



UNIVERSITY OF
OREGON

School of Law

LEGAL RESEARCH AND WRITING AT OREGON LAW

LEADERS IN LEGAL WRITING SINCE 1978



OUR FACULTY

Oregon Law's Legal Research and Writing professors came to teaching from law practice. Several have written books that are used in law schools around the country. Our faculty are nationally known and routinely hold leadership positions in national legal writing organizations. They are recognized for their scholarly contributions to the field and have received numerous teaching awards. Most importantly, Oregon Law's faculty are deeply committed to supporting students' educational and career success.



Suzanne Rowe

James L. and Ilene R. Hershner Professor; BA, with honors, '83, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; JD, '89, Columbia University

Professor Rowe has held leadership positions in the Legal Writing Institute (LWI), the Association of Legal Writing Directors (ALWD), and the Association of American Law Schools (AALS) Section on Legal Writing, Reasoning, and Research. Her teaching, leadership, and service have been recognized with awards at national, state, university, and law school levels. She created the monthly column "The Legal Writer" for the Oregon State Bar Bulletin, which tackles tough writing issues with a lighthearted touch, and is the editor of Proceedings, an online journal of conference presentations published on the Oregon Law website.



Joan Rocklin

BA, magna cum laude, '93, Williams College; JD, cum laude, Order of the Coif, '98, University of Pennsylvania

Professor Rocklin is the co-author of two textbooks used in legal writing classrooms across the nation: *A Lawyer Writes: A Practical Guide to Legal Analysis*, now in its fourth edition, and *An Advocate Persuades*, now in its second edition. She is active in national legal writing organizations and is currently serving on the Legal Writing Institute's New Member Outreach committee. In 2024, she received the Legal Writing Institute's Influential Teaching Award.



Rebekah Hanley

BA, cum laude, '96, Yale; JD, Order of the Coif, '00, UCLA

Professor Hanley is a dynamic speaker, appearing frequently at national and regional conferences, both for academics and for practitioners. In her capacity as Oregon Law's Galen Scholar in Legal Writing, she is exploring generative artificial intelligence ("AI") and its implications for law school teaching and the practice of law; this work connects with her past publications about ethical copying by lawyers and access to justice. Professor Hanley recently served as the President of ALWD and currently cochairs LWI's AI committee.



Megan McAlpin

BA, summa cum laude, '00, Western Oregon University; JD, '03, Willamette University

Professor McAlpin has earned both teaching awards and the law school's highest award, the Meritorious Service Award. She brought the lessons learned through several years of working in academic support back to the LRW classroom and shares her insights in her article, "Impact Beyond the Classroom: Teaching for Transfer," which was published in the *Journal of Legal Education*. Professor McAlpin is a past president of ALWD and the author of *Beyond the First Draft: Editing Strategies for Powerful Legal Writing*.



Elizabeth Ruiz Frost

BA '02, Yale; JD '06, University of Michigan

Professor Frost has received both the law school's highest teaching award and a prestigious university teaching award, as well as accolades for her service in the national legal writing community. She has organized multiple legal writing conferences and publishes scholarship in distinguished journals. Her most recent article, "Reading is Dead: Can Law Schools Make Readers of Non-Lawyers," will be published in the *Nebraska Law Review*. She recently completed her term as editor-in-chief for *Legal Writing: The Journal of the Legal Writing Institute* and currently serves on its editorial board. She also serves on other LWI and ALWD committees.



Bryan Dearing

BA, with honors, '02, The University of Portland; JD, Order of the Coif, '05, Drake University Law School

Professor Dearing serves on ALWD's Scholarly Publications Committee, LWI's Teaching Resources Committee, and AALS's Legal Writing, Reasoning, and Research Award Committee. On campus, he directs the law school's Summer Sports Law Institute and chairs the university's Intercollegiate Athletics Advisory Committee. His current research intersects sports law, constitutional law, and privacy law. His article, "UnconstitutionIL: Name, Image, and Likeness State Laws in the Post-Amateurism World of College Sports," recently published in the *American University Law Review*, explores the evolving legal and regulatory landscape of college athletics.



Associate Dean Anne Mullins, Galen Distinguished Guest

OUR MISSION

Legal writing is the primary tool by which lawyers accomplish their work. Whether writing to a judge, a supervisor, an opponent, or a client, every lawyer needs excellent writing and analytical skills.

