

Leslie Patrice Culver

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EDUCATION

SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, St. Louis, MO

Juris Doctor, May 2002

Honors: Academic Excellence Award, Legal Research & Writing | Dean's Scholarship

TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY, Kirksville, MO

Bachelor of Science, Justice Systems (with Psychology minor), May 1999

Honors: Dean's List | Academic Achievement Awards | Presidential Honorary Scholarship

AWARDS & HONORS

UNIVERSITY OF UTAH, Salt Lake City, UT

Feb. 26, 2022

Black Cultural Center - *Recipient of the Marcus Garvey Black Star Excellence Award*

FULBRIGHT VISITING SPECIALIST 2021-2025, Bloemfontein, South Africa

Jan. 2021

University of the Free State Faculty of Law

Finalist/Award Recipient: Slated to conduct interdisciplinary research and teaching to explore identity performance, among South African practicing lawyers.

RESEARCH INCENTIVE SEED GRANT PROGRAM, Salt Lake City, UT

FY2021

University of Utah & University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law

Grant Recipient: Based on cultural awareness workshops to support initial study of natural language processing.

GALEN DISTINGUISHED GUEST IN LEGAL WRITING, Eugene, OR

Sept. 12-14, 2018

University of Oregon School of Law

Distinguished Guest in Legal Writing for 2018: Presented White Doors, Black Footsteps: Leveraging "White Privilege" for the Benefit of Law Students of Color, 21 J. GENDER, RACE & JUSTICE 37 (2017); spoke to students in an oral advocacy seminar, Oregon Law Review, as well as presented on cultural awareness and the legal profession.

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

UNIVERSITY OF UTAH-S.J. QUINNEY COLLEGE OF LAW, Salt Lake City, UT

2020 – present

Professor (Clinical) of Law

Legal Methods. Introduce first year law students to various legal writing genres and conventions of legal writing, rhetorical theories, and practices that support wholistic legal reasoning, and effective predictive and persuasive legal analysis. Discussed multicultural lawyering and identity as it shapes client-centered lawyering, and engaged students in client simulation through client interview, negotiations, contract drafting, individual and law firm conferences, and oral advocacy.

Identity, Power & Professional Responsibility. I developed this seminar in 2018. Cast broadly under diversity, inclusion, and equity, this is a survey course that uses interdisciplinary scholarship to examine how traditionally marginalized group members use coping strategies to navigate their identities in a predominantly white spaces, disrupting the white normativity of the legal profession, and engages students in in-depth communication practices that can facilitate conscious identity performance in the legal profession. The course relies on students as co-facilitators, peer-reviewers on papers, and work-in-progress presentations like junior faculty writing workshops.

Advanced Legal Drafting: Restoring Rhetorical Foundations. I developed this course in 2023. Recasting the traditional advanced legal writing curriculum, this intensive course explores both theoretically and practically the interaction between law and rhetoric. Students will explore classic rhetorical canons for legal discourse, with specific focus on developing techniques to draft effective arguments based on rhetorical principles of invention, arrangement, and style. After examining rhetorical principles used in Supreme Court opinions, students will then draft court documents for a current legal issue using these skills.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA-IRVINE SCHOOL OF LAW, San Diego, CA 2018 – 2020

Visiting Professor of Lawyering Skills and taught Identity, Power & Professional Responsibility.

CALIFORNIA WESTERN SCHOOL OF LAW, San Diego, CA 2009 – 2020

Legal Writing Professor; also taught Legal Scholarship Training Seminar, Race & the Law, Women in the Law, Clinical Externship, and served as Program Developer, Instructor, Director of A.I.M for Law Program (2010-2020)

AMERICAN LEGAL STUDIES AND EXCHANGE – BRAZIL PROGRAM, San Diego, CA Summer/Fall 2014

Faculty Co-Director & Professor of Legal Writing and Comparative Legal Procedure

CONSORTIUM FOR INNOVATIVE LEGAL EDUCATION, Valetta, Malta Summer 2013

Co-Professor for Comparative Juvenile Justice

SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, St. Louis, MO 2007 – 2009

Assistant Professor of Legal Research & Writing | Missouri Civil Procedure

PUBLICATIONS

The Pale Veil: Decentering Whiteness As Power And Communication Norms In The Legal Profession (Research Summary) [SSRN](#)

This Essay is part of a compilation of essays centered on Professional Identity and presented during the Western Regional Legal Writing Conference (Oregon Law, October 7-8, 2022).

