

WHITNEY WERICH HEARD
University of Houston Law Center
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EDUCATION

Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, DC

Juris Doctor, *cum laude*, May 2004

GPA: 3.55/4.00

Honors: Dean's List (2001–2002/2003–2004)

Law Fellow: Received competitive fellowship to teach legal research and writing skills to a section of first-year law school students once a week during the fall and spring semester and participated in weekly workshops with legal research and writing professors to develop and strengthen teaching skills through readings, discussions, and demonstrations (2002–2003).

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana-Champaign, Illinois

Bachelor of Arts in Speech Communication, *summa cum laude*, January 2001

GPA: 3.935/4.00 (Top 3%)

Honors: Dean's List (1997–2001), Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi, Chancellor's Scholar, James Scholar, King Broadrick-Allen award, and Bronze Tablet recognition

ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

University of Houston Law Center, Houston, Texas

Clinical Associate Professor (2019–Present)

Clinical Assistant Professor (2010–2019)

Visiting Professor (2008–2010)

Adjunct Professor (2007–2008)

Honors: Recipient of the university-wide 2023 UH Group Teaching Excellence Award given in recognition of the Lawyering Skills and Strategies faculty's strong commitment to teaching and student success.

Courses Taught: Lawyering Skills and Strategies I and II for Juris Doctor program (2012–Present); Legal Research and Writing for Juris Doctor program (2008–2012); Legal Research and Writing Tutorial for Juris Doctor Program (2009–2010); Legal Research and Writing for Foreign LL.M. program (2007–2009); and a scholarly writing seminar for Foreign LL.M. program (Spring 2008).

- Teach legal research, analysis, writing, and citation skills to first-year law students. This includes creating engaging class presentations and activities; designing assignments and rubrics to assess students' legal research, analysis, writing, and citation skills; commenting extensively on students' written work product; and meeting with students during office hours and individual conferences to provide feedback and guidance.

- Support current and former students in their pursuit of legal employment by bringing opportunities to their attention; reviewing resumes, cover letters, and writing samples; discussing interview strategies; writing letters of recommendation; and acting as a reference.
- Worked with undergraduate students from underrepresented groups in the Pre-Law Pipeline Program. Interviewed applicants for the Pre-Law Pipeline Program (2015–2017) and instructed students in the Pre-Law Pipeline Program (2017). Instruction included teaching classes on preparing personal and diversity statements for law school applications, commenting on those statements, and meeting with students to provide feedback and guidance.

Legal Writing Center: Manage the staffing and programming for the Legal Writing Center and promote its use by professors and students in my role as faculty co-director (2020–Present).

- Interview and hire second-year and third-year law students to staff the Center as Legal Writing Fellows.
- Shepherd Fellows through the necessary paperwork to ensure that they receive credit or pay for their work in the Center.
- Review data collected through an online report to confirm the number of hours worked and the type of work completed by each Fellow on a monthly basis.
- Lead an orientation to prepare Fellows for their staffing duties in the Center, particularly when assisting students with their legal-writing needs during drop-in office hours and scheduled appointments.
- Oversee the publication of the *Cougar Clause* electronic newsletter by a team of Fellows by reviewing content, offering advice, and promoting readership.
- Meet with Fellows several times throughout a semester to help them organize and run workshops for first-year students on topics related to law school success, including study skills, writing, editing, and citing.
- Offer guidance to Fellows who encounter difficult questions or challenging situations during drop-in office hours and scheduled appointments.
- Converted the Center into a fully virtual operation in 2020 in response to the global pandemic, by creating a Microsoft Team to continue the Center’s services, with more than 90 people joining the MS Team.
- Transitioned the Center into a hybrid operation for the 2022-2023 academic year with 150 people joining the MS Team.

Lawyering Skills and Strategies Service: Support the Lawyering Skills and Strategies faculty at the University of Houston Law Center by helping with the following initiatives:

- Creating and organizing content for the 2023 UH Group Teaching Excellence Award nomination packet, finalist packet, and virtual presentation (2022–2023).
- Receiving a Distinguished Speaker Series grant from the Association of Legal Writing Directors and hosting a legal writing scholar at the UH Law Center (2020).
- Establishing a Lawyering Skills and Strategies Advisory Council (2018–2020).
- Hiring three Lecturers for Lawyering Skills and Strategies (2017).
- Organizing a Legal Writing Institute One-Day Workshop (2017).

Law Center Service: Support the University of Houston Law Center by participating on the following committees:

- Outcomes and Assessments Committee (2018–Present).
- Student Scholarship (2021–Present).
- Appointments Committee for Entry Level–Doctrinal and NTT (2018–2021).
- Honor Board Faculty Advisor (2016–2018).
- Student Affairs Committee (2017–2018).
- Library Committee (2015–2017).
- Curriculum Committee (2015–2016).
- Admissions Committee (2014–2016).

Student Service: Support students at the University of Houston Law Center through my involvement in the following activities:

- Teaching an annual workshop for first-year law students who plan to participate in the Write-On Competition to join a student-edited legal journal (2017–Present).
- Volunteering as a faculty mentor for a section of first-year law students by answering questions and planning presentations on developing study skills, selecting upper-level courses, and finding legal employment (2009–2019).
- Serving as the faculty advisor for the Association of Women in Law student organization (2018–2019).
- Attending trainings that promote student safety and well-being such as the UH Faculty Safety and Emergency Preparedness Symposium (2018); Mental Health First Aid training through UH Wellness (2017); and Cougar Ally training through the LGBTQ Resource Center (2017).

