

Inside This Issue:

Jasbir “Jesse” Bawa 1-3

Brian Glassman 1, 4-5

Special: Molly Lien 1, 6-7
(1950-2015)
In Memoriam

Statement of Selection and Presentation Process 8

Next Month’s Profiles 8

Upcoming Legal Writing Events 1, 8

LWI Lives Committee 8

UPCOMING LEGAL WRITING EVENTS

December 4, 5, & 11 2015
One-Day Legal Writing Workshops
(12 Locations)

LWI Lives is a regular electronic publication of the “Faces of LWI” Committee, which explores and communicates the emerging identity of LWI and its members. We have in common the commitment to being the best legal writing professors that we can be. But we are multi-dimensional people with different strengths, interests, curiosities, and gifts. By profiling individuals in our community, we hope to expand and develop our understanding of who we are and what we aspire to be.

A Voice for Tolerance and Respect



By Sha-Shana Crichton

Graceful, brilliant, patient, and kind are adjectives that aptly describe Jasbir “Jesse” Bawa, Assistant Professor of Lawyering Skills at Howard University School of Law. Jesse returned to her alma mater six years ago to teach Legal Reasoning, Research, and Writing after practicing at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP and Bingham McCutchen LLP.

For more on Jesse, see page 2.

Art and Life



By Danielle Weatherby

In his article, “*I Didn’t Take the Road Less Traveled, and What a Long, Strange Trip it’s Been,*”* Professor Brian A. Glassman writes about his struggle to balance his love of the law and his love of art. He describes the struggle as twenty-some years of “wandering-in-the-desert.” Brian finally found harmony when he combined his two passions.

For more on Brian, see page 4.

Yellow Roses for a Dear Friend



By Karin Mika

On September 11, 2015, the Legal Writing Community lost one of its most beloved members—a person who touched so many lives, both personally and professionally. Those who have been around Legal Writing for a while knew Molly Lien first as a Legal Writing professor at Chicago-Kent, then as director of the Kent program, and finally as director of the John Marshall program.

For more on Molly, see page 6.

Jesse Bawa, continued

She does not consider teaching LRRW a job, but a service that she fulfills with exemplary dedication and passion. Jesse teaches the year-long LRRW I to first year students, LRRW II – Appellate Advocacy to second year students, and a mini-course on Racial Profiling Across Communities of Color.

Jesse skillfully merges her interests in civil rights issues and technology to create memorable learning experiences for her students. She has successfully mastered the art of educating while entertaining. She uses activities, videos, various forms of technology, and current events to grasp and maintain her students' attention while imparting valuable legal writing and professionalism skills. Jesse notes that when she was a student, LRRW instruction was very mechanical and straight out of the text. She knew that if she wanted to engage her audience of Millennials, she would have to engage them in different ways.

Mentioning past students and their success makes her beam. She notes that “as a LRRW professor, you forever own a tiny piece of their progress as thinkers and writers. You know you contributed to their success whether or not they ever acknowledge it. But we don't really do this for a thank you.” Jesse describes her experience teaching LRRW as transformative. She mentions the lasting relationships that she has built—and continues to build—with students as another benefit of teaching. She finds it gratifying that some students will seek out lawyering and life advice from her long after they have graduated.



Jesse Bawa and a couple of her students at graduation.



Jesse's family in Jamaica for her brother's wedding.

In addition to training future lawyers, Jesse is a social engineer and civil rights advocate. She is a former board member of SALDEF, a national Sikh American policy organization that promotes social justice, builds relationships between Sikh American and non-Sikh American communities, and promotes religious freedom. She is of the Sikh faith. Sikh men, like Jesse's husband, wear a turban and a beard as an external identity and sign of commitment to the faith. Sikhs are frequently profiled on the basis of their appearance and have been subjected to various abuses, including hate crimes, in the post-9/11 world. Jesse remembers having a conversation with an African American male student about Trayvon Martin. The student was lamenting the injustices of racial profiling. He told her that she could never imagine the anger, the frustration, and the pain of being profiled. Jesse realized that in keeping her personal and professional lives separate, she was missing a critical opportunity to teach her students that various communities of color, including her own, experience racial profiling in a variety of ways. The encounter caused her to begin writing on civil rights issues and to create the mini-course on racial profiling. She writes extensively on various civil rights issues across communities of color, but she is most interested in technology, surveillance, racial profiling, and the Fourth Amendment. Her articles have appeared in *The Huffington Post*, *The Root*, *The Daily Beast*, and *The Jurist*.

Jesse Bawa, conclusion



When she is not teaching, Jesse loves to read, explore new countries and cultures with her family, and cook. A self-proclaimed foodie, Jesse loves to make delectable Indian dishes. She and her husband have 7 year-old twins, a boy and a girl. She takes her children to the library frequently and still reads with them. Jesse takes out her telephone and displays a photograph of her daughter's latest imaginary game: a meet-the-author, book-signing poster that her daughter created to promote her newly written "book," entitled "Brothers Are a Pain."

