

SAMANTHA ALEXIS MOPPETT

Professor of Legal Writing
Associate Director of Legal Practice Skills
Suffolk University Law School
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TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Suffolk University Law School, Boston, Massachusetts

Associate Director of Legal Practice Skills, July 2016-present

Assist with the hiring, training, and review of LPS adjuncts, LPS visitors, and new LPS faculty; coordinate research instruction, training, and assessments; and assist with refinements to the LPS curriculum.

Professor of Legal Writing, July 2010-present

Associate Professor of Legal Writing, July 2005-June 2010

Instructor, July 1997-June 1999; July 2002-June 2005

Teach a required first year, year-long course that covers legal research, analysis, writing, and oral advocacy. Instruct students on how to research legal issues, write office memoranda, draft client letters, and write legal memoranda in support of or in opposition to trial motions. Counsel students on their writing proficiency in one-on-one conferences.

Acting Director of Legal Practice Skills, July-December 2018, July-December 2025

Coordinated legal research and writing program during Director's sabbatical. Supervised five full-time LPS professors, three visitors, and four adjuncts. Responsibilities included hiring new LPS faculty; developing the syllabi; creating teaching materials; overseeing objective memorandum problems, the research exam, and the capstone; and handling all student issues within program.

Arizona State University College of Law, Tempe, Arizona

Visiting Legal Writing Professor, June-July 2004

Taught Intensive Legal Research and Writing, an advanced, intensive research and writing course that provides students with analytical, research, and writing challenges. Met daily with each student to assign a new project and to provide critical feedback on prior assignments.

William S. Boyd School of Law, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Las Vegas, Nevada
Visiting Legal Writing Professor, May-August 2003

Taught Advanced Appellate Advocacy, a four-credit course in the final semester of a three-semester program. Covered legal writing, legal research, and professionalism, and introduced other lawyering skills. Instructed students in writing a brief and presenting an oral argument based on a complex, multi-issue case that was before the United States Supreme Court. In addition, counseled students on their writing proficiency during one-on-one conferences.

Arizona State University College of Law, Tempe, Arizona
Legal Writing Professor, August 1999-May 2002

Taught the first-year legal writing and methods course, an Appellate Advocacy course, an Intensive Legal Research and Writing course, and an Advanced Legal Writing course. Counseled students on their writing proficiency during one-on-one conferences. Participated in the development of the new legal writing program and assisted in transition from a student-based program to a program taught by full-time professors. In addition, assumed administrative duties of legal writing director while director was on leave and was responsible for the oversight of the legal writing department.

COURSES TAUGHT

Advanced Appellate Advocacy	Legal Method and Writing
Advanced Legal Writing	Legal Practice Skills
The Canby Competition: Appellate Advocacy	Legal Research and Writing
Intensive Legal Research and Writing	

AWARDS

ALWD Outstanding Service Award 2023—presented to “ALWD committee members who have gone above and beyond this year and who deserve our recognition and our gratitude”

ALWD Outstanding Service Award 2019—presented to “ALWD committee members who have gone above and beyond this year and who deserve our recognition and our gratitude”

2017 Rocky Mountain Award—presented “[f]or contributions beyond measure to the Rocky Mountain Legal Writing Community”

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

LEGAL WRITING: PROCESS, ANALYSIS, AND ORGANIZATION (9th ed. 2025) (with Linda H. Edwards)

LEGAL WRITING AND ANALYSIS (6th ed. 2023) (with Linda H. Edwards)

MINDFUL LAWYERING: THE KEY TO CREATIVE PROBLEM SOLVING (2018) (with Shailini George & Kathleen Elliott Vinson)

ALWD COMPANION (2d ed. 2013) (coauthor) (online format)

NAVIGATING THE INTERNET: LEGAL RESEARCH ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB (2000) (with Herbert N. Ramy)

ARTICLES

Preparing Students for the Artificial Intelligence Era: The Crucial Role of Critical Thinking Skills, 52 MITCHELL HAMLINE L. REV. 240 (2025)

