

Molly Fergusson

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University of Mississippi School of Law, Oxford, Mississippi

Professor of the Practice of Law, 2018 - present

Associate Professor of Practice, 2017- 2018

Legal Writing Specialist & Acting Assistant Professor of Law, 2001 to 2017

Current Courses of Instruction

- Legal Writing I: Teach fundamental concepts of legal reading, analysis, synthesis, citation, and objective writing through practice, feedback, multiple drafts, and individual conferences, focusing on state-based legal problems.
- Legal Writing II: Review fundamental concepts of legal reading, analysis, synthesis, and citation. Teach persuasive techniques for advocacy writing and oral argument through practice, feedback, individual conferences and workshops, focusing on federal-based legal problems.
- Contract Drafting and Negotiation: Teach introductory drafting and negotiation skills.

Previous Courses of Instruction

- Legal Research I & II: Taught first year students the fundamentals of legal research using print and online sources.
- Advanced Legal Writing: Worked with students to further develop skills in effective writing and analysis through extensive practice, feedback, and document review.
- Contract Drafting: Developed and taught course on fundamentals of contract drafting.
- Individualized Contract Drafting, Independent Study: Tailored the contract drafting course for five students from 2009-2015 and worked with them individually on the specific documents they were likely to encounter in their upcoming employment.
- Entertainment Transactions: Taught students how to research and register copyrights and trademarks, and draft specific entertainment contracts and license agreements for the film, television, and music industries.

Recent Publication

- Book Chapter: *Using Legal Writing Pedagogy to Enhance Teaching Across the Law School Curriculum*, Chapter One, in *Lawyering Skills in the Doctrinal Classroom* (Cap Press, 2021, T. Oltz, ed)

Service

- Adjunct Committee, 2021-2022
- Assessment Committee, 2021-2022
- Advisory Budget Committee, 2021-2022
- Ad Hoc Committee on Workload Policy, 2021
- Strategic Planning Committee, 2020-2021
- Advising Committee, 2018 - present
- Support & Research Faculty Promotion & Review Committee, 2017-present
- Faculty Advisor, Negotiation Board, 2017-2018, 2020-present
- Academic Reading Group for U.S. Supreme Court nomination of Justice Barrett, 2020
- Judge, Second Annual Southern Classic Trial Advocacy Competition, 2021
- Moderator, Mental Mindset panel for GLO, Entertainment and Sports Law Digital Summit, Fall 2020
- Member, SEC Race & Equity discussion group, 2020-2021
- Faculty Leader, learning Community on Resilient Pedagogy, 2020-2021
- Speakers & Faculty Scholarship Committee, 2018-2019
- Curriculum Committee, 2011-2018
- Coach, Pepperdine Entertainment Law Moot Court Competition, 2011 - 2016
- Ad Hoc Committee on Tenure and Promotion Policies, 2017
- University Task Force on Faculty Titles, Rights, & Responsibilities, 2014-2016
- Law School Rankings Committee, 2010-2012
- Ad Hoc Committee on Non-Tenure Track Promotion, 2010

Other Work Experience

Contract Attorney

2017-present

- Research and draft motions and briefs
- Draft and edit contracts and license agreements

Reporter, Mississippi Civil Procedure Rules Sub-Committee

2021-present

- Restyle Mississippi Rules of Civil Procedure & draft Advisory Committee Notes

Reviewer, Legal Writing in Plain English (3d ed.)

Fall, 2021

- Reviewed Bryan Garner's third edition of text, providing notes and edits

Fergusson Pitts, PLLC

Partner, 2007-2010

- Advised clients on entertainment, intellectual property, and business issues
- Registered trademarks and copyrights
 - Negotiated and drafted:
 - business formation documents
 - investor agreements
 - license agreements
 - literary author contracts
 - recording contracts
 - publishing agreements
 - artist agreements
 - releases for photographs and audiovisual works
 - distribution agreements
 - production agreements
 - management agreements
 - exclusive co-publishing agreements
 - songwriter agreements

McDavid & Associates, PC

Clerk/Associate, 2000-2007

- Researched and drafted pleadings for all stages of litigation in cases involving land use disputes, copyright infringement, and breach of contract
- Drafted business formation documents, employment contracts, & investor documents
- Registered trademarks and copyrights

Education

University of Mississippi School of Law

Oxford, Mississippi

Juris Doctor, May 2001

- *Mississippi Law Journal*, Associate Editor, Mississippi Cases
- Moot Court Board, Chairman, Moot Court Trial Competition
- *Journal of National Security Law*, Staff Editor
- Outstanding Student Award, Political and Civil Rights
- Outstanding Student Award: Natural Resources Law
- Girod Memorial Law Scholarship recipient
- Jeffrey P. Reynolds Environmental Law Scholarship recipient
- Stennis Remote Sensing and Space Law Center, Research Assistant
- Phi Delta Phi Legal Fraternity

Randolph-Macon Woman's College

Lynchburg, Virginia

Bachelor of Arts, May 1995 *Major: Philosophy*

University of Edinburgh

Edinburgh, Scotland

Junior Year Abroad, 1993-94 *Emphasis: Metaphysics and Aesthetics*

Professional and Community Involvement

Mississippi Civil Procedure Rules Sub-Committee

Reporter, 2021 -present

Legal Writing: The Journal of the Legal Writing Institute

Assistant Editor, Volume 22, Fall 2017

Mid-South Intellectual Property Institute

Steering Committee, 2011-present

- Assisted in organizing annual Intellectual Property Continuing Legal Education programs

Mississippi Bar, Intellectual Property Section

Chair, 2013 - 2014

Executive Board, 2009 – 2014

- Communicated with section members regarding updates in Intellectual Property and Continuing Legal Education Opportunities

Legal Communication & Rhetoric: JALWD, Volume 12

Peer Reviewer, Fall 2014

- Reviewed and edited articles for journal publication

The Lafayette Debates Online

Judge, 2013-2014

- Judged online debates for a year-long online and on-campus debate series organized in partnership with The French Embassy that culminated in an on-campus tournament at The George Washington University.

Oxford Film Festival

Executive Director, 2010-2015

Co-Director, 2003-2010

- Oversaw and managed annual festival
- Registered and maintained registrations with all required agencies
- Prepared application and secured 501c3 status
- Programmed content, developed and produced panel discussions
- Negotiated contracts and licenses including sponsorship, publicity, vendor, and production agreements
- Secured on-going funding for the festival
- Prepared and managed annual budget
- Fostered positive, productive relationships and teamwork among staff, board, and volunteers
- Spoke to community groups about festival programming and the economic impact of filmmaking and film festivals
- Participated in Industry events and panel discussions about the community impact of film festivals
- Cultivated and engaged diverse audiences and helped to build national recognition for the festival

Memberships & Associations

Mississippi Bar Association

Intellectual Property Section
Young Lawyer Division

American Bar Association

Intellectual Property Law Section
Legal Education Division
Forum on Entertainment & Sports Law

American Association of Law Schools

Section on Transactional Law & Skills

Legal Writing Institute

Diversity & Inclusion Committee, 2020-present

Association of Legal Writing Directors

Teaching Grants Committee, 2018

League of Women Voters

State Director

Chair of State Council, 2018

Master Gardeners

Intern, 2021-present