

Professor Maureen Johnson

University of Connecticut School of Law

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Maureen Johnson is an assistant clinical professor at UConn School of Law, where she teaches legal writing. She previously visited at William S. Boyd School of Law at UNLV, currently ranked by U.S. News as the top legal writing department in the nation. Maureen began her teaching career at Loyola Law School, Los Angeles, which also routinely has been ranked as a top-tier legal writing department. Maureen has authored five published law review articles. The bulk of her legal scholarship focusses on the intersection of social and legal rhetoric, with an emphasis on civil rights and antiracism. Maureen has substantial litigation experience, including working for six years at two worldwide law firms, Mayer Brown and Kaye Scholer LLP. She also worked at a boutique Beverly Hills plaintiff-side law firm where she focused almost exclusively on appellate work and major law and motion practice. One of the appeals she drafted and argued—*Global Hawk v. Le*—was favorably resolved and certified for publication by the First District of the California Court of Appeal.

PUBLICATIONS

“That Little Girl Was Me”—Kamala Harris and the Civil Whites of 1964 and Beyond, 44:2 Cardozo L. Rev. 667 (2022).

Separate But (Un)Equal: Why Institutionalized Anti-Racism is the Answer to the Never-Ending Cycle of Plessy v. Ferguson, 52:2 U. Rich. L. Rev. 327 (2018).

Trickle-Down Bullying and the Truly Great American Response: Can Responsible Rhetoric Help Heal a Divided Nation? 25:4 Am. U.J. Gender Soc. Pol’y & L. 445 (2017).

You Had Me At Hello: Examining the Impact of Powerful Introductory Emotional Hooks Set Forth in Appellate Briefs Filed in Recent Hotly-Contested U.S. Supreme Court Opinions, 49 Ind. L. Rev. 397 (2016).

To Quote or Not to Quote: Making the Case for Teaching Law Students the Art of Effective Quotation in Legal Memoranda, 56 S. Tex. L. Rev. 283 (2015).

The Silver Lining: Will McCain’s Legacy be America’s Rejection of Partisanship Politics? LLS Summary Judgment Faculty Blog, Op. Ed. (August 29, 2018)

Time to revive the Democratic-Republican Party? The Los Angeles Daily Journal, Op. Ed. (July 24, 2018)

Transgender service ban won't pass muster, The Los Angeles Daily Journal, Op. Ed. (Aug. 3, 2017)

Maureen Johnson, Legal scholarship highlight: You had me at hello – Examining the impact of powerful introductory emotional hooks in briefs in recent high-profile cases, SCOTUSblog (Apr. 7, 2016, 9:49 AM), <http://www.scotusblog.com/2016/04/legal-scholarship-highlight-you-had-me-at-hello-examining-the-impact-of-powerful-introductory-emotional-hooks-in-briefs-in-recent-high-profile-cases/>

The Los Angeles Daily Journal – *Analysis of Summer 2003 State Bar Performance Exam – Substantive Area of Law: Real Property (Sample Essay)*

ACADEMIC AND BAR REVIEW POSITIONS

University of Connecticut School of Law

(July 2020 – Present)

Assistant Clinical Professor of Law teaching in UConn's innovative 1L Legal Practice program, which includes multiple major legal writing assignments along with seven spring simulations to teach students how to interview and counsel clients. The 1L program also incorporates an intensive winter course on negotiation, which includes daily simulations employing various negotiation techniques. Maureen also has taught advanced legal writing in a summer session.

William S. Boyd School of Law at UNLV (July 2019 - June 2020)

Visiting Associate Clinical Professor teaching in UNLV's Lawyering Process Program, ranked by U.S. News as the number one legal writing department in the county. Teaching assignments focus on first-year legal writing, with a significant second-semester emphasis on persuasion and legal narrative.

Loyola Law School, Los Angeles

(August 2002 – June 2020)

Associate Clinical Professor teaching Legal Research & Writing and Ethical Lawyering (required courses). This course load requires significant one-on-one interaction with approximately seventy-five students per year. Prior to beginning full-time teaching in 2013, Maureen taught Legal Drafting as an Adjunct Professor for over a decade. This class included an overview of litigation strategy along and covered drafting many types of legal documents such as motions, discovery, settlement offers and deposition outlines.

