

KATHLEEN DILLON NARKO

Northwestern Pritzker School of Law
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Chicago, IL 60611
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ACADEMIC POSITION

Northwestern Pritzker School of Law

Clinical Professor of Law (2016-)
Clinical Associate Professor of Law (2010-2016)
Clinical Assistant Professor of Law (1999-2010)

Honors

Nominee, Outstanding First Year Professor 2011
Dean's Teaching Award Honorable Mention 2007
Dean's Teaching Award Honorable Mention 2006
Dean's Teaching Award Honorable Mention 2004

Service

Law-Tech Committee
Disability Law Society, Faculty Advisor
Visualization Initiative
Dean Search Committee (2010-2011)
New Faculty Mentor, Communication and Legal Reasoning Program
ESL Discussion Group leader, international LLM students
Change Makers, Faculty Cohort

Consulting

Illinois State Board of Education (2003-2005)
Independent Hearing Officer. Presided over and decided special education cases.
Several published decisions.

Legal writing training and individual coaching

Chicago Bar Association
Various law firms in Chicago

EDUCATION

Yale University, B.A., *cum laude*
Salzburg College, Salzburg Austria (post-baccalaureate studies)
Cornell University, J. D.
Articles Editor, Cornell International Law Journal

PUBLICATIONS

2019

How Do I Look? Design Your Documents for Greater Legibility and Persuasion, 33 CBA Record 38 (November/December 2019).

2018

Plain Language Master Focuses on Drafting: Seeing Through Legalese, 32 CBA Record 50 (January 2018).

2017

They and Ze: the Power of Pronouns, 31 CBA Record 48 (January 2017).

2016

Richard Wydick (1937-2016) – Better Writing with Plain English for Lawyers, 30 CBA Record 52 (September 2016).

Diversity and Inclusion Shine at Vanguard Awards, 30 CBA Record 12 (July/August 2016).

2015

The Revolution in Your Backyard: CBF Pro Bono and Public Service Awards, 29 CBA Record 12 (September 2015).

Inclusion and Involvement: Patricia Brown Holmes Becomes 139th President of The Chicago Bar Association, 29 CBA Record 12 (July/August 2015).

2014

Should You Move Citations to Footnotes?, 28 CBA Record 44 (January 2014).

2013

Publisher Advocates Censorship of Digital Media at Kogan Awards Luncheon, 27 CBA Record 10 (July-August 2013).

2012

Plain Language Pays, 26 CBA Record 64 (July-August 2012).

From Cooperative Learning to Collaborative Writing in the Legal Writing Classroom, republished in Legal Writing Institute, The Monograph Series of the Legal Writing Institute, vol. 2 (Co-authored by: Clifford S. Zimmerman, and Elizabeth L. Inglehart)(2012). [Original publication: 9 Legal Writing: The Journal Of The Legal Writing Institute 185-226 (2003).]

2011

“Inclusion Means Including Us, Too”—Disability and Diversity in Law Schools, Institute for Inclusion in the Legal Profession, IILP Review on the State of Diversity and Inclusion in the Legal Profession (2011).

2010

To Split or Not to Split: Judges Posner, Rovner, and Wood Weigh in on Language Change, 24 CBA Record 60 (Oct. 2010).

The LLM Advantage, 24 CBA Record 58 (June-July 2010).

A Second Helping of Illinois Research, 24 CBA Record 53 (Jan. 2010).

2009

A Different Practice in Every Port, 23 CBA Record 55 (Jan. 2009).

2008

Teaching Research a New Way, 16 Perspectives: Teaching Legal Research and Writing 118-121 (2008) (Co-authored by: Maurine Berens).

No More “Party of the First Part”: Plain Language Contract Drafting, 22 CBA Record 54 (June/July 2008).

They Are Listening: Oral Argument Tips from Judge Rovner, 22 CBA Record 54 (April 2008).

If We Move, Are We Still Married?, 22 CBA Record 51 (Feb./Mar. 2008).

2007

There is No “Easy” Button, 21 CBA Record 69 (June/July 2007).

What Happens in Vegas...: Lessons from a Legal Writing Conference, 21 CBA Record 54 (April 2007).

Tell Me a Story: Crafting an Effective Statement of Facts, 21 CBA Record 55 (January 2007).

2006

Training to Write: Why We Need to Keep Working, 20 CBA Record 60 (September 2006).

The Third Reich and the Legal Profession, 20 CBA Record 4 (May 2006).