Channel Your Inner Kindergartner: Fostering a Culture Conducive to Creativity in Legal Practice, 47 MITCHELL HAMLINE L. REV. 686 (2021),
https://mhlawreview.org/law_review_article/channel-your-inner-kindergartner-fostering-a-culture-conducive-to-creativity-in-legal-practice/

Digital Pro Bono: Leveraging Technology to Provide Access to Justice, 92 ST. JOHN'S L. REV. 551 (2018) (with Kathleen Elliott Vinson)

Closing the Legal Aid Gap One Research Question at a Time, 8 HLRe 15 (2017),
<http://www.houstonlawreview.org/hlre-off-the-record/> (with Kathleen Elliott Vinson)

Lawyering Outside the Box: Confronting the Creativity Crisis, 37 S. ILL. U. L.J. 253 (2013)

Control-Alt-Incomplete? Using Technology to Assess "Digital Natives," 12 CHI.-KENT J. INTELL. PROP. L. 77 (2013)

Think It, Draft It, Post It: Creating Legal Poster Presentations, 18 LEGAL WRITING: J. LEGAL WRITING INST. 339 (2012)

Acknowledging America's First Sovereign: Incorporating Tribal Justice Systems into the Legal Research and Writing Curriculum, 35 OKLA. CITY U. L. REV. 267 (2010)

Heading the Reader in the Write Direction, MASS. LAWYERS WKLY., May 4, 2009, at 21

Wiki While You Work: Incorporating Wikis in the Classroom, SECOND DRAFT: BULL. LEGAL WRITING INST. 23: no. 2 (Feb. 2009)

Research Diagnostics: An Interactive Assessment Tool, SECOND DRAFT: BULL. LEGAL WRITING INST. 22: no. 2 (Jan. 2008)

Library Research Labs: A Hands-On Approach to Taking the First Step with Your Students to Reflect Good Practice in Legal Education, 14:2 PERSPECTIVES: TEACHING LEGAL RES. & WRITING (Feb. 2006) (with Rick Buckingham)

Three Views of Visiting, SECOND DRAFT: BULL. OF THE LEGAL WRITING INST. 18: no. 2 (June 2004) (with James Levy & Terrill Pollman)

Extending Eighth Amendment Protections to Prisoners Involuntarily Exposed to Unreasonable Levels of Environmental Tobacco Smoke, 28 SUFFOLK U. L. REV. 200 (1994)

The Age Discrimination in Employment Act Preempts State Regulation of Public Employees on the Basis of Age, 28 SUFFOLK U. L. REV. 856 (1994)

Warrantless Airport Luggage Search Constitutional When Conducted Subsequent to Establishment of Probable Cause and Continual Disclaimer of Ownership, 28 SUFFOLK U. L. REV. 872 (1994)

PODCASTS

Presenter of *Introduction to Citation*, Suffolk University Law School's Legal Practice Skills Weekly Legal Writing Tips Podcast Series, <https://suensemble.suffolk.edu/Playlist/Ta46SwFq>

Presenter of *Primary Authority*, Suffolk University Law School's Legal Research Refresher Podcast Series, <https://suensemble.suffolk.edu/Playlist/Ta46SwFq>

Presenter of *Email Etiquette*, Suffolk University Law School's Legal Practice Skills Weekly Legal Writing Tips Podcast Series, <https://suensemble.suffolk.edu/Playlist/Ta46SwFq>

BLOG POSTS

Beyond Dual Sovereignty: Tribal Justice Systems in the American Legal System, LEGAL WRITING MATTERS (May 20, 2025), <https://sites.suffolk.edu/legalwritingmatters/2025/05/20/beyond-dual-sovereignty-tribal-justice-systems-in-the-american-legal-system/>

The Importance of Critical Thinking in the Age of AI, LEGAL WRITING MATTERS (Apr. 28, 2025), <https://sites.suffolk.edu/legalwritingmatters/2025/04/28/the-importance-of-critical-thinking-in-the-age-of-ai/>.

Research Blitz, LEGAL WRITING MATTERS (June 22, 2018), <https://sites.suffolk.edu/legalwritingmatters/2018/06/22/research-blitz/>.