The mission of Oregon Law's Legal Research and Writing Program has remained consistent for more than forty years:

*to prepare students for
real-world legal practice.*

Oregon Law's LRW Program has been nationally recognized for decades. The program was established in 1978, making it one of the first in the nation to ensure fundamental lawyering skills were taught by full-time professionals. The founding director was Professor Emerita Mary Lawrence, who led Oregon's program until 2000.

Through innovative programming and commitment to teaching excellence, the program continues to lead in the field. It is repeatedly ranked among the top legal writing programs in the country.



Oregon Law students pose with the Honorable Judge Conover after arguing their motions at Lane County Circuit Court.



STUDENT CENTERED

Professor Rowe and first-year Legal Research and Writing defined my experience at Oregon Law. During the midst of 1L, the small LRW class size allowed me to grow comfortable among a smaller group of my peers.

Additionally, Professor Rowe took the time to meet with me individually to both help me improve my writing and research skills and get to know me on a personal level. Even at times when I felt imposter syndrome setting in, Professor Rowe made me feel like I belonged at Oregon Law.

– NICOLE CURTIS, OREGON LAW GRADUATE



BUILDING BRIDGES: FROM CLASSROOM TO CAREER

Our programming affords students excellent opportunities to interact with leaders and to develop lasting relationships that help propel them into successful legal careers.

For instance, each spring, LRW students hear some of the best advocates in the State of Oregon argue actual cases before the Oregon Supreme Court. After observing the proceedings, students participate in a lively Q & A with the justices and attorneys to learn more about the justices' legal approaches and careers.

This annual event is one of the ways the Oregon Law LRW program connects students to career-defining experiences and the greater legal community.

A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE AND INNOVATION

Our program empowers law students with knowledge, strategies, and skills in legal analysis, research, and communication. The aim is to provide them with the tools necessary to become capable lawyers who can effectively serve their clients, contribute to their communities, and enhance the legal profession.

We realize these objectives through...

- excellence and innovation in teaching;
- engagement with professional and academic communities; and
- rigorous standards, individualized support, and mentorship.





"THE GALEN ENDOWMENT ENABLES US TO BUILD ON OUR LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE AND INNOVATION."

– SUZANNE ROWE, LRW PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Thanks to Galen Endowment funding, Oregon Law has hosted a preorientation week for students from underrepresented and nontraditional backgrounds; provided additional writing courses; increased the emphasis on writing in doctrinal law courses; supported student writing in law journals; and created awards to celebrate outstanding student writing.

ENHANCING STUDENT WRITING

OREGON LAW'S GALEN ENDOWMENT

The purpose of the Galen Endowment for the Advancement of Legal Writing is to enhance legal writing education for Oregon Law students. The endowment was established through a substantial gift from alumnus Morris Galen (pictured above) and colleagues who wished to honor him.

Oregon Law
preorientation
cohort, 2025.



GALEN DISTINGUISHED GUEST IN LEGAL WRITING

The Galen Endowment brings distinguished professors and practitioners to Oregon Law each year to work with students, faculty, and other groups on enhancing student writing. Pictured below are some of our most recent distinguished guests.



Erin Carroll
Professor of Law
Georgetown Law Center
(2025-26)



Anne Mullins
Associate Dean for Assessment
Stetson University
College of Law
(2024-25)



Olympia Duhart
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
Nova Southeastern University
Shepard Broad College of Law
(2023-24)



Hon. Jacqueline Nguyen
9th Circuit Judge
US Court of Appeals
(2022-23)



Nantiya Ruan
Professor
UNLV
William S. Boyd School of Law
(2021-22)



Michael Higdon
Associate Dean for Faculty Development
University of Tennessee
College of Law
(2020-21)



Hon. Jean P. Rosenbluth
US Magistrate Judge
(2019-20)



Leslie Culver
Professor
University of Utah
S. J. Quinney College of Law
(2018-19)



Anne Egeler
Deputy Solicitor General
Washington Attorney General's Office
(2017-18)



Mary Beth Beazley
Professor
UNLV
William S. Boyd School of Law
(2016-17)



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law.uoregon.edu/explore/LRW