Plain Language for Everyone: Lifting the Fog of Legalese Targets Wide Audience, 20 CBA Record 63 (February/March 2006).

2005

Sentences: Short and Sweet, 19 CBA Record 56 (November 2005).

Is Good Writing Worth the Effort? Ask John Roberts, 19 CBA Record 53 (September 2005).

Persuasion Still Works for Webb, Wood, and Kocoras, 19 CBA Record 54 (April 2005).

Can I Turn This Brief into an Article?: How to Write for Publication, 19 CBA Record 61 (January 2005).

2004

TREAC, the New IRAC - or Why Organization Matters, 18 CBA Record 47 (October 2004).

Alliance for Women presents awards to three leading lawyers. 18 CBA Record 5 (June-July 2004).

Review Of Reviews: A Survey of Chicago Area Law Journals, 18 CBA Record 63 (April 2004) (Co-authored by: Bonnie McGrath).

Review Of Reviews: A Survey of Chicago Area Law Journals, 18 CBA Record 55 (January 2004) (Co-authored by: Bonnie McGrath).

2003

From Cooperative Learning to Collaborative Writing in the Legal Writing Classroom, 9 Legal Writing: The Journal Of The Legal Writing Institute 185-226 (2003) (Co-authored by: Clifford S. Zimmerman, and Elizabeth L. Inglehart).

Review Of Reviews: A Survey of Chicago Area Law Journals, 17 CBA Record 47 (October 2003) (Co-authored by: Bonnie McGrath).

Review Of Reviews: A Survey of Chicago Area Law Journals, 17 CBA Record 46 (June/July 2003) (Co-authored by: Bonnie McGrath).

Review Of Reviews: A Survey of Chicago Area Law Journals, 17 CBA Record 45 (May 2003) (Co-authored by: Bonnie McGrath).

Review Of Reviews: A Survey of Chicago Area Law Journals, 17 CBA Record 45 (April 2003) (Co-authored by: Bonnie McGrath).

Review Of Reviews: A Survey of Chicago Area Law Journals, 17 CBA Record 47 (February/March 2003) (Co-authored by: Bonnie McGrath).

Review Of Reviews: A Survey of Chicago Area Law Journals, 17 CBA Record 47 (January 2003) (Co-authored by: Bonnie McGrath).

2002

Review Of Reviews: A Survey of Chicago Area Law Journals, 16 CBA Record 48 (September 2002) (Co-authored by: Bonnie McGrath).

Review Of Reviews: A Survey of Chicago Area Law Journals, 16 CBA Record 44 (June/July 2002) (Co-authored by: Bonnie McGrath).

Review Of Reviews: A Survey of Chicago Area Law Journals, 16 CBA Record 46 (May 2002) (Co-authored by: Bonnie McGrath).

Review Of Reviews: A Survey of Chicago Area Law Journals, 16 CBA Record 46 (April 2002) (Co-authored by: Bonnie McGrath).

Review Of Reviews: A Survey of Chicago Area Law Journals, 16 CBA Record 44 (January 2002) (Co-authored by: Bonnie McGrath).

2001

Lawyers Doing Good in Chicago: Five Attorneys Explain How and Why They Serve the Public, 15 CBA Record 28-32 (May 2001).

Vanguard Awards Honor Those Who Make The Law Accessible, 15 CBA Record 16 (February/March 2001).

2000

A Great Law Job Is Not an Oxymoron, 14 CBA Record 42 (January 2000).

1999

Finding Your Passion: Speaker Tells How To Change Course In Your Career, 13 CBA Record 38 (May 1999).

1989

Kathleen M. Dillon, Note, *Divorce and Remarriage As Human Rights: The Irish Constitution and the European Convention on Human Rights at Odds in Johnston v. Ireland*, 22 Cornell Int'l L.J. 62 (1989).

1987

Kathleen M. Dillon, *Painters and Patrons: The Fine Arts in Cincinnati, 1820-1860*, 96 Ohio History 7 (1987).

PRESENTATIONS

2019

“Teaching Plain English in the Advanced Legal Writing Classroom: How to Include Weekly Editing Exercises While Teaching Complex Analysis,” Association of Legal Writing Directors Biennial Conference, Suffolk Law School, Boston, Massachusetts, (May 2019).

“Advanced Legal Writing,” Chicago Bar Association (December 2019).

2018

“Advanced Legal Writing,” Chicago Bar Association (December 2018).