#IncludeTheirStories: Rethinking, Reimagining, and Reshaping Legal Education (with Elizabeth Kronk-Warner) [SSRN](#) Framing essay for 2021 Lee E. Teitelbaum symposium that gathered interdisciplinary scholars and practitioners to discuss best practices for exploring ethnic, gender, and related inequities alongside our law students.

I Wish I Read This Book Before Law School: Advice from Top Professors on How to Adjust, Succeed, and Thrive [Order](#) #1 Release in Business School Guides for 2021 on Amazon. I authored the chapters concerning Legal Research & Writing during the first year; Legal Research & Writing Beyond the First Year; How to Take Care of Yourself; and Diversity, Inclusion & Equity.

(Un)Wicked Analytical Frameworks and the Cry for Identity, 21 NEV. L. J. 655 (2021). [SSRN](#)

This article uses the musical Wicked—the untold story of the Witches of Oz—as a contemporary framework to juxtapose identity performance with legal writing.

Broken Landscapes, Black Beauty, in Racism, Regulation, and the Administrative State, THE REGULATORY REV. (University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School) (Nov. 10, 2020); <https://www.theregreview.org/2020/11/10/culver-broken-landscapes-black-beauty/> (using knowledge as experienced identity scholar, with focus on intercultural awareness and identity performance, to examine “how structural inequality and implicit biases affect who gets to be a lawyer and who finds success at law school and beyond.”).

No Matter How Loud I Shout: Legal Writing as Gender Sidelining, 69 J. LEGAL EDUC. 31 (2019). [SSRN](#)

This Essay views legal writing, which is often outside the unitary tenure program in legal academia, as a mode of gender sidelining and parity in status is the only systemic gesture to combat the gendered barrier of white males who dominant the legal academy.

Conscious Identity Performance, 55 SAN DIEGO L. REV. 577 (2018). [SSRN](#)

This article expands on identity performance scholarship that describes the pressures marginalized groups feel to perform their identity in a predominantly white legal profession.

The Rise of Self Sidelining, 39 WOMEN'S RTS. L. REP. 173 (2018). [SSRN](#)

This Article examines the collision between the impostor phenomenon and gender sidelining, which results in a false endorsement of inadequacy and leads women to self-sideline.

My Enemy's Enemy and the Case for Rhetoric, 15 LEGAL COMM. & RHETORIC: JALWD 293 (2018). [SSRN](#)

This Book Review examines *Race, Nation, and Refuge: The Rhetoric of Race in Asian American Citizenship Cases* by Doug Coulson.

White Doors, Black Footsteps: Leveraging White Privilege to Benefit Law Students of Color, 21 J. GENDER, RACE & JUSTICE 37 (2017). [SSRN](#)

This Article examines the value of intercultural mentoring relationships between white law professors and law students of color in efforts to reduce racial bias against these students.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Teaching Conscious Rhetoric (explores the modernization of rhetorical canons through an analytical framework to better guide students toward effective legal discourse beyond reductive paradigms like IRAC).

2.4 *Legal Writers must understand the development of the law as well as gain the rhetorical skills necessary to communicate its meaning*, in THRESHOLD CONCEPTS IN LEGAL WRITING: THE DISCIPLINARY NORMS OF THE LEGAL PROFESSION (Kristin Tiscione & Melissa Weresh, eds. forthcoming 2022) (focusing on the need for legal writers to understand both the underlying doctrine of law and the rhetorical skills necessary to communicate meaning).

