

JOHN B. THORNTON

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, Chicago, IL

Clinical Associate Professor of Law, 2016-present

Clinical Assistant Professor of Law, 2009-2016

- Teach Common Law Reasoning, a legal reasoning, writing and research course and introduction to the common law system that is designed for international LL.M. students.
- Teach Advanced Legal Writing (LL.M.), a legal reasoning, research, and writing course that sharpens the reasoning, writing, drafting, and research skills of international LL.M. students in a broad variety of litigation and transactional contexts.
- Have taught Basics of Contract Drafting, a course that teaches contract-drafting skills to J.D. and LL.M students, and served as Faculty Advisor for ITP Tanzania, Spring 2011, a course in which student groups researched various legal issues pertaining to Tanzania; traveled to Tanzania with students for 15 days in March 2011, advising and supervising students as they conducted in-country interviews; and evaluated student reports detailing their research results and conclusions.
- Coordinate provision of legal writing and English as a Second Language instruction and services between Communication and Legal Reasoning department, the Director of International Programs, and the Assistant Director of International and Area Services.
- Design and revise the legal writing and rhetoric curriculum for, and teach in, the LEAF program, a summer pre-LL.M. course for incoming international LL.M. students.
- Design and revise the legal writing and research curriculum pertaining to international LL.M. students.
- Served on hiring committees for Communication and Legal Reasoning program (2017-18) and Assistant Director of International and Area Studies position, Spring 2012 and Spring 2014; trained the successful candidates for the latter position.
- Served on Curriculum Committee, 2015-17.
- Serve on J.D.-LL.M. Relations Committee (2016-present).
- Wrote *U.S. Legal Reasoning, Writing, and Practice for International Lawyers* and the accompanying Teacher's Manual (LexisNexis 2014), which I and other Common Law Reasoning professors use in our classes at Northwestern Law.

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO (UIC), Chicago, IL Lecturer, 1985-1999

- Lecturer in English as a Second Language (ESL), Tutorium in Intensive English, UIC.
- Taught 20 to 25 hours per week of academic reading, writing, listening, speaking, grammar, and TOEFL test preparation skills to professional and pre-professional adult international students.

- Taught students critical-thinking and language skills for academic success and counseled them regarding living in the United States and studying in U.S. universities and graduate schools.
- Chaired and served on committees, participated in curriculum development, supervised instructors and interns, and gave presentations at ESL conferences.

TRUMAN COLLEGE, Chicago, IL

Instructor of ESL, 1983-1985

- Taught ESL to adult Indochinese refugees in Truman College Refugee Program.
- Taught 16 hours per week of language, literacy, employment, and acculturation skills.

LEGAL PRACTICE EXPERIENCE

SCANDAGLIA & RYAN, Chicago, IL

2006-2009

- Practiced complex commercial litigation, including employment discrimination law and appellate litigation.
- Was responsible for: client interaction; brief writing and motion practice; pre-trial and trial preparation; all aspects of discovery practice, including taking and defending depositions; and representing clients in court.
- Drafted motion for directed verdict resulting in dismissal of three of four remaining counts in \$10 million case between two Fortune 500 companies.
- Represented major manufacturer in two discrimination cases before Illinois Human Rights Commission, winning dismissal in one and negotiating nominal settlement in other.
- Obtained settlements as appointed counsel on behalf of two discrimination plaintiffs.
- Obtained foreclosure of large restaurant's leasehold mortgage.

VEDDER, PRICE, KAUFMAN & KAMMHOLZ, PC, Chicago, IL

2005-2006

- Practiced complex commercial litigation, including drafting pleadings, preparing discovery, communicating with clients, and representing clients in court.
- Drafted motion *in limine* that led to exclusion of all damages evidence in class-action suit, and forced plaintiffs to settle for nominal amount.
- Negotiated settlement of prisoner's civil rights case.
- Advised several corporations, including Fortune 25 retailer, on records retention and eDiscovery issues and participated in design of records retention programs.