2017

“Advanced Legal Writing,” Chicago Bar Association (December 2017).

2016

“Advanced Legal Writing,” Chicago Bar Association (December 2016).

“Teaching Students with Disabilities and Why Disability Should Be Included in Discussions about Diversity,” presentation to the Legal Writing Institute Workshop, Educating and Mentoring Our Diverse Law School Populations, California Western School of Law, San Diego, California (December 2016).

“Diversity in the Workplace: Disability Awareness and Inclusion,” presentation to Chapman and Cutler LLP, Chicago, Illinois (November 2016) (with Emily Harris).

“Experiential Learning as Collaborative Effort: Integrating Legal Writing and Clinical Work and Eliminating Artificial Distinctions in Status,” presentation to the 17th Biennial Conference of the Legal Writing Institute, July 10–13, 2016, Portland, Oregon (with Lynn Su and Bernadette Gargano).

2015

“Advanced Legal Writing,” Chicago Bar Association (December 2015).

“Incorporating Disability Advocacy in BigLaw and Clerkships,” Northwestern University School of Law (October 2015) (with Greg Oguss, Andrew Sawula, Shy Jackson, and Amelia Wallrich).

“Looking Back and Looking Forward: The Americans with Disabilities Act's 25th Anniversary,” Northwestern University School of Law (October 2015) (with Marca Bristo, Barry Taylor, and Hon. Jeffrey T. Gilbert).

“Hidden in Plain Sight: Supporting Students and Attorneys with Invisible Disabilities,” National Association of Law Placement Conference, 2015 Annual Education Conference & Resource Center Exhibition, Chicago, Illinois, (April 2015) (with Barbara Davidson, Kristen Meeks, and Greg Oguss).

“Department of Justice Initiatives in Disability Law,” Northwestern University School of Law (April 2015) (with Eve Hill, Deputy Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, United States Department of Justice).

2014

“Advanced Legal Writing,” Chicago Bar Association (December 2014).

“Emerging Issues in Disability Law,” Northwestern University School of Law, (October 14, 2014, Chicago, Illinois) (with Michael Waterstone, Julie Waterstone, and Mark Weber).

“Using the Problematized Teaching Method to Engage Students in Critical Thinking in the LRW Classroom” presentation to the 16th Biennial Conference of the Legal Writing Institute, June 30 – July 2, 2014, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (with Dana Hill).

“The Problematized Teaching Method,” Faculty Projects Day, Northwestern University School of Law (April 2014) (with Dana Hill).

2013

“Advanced Legal Writing,” Chicago Bar Association (December 2013).

“Representing and Advocating for People with Disabilities,” Northwestern University School of Law, (October 15, 2013, Chicago, Illinois) (with Hon. Robert Gettleman and Rachel Weisberg).

“Facing Facts: A Group Writing and Group Critiquing Exercise,” Central States Legal Writing Conference, September 27-28, 2013, University of Kansas School of Law, Lawrence, Kansas.

“Facing Facts: A Group Writing and Group Critiquing Exercise,” 2013 Empire State Legal Writing Conference, (April 20, 2013, Albany Law School), Albany, New York (with James McMasters).

“Employment and Disclosure,” National Association of Law Students with Disabilities (NALSWD) Sixth Annual Conference (March 23, 2013, Chicago, Illinois) (with Barbara Davidson and Anna Scholin).

2012

“Advanced Legal Writing,” Chicago Bar Association (December 2012).

“Assessing How Courts and Judges Deal with Disability Issues,” Northwestern University School of Law (November 27, 2012, Chicago, Illinois) (with Hon. Robert Gettleman, Hon. Jeffrey Gilbert, and Tonja Jacobi).

“Disability and the Law: The Often Ignored.” American Bar Association, Annual Meeting (August 4, 2012, Chicago, Illinois) (with Hon. Fred Horn, Eve Hill, and John Stephens).

LWI Writer's Workshop, (July 30-August 2, 2012, Amelia Island, Florida) (with Dana Hill). Presentation on article in progress on critical thinking and engaged lecture style.

“Entering the Pipeline: Admissions to Law School and the Bar,” American Bar Association, 3rd National Conference on the Employment of Lawyers with Disabilities, (May 8, 2012, Washington, D.C.) (with Daniel Goldstein, Jo Anne Simon, and Charles Brown).

