

DAWN BARKER ANDERSON

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Associate Dean of Innovation, University of Iowa College of Law

(2024-2025)

Director, Iowa Law Writing Center, University of Iowa College of Law

(2025 – present)

Director, Writing & Academic Success Center, University of Iowa College of Law

(2020 – 2025)

Professor, Legal Analysis, Writing & Research, University of Iowa College of Law

(2014 - present)

Courses taught:

Legal Analysis, Writing & Research I & II

Taught adjuncts to teach LAWR I and LAWR II (Spring 2024, Fall 2025)

- Wrote assignments, prepared course websites, prepared class-by-class objectives and class materials, met twice weekly with the adjuncts throughout the semester to discuss teaching
- Academic Success Workshop (Spring 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025)
- Course by invitation
 - 100% of students increased their GPAs after attending the 9-week workshop to enhance legal analysis and exam skills in 2024, and 14/15 students increased their GPAs in 2025 by a mean improvement of .215 on a 4.0 scale.

Introduction to Law & Legal Reasoning (Fall 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024)

Advanced Legal Writing: Writing Center (Fall 2022, 2023, 2024)

- Developed this course to teach Writing Center tutors effective legal writing and tutoring skills, including presentation, communication, and listening skills

Extended Bar Prep for 3Ls (Spring 2023, 2024, 2025)

- Improved student performance on the bar exam from 78% in 2020 to 92% in 2024 (98% of first-time test takers passed the Iowa bar in 2024 and 96% overall bar passage rate in 2025)

U.S. Law for Foreign-Trained Lawyers

Summer Legal Placement Seminar, A Criminal Justice Focus (Summers 2018-2023)

Summer Legal Placement Seminar (Summer 2012-2017, 2024-2026)

Comparative Criminal Law (Summer 2025, Spring 2026)

Legal Capstone

Associate Professor, Legal Analysis, Writing and Research, University of Iowa College of Law

(August 2012 – 2014)

Assistant Professor, Legal Analysis, Writing and Research, University of Iowa College of Law

(August 2009-July 2012)

Adjunct Lecturer, Legal Analysis, Writing and Research, University of Iowa College of Law

(August 2006 – August 2009)

Associate Director, Writing Resource Center, University of Iowa College of Law
(August 2006 – May 2009)

Staff Attorney, ACT, Inc., Iowa City, Iowa
(May 2002 – August 2006)

Corporate Counsel, ACT, Inc., Iowa City, Iowa
(January 2000-May 2002)

Associate Attorney, Meardon, Sueppel & Downer P.L.C., Iowa City, Iowa
(June 1995 – January 2000)

SERVICE

University

- Provost Committee to Revise the University Policy Manual (faculty Senate) (2025-2026)
- Non-Resident Review Committee (Chair 2026, 2025, 2024)
- Office of the President’s Review Committee (faculty Senate) (2024)
- Dean Search Committee – College of Law (2024, 2017-18)
- Michael Brody Faculty Awards Selection Committee (Spring 2024)
- University Ombuds Search Committee (Spring 2022)
- College of Liberal Arts & Sciences External Review Team (assembled by provost) – (Fall 2021)
- University Strategic Planning Committee – Student Success (2021-2022)
 - Co-Chair: Belonging, Mentoring, Mattering Subgroup
- Faculty Senate (Fall 2021 – present)
- Faculty Council (Fall 2021 - present)
- Academic Technology Advisory Council (2017-2023)
- ICON Steering Committee (2019 – 2021)
- Mary Jo Small Fellowship Awards Committee (July 2012 – 2024)
- Search Committee for Assistant Director of Student Legal Services (2014)

College of Law

- Chair, Promotion Committees for Instructional Track Faculty (2025)
- Chair, Learning Outcomes & Curricular Innovation Committee (2020-2025)
 - Led the process to adopt and revise the College’s Learning Outcomes
 - Developed, annually updated, and implemented the five-year assessment plan
 - Led a comprehensive review of the curriculum, including conducting focus groups and a series of faculty conversations on revising the curriculum
 - Developed and facilitated a faculty book group on teaching
 - Developed and facilitated a faculty discussion series on teaching methods
 - Identified committee’s priorities and led committee through curricular work
- Internal Procedures Committee (2018-2025)
- DEI Committee (2022-2024)
- Iowa Law School Foundation Board Faculty Representative (first instructional track faculty to represent the College) (Fall 2023 – present)

- Chair, Learning Outcomes & Assessment Committee (2018, 2019)
- Co-Chair, Committee for Re-Accreditation Review: Program of Legal Education (2022-2023)
- Promotion Committee for Clinical Faculty Member (2021)
- Teaching Review Committee for Instructional Faculty Member (chair, 2018-2019; member, 2018-2019)
- Chair, Planning Committee on Legal Analysis, Writing, & Research Faculty and Writing Center (2019)
- Judicial Clerkship Committee (2015 – 2018)
- Retention Committee (2015, 2017- 2020)
- Curriculum Committee (2017-2020)
- Search Committee for Legal Analysis, Writing & Research faculty (2019-20, 2023-24)
- Search Committee for Assistant Director, Enrollment Manager (2023)
- Search Committee for Academic Advisor (2021)
- Search Committee for Assistant Dean of Career Services – College of Law (2017)
- Search Committee for Assistant Director of Career Services – College of Law (December 2014)
- Search Committee for Career Advisor – College of Law (2010)