Addressing the Access-to-Justice Crisis, LEGAL WRITING MATTERS (May 1, 2017), <https://sites.suffolk.edu/legalwritingmatters/2017/06/01/legal-writing-matters-addressing-the-access-to-justice-crisis/>.

Four Tips for Encouraging Creativity in Law Students, THE ROAD TO 1L (Sept. 23, 2015), <http://theroadto1l.blogs.law.suffolk.edu/general/legal-writing-matters-4-tips-for-encouraging-creativity-in-law-students/>

ONLINE TEACHING MATERIALS

Closing the Legal Aid Gap: An Exercise on Collaborative Researching, TEACHING LEGAL WRITING: OUT OF THE BOX IDEAS INSIDE (forthcoming 2017), <http://www.stetson.edu/law/academics/lrw/teaching-legal-writing.php?ad=20160702>
(with Kathleen Elliott Vinson)

PRESENTATIONS

Teaching Oral Argument Skills in LRW, LWI New Member Outreach Committee Roundtable (March 5, 2025) (panelist)

Feedback that Sticks: Enhancing Your Critiquing Skills, LWI New Member Outreach Committee Roundtable (September 25, 2024) (panelist)

LRW Classroom Activities | Citation, LWI New Teacher Training Bootcamp (July 10, 2024) (panelist)

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LRW Classroom Activities | Citation, LWI New Teacher Training Bootcamp (August 3, 2023) (panelist)

Should Writing an Appellate Brief Be Included in the Standard 1L LRW Curriculum, Association of Legal Writing Directors Conference, University of California, Irvine School of Law, Irvine, California (July 2023) (panelist) (forthcoming)

One-By-One: Developing Student Professional Identity through Individual Outreach, Southeastern Association of Law Schools Conference, Florida (2022) (discussant)

LRW Classroom Activities | Citation, LWI New Teacher Training Bootcamp (July 14, 2022) (panelist)

The Mindful and Creative Lawyer, AALS Section on Balance in Legal Education (October 2019) (Zoom Presentation) (with Shailini George and Kathleen Elliott Vinson)

Diversity + Inclusion = Change, Southeastern Association of Law Schools Conference, Florida (2019) (discussant)

Restructuring Legal Education Discussion Group, Southeastern Association of Law Schools Conference, Florida (2019) (discussant)

“Creating” Scholars, Legal Writing Institute One-Day Workshop, University of Oregon School of Law, Eugene, Oregon (November 2018)

Virtual Legal Research Assistance as a Means to Provide Access to Justice, Eighteenth Biennial Conference of the Legal Writing Institute, Milwaukee, Wisconsin (July 2018) (with Kathleen Elliott Vinson)

Designing Legal Writing Problems Incorporating “Access to Justice,” Association of American Law Schools Annual Meeting, San Diego, California (January 2018) (panelist)

Time Warp: Time-Pressured Writing in the Classroom, New England Consortium of Legal Writing Teachers Regional Conference, University of Connecticut School of Law, Hartford, Connecticut (October 2017) (with Sabrina DeFabritiis, Dyane O’Leary, and Kathleen Elliott Vinson)

Get “Real”: *Collaborative Researching*, Southeast Regional Legal Writing Conference, Stetson University College of Law, Gulfport, Florida (April 2017) (with Kathleen Elliott Vinson)

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Maximizing the Creative Potential of Our Students, Sixteenth Annual Rocky Mountain Regional Legal Writing Conference, University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law, Tucson, Arizona (March 2016)

What Do I Have to Do Around Here to Get Published?, Association of Legal Writing Directors Conference, University of Memphis School of Law, Memphis, Tennessee (July 2015) (with Brooke Bowman, Terrill Pollman, Ruth Anne Robbins, & Karen Sneddon)

“Zooming” In: A Prezi Primer, Fifteenth Annual Rocky Mountain Regional Legal Writing Conference, University of New Mexico School of Law, Albuquerque, New Mexico (March 2015)

Teaching Tips for Advanced Research and Writing Courses, Legal Writing Institute One-Day Workshop, William S. Boyd School of Law, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Las Vegas, Nevada (December 2014) (with Jeanne Price & Melissa Bernstein)