BarWinners – Karney Writing Course

(March 2002 – January 2014)

Lecturer for state bar preparation course in the substantive areas of Civil Procedure (California/Federal), Real Property, Evidence, and the Performance Exam.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

[Upcoming] Ninth Biennial Applied Legal Storytelling Conference (London, July 26, 2023) *What Went Wrong (or Right!) with the Affirmative Action Cases: Taking Back the Narrative on a “Color-Blind” Constitution in College Admissions and Beyond* – This presentation debriefs the Supreme Court’s decision in *SFFA v. Harvard/UNC*. This decision has broad ramifications, including whether the United States Constitution truly is “color-blind” and whether there should be reduced scrutiny for race-conscious measures that advance racial equality.

[Upcoming] UConn Women’s Advance Conference (May 17, 2023) *The Legacy of Each Generation is Its Impact on the Next: An Examination of the Past, Present & Future of Antiracism in America* - This session, which includes an interactive workshop, examines the intersection of social and legal rhetoric regarding antiracism, beginning with the Civil Rights Act of 1964. What lessons can be learned from the past? Why was white America oblivious to conduct easily seen as racist under modern-day mores? What can we do today to change tomorrow?

People’s Parity Project – A Conversation: Affirmative Action (UConn Law Student Event – April 4, 2023) This live presentation will focus on the evolution of the social and legal rhetoric pertaining to affirmative action, as well as the pending Supreme Court cases (*SFFA v. Harvard/UNC*). The format will involve an opening overview that will include addressing pre-submitted student questions. The presentation will end with an open question and answer session and topic break-out groups.

2022 LWI One-Day Conference at Arizona State University, Sandra Day O’Conner College of Law (December 1, 2022) *Rebranding Affirmative Action: How Law Schools Can use Their Platforms to Promote Diversity, Regardless of the Outcome in the Pending UNC and Harvard Admission Cases* – Online presentation reflecting conference theme: *Teaching Social Justice and Legal Change in the Classroom*. Presentation included template for debunking myths about affirmative action and explaining the constitutionality and benefits flowing from individualized holistic review (IHR).

UConn University-Wide Town Hall – Reaffirming UConn’s Commitment to Diversity in Admissions: UConn’s Response to the U.S. Supreme Court Decisions *SFFA v. Harvard & UNC* (December 1, 2022) – Presentation at UConn’s Storrs Campus, live-streamed campus-wide. This presentation focused on taking back the narrative regarding affirmative action. This includes explaining individualized holistic review (IHR) and the constitutionality of equitable race-conscious measures.

UConn Trustee-Administration-Faculty-Student (TAFS) Meeting - Affirmative Action in Admissions: Preparing UConn for the U.S. Supreme Court Decisions

SFFA v. Harvard & UNC (November 16, 2022) – Targeted online panel presenting the legal implications and potential outcomes in the pending Admissions Cases heard by the Supreme Court on October 31, 2022. (Maureen also is scheduled to present at a targeted online panel on December 5, 2022 for the UConn Senate JEDI Committee.)

2022 ALWD Scholars’ Forum at the Rocky Mountain Regional Legal Writing Conference at Arizona State University, Sandra Day O’Conner College of Law (March 4, 2022). Presentation of a work-in-progress: *That Little Girl is Me: Kamala Harris and the Civil Whites of 1964 and Beyond*.

2019 Regional Training Conference – Office of the Solicitor, Department of Justice (June 26, 2019 - Kansas City) For-hire ninety-minute presentation targeting practitioners entitled: *This is Not Your Grandmother’s Brief: Persuasion in the Digital World, Mentoring, and the Magical World of Harry Potter*. The presentation included interactive exercises, specifically involving drafting Introductions and Statements of Facts.

14th Annual Journalist Law School, Loyola Law School, Los Angeles – Speed Dating with Faculty (June 8, 2019) Participation in a 90-minute meet-and-speak with high-profile journalists from top-tier national online and print news sources. These journalists are fellows at a week-long annual seminar hosted by Professor John Nockleby. The final event pairs journalists with faculty members in a revolving “speed-dating” format. Maureen’s areas of expertise were designated as: Supreme Court Process/Legal Writing.

2019 Rocky Mountain Legal Writing Conference at University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Boyd School of Law (March 15-16, 2019): *This is Not Your Grandmother’s Brief: Borrowing from Harry Potter to Teach Our Students Persuasion in the Magical World of Digital Filings*. The presentation covered how briefs of the future – which can instantly be fact-checked in terms of both evidence and legal authority - may serve to guide America back to the truth. The presentation also covered emerging persuasive techniques specifically geared to online readers.

