

CAROLINE SHEERIN

*University of Iowa
College of Law
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EDUCATION

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, 1997-1999

Juris Doctor awarded December 1999

Litigation Clinic, Student Attorney, Fall 1999; Sugar Law Center, Legal Intern, Litigation Department, Detroit, MI, January 1998 to December 1999

Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri, 1995-1996

Master of Arts in East Asian Studies awarded December 1996

Full Academic Scholarship; Awarded Foreign Language and Area Studies Scholarship

Columbia University, Barnard College, New York, New York, 1989-1993

Bachelor of Arts, Cum Laude awarded May 1993

History Thesis; Dean's List, 1992

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Iowa College of Law, Iowa City, Iowa, Professor of Legal Analysis, Research and Writing (LAWR), July 2006 to Present

Classes:

LAWR I and II, August 2006-present

- Teach two sections of approximately twenty students per semester. Class topics include legal analysis, objective and persuasive writing, legal research and oral advocacy;
- Responsible for preparing curriculum, including two writing assignments per semester and class lectures;
- Provide individual feedback on both the first and final draft of assignments. Each student submits sixty to seventy pages of written work each year;
- Meet with students in two required one-on-one conferences per semester;
- Teach research skills, including print and online resources;

- Judge oral argument.

Pretrial Civil Procedure Theory and Practice, Fall 2026 and 2025, Spring 2022 and Spring 2023

- Teach Federal Rules of Civil Procedure that are relevant in the pretrial process, with a focus on pleadings, discovery, and dispositive motions;
- Created curriculum, which includes a simulated case for students to practice the skills being learned in the classroom, including client interviewing, taking a deposition, and arguing in a hearing;
- Review written assignments and provide feedback on reflection papers, as well as drafts of pleadings, discovery documents, and drafts of motions.

Advanced Bar Preparation, Spring 2026

- Teach in-person component of the bar preparation course to third year students;
- Reviewed core legal components and provided opportunities for skill development;
- Counseled students on methods of study and preparation for the exam.

Summer Legal Placement, Summer 2010-12, 2014- present

- Supervise a section of approximately ten students in non-clinical, three-credit externships;
- Lead discussion groups on various topics including ethics, supervision, cultural competency, and others.
- Reply to each student in a series of guided reflections on the course website;
- Reply to individual email updates from each student every two weeks;
- Speak with each student and with each supervisor periodically throughout the externship;
- Review copies of written work by each student when not restricted by an office confidentiality policy.

First Year Seminar, Fall 2017-2019

- Taught first-year undergraduate students basic persuasion skills, including written and oral advocacy.

Comparative Constitutional Law, Summer 2018 and Summer 2019

- Taught writing component on course comparing constitutional law in France, Great Britain, and the United States.
- Taught students how to write an opinion-editorial piece, a client letter, and a statute.

Clinic, Summer 2007

- Supervised approximately five students who were litigating cases involving criminal and domestic violence law.
- Assisted students in preparing for hearings, oversaw research projects, reviewed written work, assisted with client intake interviews, and other aspects of litigation.

Max Planck Institute of Comparative Public Law and International Law, Heidelberg, Germany, *Visiting Professor*, July 2010

- Taught English Legal Writing Class to sixteen German scholars.
- Created curriculum; led daily two-hour workshops for two weeks; read and critiqued scholarly writing by class participants; met with participants in one-on-one conferences.

Loyola University, School of Law, Chicago, Illinois, *Adjunct Professor of Professional Skills*, Fall 2004 to Spring 2006

- Taught Legal Writing classes. Class topics included objective and persuasive writing, legal research, and oral advocacy.
- Responsible for preparing class lectures, grading and commenting on papers and meeting with students in one-on-one conferences.

Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri, *Teaching Assistant*, Fall 1996

- Assisted professor by grading papers, lecturing on Japanese history, and advising students.

Japanese Exchange and Teaching Program, Gifu Prefecture, Japan, *English Teacher*, July 1993 to July 1995

- Taught English to high school students, prepared lesson plans, graded papers, facilitated cultural exchange through presentations to the students and the community.

