

NICOLE NELLESSEN COON

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Mitchell Hamline School of Law **Associate Teaching Professor of Law** **Academic Excellence Specialist**

St. Paul, MN
July 2021-Present
April 2018-Present

Teach the 1L and upperclassmen courses (including corresponding Capstone Week all-day lectures) offered by the Office of Academic Excellence, which include Legal Methods, Principles of Legal Analysis, Bar Exam Primer, Bar Preparation Strategies: MPT, and Bar Preparation Strategies: MBE/MEE in lecture and small section settings as well as in online classes for the Blended Learning Program. In Legal Methods, teach 1L students critical reading, case briefing, outlining, legal analysis, IRAC, time and stress management, health and wellness, and professionalism through a number of different in-class and homework assignments, including case briefs, outlines, t-charts, law school multiple choice and essay exams, and self-assessments. Provide oral and written feedback for every assignment, which is about an assignment every week for 60 students. Serve as lead course instructor for Legal Methods. Successfully proposed for faculty-approval, implemented, and now oversee Legal Methods Student Leader program, wherein upperclassmen serve as mentors and provide feedback to 1L students. For Bar Preparation Strategies courses, teach students bar exam skills through lecture, modeling, completion of past bar exam multiple choice and essay questions, written feedback, and self-reflection. Focus on skills like rule synthesis, legal analysis, IRAC, outlining, and time management to increase chances of bar passage. In addition to coursework, work as a one-on-one instructor and mentor, providing academic support throughout law school as well as bar preparation support. Students with needs and concerns are either identified by me in the courses I teach or self-identified and make requests for one-on-one support. Serve as a confidant and counselor to help identify outside factors, including personal, medical, professional, and financial concerns, that may be impacting the learning process. Regularly liaise with the Office of the Dean of Students, Disability Services, and the Blended Learning Program to optimize students' law school experience, in addition to providing legal instruction consistent with that outlined above. Spearhead the Pre-1L Assessment and oversee incoming 1L students' one-on-one meetings with faculty and staff members prior to and during the early weeks of the first semester. Created onboarding/training session for Student Leaders and Academic Excellence Adjunct Professors. Developed and lead department-wide training session for instruction team members. Serve on Curriculum Committee and Skills Subcommittee, which reviews and recommends changes in the academic program to the faculty and serves as the clearinghouse for proposals for new courses and other changes in the curriculum, including the Hybrid JD, EJD, LLM, and non-JD certificate courses.

University of Minnesota Law School **Associate Adjunct Professor and Section Leader- Legal Research and Writing**

Minneapolis, MN
August 2017-June 2020
Currently on leave

Teach 1L students the process of thinking and communicating about the law, including but not limited to the foundational skills of critical reading, case briefing, rule synthesis, IRAC, and legal analysis as well as common law jurisprudence and statutory construction. Draft lesson plans. Lecture and conduct numerous in-class exercises. Administer numerous written and oral assignments, including professional emails, client letters, memorandum, internal oral reports, motions, oral arguments, and MPT-like exam. Coordinate with local judges to enhance students' oral argument experiences by holding oral arguments in actual courtrooms before judges. Review, grade, and provide feedback on students' written work. Hold weekly office hours and individual student conferences both in-person and via Zoom. Oversee, mentor, and grade Student Instructor, including but not limited to: providing training about teaching legal research and writing – including in-class instruction, one-on-one sessions, and written feedback – engaging in lesson-planning meetings, reviewing and commenting on in-class instruction, feedback, and student interaction, providing one-on-one support, and writing semester reviews. Served as one of five Section Leaders for the Legal Writing program, serving as a liaison between the Director and five Adjunct Professors, their Student Instructors, and their section-assigned 1L students. Planned and lead training sessions. Provided lesson plan overviews. Reviewed Adjunct Professors' and Student Instructors' written feedback and grading. Offered additional support to Adjunct Professors' and Student Instructors' 1L students by way of weekly office hours. Provide volunteer support to Moot Court program.

Council on Legal Education Opportunity, Inc. (CLEO) **Instructional Mediator**

Baton Rouge, LA (*remotely*)
May 2019-July 2019

Partnered with CLEO and the CLEO Legally Inspired Cohort (CLIC) program as an Instructional Mediator for a group of diverse college graduates from throughout the country with disadvantaged backgrounds with aspirations of attending law school in the Pre-Law Summer Institute's supplemental online program, *Developing Law School Literacies*, which was hosted by Southern University Law Center. Provided a foundational instructional intervention for the students that set into motion the development necessary for them to achieve the essential literacy capabilities of not only legal academics, but also of legal professional work. Lead numerous online, small collaborative group sessions throughout the summer to teach and complete critical reading and case briefing tasks with the students.

