

Ben L. Fernandez

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EMPLOYMENT

2015-Present, University of Florida Levin College of Law, Gainesville, FL Master Legal Skills Professor

Teaching Legal Writing and Legal Drafting to first year and upper-level law students. Also taught an online course for summer externship program.

- *Chair of Admissions Committee, Member of Academic Standards Committee, Strategic Planning Committee, Pro Bono Committee, Diversity and Community Relations Committee.*
- *Participant in Minority Mentoring Program, Faculty Adviser Program and New Student Match Program. Faculty Adviser to Cuban American Bar Association.*
- *Member of Diversity Committee, Legal Writing Institute, Editorial Board for the Second Draft*

2011-2015, Florida Coastal School of Law, Jacksonville, FL Associate Professor

Taught Legal Methods (Legal Analysis), Legal Research and Objective Writing, Lawyering Process for Litigation Practice, and Transactional Drafting to first year and upper-level law students. Also taught Property I and II and Modern Real Estate Transactions.

- *Recipient of 2013 "Diversity Award" from Jacksonville Business Journal.*
- *Member of Multi-Cultural Committee; Participant in Faculty Mentoring Program; Faculty Advisor for student newspaper, "The Rainmaker."*
- *Volunteered to help immigrants obtain citizenship in Citizenship Day program.*
- *Taught legal analysis to team members at the Wounded Warrior Project in Jacksonville, Florida.*

2008 – 2011, Northeastern University School of Law, Boston, MA Adjunct Professor

Taught Legal Research and Writing to first year law school students.

- *Attended One-Day Workshops for Adjunct Professors and New Legal Writing Professors in 2009, 2010 and 2011.*
- *Member, Legal Writing Institute.*

**2007 – 2011, Cape Cod Community College, Barnstable, MA
Adjunct Professor**

Taught Business Law to undergraduate college students.

2001- 2015, Ben L. Fernandez, Attorney at Law, Plymouth, MA

Solo practitioner: represented Barnstable County HOME Consortium in connection with the financing of affordable housing projects on Cape Cod; also represented TD Bank in residential mortgage loan closings.

- *Volunteer teacher for Junior Achievement of Southern Massachusetts' financial literacy program*
- *Volunteer speaker at homebuyer education seminars sponsored by South Shore Housing and Housing Assistance Corp.*
- *Volunteer member Board of Directors of Habitat for Humanity of Greater Plymouth, Inc.*

1996 – 2001, Massachusetts Housing Partnership Fund Board, Boston, MA

Assistant General Counsel: practiced in the in-house legal department of a public agency that provides financing for affordable housing projects in Massachusetts. Represented agency in commercial real estate loan closings.

1993 – 1995, Fitzhugh & Associates, Boston, MA

Managing Attorney: lead the business department of a small minority owned firm. Handled banking litigation and real estate conveyancing. Trained and supervised five attorneys, two secretaries and one paralegal.

1990 – 1993, Peabody and Arnold, Boston, MA

Associate: practiced in the litigation and banking departments of a large general practice firm.

1987 – 1990, Brown, Rudnick, Freed and Gesmer, Boston, MA

Associate: practiced in the litigation and bankruptcy departments of a large general practice firm.