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

City of Chicago, Law Department, Chicago, Illinois, *Assistant Corporation Counsel, Constitutional and Commercial Litigation Division*, January 2003 to May 2006

- Concentrated in complex, high-profile constitutional and commercial litigation.
- Trial experience includes federal bench trial in large civil rights case, civil rights preliminary injunction hearing, and several administrative hearings.
- Briefed and argued substantive motions in state and federal court, including motions to dismiss and for summary judgment.
- Took and defended depositions.
- Coordinated discovery and maintained client contact.

Schiff Hardin, Chicago, Illinois, *Litigation Associate*, May 2000 to December 2002; Summer 1999

- Concentrated in commercial litigation, primarily relating to breach of contract.
- Drafted complex motions and memoranda of law for both large- and small-scale litigation at pre-trial, trial and appellate phases. Argued motions in federal and state court.
- Took and defended depositions in litigation involving major soft drink manufacturer.
- Co-chair of Chicago Volunteer Legal Services, a not-for-profit legal clinic.

PRESENTATIONS

- **Central States Legal Writing Conference**, Presenter, September 2025, “Making the Most of Office Hours”
- **Food for Thought**, Presenter, August 2025, “Office Hours: Can We Do More in the Age of AI?”
- **BTAA Academic Leadership Conference**, Presenter, November 2024, “Understanding Speech on Campus”
- **Legal Writing Institute Conference**, Panelist, July 2024, “Flourishing and Leading Beyond LRW: Serving as an Associate Dean/Getting into Governance”

- **Legal Writing Institute One Day Workshop**, Presenter, December 2023, “Reflecting for Impact: Using Reflective Techniques to Enhance and Develop Students’ Professional Identities Across the Curriculum”
- **Beyond the First Year Conference**, Panelist, April 2018, “Beyond the First Year”
- **Access to Justice in Iowa**, Coordinator, April 2017
- **Legal Writing Institute One Day Workshop**, Panelist, December 2016, “Team Learning in the Legal Writing Classroom”
- **Legal Writing Institute Conference**, Panelist, July 2016, “Taking it to the Next Level: Beyond Legal Writing Professor”
- **Legal Writing Institute Conference**, Panelist, July 2014, “When the Student Becomes the Teacher: A Different Kind of Flipped Classroom”
- **One Day LWI Conference**, Presenter, December 2012, “Professionalism and Ethics”

SERVICE TO THE COLLEGE OF LAW, THE UNIVERSITY, AND THE COMMUNITY

College of Law

- Director of Bar Success, Fall 2025-present. Responsible for teaching the Advanced Bar Preparation course, developing ideas for how support students in preparing for licensure examination, and keeping abreast of developments in the field of bar preparation.
- Dean Search Committee, Member, Fall 2026
- Curriculum Committee, ex officio member, Fall 2025-present
- Ad Hoc Committee for the Writing Law School, member, 2025-26
- Internal Procedures Committee, member, 2025-26
- Crouse Promotion Committee, Chair, 2021-22
- Lawyering for Reproductive Justice, Faculty Advisor, 2022-2024
- Dean’s Liaison for Student Recruiting, 2017-2022. Assisted with student recruiting efforts, including reviewing communications sent to prospective and admitted students, facilitating summer advising program, coordinated faculty involvement in various recruiting activities including Explore Iowa and career fairs, represented the law school at various recruiting events.

