in writing and editing to law firm associates and to former students.

Dogs Don't Eat Pizza, LLC, Decatur, Georgia

January 2012-May 2018

Owner, writer, photographer, editor of dogsdonteatpizza.com.

Created, designed, and published a blog focusing on DIY home projects, repurposing, and organizing. Incorporated as an LLC and successfully registered trademarks for "Dogs Don't Eat Pizza" name and logo.

TRX, Inc., Atlanta, Georgia

April 2000-December 2001

Director of Employment Administration and Special Counsel.

Drafted and advised company regarding employment agreements, severance agreements, and restrictive covenant agreements; advised human resources on federal, state, and local employment laws; counseled human resources managers and executives regarding reductions in force and reorganizations of departments; trained human resources personnel and managers on use of restrictive covenant agreements, hiring, and other employment law issues; represented company at EEOC mediations; advised company regarding licensing and other intellectual property issues; reviewed and advised company regarding agreements with clients; assisted in administration of privately held stock plan.

Long Aldridge & Norman LLP (now Dentons), Atlanta, Georgia

1996-2000

Associate, Litigation Team/Employment Law Sub-Team

Served as primary outside counsel for a large corporation, managing multiple litigation matters in several states; counseled clients regarding employment law issues; led and organized training sessions for employers regarding employment law issues; drafted employment agreements, settlement agreements, restrictive covenant agreements, and severance agreements; prepared position statements responding to EEOC charges; performed extensive legal research; drafted motions and briefs; conducted discovery; completed comprehensive employment practices audit for a large corporation and its subsidiaries. Selected to serve on firm's retreat committee (1997), summer associate committee (1998), and as a summer associate mentor.

University of Michigan Law School, Ann Arbor, Michigan

January-May 1996

Teaching Assistant for Advanced Legal Research course.

PRESENTATIONS

2024 Legal Writing Institute Biennial Conference, Indianapolis, Indiana: "A Helpful Alliance: Working with a Doctrinal Professor on a Closed Memo Problem" (revised).

2023 Central States Regional Legal Writing Conference, Drake Law School: "A Helpful Alliance: Working with a Doctrinal Professor on a Closed Memo Problem."

2011 Southeast Regional Legal Writing Conference, Mercer University, Walter F. George School of Law: "The Memorandum Is Not Dead (Yet)," (revised from 2010 to reflect changes in our curriculum) with Julie Schwartz.

2010 Legal Writing Institute One-Day Seminar, Emory Law School (host): Teaching students both traditional and non-traditional means of legal communication using three different approaches.

2010 Central States Law Schools Association Annual Conference, University of North Dakota Law School: “The Memorandum is Not Dead (Yet): A Case for Teaching Both Traditional Legal Memoranda and Non-Traditional Forms of Communication in the First Year Legal Writing Program,” with Lesley Carroll and Julie Schwartz.

2006 Legal Writing Institute Biennial Conference, Atlanta, Georgia: “Seeing the ‘Big Picture’: Using Diagrams to Facilitate Learning in Legal Writing Classes,” with Jennifer Romig. (We also presented this at a faculty colloquium at Emory Law in May 2006.)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS & ADMISSIONS

- Member, Legal Writing Institute and Association of Legal Writing Directors.
- Member, American Bar Association, State Bar of Georgia (inactive status as of 2011).
- Admitted in all Georgia state courts and the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia (1996).

PERSONAL INTERESTS

Parent of two college students and enthusiastic supporter of their college athletics. I enjoy gardening, reading, and taking walks with my rescue dog, Gertrude. I am currently training for my first 5K. Originally from Memphis, TN.