JENNER & BLOCK LLP, Chicago, IL

2002-2005; Summer Associate 2000

- Practiced complex commercial litigation, including federal regulatory securities, advertising, and telecommunications investigations, bankruptcy litigation, and patent arbitration.
- Responsible for brief writing and motion practice; trial preparation; all aspects of discovery practice, including taking and defending depositions; and representing clients in court.
- First-chaired and won asylum case in Immigration Court.
- Obtained dismissal of criminal charges against client with mental illness; on team that obtained large civil settlement for detainee against Cook County Jail in headline-making case.

ARNSTEIN & LEHR LLP, Chicago, IL

Summer Associate 2001

- Wrote motion to dismiss, request for injunctive relief, and numerous legal memoranda.

EDUCATION

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, Chicago, IL, J.D., 2002

- Senior Editor, Journal of International Law and Business.
- Dean's List Spring 2002, Fall 2001, Fall 2000.

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO, Chicago, IL, M.A. in Applied Linguistics, 1983

- University Fellowship for outstanding academic achievement.
- Dean's List every quarter.

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME, Notre Dame, IN, B.A. in English, *magna cum laude*, **Phi Beta Kappa**, 1981

- Notre Dame Scholar; Dean's List every semester.
- Inaugural Recipient, Earnest Sandeen Award for Poetry, 1980.

LEGAL PUBLICATIONS

- *U.S. Legal Reasoning, Writing, and Practice for International Lawyers* and the accompanying Teacher's Manual (LexisNexis 2014).
- Edited the entire manuscript of the following ABA–ROLI casebook: Getachew Assefa Woldemariam, *Ethiopian Constitutional Law, with Comparative Notes and Materials* (American Bar Association, 2012).
- Deputy Editor, American Bar Association Section of International Law, *International Law Year in Review*, 2009 – present.
- "2008 Developments in Illinois Employment Discrimination Law," *Andrews Litigation Reporter* (Employment issue, Vol. 23, No. 8, November 18, 2008) (with Alan W. Nicgorski).
- "Winning the Battle of the Forms," *Illinois Bar Journal* (July 2008) (with William J. Ryan).
- "Temporary Restraining Orders and Preliminary Injunctions," Chapter 9, *Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education, Business & Commercial Litigation* 2007 edition (with Gregory J. Scandaglia, William J. Ryan, and Bradley D. Hergott).
- "Record Retention and Litigation Holds for Financial Institutions," *The Review of Banking & Financial Services*, June 2006 (with Bruce A. Radke).

PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS

- Co-Moderator and Presenter, "Is it Time to Self-Regulate? Devising More Formal Standards and Guidelines in Post-Graduate Legal Education," 114th Annual Meeting, American Association of Law Schools, Washington, D.C., January 5, 2020
- Co-Presenter, "What Can a Legal Writing Professor Learn from a TESOL Professional?," Global Legal Skills Conference 14, Phoenix, Arizona, December 14, 2019.
- Co-Presenter, "What Can a Legal Writing Professor Learn from a TESOL Professional?," Central States Legal Conference, Chicago, Illinois, September 14, 2019
- Presenter, "Best Practices in Teaching International LL.M Students," Legal Writing Institute Biennial Conference, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, July 13, 2018
- Co-Presenter, "Speak Up: Teaching Advanced ESP Learners the Value of Integration," TESOL 2018, Chicago, Illinois, March 30, 2018
- Moderator, "Added Value: Programming for International LL.M. Professional and Personal Development," 112th Annual Meeting, American Association of Law Schools, San Diego, CA, January 6, 2018
- Moderator and Presenter, "Focus on the Facts: Teaching Civil-Law Trained Lawyers to Work with Facts in U.S. Legal Writing," 112th Annual Meeting, American Association of Law Schools, San Diego, CA, January 4, 2018
- "Good Enough"? Motivating LL.M. Students to Improve English Accuracy in Their Legal Writing," Global Legal Skills Conference 12, Monterrey, Mexico, March 17, 2017.