The Pale Veil: Decentering Whiteness as Power and Communication in the Legal Profession (this project is based on qualitative research of white male attorneys and pushes for a reimagining of the relationship between whiteness and power in the legal profession).

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOPS

LAW AS INFLUENCE, LAW AS CHANGE PIPELINE PROGRAM, Salt Lake City, UT June 19 & 22, 2023
University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law
Presenter: The History of Juneteenth; Overview of Ethics and Professionalism in the Legal Profession

AALS 2022 ANNUAL MEETING, San Diego, CA Jan. 3-5, 2023
Marriott Marquis San Diego Marina
Panelist: Reverse-Engineering the Recipes for Success of Recently Promoted BIPOC Skills-Based Professors

WESTERN REGIONAL LEGAL WRITING CONFERENCE, Eugene, OR Oct. 7-8, 2022
University of Oregon School of Law
Work-in-progress presenter: The Rhetorical Profile
Presenter: The Pale Veil: Decentering Whiteness as Power and Communication in the Legal Profession.

2022 LWI BIENNIAL CONFERENCE, Washington, DC July 20-23, 2022
Georgetown University Law Center | *Invited Panelist*: The Positive No.

CHRISTIAN SCHOLARS CONFERENCE ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION ON RACE AND LAW June 8-10, 2022
Nashville, TN, Lipscomb University

Invited Discussant: Roundtable discussant asked to respond to and advance the ideas raised in the generative session, *Confession and Repentance: Understanding Christian Calls for Racial Justice and a Beloved Community in the American Church and Academy*.

UNIVERSITY OF UTAH, Salt Lake City, UT Apr. 2, 2022
Black Cultural Center & S.J. Quinney College of Law
Invited Speaker: Conducted Legal writing workshop for local undergraduate students as part of “Black Law Day.”

LUTIE LYTLE BLACK WOMEN LAW FACULTY TEACHING SERIES, Newark, New Jersey Oct. 1, 2021
Rutgers Law School | *Invited presenter:* Providing strategies during *Spotlight on Teaching* for effective structuring of legal writing courses.

UTAH STATE BAR ASSOCIATION JULY BAR CONVENTION, Sun valley, ID July 29, 2021
Invited Co-panelist: Opening Keynote Plenary - “Equity and Perspective – How Can Our System Be More Reflective of our Community in Seeking Civil Rights and in Dispensing Justice?” with Jeanetta Williams (NAACP); Kathryn Bond-Stockton (University of Utah); Kate Conyers (Utah alum, Criminal Law Practitioner); Dean Elizabeth Kronk Warner, S. J. Quinney College of Law (moderator)

LAW & SOCIETY ASSOCIATION (LSA) 2021 ANNUAL MEETING, Virtual May 29, 2021
Invited Co-panelist: Author Meets Reader: *Shortlisted: Women in the Shadows of the Supreme Court*
Providing commentary of *Shortlisted* with co-author, Hannah Brenner Johnson, and connections of book to my personal research on identity performance across ethnicity and gender.

PUBLIC INTEREST LAW ORGANIZATION (PILO) WORKSHOP, Salt Lake City, UT Mar. 22, 2021
University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law | *Invited Speaker:* Conducted virtual professionalism and leadership training for student organization leaders of PILO, with focus on promoting dialogue, modeling difficult/cross-cultural dialogues, and building community.

BLACK CULTURAL CENTER (BCC) SPOTLIGHT SCHOLAR Feb. 9, 2021
Invited Speaker: Discussion of scholarly research on conscious identity performance.

DEAN’S BOOK REVIEW Jan. 21, 2021
Invited Panelist: Reviewing John Meacham’s, *His Truth is Marching On: John Lewis and the Power of Hope*, with Dean Elizabeth Kronk Warner’s monthly book review.

AALS LWRR SECTION/NORTHEASTER ONE-DAY LEGAL WRITING WORKSHOP Dec. 3, 2020
Invited Panelist: Integrating Race Issues in the LRW Classroom: Addressing Benefits and Challenges.

