

CHRISTY H. DESANCTIS
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EDUCATION

- J.D. **NEW YORK UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW**, New York, NY May 1995
Juris Doctor, *cum laude*
Review of Law and Social Change (Symposium Editor)
- Ph.D. **UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND**, College Park, MD *Candidate (ABD)*
English Language and Literature (GPA: 4.0/4.0) Oral exams 2009
Specialization: American Literature, 1850-1950; Law and Literature
Distinguished Teaching Award (2009)
Theory Certificate recipient (2009);
Conference Co-chair: Rethinking Empire and Imperialism in
19th c. American Literature (2008);
Coordinating Committee, Graduate Representative (2007-2009).
- M.A. **UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND**, College Park, MD May 2006
English Language and Literature (GPA: 4.0/4.0)
Minor in Rhetoric and Composition
M.A. Thesis (with honors): "Searching for Meaning in Law,
Literature, and Language."
- B.A. **DUKE UNIVERSITY**, Durham, NC May 1992
English, *magna cum laude*
Degree awarded with Distinction in English
Senior Thesis in Linguistics (awarded honors); Dean's List every semester

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO SCHOOL OF LAW, Albuquerque, NM
Associate Professor of Law (August 2023-present)

Courses taught: Elements of Legal Argumentation I
Elements of Legal Argumentation II
Lab (Faculty Director)

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL, Washington, DC
Director and Creator of the Fundamentals of Lawyering Program (2019-2020)
Director of the Legal Research and Writing Program (2004-2019)
Professor of Legal Writing (2013-2020)
Associate Professor of Legal Writing (2004-2013)
Adjunct Professor of Legal Writing (2002-2004)
Professorial Lecturer in Law (2021)

Principal architect of the Fundamentals of Lawyering Program, launched in 2019. Converted adjunct-taught four-credit program to six-credit course taught by full time professors. Designed new curriculum, including writing all fact patterns and designing practice-oriented, client-centered exercises. Prior to that,

supervised 45-50 adjunct professors and third-year law students teaching Legal Research and Writing and Introduction to Advocacy. Maintained sole responsibility for fall and spring syllabi and curricula, used in all first-year legal writing classes. Developed model weekly lesson plans, memo and brief problems, and research exercises. Exercised supervision of in-house Writing Center (30 writing tutors on staff). Assisted in development and launch of Scholarly Writing Program and created model lesson plans for same; assist in supervision and training of Scholarly Writing adjuncts and notes editors.

Courses taught: Fundamentals of Lawyering; Legal Research and Writing; Introduction to Advocacy; Legal Research Methods; Scholarly Writing; Law and Literature.

Committee service: Dean Search Committee, Vice Chair (2019)
Foundations of Practice Committee (2018-19)
Ad Hoc Committee on Curricular Reform; 1L subcommittee co-chair (2017-18)
Strategic Planning Committee (2015-16)
ABA Self-Study Committee, Co-Chair (2015-16)
ABA Standards Committee (2015-16)
Academic Integrity Committee, Chair (2010-11)
ABA Self-Study Committee (2007-2008)
Teaching Committee (numerous years)
Curriculum Committee (numerous years)
Faculty Advisor to Moot Court Board (2004-2020)

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, College Park, MD

Courses taught: American Literature (two discussion sections, Fall 2009);
Introduction to American Literature after 1865 (three discussion sections, Spring 2009); Introduction to the Novel (three discussion sections, Fall 2008); Freshman Composition (three sections, Fall 2003-Spring 2004).

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Fixing Companion Animal Over-Population: Using Pet Food Registration Fees to Fund Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Programs (work in progress).

Legal Writing and Analysis, 3d ed. (with Michael D. Murray) (Foundation Press/West Academic, 2021).

Advanced Legal Writing and Oral Advocacy, 3d ed. (with Michael D. Murray) (Foundation Press/West Academic, 2021).

Legal Writing and Analysis, 2d ed. (with Michael D. Murray) (Foundation Press/West Academic, 2015).