U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas, Beaumont, Texas

Law Clerk for the Honorable Marcia A. Crone (2005–2007)

- Researched and drafted opinions and orders deciding dispositive and non-dispositive motions in civil and criminal cases.
- Prepared Judge Crone for status conferences as well as civil and criminal hearings by providing her with relevant background information and legal authority.
- Managed between twenty and thirty cases by monitoring docket activity, updating case file folders, tracking deadlines, and providing guidance to attorneys.
- Performed an array of administrative duties as senior law clerk, including the recruitment of undergraduate and law school interns as well as the planning of summer social functions.

Kirkland & Ellis LLP, Chicago, Illinois

Associate (2004–2005)

Summer Associate (2003)

- Prepared a partner for an oral argument before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit: outlined appellate briefs, summarized pertinent cases, and researched factual questions.

- Assisted a partner with appellate briefing and a motion to strike: researched substantive and procedural issues involving employment discrimination law, drafted sections for inclusion in the briefs and motion, and made the necessary administrative arrangements for filing the briefs and motion.
- Completed a variety of research projects and produced written memoranda for the litigation department on issues including the corporate opportunity doctrine, joint defense agreements, damages for breach of contract and tort claims, intentional infliction of emotional distress, and rescinding and ratifying contracts.

LEGAL WRITING PRESENTATIONS AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Legal Writing Presentations

- *Addressing NextGen Bar(riers) with a Collaborative Approach to Teaching Legal Research*, Lone Star Regional Legal Writing Conference, Texas Tech University School of Law (April 2023) (panelist).
- *A Positive Approach to Professionalism*, LWI One-Day Workshop, University of Florida Levin College of Law (December 2022) (presenter).
- *Amplifying Diverse Voices and Ideas in the Legal Writing Classroom*, LWI Biennial Conference, Georgetown University Law Center (July 2022) (panelist).
- *All Are Welcome: How to Create a Diverse and Inclusive Legal Writing Center*, LWI One-Day Workshop, University of Louisville Louis D. Brandeis School of Law (December 2021).
- *Pandemic Pivot: Our Experience Creating a Virtual Legal Writing Center*, ALWD Biennial Conference, University of Michigan Law School (June 2021) (co-presenter).
- *Dear Client: Exploring Empathy Through Client Communication*, Empire State Legal Writing Conference, New York Law School (May 2021).
- *An Effective Strategy for Transforming First-Year Students into Effective Writers*, LWI One-Day Workshop, University of South Dakota Knudson School of Law (December 2020).
- *Together We Thrive: How an Advisory Council Can Help You, Your Students, and Your Legal Community*, LWI 2020 Virtual Biennial Conference (September 2020) (co-presenter).
- *Make It Personal: How Personal Interests Contribute to Professional Development*, LWI One-Day Workshop, St. Mary's University School of Law (December 2019) (co-presenter).
- *Legal Citation: Striking the Right Balance*, Empire State Legal Writing Conference, New York Law School (May 2019) (co-presenter).
- *Let's Talk: How to Maximize Law School Events to Improve Communication Between the Bench, the Bar, and the Academy*, LWI One-Day Workshop, Loyola University New Orleans College of Law (November 2018).
- *Pet Custody Agreement: Contract Drafting Made DOGgone Fun!*, LWI Biennial Conference, Marquette University Law School (July 2018).

- *Using the Familiar to Teach the Unfamiliar: An Introductory Persuasive Writing Exercise*, LWI One-Day Workshop, University of Houston Law Center (December 2017).
- *Different [Key]strokes for Different Folks: Preparing Practice-Ready Millennials to Confront the Demands of Online Legal Research through Introductory Exercises*, LWI One-Day Workshop, The University of Texas School of Law (December 2016) (co-presenter).
- *Attention, Please! An Exercise to Enhance Online Research Training*, Tenth Annual Rocky Mountain Legal Writing Conference, The University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law (March 2010).
- *A Lawyer's Introduction to the Fundamentals of Legal Writing*, Lawline.com CLE course (November 2009).
- *Meeting New Expectations: Legal Research and Writing Comprehensive Remedial Program*, 2009 Southeast Regional Legal Writing Conference, Stetson University College of Law (September 2009) (co-presenter).

Legal Writing Professional Development

- AALS Section on Legal Writing, Reasoning, and Research, Awards Committee, Co-Chair (2022-Present) and Member (2021-2022).
- Association of Legal Writing Directors, Teaching Grants Committee, Co-Chair (2022-Present) and Member (2018–2022).
- Association of Legal Writing Directors, Leadership Academy, Participant (2021).
- Association of Legal Writing Directors, Delegate (2017–2019).
- Legal Writing Institute, LWI One-Day Workshops Committee, Member (2022–Present).
- Legal Writing Institute, *LWI Lives* Committee, Member (2018–2022).
- Legal Writing Institute, New Member Outreach Committee, Member (2018–2020).
- *Legal Writing: Journal of the Legal Writing Institute*, Assistant Editor (Volume 24–Volume 25).

BAR ADMISSION

- Active Member of the Illinois State Bar (2004–Present).

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- The Junior League of Houston, Inc. (2009–Present).
- School Advisory Council for St. Anne Catholic School (2020–Present).
- Class Captain for St. Anne Catholic School Annual Fund (2021–2022).
- PTO Welcome Committee for St. Anne Catholic School (2016–2020).