

Mary Ann Becker

EDUCATION

DePaul University College of Law, Chicago, IL

J.D., summa cum laude (top 5%) and Order of the Coif | 2002

- DePaul Law Review Member and Symposium Editor
- Legal Writing Teaching Assistant and Research Assistant

Northwestern University, Evanston, IL

B.A., French Language and Literature | 1997

Sorbonne, Paris, France

French language certification, Superior Level | SUMMER 1996

TEACHING AND MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE

Loyola University Chicago School of Law, Chicago, IL

Clinical Professor of Law and Associate Director, Legal Writing Program | JULY 2014–PRESENT

Currently lead the largest adjunct-only legal writing program at an ABA accredited law school. This role requires successful management of daily issues as well as long-term strategic planning that affects approximately 700 stakeholders each year, from practitioner-adjuncts to students.

- Develop curriculum for required three-semester Legal Writing Program for approximately 600 students, including syllabi, detailed weekly lesson plans, assessment and criteria, student problem sets, and teaching guides.
- Recruit, hire, and onboard approximately 60 adjunct faculty; train adjuncts in legal writing subject matter and effective teaching skills, including assessment of student work; evaluate adjunct work product and growth within program.
- Establish and implement program policies and collaborate with administrative leadership as necessary regarding those policies and individual student issues.
- Created the first hybrid (online and on-campus) weekend JD legal writing curriculum in the nation that met with ABA standards to qualify as on-campus course, and continue to develop it.
- Design and direct legal writing tutor program composed of upper-level law students; interview, select, and train approximately 30 tutors; develop tutor curriculum and assess tutor work; create class materials from which tutors teach.
- Serve in School of Law and University governance, which has included chairing Readmissions Committee; working with Curriculum Committee to incorporate diversity, equity, and inclusion principles into curriculum; representing School of Law on the University Graduate School Coordinating Board.
- Manage department budget, including adjunct payroll and stipends.
- Managed academic support program and acted as Associate Director of Academic Support from July 2014-July 2018 until university approved funding for a director. As associate director, collaborated with doctrinal faculty using student academic tutors; interviewed, hired, and trained tutors in specific subject-matter specialties; developed tutor curriculum and supervised implementation; designed and administered program to provide additional assistance for students at the bottom of class.

DePaul University College of Law, Chicago, IL

Senior Instructor | JULY 2007-JUNE 2014

Adjunct | JANUARY 2006-JULY 2007

Developed and taught classes on research, writing, and professionalism for undergraduate and law students.

- Designed curriculum for five courses, created student problem sets, assessed and provided feedback on student writing and presentations, and worked individually with students to develop their written and oral presentation skills.
- Mentored and assisted students in co-curricular activities, including as a coach to moot court teams, a faculty mentor for Externship Program, and an attorney mentor in the Lawyer-to-Lawyer Mentor Program.
- Selected to participate in undergraduate program initiatives, including assessing how to use e-portfolios as a capstone and judging the Annual First Year Writing Showcase.
- Selected to participate in several writer's workshops based on my scholarship, including the Legal Writing Institute Writers' Workshop (July 2013 and July 2009) and Association of Legal Writing Directors Scholars' Forum (September 2013 and October 2009).

Interim Assistant Director, Legal Analysis, Research, and Communication | JULY 2010-JULY 2012

Assisted Associate Director and Director by recruiting, hiring, and supervising adjuncts for subject-specific, upper-level writing classes.

- Oversaw adjuncts, which entailed conducting classroom observations, evaluating feedback to students, and reviewing and providing feedback on proposed syllabi and assignments; ensured adjunct-designed courses met curricular requirements.
- Assisted adjuncts by improving classroom preparation and instruction, including creating a database of supporting scholarship for subject-matter topics and legal writing skills; provided guidance on addressing student misconduct; and assisted with developing evaluation criteria.

Courses developed and taught:

- Focal Point Seminar: Law and Literature (freshman writing seminar analyzing narrative and the law using a variety of primary and secondary sources)
- Legal Writing and Research I (objective writing, research, and memos)
- Legal Writing and Research II (objective and persuasive writing, research, memos, and trial briefs)
- Legal Writing and Research III (persuasive writing, research, trial briefs, and appellate briefs)
- Drafting: Pre-Trial Civil Litigation (persuasive writing, advocacy, pre-trial documents, and strategy)
- Drafting: Estates (pre-trial documents and transactional drafting)

LEGAL PRACTICE EXPERIENCE

Admitted to the Illinois Bar and U.S. Northern District of Illinois. During seven years of practice, managed and conducted many aspects of litigation including: researching and drafting complaints, answers, and motions; conducting discovery (preparing and responding to interrogatories and document requests; interviewing clients, witnesses and experts); preparing and taking depositions; representing clients in court during status, arguments, and settlement negotiations; and researching and drafting appellate briefs and mediation briefs. Brought in, referred, and managed new clients as an associate.