National

- Ted Legal Faculty Advisory Committee (2025-26)
- Law School Admissions Council, Emerging Markets Committee (Fall 2021 – Spring 2023)
- ABA Site Visit Team to the University of Miami (February 2024)

Local

- Kirkwood Community College, Institutional Review Board (Community Representative) (2026)
- Treasurer, Far Horizons Homeowner’s Association (2025-present)
- Campaign Treasurer, School Board (2025)
- United Action for Youth, Board (2012-2021); Chair (2018-2020)
- Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County, Board (1996-2011)

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Legal Writing Institute
Iowa State Bar Association

EDUCATION

Legal

University of Iowa College of Law

- **J.D. with high distinction, May 1995**
- Iowa State Bar Association Graduating Senior Award (1995)

Ed.S.

University of Iowa College of Education

- **Specialist in Education, December 2018**

Thesis: *Women in the Law: The Unspoken Message that We Don’t Belong*

Undergraduate

University of Northern Iowa

- **B.A. with highest honors, May 1992**
- MAJOR: Finance MINOR: Journalism

PROFESSIONAL AWARDS

- Hubbard-Walder Award for Excellence in Teaching, 2023 (University of Iowa)
- President and Provost Award for Teaching Excellence, 2018 (University of Iowa)
- ICON (Canvas) All-Star Nominee (2024, 2025)
- Nominated for Collegiate DEI Impact Award, 2024
- Nominated for President and Provost Award for Teaching Excellence, 2016, 2018
- Nominated for Collegiate Teaching Award, 2010

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Selected to participate in University-wide Scholarly Teaching Program in competitive application process (2026)
- Piloting AI Bot in ICON courses (2026)
- Nominated and selected as one of five faculty to represent the University of Iowa in the Big Ten Alliance Leadership Development program in 2022-2023 (and the University's first instructional track faculty to be selected)
- Participated in University-wide Teaching Group, 2022
- Participated in the Women Faculty Development Conference, University of Iowa, 2023, 2026

PUBLICATIONS

Which Comes First? Integrating the Skill of Storytelling Into the Process of Reflection, co-authored with June Tai (publication upcoming in the *Clinical Law Review* fall 2026)

Life as Teacher--Life as Student--Life as Teacher, *The Second Draft* (published fall 2020)

Commercial Landlords' Duty Upon Tenants' Abandonment – To Mitigate? *Journal of Corporation Law*, Volume 20, Number 4 (1995)

PUBLICATIONS IN PROGRESS

Law Schools Teach Women to Stay in Their Lanes (submitted for publication)

Shaky Curve Misleads and Harms (in progress article)

A Reflection on Success: One School's Story of How We Improved Bar Passage (in progress essay with Kevin Washburn)

TEXTBOOK REVIEW

- Reviewed and provided feedback on chapters from *Legal Argumentation: Reasoning and Writing About the Law* for CALI on Appellate Briefs and Other Oral Genres, December 2024
- Reviewed chapter and provided feedback from *Legal Argumentation: Reasoning and Writing About the Law* for CALI, November 2023
- Reviewed *Readings in Persuasion: Briefs that Changed the World* by Linda Edwards for Aspen Publishing, September 2011

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

- Emphasizing Process over Product: Navigating AI as a Substitute for Learning, Rocky Mountain Regional Legal Writing Conference (March 2026)
- Effective Writing: Tools and Strategies for Today's Professionals, Minnesota Lawyers Mutual CLE (September 2025)
- Judging Your Words: Mastering Clear and Persuasive Judicial Writing, Iowa Judicial Branch CLE (January 2025)
- 45 Minutes to Transform Your Writing: Iowa Defense Bar Association Annual Meeting/ CLE (July 2024)
- Dangerous Curves Ahead: Using Legal Writing and Academic Support Programs to Sustain Students and Ourselves on the Road to Law School Success, LWI Biennial Conference (July 2024)
- The Chicken AND the Egg: Using Reflection Essays to Develop Storytelling Skills and Using Storytelling to Develop Reflection Skills, Applied Storytelling Conference (July 2023)
- Reflection Throughout the Curriculum, Central States Legal Writing Conference (September 2023)
- COVID: A Catalyst for Change in Legal Education, Wolters-Kluwer Leading Edge Seminar (July 2020)
- Decision Writing Workshop, Administrative Law Judges (April 2019)
- Clear Writing, Local Chapter of National Contract Manager Association (October 2018)
- Team Learning in the Legal Writing Classroom, Drake University (December 2016)
- Taking It to the Next Level, Beyond the Legal Writing Classroom, Legal Writing Institute Biennial Conference (July 2016)
- Group Learning Strategies, Southern Illinois University (December 2014)

Frequent speaker at pre-law organizations

ADMITTED TO PRACTICE

Iowa Supreme Court 1995