Mitchell Hamline School of Law

Adjunct Professor/Academic Excellence Tutor

Taught and mentored several law school students in one-on-one sessions both in-person and via Zoom, including students in the law school's Hybrid and EJD programs, on a weekly basis regarding essential lawyering skills (including but not limited to critical reading, case briefing, rule synthesis, legal writing, legal analysis, IRAC, course outlining, and exam preparation) and substantive law (including but not limited to Civil Procedure, Torts, Criminal Law, Property, and Contracts).

St. Paul, MN

August 2017-April 2018

Marquette University Law School

Moot Court Practitioner Coach

Coached students for the 2012 William B. Spong Tournament Moot Court competition hosted by William and Mary School of Law. Arranged several practices each week at which I led the students in productive discussions about their legal issues and provided stylistic and substantive critiques of their presentations.

Milwaukee, WI

January 2012-February 2012

Moot Court Judge

Coached and evaluated students, who were competing in the law schools' internal and external moot court competitions, including the 2011 Region VIII Regional Round of the 62nd New York City Bar National Moot Court Competition hosted at Marquette University Law School. Provided oral and written feedback on brief writing and oral arguments.

- Hastings College of Law (San Francisco, CA)
- Golden Gate University School of Law (San Francisco, CA)
- Marquette University Law School (Milwaukee, WI)

2012-2016

2012- 2016

November 2011

PUBLICATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, CONFERENCES, AND WORKS IN PROGRESS

- The Two Cs: Using Collaboration and Community to Increase Access to Legal Education for Diverse Students (accepted by 2019 Fall Diversity Association of Academic Support Educators Conference, accepted by the 2nd Annual Midwestern Academic Support Conference for presentation on March 13, 2020, accepted by the 2021 Annual Association of Academic Support Educator's Conference, May 25-27, 2021, *article pending*)
- Assessing Self-Assessments: Designing Effective Student Self-Assessment Tools, 2019 Annual Association of Academic Support Educator's Conference, May 22, 2019 (*article pending*).
- Conference Attendee, 2019 Annual Association of Academic Support Educator's Conference, May 21-23, 2019, Seattle University School of Law in Seattle, WA.
- Conference Attendee, 2019 Bi-Annual Association of Academic Support Educator's Diversity Conference, October 3, 2019, DePaul University College of Law in Chicago, IL.
- Grant Recipient, Conference Attendee, and Sign-in Table Volunteer, 2018 Legal Writing Institute Biennial Conference, July 11-14, 2018, Marquette University Law School in Milwaukee, WI.
- The Unspoken Element of Attorney Competence: Mental Health Understanding Mental Illness in the Legal Profession, The Lawyer's Club of San Francisco-Inns of Court, April 8, 2015 (approved for California Continuing Legal Education competence credit).
- Prescription Addiction: The Hidden Dark Side of Ambien, Adderall, and Vicodin, The Lawyer's Club of San Francisco-Inns of Court, January 8, 2014 (approved for California Continuing Legal Education substance abuse credit).
- How to Get Out of Jury Duty, The Lawyer's Club of San Francisco-Inns of Court, October 9, 2013 (approved for California Continuing Legal Education ethics credit).
- Effective Litigation Tactics: Motion Practice Tips and Trial Strategies, Association for Women Lawyers Litigation Group Discussion, May 12, 2011 (approved for Wisconsin Continuing Legal Education credit).
- NICHOLAS JOHNSON ET AL., The Definition of "Records:" Revising the FOIA in Response to Evolving Communication Technologies to Ensure that the Public Gains Access to Only that Information Originally Intended by Congress, *in VIRTUALOSITY* 161 (2009).