INAUGURAL BLACK WOMEN & THE LAW SUMMIT, Malibu, CA Nov. 6, 2020
Pepperdine University Caruso School of Law (via Zoom) | *Invited panelist:* Discussed how institutions can be accountable for allyship, the role of mentorship, and how Black woman law students can be consciously performing their identities to move toward empowerment despite institutional or historical barriers in the legal profession.

2020 LWI MENTOR/MENTEE COFFEE BREAK EVENT Sept. 18, 2020
LWI New Member Committee | *Invited speaker:* Served as mentor for Speed Mentoring session offering expertise for new legal writing professors regarding promoting diversity in faculty members to support classroom discussion.

GUEST LECTURER FOR OREGON’S PLUS PROGRAM, Eugene, OR July 27, 2020
Univ. Oregon Sch. of Law (via Zoom) | *Invited presenter:* Discussion of exploring various practice areas, conscious identity performance, and harm of self sidelining for Oregon Law’s PLUS diversity pipeline program participants.

VIRTUAL LEGAL CAREER BOOT CAMP, Various July 22, 2020
AltaClaro and Leg Up Legal University Law Center | *Invited Presenter:* “Diversity Pipeline 101” as part of Career Development Series for 1L, 2Ls and LLM students.

AALS FACULTY FOCUS, Virtual Platform June 30, 2020

Invited Panelist: “Racism, Justice, and Your Fall Classes!” with focus to share with junior and non-tenure track faculty how to incorporate topics concerning racism, justice, diversity, and inclusion into their fall 2020 classes.

2019 GLOBAL LEGAL SKILLS, Phoenix, AZ Dec. 12-14, 2019
ASU Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law
Co-Presenter: Awakening the “Critical” in Critical Thinking; *Work-in-progress presenter:* Hidden Voices: Stories of the Legal Profession.

LATCRIT, INC./SALT ANNUAL FACULTY DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP, Atlanta, GA Oct. 17, 2019
The American Hotel Atlanta/Georgia State University | *Invited panelist:* Navigating Promotion and Tenure.

GUEST LECTURER FOR ADVOCACY TOPICS COURSE, Eugene, OR Sept. 17, 2019
Univ. of Oregon Sch. of Law | *Invited presenter:* Conscious Identity Performance for upper-level Advocacy course.

CENTRAL REGIONAL LEGAL WRITING CONFERENCE, Chicago, IL Sept. 13-14, 2019
University of Illinois, John Marshall School of Law | *Presenter:* Something Wicked This Way Goes: Reviving Analytical Frameworks Across Disciplines.

FALL 2019 LEGAL WRITING WORKSHOP FACILITATOR, Durham, NC Aug. 8, 2019
North Carolina Central University School of Law | *Invited facilitator:* Legal Writing Program’s 2019 Fall training session.

2019 SEALS ANNUAL CONFERENCE, Boca Raton, FL July 28-Aug. 3, 2019
Discussant: Identity and Legal Education; and *Discussant:* Diversity + Inclusion = Change.
Work-in-progress presenter: Modeling Wicked: The Untold Narrative of IRAC’s Analytical Framework.

WRITING AS RESISTANCE (WAR) WORKSHOP FOR LEGAL WRITING PROFESSORS OF COLOR July 12-13, 2019
Greeley, CO | *Work-in-progress presenter:* Modeling Wicked: The Untold Narrative of IRAC’s Analytical Framework.

SEVENTH APPLIED LEGAL STORYTELLING CONFERENCE, Boulder, CO July 9-11, 2019
University of Colorado | *Invited Panelist:* Race, Religion, and Careers: Stories of Professors of Color.

ALWD BIENNIAL CONFERENCE, Boston, MA May 29-31, 2019
Suffolk School of Law | *Panelist:* Leading in the Face of Hierarchy.

AALS 2019 ANNUAL MEETING, New Orleans, LA Jan. 3-5, 2018
Hilton New Orleans Riverside Hotel | *Discussant:* Building Bridges Across Curricular and Status Lines: Gender Inequity throughout the Legal Academy.

