

COLIN M. BLACK

Associate Professor of Legal Writing

Director of Advocacy Programs | Suffolk University Law School

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TEACHING & ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL, Boston, Massachusetts

Associate Professor of Legal Writing (with tenure)

July 2026–Present

Associate Professor of Legal Writing

July 2019–June 2026

Visiting Professor of Legal Writing

July 2018–June 2019

Director, Advocacy Programs

2026–Present

Courses: Legal Practice Skills; Professional Responsibility; Generative AI and the Law; Generative AI and the Delivery of Legal Services.

Teaching and Program Leadership: Teach first-year Legal Practice Skills with emphasis on legal analysis, legal research, legal writing, oral advocacy, feedback, professional identity formation, and practice readiness. Teach upper-level courses addressing professional responsibility, legal ethics, generative artificial intelligence, and the evolving delivery of legal services.

Designed and directs Suffolk Law's Advocacy Programs initiative, coordinating and elevating advocacy-related curriculum, student organizations, experiential opportunities, and external competitions. The initiative creates an integrated pathway connecting Suffolk's nationally recognized Legal Practice Skills program with moot court, trial advocacy, dispute resolution, clinical opportunities, and professional advocacy development.

Service: Scholarship and Intellectual Engagement Committee (2025–2026); Academic Standing Committee (2019–Present); Admissions Committee (2019–2020, 2021–2023, 2025–2026); Clinical Committee (2020–2021); Teaching Committee (2021–2022); Ad Hoc Committee on Democracy and Rule of Law (2021–2023); Ad Hoc ABA Standard 303 Committee (2022–2023); Law Faculty Policy Committee (2023–Present); National Moot Court Team Faculty Advisor and Coach (2020–Present); Suffolk Law Veterans Association Faculty Advisor (2024–Present).

Recognition: Center for Teaching and Scholarly Excellence Thank-A-Prof Recognition (Fall 2018; Fall 2022).

BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, Boston, Massachusetts

Associate Director, Advocacy Programs

October 2005–January 2007

Directed advocacy programs, conducted seminars on appellate advocacy, and advised students on the research and writing of appellate briefs and memoranda for use in interscholastic competitions.

EDUCATION

SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL, Boston, Massachusetts

Juris Doctor, cum laude (top 13%)

2001

- Vice President, Moot Court Honor Board
- Mock Trial Team and Moot Court Team
- Student Public Defender; represented indigent criminal defendants

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST, Amherst, Massachusetts

Bachelor of Arts, Legal Studies

1993

- Editor, Journal of Law and Society; Dean's List

PUBLICATIONS

Articles

- To Disclose or Not to Disclose the Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence in Law Practice*, 6 Proceedings 4 (2026).
- On Becoming a Lawyer: Authentic Professional Identity Formation and the Future of Legal Education*, 16 St. Mary's Journal on Legal Malpractice & Ethics 341 (2026).
- Renewing Our Vows: The Lawyer's Oath and Our Pledge to Democracy*, 22 Rutgers Journal of Law & Public Policy 1 (2024).
- The Rise and Fall of the Mental Health Inquiry for Bar Admission*, 50 Capital University Law Review 537 (2022).
- "Shooting an Elephant" — Massachusetts Maintains Reasonable Suspicion: Protecting Individual Privacy During Traffic Stops and Battling Racial Profiling*, Suffolk Journal of Trial & Appellate Advocacy (2001).

Professional Publications

- Supreme Court Rules Valid Contractual Limitations Period*, Design and Construction Management Professional Reporter (2013).
- Appellate Court Upholds Contractual Provisions Establishing Date of Accrual for Cause of Action*, Design and Construction Management Professional Reporter (Nov.–Dec. 2003).

Blog Posts & Online Publications

- Charting a (New) Course: Generative AI for Lawyers*, Legal Writing Matters Blog (Feb. 2024) (with Dyane O'Leary).
- AI: It's Just a Shiny New Hammer in Your Legal Toolkit*, Legal Writing Matters Blog (Aug. 2023).
- Seven Tips to "Slay" Your Oral Argument*, Legal Writing Matters Blog (May 2020).
- The Importance of Goal Setting*, Legal Writing Matters Blog (Oct. 2019).
- Legal Writing Pet Peeves from the Trenches*, Legal Writing Matters Blog (Nov. 2018).

SPEAKING & PRESENTATIONS

- Don't Ask, Do Tell: Generative AI and the Delivery of Legal Services*, Legal Writing Institute Second Annual AI & Legal Skills Conference: Innovation, Impact, & Integrity (June 2026) (with Dyane O'Leary).
- Disclosing AI in Practice*, Empire State Legal Writing Conference, Fordham University, New York, New York (May 2026).
- GenAI Ethical Concerns*, Thomson Reuters Faculty AI Webinar (Apr. 2026) (with Dyane O'Leary).
- Professional Identity Formation in the First Year*, St. Mary's Annual Symposium on Legal Ethics & Malpractice, San Antonio, Texas (Jan. 2026) (keynote speaker).
- Generative AI and Legal Practice*, New England Bar Association Annual Meeting (Nov. 2025).
- Disclosing AI Use: Ethical Obligations Triggered by Generative AI Use*, New England Legal Writing Conference, Vermont Law and Graduate School (Sept. 2025).
- Ethical Considerations for Lawyers Using GenAI*, Rocky Mountain Legal Writing Conference (Mar. 2025).
- Moot Court and Generative AI*, Legal Writing Institute One-Day Conference, Boston University School of Law, Boston, Massachusetts (Nov. 2024) (panelist).
- Ethical Considerations of Generative AI Use in Law*, LMU Law Review Symposium (Oct. 2024) (panelist).