Schoeman, Updike, Kaufman & Scharf, Chicago, IL

Of Counsel | JUNE 2007-APRIL 2009

McDermott, Will & Emery, Chicago, IL

Associate | FEBRUARY 2006-MAY 2007

Sachnoff & Weaver, Chicago, IL

Associate | SEPTEMBER 2003-FEBRUARY 2006

Bell, Boyd & Lloyd, Chicago, IL

Associate | SEPTEMBER 2002-SEPTEMBER 2003

Summer Associate | JUNE-AUGUST 2001

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Association of Legal Writing Directors, National Association

Adjunct Programs Committee Chair | 2021-PRESENT

Adjunct Programs Committee Member | 2019-PRESENT

Chicago Volunteer Legal Services, Chicago, IL

Advisory Board Member | 2017-PRESENT

The Second Draft: The Official Magazine of the Legal Writing Institute, National Association

Editor | 2010-2014

Boys Hope, Evanston, IL

Volunteer Tutor/Mentor | 2004-2008

Insight Tutoring, Chicago, IL

Volunteer Tutor/Mentor | 1998-2004

Academy Chicago Publishers, Chicago, IL

Editorial Assistant and Office Manager | 1997-1999

PUBLICATIONS

Understanding the Tethered Generation: Net Gens Come to Law School

53 Duquesne Law Review 9 (lead article) | 2015

Step Away from the PowerPoint: Using Mirror Neurons to Enhance Student Learning in the Classroom

19 Law Teacher 1 | FALL 2012

What is Your Favorite Book?: Using Narrative to Teach Theme Development in Persuasive Writing

46 Gonzaga Law Review 575 (lead article) | SPRING 2011

Supplemental Proceedings: Will and Trust Contests, Citations, and Other Estate Litigation

Estate Administration (Illinois) | 2003 EDITION, UPDATED 2006

Book Review: The Prostitution of Sexuality: The Global Exploitation of Women

52 DePaul Law Review 1043 | SPRING 2003

Regulating the Business of Culture: The Abandoned Shipwreck Act – Can Preservationists, Salvors, and Divers Sail in Calmer Waters?

51 DePaul Law Review 569 | WINTER 2001

PRESENTATIONS

Speaker, *Constructed Reality: Understanding the Generations to More Effectively Teach the Current (and Upcoming) Generation of Law Students*

Institute for Law Teaching and Learning Conference, Washburn University School of Law, Topeka, KS | JUNE 2019

Panelist, *Leading Unicorns: A Roundtable Discussion of Adjunct-Based Legal Writing Programs*

ALWD Biennial Conference, Suffolk University Law School, Boston, MA | MAY 2019

Panelist, *Jury Deliberation in the Age of Social Media*

Philip H. Corboy Lecture in Advocacy, Loyola University Chicago School of Law, Chicago, IL | OCTOBER 2016

Panelist, *Legal Scholarship*

Southeastern Legal Writing Conference, University of Miami Law School, Miami, FL | JANUARY 2016

Speaker, *From Teacups to Lawyers: Why Understanding the Tethered Generation's Viewpoint Matters*

Faculty Speaker Series, Southwestern Law School, Los Angeles, CA | NOVEMBER 2015

Speaker, *You Are Not Alone: Developing Best Practices for Teaching the Tethered Generation*

Faculty Workshop, Campbell University, Raleigh, NC | MARCH 2015

Panelist, *Alternative Legal Careers*

Chicago Bar Association, Young Lawyers Career Committee, Chicago, IL | MARCH 2015

Presenter, *Understanding the Tethered Generation: The Net Gens Come to Law School*

Fourth Colonial Frontier Legal Writing Conference, Duquesne University School of Law, Pittsburgh, PA | DECEMBER 2014

Presenter, *Creating Practice Ready Students Through Post-Conferencing*

16th Biennial Conference of the Legal Writing Institute, Philadelphia, PA | JULY 2014

Presenter, *Law & Literature: A Legal Looking Glass*

Law & Literature Conference, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN | NOVEMBER 2014

Panelist, *Developing Student Assignments to Meet Learning Outcomes*

Best Practices: Focal Point Seminars, DePaul University, Chicago, IL | NOVEMBER 2014

Presenter, *Creating Practice Ready Students Through Post-Conferencing*

Central States Regional Legal Writing Conference, Kansas City, MO | SEPTEMBER 2013

Panelist, *Teaching Law*

Chicago Bar Association, Young Lawyers Career Committee, Chicago, IL | APRIL 2013

Presenter, *What is Your Favorite Book: Using Literature to Teach Persuasive Writing*

15th Biennial Conference of the Legal Writing Institute, Palm Springs, CA | MAY 2012

Panelist, *Teaching Law as an Alternative to Career Practice or as a Complement*

Chicago Bar Association, Young Lawyers Career Committee | JANUARY 2012

Presenter, *What is Your Favorite Book: Using Literature to Teach Persuasive Writing*

First Capital Area Legal Writing Conference, Washington, D.C. | FEBRUARY 2011

Panelist, *Teaching Legal Research and Citation*

Legal Writing Institute One Day Workshop, Chicago, IL | DECEMBER 2010

Presenter, *What is Your Favorite Book: A Technique for Using Narrative to Teach Persuasive Writing*

Central Region Legal Writing Conference, Milwaukee, WI | OCTOBER 2009