EDUCATION

**Boston University School of Law, Boston, MA
Graduate Program in Banking
and Financial Law Studies**

LL.M. 1995; G.P.A. 3.97

Northeastern University School of Law, Boston, MA

J.D. 1987, top 15% of class

**Cornell University, Ithaca, NY
College of Arts and Sciences**

B.A. 1984; Dean's List

PRESENTATIONS

- *"Incorporating ChatGPT in the Legal Research & Writing Classroom," William and Mary Law School, August of 2023.*
- *"Improving Legal Communication with Design Techniques," Writing Connections, Southeastern Association of Law Schools Conference, July of 2023.*
- *"Learning from [over-] Shared Experiences," the Legal Writing Institute's 2021 "One Day Workshop" in Gainesville, Florida on December 10, 2022.*
- *"Grading, Assessment, and Feedback That Promote Inclusive Learning," Writing Connections, Southeastern Association of Law Schools Conference, July of 2022.*
- *"Beyond Conventions in Legal Drafting," the Legal Writing Institute's 2021 "One Day Workshop" in Gainesville, Florida on December 11, 2021.*
- *"Partnering with Practice: Bringing Practitioners into Your Classroom to Make Law Practice Real" Writing Connections, Southeastern Association of Law Schools Conference, August of 2020.*
- *"Connecting Teaching and Learning: Formative Assessment," Writing Connections, Southeastern Association of Law Schools Conference, August of 2018.*
- *"Ferrari Has Really Fast Race Cars, A Mnemonic for Doing a Case Analogy in the "A" Section of IRAC," Rocky Mountain Regional Legal Writing Conference, March 24, 2018.*
- *"Small Changes, Big Results: Incremental Changes People can make in LRW Classes to Improve Learning, Feedback, and Engagement," the Legal Writing Institute's 2017 "One Day Workshop" in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, December 7, 2017.*
- *"Paper Research," the Legal Writing Institute's 2012 "One Day Workshop," Atlanta, Georgia.*

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Legal Writing I & II: Legal Research and Writing & Introduction to Litigation Practice (Amazon Kindle Direct Publishing 2021)

Transactional Drafting: Introduction to Contract Drafting and Transactional Practice (Amazon Kindle Direct Publishing 2021)

Articles

- “Teaching Contract Drafting in the Age of Generative AI,” AALS Section on Legal Writing Reasoning, and Research Newsletter (Fall 2024)
- “Teaching Bias in the Current Law School Climate; Sample Exercises for a Legal Writing Class,” 37 *The Second Draft* (October, 2024).
- “Contract Drafting Classes Need to Devote More Consideration to the Law Applicable to “Boilerplate” Clauses,” 31 *Persps.* 1 (2024).
- “Introducing Law Students to Transactional Practice: From Using Precedent to Closing the Deal,” 25 *Tenn. J. Bus. L.* (2024).
- “We Need to Understand How ChatGPT Can be Used for a Contract Drafting Class and Change our Pedagogy to Compensate,” 30 *Persps.* 63 (2023).
- “Should Students Read and Apply Cases in a Contract Drafting Class?,” 43 *The Second Draft* (December 2021).
- “A Letter to My Younger (Teaching Self),” *AALS LWRR Section Newsletter* (Summer 2018).
- “Opportunities for Collaboration in Transactional Drafting,” *UF Law Faculty Blogs*, April 1, 2018.
- “Ferrari Has Really Fast Race Cars, A Mnemonic for Doing a Case Analogy in the “A” Section of IRAC,” *Institute for Law Teaching and Learning Blog*, February 9, 2018.
- “Avoiding the ‘Paper Research’ v. ‘Computer Research’ Trap,” *The Law Teacher, Journal of the Institute for Law Teaching and Learning*, Volume XXIV, Number 1, Fall 2017.
- “Everything a 2L Really Needs to Know About Citation,” *Before the Bar Blawg – ABA Journal for Law Students*, November 21, 2017.
- “The Duties of Mutual Fund Independent Trustees with Respect to the Investment Advisory Fee,” *Boston Bar Journal*, March / April 1997, at 12.
- Federal Government may revise Terminology for “Hispanics,” *Noticias, Newsletter of the Hispanic National Bar Association*, Winter 1996, at 11.
- “Affirmative Action after Adarand,” *Noticias, Newsletter of the Hispanic National Bar Association*, Fall 1995, at 11.
- “Lien’s Attachment to Fire Insurance Proceeds,” *Mass Lawyers Weekly*, May 3, 1993, at 11.
- “RTC May Disaffirm Part of ‘Divisible’ Contract,” *Mass Lawyers Weekly*, March 23, 1992, at 11.
- “Banned,” *American Motorcyclist Magazine*, May 1992, at 40 (discusses a court decision banning motorcyclists from D.W. Field Park in Brockton, Massachusetts).