Generative AI Use in Law, Southeastern Association of Law Schools Annual Conference (July 2024) (panelist).

Generative AI and the Law, Southeastern Association of Law Schools Annual Conference (July 2024) (discussant).

Generative AI in Practice, Legal Marketing Association, Sullivan & Worcester LLP, Boston, Massachusetts (Nov. 2023) (panelist).

Generative AI and the Law, Association of Legal Writing Directors Biennial Conference, University of California, Irvine, California (July 2023) (panelist).

Values-Based Professional Development, Legal Writing Institute One-Day Conference, Nova Southeastern University, Fort Lauderdale, Florida (Dec. 2022).

Professional Success, FaculTEAS Podcast (Fall 2022) (guest).

Success Planning in the First-Year Writing Program, Legal Writing Institute Biennial Conference, Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, D.C. (July 2022).

Association of Legal Writing Directors Virtual Front Porch, Online program (Apr. 2022) (panel coordinator).

Linking Litigation to Transactional Writing, Legal Writing Institute One-Day Conference, University of Florida Levin College of Law, Gainesville, Florida (Dec. 2021).

Competency, Mental Health, and the Bar Exam, Professional Responsibility, Suffolk University Law School (Sept. 2021) (guest speaker).

Advanced Persuasive Writing, Suffolk Housing Discrimination Clinical Program (Sept. 2021) (guest speaker).

Ten Mindfulness Techniques for the Classroom, Legal Writing Institute Biennial Conference, online (July 2020) (poster presentation).

Making Moot Court Matter, Southeastern Association of Law Schools Annual Conference, online (July 2020) (discussant).

Success Workshop, Fourth Conference on Positive Psychology in Legal Education, Suffolk University Law School (June 2020).

Goal Setting Workshop, Rocky Mountain Legal Writing Conference, Tucson, Arizona (Mar. 2020) (conference postponed).

Success Planning, Wellness Wednesday, Suffolk University Law School (Oct. 2019).

Legal Citation, Doctor of Juridical Science Program, Suffolk University Law School (Sept. 2019) (guest lecturer).

Using Gratitude and Reflection in a First-Year Writing Course, Third Conference on Positive Psychology in Legal Education, Suffolk University Law School (June 2019).

Mediation: Tips and Strategies for Clients, Donovan Hatem Client Luncheon Series (Jan. 2017) (with Judge Nancy Holtz).

Legal Trends in Architecture and Engineering Liability, Donovan Hatem Roundtable (Aug. 2016) (panelist).

Advanced Legal Writing for the Junior Associate, Donovan Hatem Professional Development Series (Aug. 2013).

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

DONOVAN HATEM LLP, Boston, Massachusetts

Partner and Director of Professional Development

October 2012–June 2018

Associate

August 2003–October 2005

Negotiated and litigated business disputes, including employment matters, professional malpractice claims, and contract and negligence actions. Served as employment-law panel counsel for a multinational insurance company. Advised business clients on risk management and risk avoidance. Supervised and mentored associates, law clerks, and paralegals, and designed professional development programming.

DROHAN TOCCHIO & MORGAN, P.C., Hingham, Massachusetts

Senior Associate

April 2007–August 2012

Negotiated and litigated contract, franchise, real estate, noncompetition, discrimination, and wage-law disputes. Advised and defended companies in breach-of-contract and employment litigation.

SULLIVAN & WORCESTER LLP, Boston, Massachusetts

Associate

September 2002–August 2003

Summer Associate

Summer 2000

Drafted pleadings, discovery, and summary judgment materials in complex employment and business litigation. Researched employment, corporate, and tax issues.

MASSACHUSETTS APPEALS COURT, Boston, Massachusetts

Law Clerk to the Honorable James F. McHugh III

September 2001–August 2002

MILITARY SERVICE

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE,

Intelligence Analyst

March 1994–March 2002

Active-duty service from 1994 to 1998, with total service through 2002. Held a Top Secret/Sensitive Compartmented Information clearance (inactive).

Decorations and Awards: Air Force Commendation Medal; Air Force Achievement Medal; Good Conduct Medal; National Defense Service Medal; Air Force Longevity Service Award; Outstanding Military Volunteer Service Medal; Honor Graduate Ribbon; Honorable Discharge.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE & ACADEMIC ASSOCIATIONS

LEGAL WRITING INSTITUTE (LWI)

Programs Committee	2026-Present
Gen AI Committee	2026-Present
Executive Committee	2024–2026
Awards Committee, Chair	2022–2024
New Member Outreach Committee	2020–2022
Member	2018–Present

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN LAW SCHOOLS (AALS)

Section on Legal Writing, Reasoning, and Research: Executive Committee (2024–2026); Nominations Committee (2021–2022); Program Committee (2019–2021); Member (2018–Present).

Section on Balance in Legal Education: Member (2020–Present).

Section on New Law Professors: Member (2020–Present).

ASSOCIATION OF LEGAL WRITING DIRECTORS (ALWD)

Leadership and Development Committee

2021–2022

Member

2019–Present

BAR ADMISSIONS

Commonwealth of Massachusetts, 2002

United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit, 2002

United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts, 2002