

Allison D. Cato
California Western School of Law
225 Cedar Street
San Diego, CA 92101

EDUCATION

University of Southern California Law Center
Juris Doctor, May 1991

Honors

American Jurisprudence Awards: Evidence and Commercial Law
Highest Honors: Professional Responsibility
High Honors: Evidence, Commercial Law, Environmental Law
Honors Grades: Ten courses

Third Year Dissertation: *National Endowment for the Arts
And Funding of Controversial Works and Exhibitions, Particularly the
Work of Photographer Robert Mapplethorpe*
(Advisor: Prof. Erwin Chemerinsky)

University of Southern California

Bachelor of Arts degree with double major in Print Journalism and
International Relations, May 1988
G.P.A.: 3.80

Honors

Graduated Magna Cum Laude
Phi Beta Kappa
Phi Kappa Phi (Top 5% of graduating class)
Dean's List (All four years)
Freshman Writing Program Honors List (Top 10% of class)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

California Western School of Law

San Diego, California (Professor, August 2008-present; Director of Legal
Skills, January 2020--present)

Courses Taught: Legal Skills I and II, California Civil Procedure,
Introduction to Legal Skills-Legal Writing, STEPPS, and Externship
Seminar. Teach legal research, legal writing, oral advocacy and advanced
legal skills subjects. Lecture, develop course content, prepare course
materials, grade and comment upon research outlines, memoranda and
briefs, among other papers. Teach upper division course on California Civil
Procedure. Also oversee scholarly writing assignments for upper division
students, including law review notes and comments. Use over fifteen years
experience practicing law to teach and guide students working in clinical
externships.

Publication (Book Chapter): *Critical Success Factors: Control and Thorough Preparation, in* INSIDE THE MINDS, COURTROOM STRATEGIES: LEADING LAWYERS ON PREPARING FOR A CASE, ARGUING BEFORE A JURY AND QUESTIONING WITNESSES (2008).

Presentations:

Assisted in Organization and Presentations at Legal Writing Institute One-Day Workshop for Legal Writing Instructors, California Western School of Law, San Diego, California, December 2014.

"Less Talk. More Teach. Creating Effective and Incremental Writing and Research Exercises Designed to Maximize Student Learning and Confidence," Rocky Mountain Legal Writing Conference, William S. Boyd School of Law at UNLV, Las Vegas, Nevada, March 2011.

"Grading Papers and Handling Student Conferences," Legal Writing Institute One-Day Workshop for Legal Writing Instructors, California Western School of Law, San Diego, California, December 2010.

"Teaching Law Students the STEPPS to Exercising Ethical, Independent Problem Solving," Rocky Mountain Legal Writing Conference, James Rogers College of Law, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona, March 2010.

Appointments and Activities:

Executive Director of Consortium of Innovative Legal Education (CILE) January 1, 2016- December 31, 2018. CILE was a cooperative model for legal education consisting of four independent ABA and AALS-accredited American law schools.

Elected CWSL delegate for Association of American Law Schools Conference 2016 and 2017.

Appointed as CWSL Faculty Advisor to Law Review and International Law Journal, 2014-2015 Academic Year.

Chairperson of Diversity Committee (2009-2010) and led development of CWSL Diversity Statement.

Attended Association of American Law Schools Conference (San Diego, January 2009 and New York City, January 2016) and National Conference for Race and Ethnicity in Higher Education (NCORE) (San Diego, May 2009).

Member of the Association of Legal Writing Directors and the Legal Writing Institute.

Appointed to various faculty committees at CWSL each year.

Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves and Savitch, LLP

San Diego, California (Partner, 2000-2008; Associate, 1994-1999)

Business and Real Estate Litigation/Trial Attorney. Involved in all aspects of pre-trial and trial work, including pre-litigation counseling, initial case analysis, formulating litigation strategy, discovery, law and motion, and handling trial. Trial attorney with extensive experience trying cases before juries, judges and arbitrators. Also involved in litigation team administration, associate mentoring, and recruitment of new attorneys.

Hawkins, Schnabel, Lindahl and Beck

Los Angeles, California (Associate, 1991-1993)

Involved in all aspects of civil litigation (defense) in the areas of commercial law, professional liability (particularly legal malpractice defense), bad faith and products liability.

Summer Associate, Brobeck, Phleger and Harrison (1990) and Bonne, Jones, Bridges (1989)

Professional Associations and Activities (while practicing law):

Member of Lawyers Club of San Diego; mentored attorneys for achieving career goals and work/life balance.

Member of San Diego County Bar Association.

Member of Association of Business Trial Lawyers.

Member of American Inns of Court (Welsh Chapter); presented on various topics for continuing education of attorneys in community, including legal ethics issues.

Volunteer at Domestic Violence Clinic, assisting individuals obtain TROs.