

KELLY BURGESS
Kelly.Burgess@mitchellhamline.edu

LEGAL WRITING PROFESSOR

Dedicated legal educator with extensive experience in legal writing, academic support, and bar preparation. Recognized for a student-centered teaching philosophy that combines practical skill-building with individualized mentorship. Proven ability to design rigorous curricula, improve bar passage outcomes, and create engaging learning experiences across in-person, hybrid, and online environments.

- Legal Writing
- Academic Support
- Bar Preparation
- Hybrid Instruction
- Faculty Collaboration
- Course Development
- Student Engagement
- Pedagogical Innovation
- Legal Analysis

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Liberty University

2021 - 2026

School of Law and School of Government

Adjunct Instructor

- Teach Legal Writing and Legal Research courses to undergraduate and graduate paralegal students through Liberty's online platform, maintaining exceptional student engagement and satisfaction scores.
- Design and deliver interactive asynchronous learning modules, integrating case analysis, citation exercises, and real-world writing applications aligned with ABA and NALA competencies.
- Create brief tutorials and supplemental materials to reinforce complex legal reasoning, ensuring clarity for diverse learning styles and accessibility needs.
- Provide timely, detailed written feedback on all assignments, emphasizing organization, argument structure, and professionalism in written communication.
- Collaborate with academic leadership to revise course content and assessment methods, ensuring alignment with evolving professional and pedagogical standards.
- Mentor students on academic success, legal ethics, and professional development, fostering growth in confidence and analytical rigor.
- Utilize learning analytics and student performance data to identify at-risk learners, apply early interventions, and improve course completion rates.

North Carolina Central University

2006-2017 & 2020-2023

School of Law

Progressive faculty roles including Legal Writing Professor, Director of Bar Preparation, Adjunct Professor, and Academic Support Instructor

- Designed and taught courses in Legal Writing I & II, Advanced Legal Research, and Bar Skills across 1L and upper-level curricula.
- Served as Director of Bar Preparation, leading workshops, courses, and individualized coaching that improved bar passage rates and student performance.
- Taught and mentored conditionally admitted students through the Performance-Based Admissions Program (PBAP), resulting in strong progression and retention rates.
- Conducted academic skills workshops and developed structured study and writing interventions for at-risk students.
- Created original writing assignments, rubrics, and grading calibration tools used across multiple sections of Legal Writing.

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- Oversaw peer tutoring and faculty collaboration efforts in academic support and bar readiness.
- Taught both in-person and online formats, adapting traditional pedagogy for Zoom and hybrid delivery during remote instruction periods.
- Consistently earned outstanding teaching evaluations for clarity, accessibility, and student rapport.

North Carolina Court of Appeals

2008-2009

Hon. Judge Linda McGee, Fall 2008

Judicial Clerk

- Conducted comprehensive legal research on a broad range of appellate issues, including administrative law, torts, contracts, and constitutional claims.
- Drafted bench memoranda and proposed judicial opinions that were frequently adopted or cited in final published decisions.
- Analyzed appellate briefs to assess legal sufficiency, jurisdictional posture, and factual accuracy, ensuring compliance with procedural and evidentiary standards.
- Synthesized complex factual records and lower-court rulings into concise, persuasive analytical narratives for chambers discussion.
- Collaborated closely with Judge McGee in preparing for oral arguments, identifying critical precedent and potential lines of judicial inquiry.
- Participated in post-argument debriefings and opinion conferences, contributing to the refinement of judicial reasoning and opinion structure.
- Developed advanced skills in legal writing precision, neutral analysis, and professional editing, shaping later teaching philosophy and writing pedagogy.

EDUCATION

North Carolina Central University School of Law

Durham, NC

Juris Doctor, Magna Cum Laude, May 2006

University Of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Chapel Hill, NC

Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, With Distinction, December 2001

HONORS & SERVICE

- Magna Cum Laude, NCCU School of Law
- Faculty Advisor, Bar Success Committee, NCCU School of Law
- Presenter, "Writing for the Bar: From Classroom to Courtroom," Regional Legal Writing Conference (2015)

CURRENT LICENSURE

- Admitted to the North Carolina State Bar, August 2006