

MAUREEN STRAUB KORDESH

Associate Professor of Law
The John Marshall Law School-Chicago

- 1986 J.D. Indiana University School of Law-Bloomington
 Magna cum Laude
 Order of the Coif
 Law Review
- 1984 M.A. Indiana University
 German Linguistics and Literature
 With Honors
- 1981 B.A. Kalamazoo College
 Majors in German and Music
 Cum Laude, with Honors in Music
- 2008- Associate Professor and Director, SCALES Program, John Marshall
1996- Associate Professor, The John Marshall Law School, Chicago, Illinois
1996-2004 Associate Professor and Director, Lawyering Skills Program
1995-1996 Associate Professor and Director, Legal Methods Program
 Widener University School of Law, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
1991-1995 Instructor and Director, Legal Methods Program
 Widener University School of Law, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
1987-1991 Assistant Counsel, The Department of General Services
 The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Selected Presentations

“Reality Bites . . . Or Does It? The Value of Controlled vs. Real-Life Problems InTeaching Basic Skills” (Joint Presentation with Sonia Bychkov Green and Julie Spanbauer) Accepted for presentation at Legal Writing Institute Conference, July, 2008, Indianapolis.

CLE Programs: Professional Writing for Associate Attorneys (with Sonia Bychkov Green), Chicago and New York offices of Lovells LLP, June and July 2007.

Summer Associate Training Program (with Sonia Bychkov Green), Chicago office of Lovells LLP, June 2007.

“A Chance to Succeed: Designing a Program to Assess Legal Skills for Law School Education” (with Sonia Bychkov Green), Legal Writing Institute Conference, Atlanta 2006.

“Heraclites Goes to Law School: Creative Approaches in the Classroom,” Legal Writing Institute Regional Conference, Indianapolis, 2005.

“Next Steps in Furthering Palestinian Legal Education,” for Arab-American Bar Association-sponsored judicial and administrative delegation from The West Bank and Gaza Strip, March, 2004.

“An Introduction to Property Law for Non-Lawyers,” The John Marshall Law School, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006.

“Palestinian Legal Education: Legal Writing Pedagogy and Directorial Challenges,” North Park University Exchange Delegation from the West Bank and Gaza Strip, October 2003.

Designing a Long-Distance Learning Experience in Time of Political Conflict: Experience with USAID and The Rule of Law Project,” AALS conference, January 2002.

“Teaching and Learning Legal Writing,” a 24-hour taped series in United States legal education and legal writing pedagogy for Najah University in Nablus, Al-Quds University in Jerusalem, Bir Zeit University, and Al Azhar University in Gaza, October-December 2002.

“Designing a Skills-Based Legal Writing Program on a United States Model,” taped presentation for Palestinian legal educators in the West Bank and Gaza, December 2002.

“Integrity in Scholarly Writing: An Overview and Workshop for Foreign Students,” for John Marshall Law School L.L.M foreign students, August 31, 2000.

“Designing Performance Test Problems for a Skills Curriculum,” National Legal Writing Institute Bi-ennial Conference July 22, 2000 (with representatives of the National Conference of Bar Examiners).

Statewide Judicial Conference, Education 2000 conference, February, Legal Research on the Internet, 400 Illinois judges in attendance at conference (with student Edward Renner).

Legal Writing Institute Midwest Conference, October, 1999, “Integrating Performance-Based Writing into the Skills Curriculum,” University of Kansas City-Missouri.

“Should Performance Testing be Part of Your Legal Writing Curriculum?” Association of Legal Writing Directors Biennial Conference, July 1999, New England School of Law, Boston.

Welcome speech as President, “Gratitude Leads to Action,” The Association of Legal Writing Directors Biennial Conference, July 1999, New England School of Law, Boston.

Workshop, “How an Investigator Drafts Facts for Lawyers”, workshop presented for HUD housing discrimination investigators, managers and supervisors, and state agency investigators; Chicago, April 29-30, 1998; Atlanta, June 25, 1998, and July 29, 1998; Chicago, June 29-July 1, 1998; Kansas City, March, 1999; Atlanta, March 1999 (with Professor Ardath Hamann).

Presentation, "So You Want to Become a Legal Writing Director?" Summer, 1998 conference of the Legal Writing Institute, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (with Professors Grace Tonner and Jan Levine).