Advanced Legal Writing and Oral Advocacy, 2d ed. (with Michael D. Murray) (Foundation Press/West Academic, 2015).

Narrative Reasoning and Analogy: The Untold Story, 9 *Legal Rhetoric & Communication*: J.ALWD (Fall 2012).

Toward a Unified Grading Vocabulary: Using Grading Rubrics to Set Student Expectations and Promote Consistency in Legal Writing Courses (with Jessica Clark), 63 *J. Legal Ed.* 3 (2013).

Legal Writing and Analysis (with Michael D. Murray) (Foundation Press, 2009).

Legal Research Methods (with Michael D. Murray) (Foundation Press, 2009).

Advanced Legal Writing and Oral Advocacy (with Michael D. Murray) (Foundation Press, 2009).

Legal Research and Writing Across the Curriculum (with Michael D. Murray) (Foundation Press, 2009).

“The Art of the Writing Conference” (with Kristen E. Murray) *Perspectives* vol. 17.1 (Fall 2008).

SELECTED ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

“PD 2.0: Partnering with Legal Writing Faculty,” Professional Development Institute (PDI) Annual Conference. (December 2019).

“Polyphonic Professionalism” Legal Writing Institute Biennial Conference (July 2016).

“What’s the Story? Analogical Reasoning and Narrative.” Applied Legal Storytelling Conference (July 2011).

“Adding Collaborative and Formative Feedback Opportunities to Your Classes.” Institute for Teaching and Learning Conference (June 2011).

“Storytelling and Analogy.” Association of American Law Schools Annual Meeting (January 2011).

“Working With the Director.” Association of American Law Schools Workshop for Beginning Legal Writing Teachers (June 2011).

“Jurisdiction Matters: The Language of Place in Regional and National Identity Formation.” Conference of the Southeastern Association of Law Schools (August 2009).

“Hawthorne’s ‘California’ Romance: Rethinking Land Ownership Issues in *The House of the Seven Gables* Beyond New England’s Borders.” Conference on Empire and Imperialism in 19th Century American Literature. University of Maryland, College Park (November 2008).

“A Textbook for a New Generation of Learners: Using an ‘Interactive’ Approach for Teaching Legal Research and Writing.” Legal Writing Institute Conference (July 2008).

“Response to Gregg Crane on ‘Law and the American Novel’” Local Americanist Series. University of Maryland, College Park (September 2008).

“Why Metaphors Matter: Application of Cognitive Metaphor Theory to the Law.” How Legal Rhetoric Shapes the Law: Narrative, Metaphor, and Archetype Theory. American University, Washington College of Law (November 2007).

“Mastering the Art of Individual Writing Conferences.” Rocky Mountain Legal Writing Conference. University of Nevada Las Vegas Law School (March 2007).

“Pitfalls in the Publication Process.” Legal Writing Institute Biennial Conference (June 2006).

FEDERAL CLERKSHIP

HONORABLE JOHN W. BISSELL, U.S.D.J., Newark, NJ

Law Clerk, United States District Court, District of New Jersey (August 1996 – August 1998)

PRIVATE PRACTICE

COLLIER SHANNON SCOTT, PLLC *Of Counsel* (2003-2004); *Associate* (2000-2003)

Represented clients in federal trial and appellate courts, including the United States Supreme Court, in litigation involving constitutional issues and issues of federal statutory and administrative law. Analyzed, monitored, and drafted federal legislation; published numerous practice-oriented articles regarding health and financial privacy legislation and regulations.

OTHER LAW FIRM EMPLOYMENT (Summer 1994; 1995-96; 1998-2000)

Prior to joining Collier Shannon, I was a summer associate (in New York and Hong Kong) and an associate (in New York and D.C.) at two large law firms and a small boutique firm.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Vice President, Board of Directors, The Heart and Soul Animal Sanctuary (Glorieta, NM)

New Mexico Veterinary Medical Board, Animal Sheltering Committee

New Mexico Veterinary Medical Board, Rules Committee