When the Novice Becomes Master, New England Consortium of Legal Writing Teachers Regional Conference, Vermont Law School, South Royalton, Vermont (September 2014) (with Kathleen Elliott Vinson)

Frantic Frankie’s Faculty Talk or The Presenter’s Predicament, Sixteenth Biennial Conference of the Legal Writing Institute, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (June 2014) (with Tamara Herrera, Kimberly Holst, Amy Langenfeld, & Chad Noreuil)

Creativity, the Changing Legal Landscape, and Legal Writing’s Role in Fostering and Modeling Innovation, Plenary Presentation at the Fourteenth Annual Rocky Mountain Regional Legal Writing Conference, William S. Boyd School of Law, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Las Vegas, Nevada (March 2014) (with Ellie Margolis)

From Watching Paint Dry to Painting a Masterpiece: Exercises and Ideas for Teaching (Boring) Subject Matter, Thirteenth Annual Rocky Mountain Regional Legal Writing Conference, University of Colorado Law School, Boulder, Colorado (March 2013) (with Lisa Healy)

Plotting the Elements for the Seven Principles of Good Practice in Legal Education: Using Research Labs to Foster Periodic Assessments and Hands-On Learning, Poster Presentation selected by the Association of American Law Schools Section on Legal Writing, Reasoning, and Research, Association of American Law Schools Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana (January 2013) (with Sabrina DeFabritiis)

Control-Alt-Incomplete? Using Technology to Assess “Digital Natives,” Twelfth Annual Rocky Mountain Regional Legal Writing Conference, Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law, Arizona State University College of Law, Tempe, Arizona (March 2012)

E²: Efficient and Effective Feedback, Legal Writing Institute One-Day Workshop, Northeastern University School of Law, Boston, Massachusetts (December 2011)

Think It, Draft It, Post It: Creating Legal Poster Presentations, Eleventh Annual Rocky Mountain Regional Legal Writing Conference, William S. Boyd School of Law, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Las Vegas, Nevada (March 2011)

Teaching the Third Sovereign: How and Why to Include Tribal Nations and Courts in Legal Writing Courses, Fourteenth Biennial Conference of the Legal Writing Institute, Marco Island, Florida (June 2010) (with Tonya Kowalski)

Acknowledging America's First Sovereign: Incorporating Tribal Justice Systems Into the Legal Research and Writing Curriculum, Poster Presentation selected by the Association of American Law Schools Section on Legal Writing, Reasoning, and Research, Association of American Law Schools Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana (January 2010)

Wiki While You Work: Incorporating Wikis in the Classroom, New England Consortium of Legal Writing Teachers Regional Conference, Suffolk University Law School, Boston, Massachusetts (December 2008)

Workshop on Critiquing Student Works, Small Group Leader, Thirteenth Biennial Conference of the Legal Writing Institute, Indianapolis, Indiana (July 2008)

Innovative Teaching Techniques, New England Consortium of Legal Writing Teachers Regional Conference, Vermont Law School, South Royalton, Vermont (December 2007) (with Joan Blum and Tracy Bach)

Workshop on Critiquing Student Works, Small Group Leader, Twelfth Biennial Conference of the Legal Writing Institute, Atlanta, Georgia (June 2006)

Empowering Your Audience: Removing the Mental Gymnastics from the Reading Process, Sixth Annual Rocky Mountain Regional Legal Writing Conference, University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law, Tucson, Arizona (March 2006) (with Kathleen Elliott Vinson)

Research Labs: A Hands-On Approach to Taking the First Step with Your Students, Fifth Annual Rocky Mountain Regional Legal Writing Conference, Arizona State University College of Law, Tempe, Arizona (March 2005) (with Shailini George)

Workshop on Critiquing Student Works, Small Group Leader, Eleventh Biennial Conference of the Legal Writing Institute, Seattle University, Seattle, Washington (July 2004)