"A Conversation about the Americans with Disabilities Act: Past, Present and Future," Moderator, Northwestern University School of Law (March 8, 2012, Chicago, Illinois) (with Hon. Robert Gettleman, Hon. Jeffrey Gilbert, and Marca Bristo)

2011

“Advanced Legal Writing,” Chicago Bar Association (December 2011).

“‘Inclusion Means Including Us, Too’—Disability and Diversity in Law Schools,” Symposium on the State of Diversity and Inclusion in the Legal Profession, Institute for Inclusion in the Legal Profession (October 26, 2011, Chicago, Illinois).

“Inclusion Means Including Us, Too”—Disability and Diversity in Law Schools, Symposium on the State of Diversity and Inclusion in the Legal Profession, Institute for Inclusion in the Legal Profession (September 21, 2011, Washington, D.C.).

“‘Who here has eaten goat?’ Problematizing your class presentation to engage students and help them identify legal issues on their own,” presentation to the 7th Biennial Central States Regional Legal Writing Conference “Practice-Ready”: Preparing Students and Assessing Progress, September 16-17, 2011, The John Marshall Law School, Chicago, Illinois (with Dana Hill).

2010

“Integrating Legal Writing and Legal Research: Collaborating with Librarians to Improve How Legal Research is Taught,” presentation to the 14th Biennial Conference of the Legal Writing Institute, July 27-30, 2010, Marco Island, Florida (with Pamela Keller, Elizabeth Brand Six, and James McMasters).

“Advanced Legal Writing,” Chicago Bar Association, December 2010.

2009

“Advanced Legal Writing,” Chicago Bar Association, December 2009.

2008

“Life-long Legal Writing: Developing Attorney Writing Skills Within Law Firm Practice,” presentation to the 12th Biennial Conference of the Legal Writing Institute, July 14-17, 2008, Indianapolis, Indiana (with Kris Butler and Mike Cavanaugh).

“Advanced Legal Writing,” Chicago Bar Association, December 2008.

2007

“Student’s Choice: Teaching Research through Individual Interests,” presentation to the Rocky Mountain Legal Writing Conference, March 8-10, 2007, Las Vegas, Nevada (with Maurine J. Berens).

“Student’s Choice: Teaching Research through Individual Interests,” presentation to the Central States Legal Writing Conference, October 5-7, 2007, Kansas City, Missouri (with Maurine J. Berens).

“Effective Writing for the Real World: Writing So Readers Understand--From pleadings and other court documents to communications with opposing counsel and clients,” (with Hon. Michael B. Hyman) part of *Life After Law School: Basic Skills for the New Attorney* (two-day basic skills training course required by new Illinois Supreme Court rules on Mandatory Continuing Legal Education), Chicago Bar Association, April, 2007.

“Advanced Legal Writing,” Chicago Bar Association, December 2007.

2006

“Effective Writing for the Real World: Writing So Readers Understand--From pleadings and other court documents to communications with opposing counsel and clients,” (with Hon. Michael B. Hyman) part of *Life After Law School: Basic Skills for the New Attorney* (two-day basic skills training course required by new Illinois Supreme Court rules on Mandatory Continuing Legal Education), Chicago Bar Association, October 2006.

“Advanced Legal Writing,” Chicago Bar Association, December 2006.

2005

“Advanced Legal Writing,” Chicago Bar Association, December 2005.

2004

“Advanced Legal Writing,” Chicago Bar Association, December 2004.

2003

“Time Management for Busy Lawyers,” American Bar Association, Young Lawyers Division Regional Conference, September 2003.

“Advanced Legal Writing,” Chicago Bar Association, December 2003.

2002

“Cooperative and Collaborative Learning Made Simple,” Biennial Conference of the Legal Writing Institute, Knoxville, Tennessee, May 30, 2002 (with Elizabeth L. Inglehart, and Clifford S. Zimmerman).

“Advanced Legal Writing,” Chicago Bar Association, December 2002.

2001

“Life in the Faculty Lane,” Chicago Bar Association (2001).

1999

Moderator, New Attorney Orientation Program, Chicago Bar Association. Organized and moderated full-day program for junior attorneys. Speakers included the presidents of the Chicago and Illinois State Bar Associations, attorneys from the Illinois Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission, malpractice insurance carriers, two practicing psychiatrists (stress and time management), and two practicing attorneys (communicating effectively and finding the right mentor). (December 1999).

Professional Conferences and Seminars Attended without Presentation

Legal Writing Institute One-Day Workshop, Chicago-Kent College of Law (December 2015).