- Students Honors and Awards Committee, Member, August 2013-May 2014, August 2021-May 2022. Recommended students to the faculty and administration for various university and law school awards. Reviewed and revised policies regarding distribution of awards.
- Self-Study Committee, Member, Fall 2021. Assisted with the drafting of the portion of the Self-Study report addressing faculty governance.
- Peer Review of Teaching Committee for Professor Alison Guernsey, Member, 2020-2021
- LAWR Faculty Appointments Committee, Chair, 2019-2020
- Curriculum Committee, Member, 2019-2020
- Dean's Advisory Committee on LAWR and Writing Center Programs, Member 2019-2020
- Caucus Bootcamp, Creator and Coordinator, October 2019. Created a workshop to explain the Iowa Caucuses to law students. Brought in two guest speakers who are leaders in the Iowa Republican and Democratic parties. Students who attended participated in a mock caucus.
- Peer Review Committee for Professor June Tai, Chair, Fall 2018
- Peer Review Committee of Professor Brian Farrell, Member, Fall 2017
- Strategic Plan Committee, 2017-2019, Member. Assisted with drafting the strategic plan for the law school, including developing goals and metrics.
- Ad-Hoc Committee on Recruiting, Chair, January 2014 to 2017, Member, August 2013 to 2018. Organized and presented at three Explore Iowa Open House events for prospective students. Traveled to national and local recruiting fairs. Established the Iowa Law Connection, a network connecting the College of Law with undergraduate pre-law advisors in the region. Facilitate communications between hundreds of admitted students and members of the faculty. Created summer advising program for admitted students.
- Equal Justice Foundation, Faculty Advisor, 2008 to 2019. Worked with students to disburse grant money to applicants for EJP grant, which is a grant to provide financial support for summer internships in not-for-profit and governmental entities.
- Equal Justice Foundation, Fall Auction Advisor, 2009 to 2019. Assisted students in coordinating the Fall EJP auction, including working with University Risk Management and Office of the General Counsel. Solicit donations from faculty and local retailers.

- Academic Achievement Counselor, September 2012 to April 2014. Provided one-on-one counseling to students on developing skills to improve academic performance, including time management, effective exam taking, and class participation.
- Ad-hoc Committee on Externships, Member, January 2012-May 2013
- Promotion and Retention Committee for Associate Professor Lorie Rein-Schweer, Member, Fall 2012.
- Ad-hoc Committee on the Future of Clinical Legal Education, Member, 2011-12
- Promotion and Retention Committee for Assistant Professor Dawn Anderson, Member, Fall 2011
- Student Affairs Committee, Member, Fall 2010
- Curriculum Committee, Member, Fall 2010
- Outlaws, student organization for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered persons interested in the law, Faculty Advisor, August 2007 to July 2010
- Student Services Committee, Member, 2009-2010
- Academic Achievement Search Committee, Member, Spring 2009
- LAWR Search Committee, Member, Fall 2008
- Physical Facilities and Information Technology Committee, College of Law, *Ex officio* member, 2007-08 academic year

University

- Faculty Senate Officer, Past President, April 2025-present, President, April 2024-2025, Vice President, May 2023-April 2024, Secretary, May 2022-May 2023.
 - Represent and advocate for the faculty as an officer to the Faculty Senate.
 - Meet regularly with University administrators, including the President and Provost, Deans, and Vice Presidents.
 - Attend meetings of the Budget Review Board.
 - Meet montly with leaders of other campus shared governance bodies.
 - Provide feedback on policy revisions, including changes to the University Policy Manual.
 - Organized Faculty Council/Administrative Retreat in August 2024. Senior administrators and Faculty Councilors met to discuss “Perceptions of Higher Education: Adjusting the Lens.”

- Coordinated campus-wide trainings for faculty on free speech and academic freedom in collaboration with the Office of the Provost.
 - Attended President's leadership retreat, February 2024 and 2025.
- ReSparc Other Opportunities, committee member, 2025-26
- Working Group, member, May 2024-April 2025. Met biweekly with members of Faculty Senate leadership, Associate Provost for Faculty, lawyers from the Office of the General Counsel to discuss extensive revisions to Section III.10 of the University Policy Manual, which governs faculty rights and responsibilities.
- Faculty Policies and Compensation Committee, member (ex-officio), May 2022-present. Discuss and vote on proposed changes to University policies that impact faculty, including grievance procedures, conflicts of interest, and others.
- Teaching Effectiveness Taskforce, member, May 2024-present. Work to assist in the implementation of a new framework for teaching assessment (Student Perceptions of Teaching). Provided feedback on new policy regarding use of teaching assessments. Attended the July 2024 retreat to discuss ways to improve teaching effectiveness at the University.
- External Relations Committee, May 2024-present.
- Governmental Relations Committee, member, Spring 2022-present.
- Alcohol Harm Reduction Committee, member, May 2024-present.
- Committee on Committees, Chair, Spring 2024, Member, Spring 2023 and 2025. Review applications and assign faculty members to various University and Faculty Senate Committees.
- Committee on Elections, Ex-Officio, Spring 2024. Assist with the recruitment of Faculty Senate Officers.
- Rules and Bylaws Committee, August 2022-present.
- Revision of Class Manual of Policy and Procedures (MOPP), Consultant, Spring 2023-Fall 2024. Consulted with Dean Sanders regarding proposed changes to the MOPP, including suggesting process for faculty input and providing edits.
- Childcare Task Force, Chair, Spring 2023-Winter 2024. Worked with Human Resources and other campus entities to develop ideas to aid faculty and staff who are raising children.