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Developing a Theme or Theory of the Case, Fourth Annual Rocky Mountain Regional Legal Writing Conference, William S. Boyd School of Law, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Las Vegas, Nevada (March 2004) (with Lisa Healy)

Legal Ethics Orientation, Suffolk University Law School STRIVE Program (August 2003)

Incorporating the Tribal Legal System into the First-Year Legal Research and Writing Curriculum, Second Annual Rocky Mountain Regional Legal Writing Conference, Arizona State University College of Law, Tempe, Arizona (March 2002)

BOOK REVIEWER

Solicited by Wolters Kluwer Law & Business to review *Preparing for Practice* by Amy Vorenberg

Solicited by Wolters Kluwer Law & Business to review *Putting Skills into Practice: Legal Problem Solving and Writing for New Lawyers* by Daniel L. Barnett

Solicited by Wolters Kluwer Law & Business to review *The Art of Advocacy: Briefs, Motions, and Writing Strategies of America's Best Lawyers* by Noah Messing

LAW SCHOOL COMMITTEE WORK

- Ad Hoc Committee on Preparation for Practice (2024-2025)
- Ad Hoc Law School Handbook Committee (2014-2015)
- Administrative/Disciplinary Committee (2013-2014)
- Appointments Committee (2019-2020)
- Budget Committee (2017-2018, 2018-2019)
- Clerkship/FYSIP Committee (2010-2013; 2020-2021; 2023-2024)
- Curriculum Committee (2013-2016); Co-chair (2014-2015); Co-chair of the First-Year Curriculum Committee (2013-2014); Chair, Innovative 1L Courses Subcommittee (2015-2016)
- Diversity Committee—Co-chair (2017-2018); member (Spring 2019)
- Grading Policy Committee (2023-2024)
- Honors and Awards Committee—Fellowship Sub-committee co-chair—John E. Fenton Jr. Public Service Awards Committee (member 2013-2019; chair 2020-2025)
- Faculty Review Committee (2018-2025)
- Finance and Budget Committee (2016-2017)
- Law Faculty Policies and Procedures (2024-2025)
- Library Planning and Assessment Committee (2023-2024)
- LPS Policy/Academic Support Committee (2011-2013)

- LPS Committee (Fall 2018; 2020-2023)
- Minority Enrollment Committee (2009-2011)
- Scholarship Enrichment Committee (2011-2013)
- Strategic Planning Committee (2012-2014)
- Suffolk University Law School Law Review Fiftieth Anniversary Committee (2016-2017)
- Supplemental Tenure Committee for ASP/LPS Faculty (2013-2016)
- Teaching Committee (2015-2018; 2020-2021)
- Technology and Legal Education Committee (2010-2011)
- Tenure Committee (2024-2026)
- Website Innovation and Social Networking Committee (2010-2012)

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Bar Association

- Member

Association of American Law Schools Section on Legal Writing, Reasoning, and Research

- Member, Program Committee, 2025-2026
- Member, Nominations Committee, 2024-2025
- Member, Program Committee, 2023-2024
- Member, Program Committee, 2022-2023
- Member, Executive Committee, 2021-2022
- Member, Program Committee, 2020-2021
- Member, Outreach Committee, 2019-2020
- Member, Nominations Committee, 2018-2019
- Co-chair, Nominations Committee, 2017-2018
- Co-chair, Nominations Committee, 2016-2017
- Member, Program Committee, 2015-2016
- Member, Awards Committee, 2014-2015
- Co-chair, Program Committee, 2012-2013
- Member, Program Committee, 2011-2012
- Chair, Poster Committee, 2010-2011
- Member, Awards Committee, 2009-2010
- Member, Nominations Committee, 2009-2010
- Chair, Poster Committee, 2008-2009
- Member, Website Committee, 2007-2008
- Member, Nominating Committee, 2006-2007

Association of American Law Schools Section on Teaching Methods

- Member, Program Committee, 2017-2018
- Member, Poster Committee, 2011-2012
- Chair, Poster Committee, 2010-2011