ADA 25 Chicago Leadership Institute for People with Disabilities, Leadership Training (December 2015).

Unconscious Bias Conference, Northwestern University School of Law (October 2015).

Designing a course that Focuses on Learning, Searle Center for Advancing Learning and Teaching, Northwestern University (interactive webinar) (October 2014).

Developing Effective Learning Objectives, Searle Center for Advancing Learning and Teaching, Northwestern University (interactive webinar) (September 2014).

Know-how shared. Easy ways to implement learning science in online course design, Academic and Institutional Services, Colloquy; Chronicle of Higher Education (interactive webinar) (September 2014).

State of Diversity and Inclusion in the Legal Profession, Institute for Inclusion in the Legal Profession, Chicago, Illinois (December 2013).

Universal Design: Rethinking How to Teach Students with (and without) Disabilities, Searle Center for Advancing Learning and Teaching, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois (October 2013).

The Ethics of Diversity and the Politics of Inclusion, Institute for Inclusion in the Legal Profession, Chicago, Illinois (October 2013).

“Teaching while Female”: Gender in the 21st Century Classroom, Searle Center for Advancing Learning and Teaching, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois (April 2013).

Legal Writing Institute One-Day Workshop, Northwestern University School of Law, Chicago, Illinois (December 2012).

Legal Writing Institute One-Day Workshop, John Marshall Law School, Chicago, Illinois (December 2011).

Legal Writing Institute One-Day Workshop, John Marshall Law School, Chicago, Illinois (December 2010).

Stetson University College of Law's Project for Excellence in Legal Communication Virtual Legal Writing Conference: Annual Scholarship Highlights--New Voices and New Ideas in Legal Communication (April 2010).

Central States Legal Writing Conference, Milwaukee, Wisconsin (October 2009).

Biennial Conference of the Legal Writing Institute, Atlanta, Georgia (June 2006).

Rocky Mountain Regional Conference, Tucson, Arizona (March 2001).

Central States Legal Writing Conference, Chicago, Illinois (September 2001).

Biennial Conference of the Legal Writing Institute, Seattle, Washington (July 2000).

Central States Legal Writing Conference, Kansas City, Missouri (September 1999).

OTHER LEGAL PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Legal Writing Institute. Member.

Diversity and Inclusion Committee (2016-2018)

Clinical Cooperation Committee (Co-chair 2014-2016; Member, 2012-2014)

Presenter at many national and regional conferences. Contributed to LWI Idea Bank.

The Association of American Law Schools. Section on Legal Writing, Reasoning and Research. Member, Diversity Committee (2012).

Scribes – The American Society of Legal Writers. Member.

Chicago Bar Association

1. Board of Managers (2002-2004)
2. CBA Record Editorial Board (2000-present)
3. Membership Committee (2003-2013)

4. Nominating Committee (2000)
5. Secretary, Young Lawyers Section (1999-2000)
6. Prior positions with the Young Lawyers Section:
 - Director
 - Project Officer
 - Chairperson of the Environmental Law and Energy Committee.
 - Received David Hilliard Award for Outstanding Committee Service.

National Immigrant Justice Center (formerly Midwest Immigrant and Human Rights Center)

Member of Leadership Board, past volunteer attorney in political asylum cases

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago

Board of Advisors

Legal Advisory Committee

Catholic Charities Legal Assistance Advisory Committee

American Bar Association. Member

CIVIC ACTIVITIES

ADA 25 Chicago Advancing Leadership, Fellow (2015-2016)

Accessible Taxi Advisory Committee, City of Chicago, Member (2016-)

Chicago Business Leadership Network, Advisory Board (2016-)

PRIOR EMPLOYMENT

Seyfarth Shaw LLP

Chicago, Illinois

Associate in Litigation and Environmental, Safety and Health Practice Groups

Trial and deposition experience.

Received highest possible Associate ranking every year.

Member of Hiring Committee for seven years.

Summer Associate

Arter & Hadden

Cleveland, Ohio

Summer Associate

Drafted legal briefs and memoranda for Litigation and Corporate practice groups.

Kathleen Dillon Narko

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Assisted in deposition preparation.

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Governor's Honors Program Intern

Researched environmental policy and enforcement issues.

National Outdoor Leadership School

Lander, Wyoming

Base Support Staff

United States House of Representatives

Lyndon B. Johnson Congressional Intern

Researched policy matters and completed constituent casework for then-Representative John Seiberling.