PROFESSIONAL LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Schneider Wallace Cottrell Konecky Wotkyns LLP

Associate Attorney

Plaintiff-side employment and civil rights individual and class action litigator. Represented individual employees as well as thousands of class members in employment discrimination, harassment, wrongful termination, wage and hour, and other related claims in both state and federal courts nationwide as well as before state and federal government agencies, including the EEOC. Recovered millions of dollars in damages, including in six multi-million dollar settlements. Managed caseload of approximately 30 cases, over half of which were class actions. Conducted client intake interviews. Wrote memoranda highlighting legal issues and investigation tactics to develop internal strategies and provide legal opinions for clients. Counseled clients. Represented clients at hearings, mediations, and settlement conferences. Served as point of contact for co-counsel and opposing counsel. Researched and wrote memoranda regarding litigation strategies and relevant legal issues. Researched and wrote pleadings and motions, including complaints, motions to transfer

San Francisco, CA

May 2014-September 2017

and/or consolidate, motions to dismiss, motions regarding arbitration, motions for summary judgment, motions for collective and class certification, motions for preliminary and final approval of settlements, motions for attorneys' fees in state and federal cases. Researched and wrote appellate briefs, including cases before the Ninth Circuit. Researched, wrote, and negotiated separation and severance agreements and releases as well as settlement agreements. Conducted discovery efforts: crafted and responded to discovery requests; engaged in document review; lead and participated in meet and confer efforts, including in writing and orally. Prepared for and participated in mediation and settlement negotiations. Prepared for, took, and defended depositions. Prepared for, attended, and presented oral argument at hearings and court conferences.

Superior Court of California, County of San Francisco

San Francisco, CA

Presiding Judge, Civil, Probate, and Appellate Division Legal Research Attorney

October 2012-May 2014

Researched and crafted over 1,000 bench memoranda and decisions determining all stages of litigation for small claims and civil cases for the Presiding Judge and the ten Civil Division Judges, including: pre-trial matters like temporary restraining orders, motions for judgment on the pleadings and for summary judgment, and trial accommodations; trial issues like peremptory challenges, trial assignments to judges, jury instructions, and motions in limine; and post-trial matters like motions for a new trial and for judgment notwithstanding the verdict. The cases concerned all areas of civil law, including employment, personal injury, insurance, asbestos, environmental, corporate, and property law. Worked directly with Court Administrators to resolve legal issues arising from administrative matters. Crafted advisory memoranda as well as case-specific recommendations for a variety of administrative issues including: the development and implementation of local rules; the collection of court-ordered debt and calculation of corresponding pre and post-judgment interest; the identification and treatment of alleged vexatious litigants; and the appointment of guardian ad litem for minors and incapacitated adults. Prepared for and led over 1,000 ex parte hearings. Commanded the hearings to effectively direct the communications between the parties to resolve procedural issues, like continuance and preference motions, as well as substantive requests, like conservatorship, guardianship, will, and trust petitions. Quickly met and made oral presentations to the Judges in order to issue immediate decisions. Reviewed over 100 criminal and limited jurisdiction civil appeals, including misdemeanor, traffic, and unlawful detainer actions, as well as expedited requests for writ relief, which raised constitutional issues like the right to a speedy trial. Examined the entire lengthy court record and parties' briefs; conducted extensive research and wrote bench memoranda and decisions resolving legal, evidentiary, and factual issues; and prepared decisions for publications. Engaged in bi-weekly hearings and meetings with the Appellate Judges where I answered questions to ultimately resolve the matters.

Rust Consulting, Inc.

Minneapolis, MN (*remotely*)

Legal Content Delivery Writer and Editor

August 2012- March 2014

Wrote five to ten journalistic legal articles each week for law firms throughout country that were directly posted on the firms' websites and informed their clients of current, local legal news and the stories' legal implications, focusing on the firms' areas of practice which included employment law, bankruptcy law, foreclosure, family law, wrongful death, product liability, criminal law, and personal injury.

Honorable Chief Judge Maxine A. White, Milwaukee County Circuit Court

Milwaukee, WI

Staff Attorney

June 2010-June 2012

Researched and prepared bench memoranda and written decisions determining dispositive motions, like motions to dismiss and for summary judgment, as well as evidentiary motions, like motions in limine and trial objections, in over 200 civil cases, several of which raised complex issues of first impression. Drafted written decisions reviewing nearly 100 administrative decisions and charges by Wisconsin government agencies, including the Labor and Industry Review Commission and Department of Children and Families, that were brought before the Court on appeal or by petitions for writs of certiorari or mandamus. Appeared daily before the Judge to orally present case summaries, the relevant law, and my recommended dispositions of pending matters. Engaged in lengthy oral arguments, answering the Judge's questions. Quickly evaluated, responded to, and issued orders on expedited matters, like temporary restraining orders and injunctions. Collaborated with the Judge to research and prepare presentations, regarding topics like the impacts of technology and economics on the courts, for case study classes for Wisconsin judges. Worked closely with the Chief Judge, the administrative chief of the Court, to evaluate, and resolve legal questions arising from administrative issues, including the adoption of a bail bonds system.

