

## **BEN BRATMAN**

3900 Forbes Avenue  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15260  
412-334-8149; beb9@pitt.edu

### **EDUCATION**

- VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL, Nashville, Tennessee
  - Degree: J.D., 1993
  - Honors & Activities: Dean's List; Stanley D. Rose Memorial Book Award (best writing in field of legal history); Moot Court Board
- UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON, Seattle, Washington
  - B.A. in History, *cum laude*, 1987; Phi Beta Kappa

### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

#### **Academic**

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH SCHOOL OF LAW, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

- Coordinator of Legal Writing Program, 2020 – present; Professor of Legal Writing, 2016 – present; Associate Professor, 2006 – 2016; Assistant Professor, 2002 – 2006

#### *Administrative:*

- Facilitate a collaborative effort among legal writing faculty to ensure effective instruction for first-year students in legal analysis, legal writing, legal research, oral advocacy, and other foundational lawyering skills
- Serve as liaison to the law school administration on all issues affecting legal writing instruction

#### *Teaching:*

- Created and teach Applied Improv for Lawyers, a course on communication skills for lawyers, to upper-year students, Fall 2023 - present
- Teach Legal Analysis and Writing, a two-semester course, to first-year students, and supervise teaching assistants, 2002 - present
- Teach Legislation & Regulation, a fall-semester course, to first-year students, and supervise teaching assistants, 2012 - 2013 and 2016 - present
- Have also taught Employment Discrimination, 2003 – 2010, 2014, and 2024
- Recruited speakers for and coordinated Pitt Law Academy, a lecture series on professional development for first-year students, 2018 – 2020
- Planned, coordinated, and taught in summer bar exam preparation program for graduates, 2013 - 2018
- Created and taught for-credit course on writing for the bar exam, 2005 – 2010

#### *Service (selected):*

- Faculty Advisor to Pitt Law Income Sharing Foundation (PLISF), law school's student-led public interest organization, 2020 – present
- Appointments Committee for Dean of Academic Success, Chair, 2023 - 2024

- Faculty representative, University Senate, 2015 – 2021 and 2022 - present
- Admissions Committee, Chair, 2020 – 2021
- Dean Search Committee, 2017 – 2018
- Faculty advisor to the student Moot Court Board, 2008 – 2018
- Steering Committee, Chair, 2016 – 2017
- Clinical Appointments Committee, Chair, 2014 – 2015
- Law School liaison to the Pennsylvania Board of Law Examiners, 2003 - 2015

*Scholarship:*

- See PUBLICATIONS and PRESENTATIONS AND PANELS below

**THEMIS BAR REVIEW**

- Lecturer on Employment Discrimination, Pennsylvania General Bar Review, 2019 – 2022

**UNIVERSITY OF THE PACIFIC, MCGEORGE SCHOOL OF LAW, Sacramento, California**

- Visiting Professor of Lawyering Skills, 2011 – 2012
  - Taught Global Lawyering Skills I to 22 first-year law students and Global Lawyering Skills II to 20 second-year law students

**INDIANA DIVISION OF STATE COURT ADMINISTRATION, Indianapolis, Indiana**

- Guest Lecturer on Bar Exam Preparation, CLEO Program, summers, 2008 - 2012

**STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT BUFFALO LAW SCHOOL**

- Associate Director, Legal Research & Writing, 2000 – 2002; Teaching Fellow, 1999 - 2002
  - Taught Legal Research and Writing to two sections of first-year law students
  - Assisted director in various areas of program administration
  - Created and taught elective course entitled Sexual Harassment Litigation

**Law Practice**

**PURSLEY, HOWELL, LOWERY & MEEKS, Atlanta, Georgia**

- Associate Litigation Attorney, 1996 – 1999
  - Represented corporate, governmental and individual clients in a wide variety of civil proceedings, concentrating on employment discrimination actions in federal court

**THE HONORABLE JOEL M. FELDMAN, MAGISTRATE JUDGE, UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA, Atlanta, Georgia**

- Law Clerk, 1993 – 1996
  - Researched and drafted recommendations and orders on pre-trial motions in civil cases (predominantly Title VII employment discrimination), and in criminal cases (predominantly Fourth Amendment search and seizure); served as courtroom deputy

**PUBLICATIONS**

- [\*The Annual List of Leg-Reg/Administrative Law Course Requirements\*](#), Yale Journal on Regulation (July 19, 2023).
- [\*The Folly of the Embedded Full Citation: How the Bluebook and ALWD Manuals Encourage Weak Legal Writing\*](#), The Second Draft (April 2021).