2019 AALS LWRR Newer Scholars Showcase (AALS Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana) This presentation followed a peer-selection process highlighting articles written or published in 2018. Maureen was selected to present based upon her article: *Separate But (Un)Equal: Why Institutionalized Anti-Racism is the Answer to the Never-Ending Cycle of Plessy v. Ferguson* 52:2 U. Rich. L. Rev. 327 (2018).

2018 LWI One-Day Workshop at University of Louisville (Brandeis School of Law, December 8, 2018) This presentation was entitled: *The Social Justice Initiative: How the Legal Writing Academy Can Help Heal a Divided Nation*. Topics discussed included how law school legal writing departments can draft criteria whereby member schools may commit to pursuing projects reflecting institutionalized antiracism, specifically including teaching students how to write compelling narratives promoting social justice. Other topics include exploring and encouraging projects similar to the LeBron James Foundation’s “I Promise’ School,” done in conjunction with the University of Akron.

2018 Western Regional Legal Writing Conference at UC Irvine School of Law (September 28-29, 2018): This presentation was an earlier version of the presentation entitled: *This is Not Your Grandmother's Brief: Borrowing from Harry Potter to Teach Our Students Persuasion in the Magical World of Digital Filings*.

2018 LWI Biennial Conference at Marquette University Law School (July 11-14, 2018): Two presentations: Poster presentation entitled *EQ4ALL@[YourSchool]: Telling the Stories of Students, Staff, and Faculty Committed to Equality for All*, and a coffee-popcorn presentation entitled *Hear Me: Teaching Students to Use Responsible Rhetoric to Combat Implicit Bias & Promote Social Change*.

2018 Rocky Mountain Legal Writing Conference (March 23-24, 2018): *ExpressO Yourself: Finding Inner Peace and Enlightenment through Scholarship* – with co-presenter Lori Johnson (UNLV). A major goal was to motivate legal writing professors to not just teach writing, but to actually write themselves. Concrete tips related to navigating traditional scholarship routes, such as placing articles at top law reviews, and drafting other documents for publication, including op-eds.

2017 LWI One-Day Workshop at Golden Gate University (December 1, 2017): This presentation was entitled: *Smoothing the Transition from Objective to Persuasive Writing*. The focus was on explaining to students from the get-go how the skills they learn in objective writing translate and help prepare them for persuasive writing. In particular, this presentation discussed how the formal office memo – a cornerstone of 1L legal writing curriculum – can be taught in a manner that more directly prepares students for the skills that will need in real life, namely, writing powerful persuasive briefs.

2017 LC&R Social Media Panel and JALWD Facebook Discussion (November 29, 2017) Upon request by the LC&R Committee, moderation of a Facebook discussion for an article written by Professor Kenneth Chestek's JALWD article entitled: *Fear and Loathing in Persuasive Writing: An Empirical Study of the Effects of the Negativity Bias*. Chestek's article referenced Maureen's "Hello" article, referenced above.

2017 ALWD Conference, Minneapolis (July 19-21, 2017) Moderation of two small group discussions regarding diversity, including a project Maureen launched at Loyola called: #EQ4ALL@LLS, which was a webpage that features profiles of individuals committed to fighting for equality and equity for all.

2017 Biennial Applied Legal Storytelling Conference (July 11-13, 2017) This conference was co-sponsored by the Legal Writing Institute, the Clinical Legal Education Association (CLEA), and American University, Washington College of Law. The presentation was entitled *Trickle-Down Bullying, #EQ4ALL@[YourCampus], and the Growing Need for Responsible Rhetoric by Legal Advocates*.

2017 Rocky Mountain Regional Conference, Arizona State University (March 10-11, 2017): This presentation focused on the unique challenges and opportunities of electronic briefs, specifically including use of embedded hyperlinks to both legal authority and

evidence. The presentation was entitled: *Fact-Checking and Virtual Briefs: Preparing Our Students to Practice in the Digital World*.

Women Lawyers of Long Beach (February 13, 2017) This presentation was an Ethics CLE presentation on the topic of relationships in the workplace.

2016 LWI One-Day Online Workshop Hosted by Touro College of Law (Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center) (December 16, 2016) This presentation was entitled: *Fact-Checking and Virtual Briefs: Preparing Our Students to Practice in the Digital World*.

2016 LWI One-Day Workshop at University of Southern California (December 4, 2015) This presentation was based on the above-referenced article regarding use of powerful introductory “Hellos” in appellate briefs: *You Had Me At Hello: Examining the Impact of Powerful Introductory Emotional Hooks Set Forth in Appellate Briefs Filed in Recent Hotly-Contested U.S. Supreme Court Opinions*, 49 Ind. L. Rev. 397 (2016).

