



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 is an author of six books on legal research and has written articles on disability law, diversity and inclusion, and pedagogy. 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 co-chairs LWI's AI committee.



## **Megan McAlpin**

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

Professor McAlpin has recently returned to her home in the LRW program after several years away creating Oregon Law's Academic Excellence Program. For her work in that role, Professor McAlpin earned the law school's highest award, the Meritorious Service Award. She brought the lessons of academic support back to the LRW classroom and shares her insights in her forthcoming article, *Impact Beyond the Classroom: Teaching for Transfer*, which will be 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. 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 joined Oregon Law's LRW program in 2023 after 15 years of practice, including nine years at the University of Oregon's Office of the General Counsel. Professor Dearing is currently the President of the Oregon Chapter of the Federal Bar Association. He serves on ALWD's Scholarly Publications Committee and LWI's Teaching Resources Committee. He also chairs the University's Intercollegiate Athletics Advisory Committee.

An emerging area of his research is in sports law—in particular, the regulation of college athletes. His latest article, *UnconstitutionIL: Name, Image, and Likeness State Laws in the Post-Amateurism World of College Sports*, is forthcoming in the *American University Law Review*.





*Olympia Duhart, ALWD Visiting Scholar, meets with Oregon Law students.*

## 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 40 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.

CHIEF JUSTICE





**"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, 2024.



## 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.



**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)*



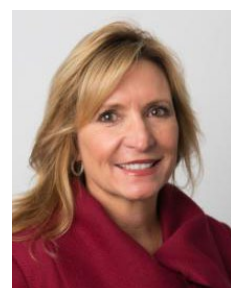
**Leslie Culver**  
*Professor  
University of Utah  
S. J. Quinney College of Law  
(2018-19)*



**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)*



**Melissa Weresh**  
*Professor  
Drake University  
Law School  
(2016-17)*





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Learn more at  
[law.uoregon.edu/explore/LRW](http://law.uoregon.edu/explore/LRW)