- Faculty Senate Committee to Review Instructional Faculty Policy (IFP), Co-chair, 2021-22. Oversaw the review of the five-year old IFP. Surveyed over 200 Instructional Track Faculty members and interviewed Associate Deans at all colleges regarding the policy. Drafted a report for Faculty Senate with recommendations for revisions to the policy.
- Non-resident Classification Review Committee, Chair, August 2018 to 2022, Member August 2017-present. Review files of students the Admissions Office has classified as “Non-Resident.” Participate in hearings with the students and, with fellow committee members, decide whether to uphold or overturn the classification.
- University Naming Task Force, Member, Spring 2021. Worked with a committee of faculty, students, and staff to create a process for requests to rename or de-name buildings and other entities at the University.
- Faculty Senate, Member, May 2018 to April 2021
- Faculty Council, Member, August 2018 to April 2021
- Faculty Senate Committee to Review the Office of the General Counsel, Member, Spring 2019. Participated in review process of Office of the General Counsel and the General Counsel. Interviewed a variety of campus administrators and assisted with the drafting of the report that was presented to Faculty Senate in 2020.
- Ad-Hoc Lecturers Committee, Member, January 2013 to June 2018. Worked with Lecturers from various University colleges and departments to explore ways to increase equitable treatment of Lecturers on campus. Assisted with the drafting of the Instructional Faculty Policy, which passed in Spring 2016.

Community

Iowa Supreme Court Task Force on Alternative Pathways to Licensure, April 2026—present, member. Work with members of the task force to explore alternatives to licensure in Iowa to improve access to justice in the state.

Riverside Theater Company, August 2026—present, member.

League of Women Voters, January 2018 to 2022, member. Worked with fellow League members to educate voters on changes to voter identification law and register voters.

Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County, Iowa City, Iowa, Board Member (2007-2017); President of the Board, (2010-2011 and 2012-2013); Vice-President (2009-2010); Secretary (2008-2009)

- Board Member: Attended monthly board meeting and participated in fundraising for the organization.

- President: Ran Board meetings; ran executive committee meetings; spearheaded efforts to increase annual fundraising, including creation of a fundraising committee; created a long-term planning committee to address future needs of the organization; oversaw evaluation of Executive Director; streamlined processes for executive committee, including creation of written record of procedural requirements for members.
- Vice President: Attended executive committee meetings, ran meetings in President's absence, decided issues fundamental to the organization, including Executive Director's salary and governance policies.
- Secretary: Took minutes and attended executive committee meetings.

Iowa City Board of Adjustment, Chair (2009-2013), Board Member (2007-2013)

- Attended monthly hearings to review applications for adjustments to the zoning code.
- Decided to grant or deny permits based on testimony at public hearings.
- Reviewed appeals of decisions by the Building Inspector.
- Chair: Ran monthly meetings of the Board; reviewed and signed decisions of the Board for submission to City Council

Bridge the Gap, Continuing Legal Education Conference, Sponsored by the Iowa State Bar Association, Des Moines, Iowa, Presenter (May 2009)

- Created and presented "Providing Effective Feedback on Writing" to an audience of approximately 200 Iowa practitioners.

PUBLICATION

"Teach It in Five," The Second Draft, Fall 2020

WORK IN PROGRESS

"Office Hours: Can We Do More in the Age of AI?" (research project as a part of the SOTL Scholars Program)

BAR ADMISSIONS

- Admitted to practice before the Iowa Supreme Court and the Illinois Supreme Court.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

- Recipient of President's and Provost's Award for Teaching Excellence, 2012.
- Nominated for Collegiate Teaching Award, 2009-10 and 2010-11, 2011-12 academic years.