

Michael J. Higdon

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Professional Experience

UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE COLLEGE OF LAW

Knoxville, Tennessee

Associate Professor, August 2009 to Present

- Subjects taught include: Family Law; Legal Process; Pre-Trial Litigation.

WILLIAM S. BOYD SCHOOL OF LAW

Las Vegas, Nevada

Lawyering Process Professor, July 2004 to July 2009

- Subjects taught include: Family Law; First-Year Legal Writing; Advanced Advocacy; Supreme Court Practice; Advanced Legal Analysis and Writing; Litigation; Legal Drafting; and Wills, Trusts and Estates.
- Faculty Director of the school's moot court program, the Society of Advocates.
- Faculty Chair, Academic Standards Committee

SEATTLE UNIVERSITY

Seattle, Washington

Visiting Legal Writing Professor, Spring Semester 2007

- Taught two sections of first-year legal writing (i.e. objective writing) and one semester of second-year legal writing (i.e. persuasive writing).

SCHRECK BRIGNONE

Las Vegas, Nevada

Associate Attorney, September 2002 to April 2004

- Practiced primarily in the area of commercial litigation as well as employment and labor law.

CHAMBERS OF THE HONORABLE PROCTER HUG, JR.

United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

Judicial Law Clerk, August 2001 to September 2002

Education

WILLIAM S. BOYD SCHOOL OF LAW

Las Vegas, Nevada

J.D., May 2001, Summa Cum Laude

- Valedictorian
- Nevada Law Journal, Editor-in-Chief
- Recipient of the James E. Rogers Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement

UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, LAS VEGAS

Las Vegas, Nevada

M.A., Communication Studies, May 1997

ERSKINE COLLEGE

Due West, South Carolina

B.A., English, May 1995

Teaching Honors and Awards

Voted 2006 Professor of the Year by the Student Body at the William S. Boyd School of Law, Las Vegas, Nevada.

Articles

Something Judicious This Way Comes . . . The Use of Foreshadowing as a Persuasive Device in Judicial Opinions, (forthcoming, *The University of Richmond Law Review*)

Oral Argument and Impression Management: Harnessing the Power of Nonverbal Persuasion for a Judicial Audience, 57 *U. KAN. L. REV.* 631 (2009)

Queer Youth and Legislative Bullies: The Invidious and Cruel Discrimination behind Homophobic Statutory Rape Laws, 42 *U.C. DAVIS L. REV.* 195 (2008)

When Informal Adoption Meets Intestate Succession: The Cultural Myopia of the Equitable Adoption Doctrine, 43 *WAKE FOREST L. REV.* 223 (2008)

Other Publications

It's a Small World: Using the Classic Disney Ride to Teach Document Coherence, 17 *PERSPECTIVES: TEACHING LEGAL RESEARCH AND WRITING 2* (Winter 2009).

The Legal Reader, the Legal Writer and the All-Important Thesis Sentence, *NEVADA LAWYER*, September 2007

From Simon Cowell to Tim Gunn: What Reality Television Can Teach Us About How to Critique our Students' Work Effectively, 15 *PERSPECTIVES: TEACHING LEGAL RESEARCH AND WRITING 3* (Summer 2007)

Using DVD Covers to Teach Weight of Authority, 15 *PERSPECTIVES: TEACHING LEGAL RESEARCH AND WRITING 1* (Fall 2006)

Teaching Students How to Receive an Assignment, 20 *THE SECOND DRAFT 1* (August 2005)

Selected Speaking Engagements/Presentations

Co-Presenter (with Rebecca Scharf), "Creating Symbiosis in the Legal Writing Curriculum," Rocky Mountain Legal Writing Conference, March 2009, Arizona State University.

Co-Presenter (with Rebecca Scharf), "Harnessing the Power of Nonverbal Persuasion: How You Can Make Your Students Better Advocates and Yourself a Better Teacher," The 13th Biennial Conference of the Legal Writing Institute, July 2008, Indiana University.

Presenter, "It's a Small World: Using the Classic Disney Ride to Teach Effective Organization," Rocky Mountain Legal Writing Conference, March 2008, University of Utah.

Co-Presenter (with Rebecca Scharf), "Bridging the Gap Between the First Year of Law School and the First Year of Law Practice: A How-To Guide to Designing a Menu of Upper Level Legal Writing Courses," The Lone Star Legal Writing Conference, May 2007, Texas Wesleyan University School of Law.

Presenter, "'Project Runway' Meets Legal Writing: The Tim Gunn Approach to Critiquing Student Work,"

Rocky Mountain Legal Writing Conference, March 2007, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Presenter, "Judges Using the Internet?!? How to Teach Students to Effectively Find and Integrate Nonlegal, Internet Sources," The 12th Biennial Conference of the Legal Writing Institute, June 2006, Georgia State University.

Presenter, "From Shania Twain to Ishtar: Using Pop Culture to Teach Basic Principles of Legal Research and Analysis," Rocky Mountain Regional Legal Writing Conference, March 2006, University of Arizona.

Panelist and Presenter, "The Do's and Don'ts of Teaching Legal Drafting," Rocky Mountain Regional Legal Writing Conference, March 2005, Arizona State University.

Speaker, "Getting Started on Winning Briefs," Presented as a continuing legal education class for the State Bar of Nevada, February 2006 (Reno and Las Vegas).

Court Admissions

State Bar of Nevada, Admitted, 2001
State Bar of California, Admitted, 2003

Professional Memberships

Legal Writing Institute

- Current Member of the Board of Directors
- Executive Committee, Treasurer
- Member, 2008 Conference Planning Committee

American Bar Association