Association of Legal Writing Directors

- Co-chair, ALWD Conference Program Committee, 2023-2024, 2024-2025
- Chair, ALWD Conference Program Committee, 2022-2023
- Chair, ALWD Site Committee, 2020-2021
- Co-chair, ALWD Biennial Leadership Academy Sub-committee, 2020-2021
- ALWD Guide Task Force, 2019-2020, 2023-2024
- ALWD Conference Program Committee, 2018-2019
- ALWD Inaugural Leadership Academy, Host School Liaison
- Delegate, 2008-2009, 2015-present
- Blackwell Reception Committee, 2017-2018
- ALWD Conference Program Committee, 2016-2017, 2018-2019
- Visiting Scholars Committee, 2015-2016

Legal Writing Institute

- Member, New Members Committee, 2024-2025
- Member, LWI Bootcamp Committee, 2023, 2024, 2025
- Member, One-Day Workshop Committee, 2022-2023, 2023-2024, 2024-2025
- Member, LWI Awards Committee, 2020-2022
- Executive Board Member, 2012-2020
- Editorial Board Member, Monograph Series, March 2014-present
- Secretary, 2014-2016
- Member *ex-officio*—2016 Legal Writing Institute Conference Program Committee
- Co-chair—2014 Legal Writing Institute Conference Program Committee
- Member—2012 Legal Writing Institute Conference Program Committee
- Editorial Board Member, *The Journal of the Legal Writing Institute*, July 2006-2014
- Editor, *The Second Draft*, August 2005-June 2010
- Assistant Editor, *The Journal of the Legal Writing Institute*, July 2004-July 2006
- Member, 1998-present

National Moot Court Competition

- Brief Coordinator, Northeast Regional Round of the Sixty-Second Annual National Moot Court Competition, Suffolk University Law School (Fall 2011)
- Co-coordinator, Northeast Regional Round of the Fifty-Fifth Annual National Moot Court Competition, Suffolk University Law School (Fall 2004)

New England Legal Writing Consortium

- Web-site Chair, Third Annual New England Legal Writing Consortium

Scribes–The American Society of Writers on Legal Subjects

- Member

SALT–Society of American Law Teachers

- Member

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Lane Altman & Owens, LLP, Boston, Massachusetts

Associate, September 1996-July 1997

Interviewed clients, drafted pleadings, conducted discovery, argued motions, attended pre-trial conferences, and assisted at trial in federal and state courts. Represented clients in cases filed at the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination. Caseload included employment discrimination, civil rights, and personal injury matters.

Superior Court of Massachusetts

Law Clerk to the Justices, September 1995-August 1996

Assisted Justices in all phases of civil and criminal litigation: prepared draft decisions, legal memoranda, and proposed jury instructions; worked extensively with Justices on trials, hearings, and motion sessions.

Superior Court of Massachusetts

Judicial Intern for Judge Isaac Borenstein, September 1994-May 1995

Responsibilities included extensive legal research and writing and conferencing with Judge Borenstein regarding pending cases. Attended court proceedings in both criminal and civil sessions.

Petrucelly & Nadler, P.C., Boston, Massachusetts

Law Clerk, May-August 1994

Conducted extensive legal research; wrote appellate briefs and motions; drafted complaints, answers, and other pleadings; and participated in discovery in support of civil litigation.

Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination, Boston, Massachusetts

Legal Intern, January-April 1994

Assisted in the discovery, research, and preparation of discrimination cases for public hearing.

BAR MEMBERSHIP

Massachusetts
United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts

EDUCATION

Suffolk University Law School, Boston, Massachusetts

Juris Doctor, *cum laude*, May 1995

Honors: Suffolk University Law Review, Comment Editor 1994-95, Staff Member 1993-94

Corpus Juris Secundum Award, Criminal Law 1992-93

American Jurisprudence Award, Criminal Law 1992-93

Distinguished Brief in First Year Best Brief Section Competition 1993

Dean's List 1992-95

Bucknell University, Lewisburg, Pennsylvania

Bachelor of Arts, *magna cum laude*, June 1991

Double Major: Economics & History

Concentration: Management

Honors: Dean's List eight semesters

Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society

Phi Eta Sigma Honor Society

Phi Alpha Theta Honor Society