

BEN BRATMAN

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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:

- Selected by Class of 2025 for the Robert T. Harper Excellence in Teaching Award
- 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 - 2024
- 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
- Created and taught for-credit course on writing for the bar exam, 2005 – 2010
- Teach in Osher Lifelong Learning Institute—Interpreting Statutes: From Tomatoes to Health Care (2024); Fun and Growth through Improv (2025)

Service (selected):

- Faculty Advisor to Pitt Law Income Sharing Foundation (PLISF), law school's student-led public interest organization, 2020 – present

- Curriculum Committee, Chair, 2024 - 2025
- Dean Search Committee, 2024
- Faculty representative, University Senate, 2015 – 2021 and 2022 - 2023
- 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

- Looking Back on a Bar Prep Writing Program, Raising the Bar (Fall 2024).
- 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
 - *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
 - *Legislation & Regulation and the Bar Exam*, Mar. 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 with subscription [here](#).
- *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.
- “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

- *Failure Is Always an Option: Building Resilience among Law Students through Improv*, Building Resilience Case Studies on Student Interventions & Psychological Insights Conference, University of Pittsburgh School of Law, May 16, 2024 (jointly with Professor Olwyn Conway, Ohio State University Moritz College of Law)
- *Applied Improv*, The Freeland Society, United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh, PA, January 29, 2024
- *Applied Improv and the Law*, Institute for Law Teaching and Learning annual conference, University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law, June 2, 2023
- *In Defense of the Chalkboard as Effective Technology in the Legal Writing Classroom*, Legal Writing Institute 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?* 13th 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)