LEGAL WRITING ONE-DAY CONFERENCE, Eugene, OR Nov. 30, 2018
Univ. of Oregon Sch. of Law | *Presenter:* Picking up the Mantle: Junior Faculty’s Role in Elevating the Discipline.

WESTERN REGIONAL LEGAL WRITING CONFERENCE, Irvine, CA Sept. 28-29, 2018
Univ. of California, Irvine School of Law | *Presenter:* From Cooks to Chefs: Developing the Rhetorical Profile.

GALEN DISTINGUISHED GUEST IN LEGAL WRITING, Eugene, OR Sept. 12-14, 2018
University of Oregon School of Law | *Invited presenter:* White Doors, Black Footsteps: Leveraging “White Privilege” for the Benefit of Law Students of Color, 21 J. GENDER, RACE & JUSTICE 37 (2017). [Read More](#)

2018 SEALS ANNUAL CONFERENCE, Fort Lauderdale, FL Aug. 6-11, 2018
Panelist: Connecting to the Possible: Advancing Despite Hierarchies; *Discussant:* The Law School Dean and Legal Writing; Connecting Through Scholarship; and Connecting through Diversity: Teach, Learn, and Educate Yourself.
Work-in-progress presenter: Professional (Ir)Responsibility and the Unexamined Role of Conscious Identity Performance.

LUTIE LYTLE BLACK WOMEN LAW FACULTY CONFERENCE, Dallas, TX July 11-14, 2018

SMU Dedman School of Law | *Invited panelist*: Recognizing and Responding to Gender Sidelineing;
Presenter: Legal Writing as Identity.

GENDER SIDELINEING SYMPOSIUM, San Diego, CA April 26-27, 2018
California Western School of Law | *Co-organizer, Panelist Moderator; Presenter*: The Rise of Self Sidelineing, 39
WOMEN’S RTS. L. REP. 173 (2018).

ROCKY MOUNTAIN LEGAL WRITING CONFERENCE, Denver, CO March 23-24, 2018
Univ. of Denver Sturm College of Law | *Presenter*: Career Wellness: Confronting and Avoiding Self Sidelineing.

ALWD BIENNIAL CONFERENCE, Minneapolis, MN July 19-21, 2017
University of Minnesota School of Law | *Presenter*: White Doors, Black Footsteps: Leveraging “White Privilege”
for the Benefit of Law Students of Color, 21 J. GENDER, RACE & JUSTICE 37 (2017).

ROCKY MOUNTAIN LEGAL WRITING CONFERENCE, Phoenix, AZ Mar. 10-11, 2017
ASU Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law | *Presenter*: All I Really Need to Know About the Bluebook I Learned
in Grade School; *ALWD Scholars Forum Workshop Presenter*: Conscious Identity Performance.

U.S. ATTORNEY’S OFFICE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA, San Diego, CA Feb. 22, 2017
Invited Black History Month Panelist: The Crisis in Black Education.

LEGAL WRITING ONE-DAY CONFERENCE, San Diego, CA Dec. 2, 2016
California Western School of Law | *Co-Panelist*: Creating models for K-20 pipelines to law school to encourage
diverse populations to study law.

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES

UNIVERSITY OF UTAH-S.J. QUINNEY COLLEGE OF LAW

Hiring Committee (2023-present)

Curriculum Committee (2020-2023)

Faculty/Staff Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, & Accessibility (IDEA) Committee (2021-present)

Pipeline Program Committee, *Academic Program Director* (2021-present)

Inclusive Design & Design Justice (ID//DJ) Initiative (with Amy Collier) | Liaison for College of Law (2021)

Utah Law Review 2021 Symposium Faculty Co-Organizer, *#Includetheirstories: Rethinking, Reimagining and
Reshaping Legal Education*, Nov. 5-6, 2021 (drafted proposal submission, press blurb, and designed marketing
graphic). To view the symposium, visit: <https://www.youtube.com/hashtag/includetheirstories>