- Selected posts as contributor to the blog Best Practices for Legal Education, <https://bestpracticeslegaled.com/author/benbratman/>, 2015 – 2021:
  - [\*The Next Generation of the Bar Exam, NCBE Style\*](#), Jan 14, 2021
  - [\*Looking Ahead: The Performance Test on the Bar Exam Post Covid-19\*](#), Oct 21, 2020
  - [\*Improv for First-Year Law Students?\*](#), June 5, 2019 (featured on [TaxProf Blog](#), June 24, 2019)
  - [\*A Pedagogical Twist for the 1L Appellate Brief and Oral Argument\*](#), April 4, 2019
  - [\*On the Value of Gap Years and Non-Legal Experience to Legal Employers \(and Law Schools\)\*](#), Sept 21, 2018
  - [\*More Thoughts on the Post-Millennial Generation of Students Arriving in Law School\*](#), Sept 7, 2018
  - [\*Studying Better Ways to Test Bar Applicants for Minimum Competence: Another Reason to Care About the California Bar Exam \(Besides the Cut Score Debate\)\*](#), June 8, 2017
  - [\*Legislation & Regulation and the Bar Exam\*](#), March 20, 2017
  - [\*The 25 Most Important Lawyering Skills?\*](#), October 8, 2015
- Opinion, *Why More States Should Not Jump on the Uniform Bar Exam Bandwagon*, NYSBA Perspective, Spring 2016, at 11 (originally published on JD Journal, June 17, 2015) (available on SSRN at <http://papers.ssrn.com/abstract=2619358>).
- Op-Ed., *Reforming the Bar Exam to Produce Better Lawyers*, Wall St. J., Feb. 26, 2015, at A1, available at [http://law.pitt.edu/sites/default/files/articles/ben\\_bratman\\_reforming\\_the\\_bar\\_exam\\_to\\_produce\\_better\\_lawyers\\_-\\_wsj.pdf](http://law.pitt.edu/sites/default/files/articles/ben_bratman_reforming_the_bar_exam_to_produce_better_lawyers_-_wsj.pdf).
- *Improving the Performance of the Performance Test: The Key to Meaningful Bar Exam Reform*, 83 UMKC L. Rev. 565 (2015) (available on SSRN at <http://ssrn.com/abstract=2520042>).
- *Legal Research and Writing as a Proxy: Using Traditional Assignments to Achieve a More Fundamental Form of Practice Readiness*, The Second Draft, Spring 2011, at 7, available at [https://www.lwionline.org/sites/default/files/2016-09/SecondDraftSummer2011v2\\_2.pdf](https://www.lwionline.org/sites/default/files/2016-09/SecondDraftSummer2011v2_2.pdf).
- *A Defense of Sotomayor's "Wise Latina" Remark - with No Rewording Required*, FindLaw, July 19, 2009, <https://supreme.findlaw.com/legal-commentary/a-defense-of-sotomayors-wise-latina-remark-with-no-rewording-required.html>.
- “Reality Legal Writing”: *Using a Client Interview for Establishing the Facts in a Memo Assignment*, 12 Perspectives: Teaching Legal Res. & Writing 87 (2004).
- *Brandeis & Warren's The Right to Privacy and the Birth of the Right to Privacy*, 69 Tenn. L. Rev. 623 (2002) (available on SSRN at <http://ssrn.com/abstract=1334296>).

## PRESENTATIONS AND PANELS

- *Applied Improv and the Law*, Institute for Law Teaching and Learning annual conference, University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law, June 2, 2023
- *How the Bar Exam Under Emphasizes Legal Writing Even More Than We Might Think*, Legal Writing Institute One-Day Workshop, University of Tennessee College of Law, Dec 1, 2018

- *In Defense of the Chalkboard as Effective Technology in the Legal Writing Classroom*, Legal Writing Institute One-Day Workshop, University of Pittsburgh School of Law, Nov 30, 2018
- *Twenty-Five Skills That Legal Education Cannot Ignore (Even if Bar Examiners Will)*, Rocky Mountain Legal Writing Conference, University of New Mexico School of Law, March 2015
- *Typographical Errors and the Law: From the Amusing to the Consequential*, Rocky Mountain Legal Writing Conference, Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, Arizona State University, March 2012
- *Would a Court Enforce What I Just Drafted? Introducing First-Year Students to "Preventive Law" and Raising the Stakes on the Inter-Office Memo*, Second Annual Empire State Legal Writing Conference, St. John's University School of Law, May 2011
- *Partial (or No) Recall? You Can Still Write a Decent Answer to a Bar Exam Essay Question*, Law School Admissions Council Academic Assistance Topical Workshop on Bar Support Programs, Los Angeles, CA, September 2008
- Panelist, *Bar Exam Prep Course Seeking Long-Term Relationship: Legal Writing, Academic Support, Both, or Something Else?* 13<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference of the Legal Writing Institute, Indianapolis, IN, July 2008

## **NON-PROFIT BOARD AND COMMITTEE SERVICE**

- Allegheny County Bar Foundation Attorneys Against Hunger Committee, 2020 – present
- Board President, Steel City Improv Theater, 2021 - 2022
- Pennsylvania Bar Foundation, LRAP Program Advisory Committee, 2013 – 2018
- Radio Information Service (reading service for the blind and print handicapped), Pittsburgh, PA
  - Board member, 2003 – 2008
  - President, 2004 – 2006

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

- Admitted to the bar in Georgia, Pennsylvania, and California
- The Hay-Sell Pittsburgh Inn of Court (chapter of the American Inns of Court)
  - Law School Liaison, 2014 – present
  - Executive Committee, 2016 – 2019
  - Eric W. Springer Professionalism Award, 2015
- Allegheny County Bar Association
- Association of Legal Writing Directors (ALWD)
  - ALWD Survey Committee, 2013 – 2016
  - ALWD/LWI Survey Task Force, 2011
- Legal Writing Institute (LWI)