Professor Christina Bohannon, The University of Iowa College of Law

Iowa City, IA

Research Assistant

August 2009-May 2010

Validated the copyrights for The University of Iowa Museum of Art's Jackson Pollock and Wassily Kandinsky paintings by working closely with museum staff and conducting extensive legal and historical research. Researched and prepared memoranda on conflict of laws and sovereign immunity issues and 42 U.S.C. § 1983 actions, which were integrated into Professor Bohannon's scholarship.

Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek, S.C.

Milwaukee, WI

Law Clerk

May 2009-July 2009

Researched and wrote memoranda for federal and state employment, municipal immunity, trademark, patent, products liability, bankruptcy, and asbestos litigation cases. Researched and drafted internal policies and employee manuals for employers and businesses, including related to employee record retention, financial control fraud prevention, and internal controls. Participated in the depositions and trials with several other attorneys for the product liability and asbestos matters. Drafted corporate stockholder agreements, operating agreements, and securities filings for a variety of new corporate entities. Collaborated with the healthcare attorneys to draft an article exploring the risks associated with Regional Health Information Organizations and the legal and insurance solutions, which was published as Bruce G. Arnold, *When Internal Controls Fail: Health Information Organization Risks and the Corresponding Legal and Insurance Solutions*, AMERICAN LAW FIRM ASSOCIATION, January 27, 2011. Prepared legal guardianship documents with children with mental and physical disabilities and their parents at the firm's guardianship clinic.

Professor Angela Onwuachi-Willig, The University of Iowa College of Law

Iowa City, IA

Research Assistant

August 2008-May 2009

Investigated and wrote memoranda concerning national and international affirmative action, critical race theory, employment law, and feminist legal theory that helped craft articles and books regarding law and policy.

Judge Ronald Bartkowicz, Circuit Court of Cook County

Chicago, IL

Judicial Extern

June 2008-August 2008

Reviewed parties' briefs and evidence submitted in support of dispositive motions, including motions for summary judgment, in order to research and compose draft decisions and bench memorandum for complex, civil actions, including a multi-million dollar whistleblower action regarding sales tax charged for Internet purchases.

New Orleans Public Defender

New Orleans, LA

Law Clerk

March 2008

Conducted intake and client interviews at the jails. Wrote memoranda regarding the clients' criminal and personal histories, highlighting legal issues and potential investigation tactics, which were circulated internally and also used to provide legal opinions for clients.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL AND VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

MCLE Program Co-Chair, The Lawyer's Club of San Francisco-Inns of Court (San Francisco, CA) 2015- 2016

Amicus Briefs Committee Co-Chair, Queen's Bench Bar Association (San Francisco, CA) 2015- 2016

• *Vetted and edited brief of Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom, et al. as Amici Curiae Supporting Petitioners in Obergefell v. Hodges, 135 S. Ct. 2584 (2015)*

Mentor, Queen's Bench Bar Association Juvenile Hall Project (San Francisco, CA) 2013- 2016

Student Attorney, Iowa Legal Aid Pro Se Divorce Clinic (Iowa City, IA) 2009-2010

School Buddy, Big Brother Big Sisters of Johnson County (Iowa City, IA) 2009-2010

Editor, Essay101 (Durham, NC (*remotely*)) 2007-2008

• *Independently edited 30 ACT, SAT, and College Admission essays per week that were outsourced from nationwide test centers.*

Provided grammatical and organizational critiques of essays to students within 3-day turnaround.

BAR ADMISSIONS

Minnesota 2018, Massachusetts 2016, California 2012, Illinois 2011, Wisconsin 2010

EDUCATION**The University of Iowa College of Law**

Iowa City, IA

J.D. with Pro Bono Society Honors

August 2007- May 2010

• Iowa Law Review, Editor. Note: Sales Tax Exemption for Nonprofit Symphonies: The Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra's Legislative Solution for Nonprofits In and Outside of Wisconsin

The University of Wisconsin-Madison

Madison, WI

B.A. with Comprehensive Honors in English Literature and Legal Studies, Honors in English Major August 2003-December 2006

• Member, Alpha Kappa Psi, The Professional Business Fraternity

• Senior thesis: Theater of the Law: Legal Systems, Performance, and Shakespeare

• *The University of Wisconsin-Madison London Theater Program* London, United Kingdom • December 2005- January 2006

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Minnesota State Bar Association, Association of Academic Support Educators, Legal Writing Institute