

Dena Sonbol

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RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Mitchell Hamline School of Law, Saint Paul, MN

Professor of Law | January 2017 to Present

- Teach property, criminal procedure, and family law in BAM, Blended, and online
- Serve on faculty committees
- Oversee student externships, residencies, and long papers

Dean of Academic Excellence | January 2017 to June 2023

- Provided leadership and vision for programming to address academic challenges in order to ensure student success in law school and on the bar exam
- Designed, developed, implemented, and oversaw a comprehensive curricular and co-curricular program for academic support and bar passage for over 1,200 students across multiple enrollment options prior to matriculation, during their first, second, and final years of law school, and post-graduation.
- Hired, trained, and supervised a team of full-time and adjunct professors to deliver school-wide programming teaching the skills of critical reading, case briefing, rule synthesis, course outlining, legal analysis, legal writing and exam-taking strategy
- Oversaw course instruction and grading to ensure quality and consistency in instruction and grading
- Collaborated with stakeholders to build support for program development and operational/policy changes
- Partner with student services, career services, the DEI Office, the legal writing department, and doctrinal faculty to identify students in need of support and provide holistic support
- Taught courses outside academic support and bar preparation to meet school needs including Legal Analysis, Research, and Writing I and II, and Criminal Procedure
- Earned the 2021 National Association of Academic Support Educators Institutional Leadership Award for my work and leadership at Mitchell Hamline in academic support and bar preparation

Thomson Reuters, Eagan, MN

Education Program Developer, March 2016 to December 2016

- Conducted needs assessments to determine training needs, diagnose learning issues, and identify appropriate instructional procedures
- Developed learning programs and materials to improve existing employee performance, train new employees, and meet business goals
- Measured program effectiveness and institute changes for improvement

University of Minnesota Law School, Minneapolis, MN

Bar Exam Tutor – Independent Contractor | January 2016 to December 2016

- Designed and implemented a bar exam preparation program to ensure student success on the bar exam by improving students' legal analysis and writing skills
- Provided classroom, one-on-one, and online instruction, evaluation, feedback, and coaching to prepare firsttime and repeat test takers for all components of the bar exam in multiple jurisdictions
- Reported to and collaborated with Academic Affairs and Student Affairs on student performance and program effectiveness and made recommendations for improvement

Atlanta's John Marshall Law School, Atlanta, GA

Assistant Dean of Student Affairs, LLM Professor | August 2015 to January 2016

- Provided students with guidance, advocacy, and support related to issues of academic and personal concern
- Created and offered new community programming and student pro bono opportunities
- Instructed and trained foreign LLM students in the area of law practice in the United States

Southern University Law Center, Baton Rouge, LA

Assistant Professor of Legal Analysis & Writing | August 2010 to July 2015

- Instructed and trained students in the areas of legal analysis, legal writing, legal research, contract drafting, and criminal procedure in classroom and one-on-one settings
- Monitored, reviewed, and evaluated student performance, provided feedback, identified impediments to learning, and developed tailored plans for improving performance

Kirrikale University, Kirikkale, Turkey

Visiting Professor | December 2013

- Taught a four-week course on the American legal system and the principles of democracy to undergraduate and graduate Turkish students

Stinson LLP, formerly Leonard, Street, and Deinard, Minneapolis, MN *Corporate Attorney, Law Clerk* | June 2006 to May 2010

- Advised major clients such as Buffalo Wild Wings, CVS, D.R. Horton, and Union Pacific Railroad
- Negotiated, prepared, interpreted, reviewed, and analyzed various transactional and litigation documents
- Researched statutes, regulations, case law, and non-legal sources
- Drafted written objective and persuasive legal memoranda under tight time constraints

TEACHING

- Legal Analysis & Writing I & II
- Legal Research I & II
- Contract Drafting
- Criminal Procedure
- Property
- Family Law
- Legal Methods
- Principles of Legal Analysis
- Bar Exam Primer
- Bar Preparation Strategies: MPT
- Bar Preparation Strategies: MBE & MEE

PRESENTATIONS

- Association of Academic Support Educators Annual Conference, Lessons Learned: Online Academic Support & Bar Prep, May 27, 2021.
- LARC Adjunct Training, Mitigating Stereotype Threat in Teaching and Giving Feedback, Mitchell Hamline School of Law, August 6, 2020.
- DEI Classroom Climate Series, Mitigating Stereotype Threat in the Classroom, Mitchell Hamline School of Law, July 23, 2020.
- Association of Academic Support Educators Annual Conference, Holistic Intervention and Support for All Students, May 22, 2018.
- Faculty Colloquium on Feedback, Mitchell Hamline School of Law, April 12, 2017.
- Professionalism Series, Positive Self-Presentation, Ethics, and Professionalism in the Legal Profession, John Marshall Law School, October 7, 2015.
- Panel on Innovations in Legal Writing & Research, Anatomy, Use, and Strategic Instruction: WestLawNext, George Mason University School of Law, Legal Writing Institute One-Day Workshop, December 2, 2011.

PUBLICATIONS

- Dena Sonbol, Esq., Summary Guide to Easements, Minnesota CLE (2021).
- Dena Sonbol, Talking Turkey: Southern University Law Center Expands its Global Footprint with Ventures in Turkey, 288 Around the B. 14 (June 2014).
- Dena Sonbol & Rebecca Block, Only in Louisiana: Forum-selection Clauses Void as Against Public Policy, 263 Around the B. 13 (January 2012).

SERVICE

- Appointments Committee
- Academic and Student Affairs Committee
- RAISE, Special Task Force, Chair
- Bar Passage Committee, Chair
- Curriculum Committee
- Enrollment Management Committee
- SQUAD- Bylaws Taskforce
- Admissions Committee
- Faculty Development Committee

EDUCATION

Hamline University School of Law, Saint Paul, MN

Juris Doctor, *magna cum laude* | May 2008

- Rank: Top 10% (19/202)
- Honors: Full Presidential Scholarship recipient; Dean's Honor Roll; CALI Award for Excellence in Law & Economics, CALI Award for Excellence in Quality of Health Care; Journal of Public Law and Policy; National Tax Moot Court; Hamline Journal of Law and Religion

University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN,

B.A. in Psychology, *magna cum laude* | December 2003

- Honors: President's Distinguished Student Scholarship recipient; Dean's Honor Roll; Honor's Thesis

BAR ADMISSIONS

- Attorney, State of Minnesota, Admitted 2008, Inactive