- Moderator and Presenter, “Designing Bar Readiness Programs for International LL.M. Students,” 111th Annual Meeting, American Association of Law Schools, San Francisco, CA, January 7, 2017.
- Moderator, “Bridging the Gap Between Graduate Law and J.D. Programs,” 111th Annual Meeting, American Association of Law Schools, San Francisco, CA, January 6, 2017.
- “Challenges and Opportunities for International LL.M. Programs Due to the New York Bar Exam’s New Experiential Learning Requirement,” Global Legal Skills Conference 11, Verona, Italy, May 25, 2016.
- “Knowing Your International Students, and Shaping Your Message to Them,” 110th Annual Meeting, American Association of Law Schools, New York, NY, January 9, 2016.
- Global Legal Skills Award for Outstanding Contributions to International Legal Skills Education, Global Legal Skills Conference 10, Chicago, IL, May 21, 2015.
- “New Problems, Old Problems—Meeting the Challenges of Teaching International LL.M.s in 2015,” Global Legal Skills Conference 10, Chicago, IL, May 20, 2015.
- Webinar and PowerPoint Presentation, Legal Writing Institute Global Legal Skills Committee, “Understanding the Needs and Abilities of International Law Students,” April 17, 2015.
- PowerPoint with Voice-Over, Legal Writing Institute Global Legal Skills Committee, “Understanding the Needs and Abilities of International Law Students,” Posted February, 2015.
- Presented the AALS Legal Writing, Reasoning, and Research Section Award to Mark Wojcik, 109th Annual American Association of Law Schools Conference, Washington, D.C., January 4, 2015.
- “‘Interference’ and the Different Legal Writing Needs of International Lawyers,” Global Legal Skills Conference 9, Verona, Italy, May 22, 2014.
- “English Language Learning Opportunities at U.S. Law Schools,” TESOL International Convention & English Language Expo, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, March 31, 2012.
- “Successfully Integrating International Students into the U.S. Law School Classroom Through Collaborative Work,” Global Legal Skills Conference 7, San Jose, Costa Rica, Illinois, March 12, 2012.
- “Incorporating Newer Legal Research Systems into Legal Research Training,” Legal Writing Institute One-Day Conference, December 2, 2011, IIT- Chicago Kent Marshall Law School, Chicago, Illinois.
- “Empowering International LL.M. Students to Actively Participate in U.S. Law School Classes,” Global Legal Skills Conference 6, Chicago, Illinois, May 5, 2011.
- “Thinking Forward: Getting Meaningful Feedback, Finding Time and Support For Your Own Scholarship, And Why This is the Most Rewarding Job in Legal Education,” Panel Presentation, One-Day Legal Writing Institute Workshop, December 3, 2010, John Marshall Law School, Chicago, Illinois.
- “Teaching the Common Law Reasoning, Writing, and Research Class for International LL.M. Students,” Global Legal Skills Conference 5, Monterrey, Mexico, February 26, 2010.

- "E-Discovery: Spoliation, Litigation Holds, and Record Retention," John Marshall Law School, 2008, Guest Lecturer.
- "Temporary Restraining Orders and Preliminary Injunctions," John Marshall Law School, 2007, Guest Lecturer.
- "Trade Secrets," DePaul University College of Law, 2006, Guest Lecturer.
- "Record Retention in Illinois," 2004, Panel Presentation.

BAR MEMBERSHIPS

- State of Illinois, 2002
- United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, 2002

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION AND COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

- American Association of Law Schools
 - 2019-20 Secretary, Post-Graduate Legal Education Section
 - 2018-19 Treasurer, Post-Graduate Legal section
 - 2018-19 Immediate Past Chair, Graduate Programs for Non-U.S. Lawyers Section
 - 2017-18 Chair, Graduate Programs for Non-U.S. Lawyers Section
 - 2016-17 Chair-Elect, Graduate Programs for Non-U.S. Lawyers Section
 - 2015-16 Secretary, Graduate Programs for Non-U.S. Lawyers Section
- American Bar Association
 - 2009-11, 2013, 2015, 2018-19 Deputy Editor, American Bar Association Section of International Law, International Law Year in Review (ABA journal))
- Legal Writing Institute (Global Legal Skills Committee)
- Global Legal Skills Conference
 - 2019 Program Committee and Conference Committee
 - 2018 Program Committee and Conference Committee
 - 2017 Program Committee and Conference Committee
 - 2016 Program Committee and Conference Committee
 - 2015 Program Site Co-Chair and Program Co-Chair
 - 2015 Program Co-Chair
 - 2014 Program Committee
 - 2012 Program Committee