Presentation, Association of Legal Writing Directors Biennial Conference, Summer, 1997: "The Curricular Implications for Skills Programs of the Multistate Performance Test" (with Professor Frank Morrissey and Dean Susan Brody).

Presentation, Association of Legal Writing Directors Biennial Conference, Summer, 1997: "Taking Your Act on the Road: Becoming a Director at a New School" (with Professors Grace Tonner, Michigan, and Jan Levine, Temple)

Panelist, Legal Writing Institute Summer Conference, "Rule-Based Legal Writing Problems: A Pedagogical Approach," Summer, 1996 (co-presenter).

Presentation, Legal Writing Institute Summer Conference, "Re-envisioning Organization: Teaching Students to Organize Their Writing," Summer, 1996.

Other External Activities

Expert Reviewer for National Conference of Bar Examiners Multistate Performance Test, 2000.

Conference Planning Chair, The Association of Legal Writing Directors, Summer Meeting, Ann Arbor, Summer 1998.

Conference Planning Co-Chair, The Association of Legal Writing Directors, First Biennial Conference, Chicago, Summer, 1997.

Conference Planner, Association of Legal Writing Directors, Summer meeting, 1996, Seattle, Washington.

Publications

I Will Build My House with Sticks": The Splintering of Property Interests Under the Fifth Amendment May be Hazardous to Private Property, 20 Harv. Envtl. L. Rev. 397 (1996).

Navigating the Dark Morass: A First-year Student's Survival Guide to the Law Library, 19 Campbell L. Rev. 115 (1997).

Rule-Based Legal Writing Problems: A Pedagogical Approach, 3 J. Legal Writing Inst. 143 (1997).

How to Draft Facts for a Lawyer (HUD training materials, with Professor Ardath Hamann) 1998.

Where Economy and Democracy Collide” 40th Annual Law Day, Chicago Daily Law Bulletin (April 25, 1998).

Rolling Up Their Sleeves: Using A Single Case to Teach Case Analysis, 14 The Second Draft 3 (No. 2, May 2000).

Reconsidering ABA Standards in Light of the Multistate Performance Test, 40 Memphis L. Rev. 229 (2000).

Adjunct Faculty Handbook for Lawyering Skills Instructors (training materials) 1996-97, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002.

And Now for Something Completely Different: Revising a Legal Writing Program, 16 The Second Draft 6 (No. 2, May 2002).

Articles in Progress

The Surprising Value Of A Pre-Admission Screening Program In Helping Students To Ultimately Pass The Bar Exam (with Sonia Bychkov Green and Julie Spanbauer). Spring 2008 submission anticipated.

Stages in the Evolution of a Law Student and Lawyer: Does Erikson Have Anything Useful to Tell Us About Legal Education, and What is Wrong With It?

John Marshall Law School Recent Committee Service

2006- Faculty Executive Committee
2004-06 Tenure Committee
2004-05 Chair, Student Affairs Committee

Organizations

Chair, Plagiarism Committee, Legal Writing Institute 2006-08.

Board Member, Legal Writing Institute, 2000-04. Chair of ad hoc Membership Committee, 2004; Member, Outreach Committee 2000-04.

Chair, Rombauer Awards Committee, Association of Legal Writing Directors, 2000-01.

Executive Committee Association of Legal Writing Directors, 1999-2000. Served on Citation Committee responsible for publication of a new, professional citation manual; Rombauer Awards Committee responsible for honoring exceptional contributions to the field of Legal Writing.

President, Association of Legal Writing Directors, 1998-99. Initiate and run all Executive Committee and Board meetings. Served during initial period of publishing ALWD citation manual.

Vice-President, Association of Legal Writing Directors, 1997-98; Chair, By-Laws Committee; member, Executive Committee. Assisted in initial incorporation of ALWD.

Co-Chair, Conference Planning Committee, Association of Legal Writing Directors 1996, 1997, 1998.

Chair, By-laws Committee, Association of Legal Writing Directors, 1997-98.

1995- Charter member, The Association of Legal Writing Directors.

1992- Member, The Legal Writing Institute.

American Bar Association

Association of American Law Schools

Pennsylvania Bar Association

Admitted to the Pennsylvania Bar 1987