2015 Western Regional Legal Writing Conference at Loyola Law School Los Angeles (August 7-8, 2015) This presentation pertained to exercises that could be used in both LRW first-year classes and upper division appellate writing classes.

2015 Rocky Mountain Regional Conference, University of New Mexico School of Law (March 8, 2015) It featured a student exercise Maureen developed, the “Battle of the Briefs,” that prods students to examine persuasive Supreme Court briefs and the effect on the resulting Supreme Court opinion.

2014 LWI One-Day Workshop at California Western School of Law (December 5, 2014) This presentation pertained to the above-referenced article: *To Quote or Not to Quote: Making the Case for Teaching Law Students the Art of Effective Quotation in Legal Memoranda*, 56 S. Tex. L. Rev. 283 (2015).

Maureen also has presented at numerous other writer’s workshops, including the 2019 LWI Sirico Writer’s Workshop in Boulder, Colorado, Legal Writing Institute Writer’s Workshop (2017), the West Coast Rhetoric Writer’s Workshop (2015 and 2016), the Southern California Clinical Scholarship Workshop (2016), and the Washburn University Junior Legal Writing Scholars Workshop (2015).

SERVICE

On April 4, 2017, the 49th anniversary of the death of Martin Luther King, Jr., Maureen launched EQ4ALL@LLS (<https://eq4all.lls.edu>). The goal of this project was to tell the stories of individuals committed to equality and equity for all in the hopes of ending prejudice against oppressed minorities. A related goal is to teach and mentor students in social justice narrative. The project amassed followers from across the nation.

On a national level, Maureen has served on the LWI Diversity (LGBTQ) Committee. She previously has served on the 2016 AALS LWI Outreach Committee and has been a deputy editor for the ABA Section of International Law.

At UConn Law, Maureen serves on the Diversity, Equity, and Belonging (DEB) as well as the university-wide SCOTUS Committee. She previously served on numerous committees while at Loyola, including the Admissions Committee, Advocacy Committee, and Diversity Committee. She played a pivotal role in developing the “Boot Camp” portion of Loyola’s Resident Associate Program (RAP).

In private practice, Maureen handled many pro bono matters including those referred by:

The Alliance for Children’s Rights
LAMBDA Legal Aid and Defense Fund
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
Public Counsel Law Center

EDUCATION

Loyola Law School, Los Angeles

Juris Doctor, 1996, Ranked 12th of 412 (top 3%)

Honors: Sayre MacNeil Scholar 1994 – 1996 (top 5%)
Order of the Coif 1993 – 1996 (top 10%)
Alpha Sigma Nu Jesuit Graduate Honor Society Merit Award 1996
St. Thomas More Honor Society 1993 – 1996

National Moot Court Team 1995 – 1996 (Ranked 3rd Overall in Loyola Comp.)
American Jurisprudence Award (No. 1 in Class: Criminal Procedure)

Law Review: Loyola of Los Angeles Entertainment Law Review

University of California, Los Angeles

MFA in Film, TV, and Digital Media (Screenwriting) 2009

NON-ACADEMIC SELECTED WORK EXPERIENCE

Kaye Scholer LLP (Century City Office) (February 2000 – September 2002)

Mid-level associate practicing primarily on the defense side in the areas of complex litigation, class actions, antitrust, entertainment, bankruptcy, employment, and product liability. Extensive general litigation experience including writing, arbitration, mediation, and trial preparation including handling expert witnesses, preparing trial strategies, and defending and taking depositions of key fact witnesses. Substantial familiarity with the

procedures for coordinating and consolidating related proceedings, both in federal and state court, including drafting case management, protective and preservation orders. Involvement in recruitment and design of summer associate program.

Mayer, Brown, and Platt* (Los Angeles Office) (September 1996 – February 2000)

Junior associate practicing in the area of defense-side general litigation, including construction defect, appellate (civil/criminal); contract disputes, bankruptcy, class actions, employment law, trademark infringement and securities fraud. Extensive writing and pre-trial experience including drafting numerous summary judgment and other dispositive motions, as well as taking depositions and preparing key witnesses for trial. Served on the Hiring Committee and as the Summer Associate Recruitment Coordinator for the years 1998 and 1999. Duties included delegation of assignments and mentoring as well as participating in recruitment and hiring decisions.

(*Mayer, Brown, and Platt currently is known as “Mayer Brown.”)

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Legal Writing Institute (LWI)
California State Bar Association

Additional information is available upon request.