There is no doubt that Jesse wears many hats, but to do so with the grace and calmness that she exudes must mean that she leads a balanced life. She quickly corrects this assertion. In her view, work-life balance is an unattainable goal because "life is always unbalanced." She makes spending time with her family a priority, but she notes that "during my grading weeks, everything else suffers. All I can do is my best and try not to feel guilty about all the other things I could or should be doing." She notes that to maintain some semblance of order in her life, she makes lists and plans ahead.

Jesse is encouraged by the work LWI has done to advocate for better status and more inclusion for LRRW professors. She hopes that it will not take another 30 years for the qualifiers to disappear from the titles, for LRRW professors to have the same level of respect and status as other professors, and for LRRW professors to have equal pay. She thinks that Justice Kagan's recent comment on the importance of legal writing will help LWI in its fight for better status and equality. She often thinks of the lessons she teaches to her students and of conflicting realities. "I teach my students to fight for equality and justice for all, but in my own profession, there is still so much inequity."

Jesse Bawa and family.



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Brian Glassman, continued

Art has always been a major presence in Brian's life. Brian's mother, who earned her Masters of Fine Arts degree late in life, was a professional artist and art teacher. He credits her for most of the art influence in his life. Brian's father was a trained architect and ceramicist by avocation. A potter's wheel lived in the basement of Brian's childhood home, and he and his older sisters took art classes and attended craft schools.

Born and raised in Washington D.C., Brian attended a small, private Quaker high school, where he came to appreciate one of the tenets of Quakerism—individual choice and the moral responsibility that accompanies it. This value became especially poignant growing up in the epicenter of American politics during a turbulent era. Brian described his childhood in D.C. as “a special experience,” recognizing that he gained a unique perspective of politics from a very young age.

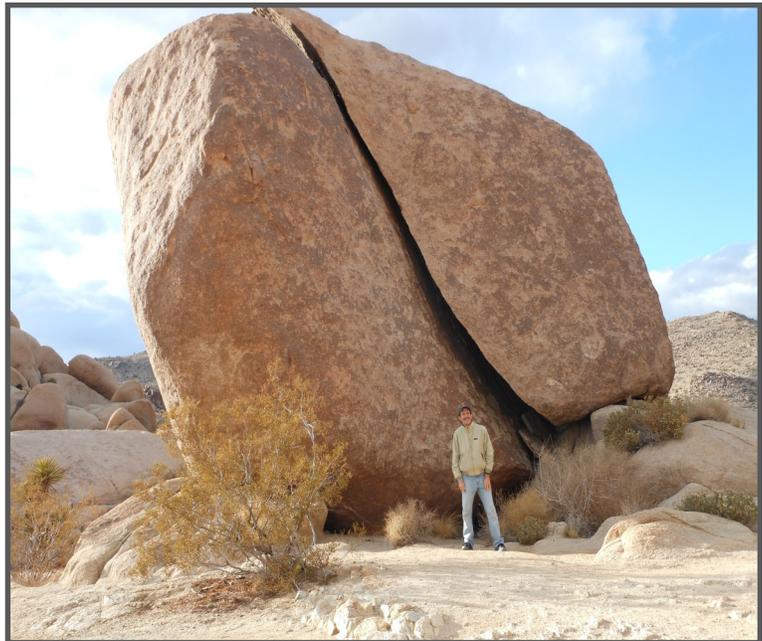
Brian spoke with fondness about his friend, mentor, and high school teacher, Carla Gelband, who, through her Political Problems Seminar, exposed her students to high-profile politicians and famous political reporters. For example, Brian recalled a class trip to the office of Bella Abzug, a U.S. Congresswoman and social activist. Representative Abzug was a leader of the women's movement and one of the first women leaders to hold a position of national political power.

Brian was close to draft age near the end of the Vietnam War. He recalled attending an anti-war rally with 500,000 others on the Mall in D.C. and before that, seeing National Guard troops patrolling his neighborhood during the riots after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. With a front seat view of the Viet Nam controversy and the Watergate scandal, Brian learned the complexity of American politics.

At Connecticut College, Brian continued to study the media of artistic expression. He took courses in ceramics, silk-screening, graphic design, and drawing. After earning his B.A. in sociology, Brian found himself at a crossroad, faced with the choice of pursuing art as a career or attending law school. Inspired in part by his older sister, a lawyer who worked on women's rights issues at Rutgers Law School, Brian pursued his law degree as a tool for reform.

After graduating from the Boston University School of Law in 1981, Brian went to work for the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland. Over time, he realized that legal services was not as viable

Brian at Joshua Tree National Park in California, December 2012



a tool for social change as he had hoped, and he decided to take a year off to return to his first love—art. Brian attended the Cleveland Institute of Art full time, focusing on glassblowing. Soon he began exhibiting and selling his artwork. His “master plan” involved owning his own legal research and writing business while simultaneously pursuing art. But, Brian learned that “you don't run a business, it runs you.”

As the saying goes, when one door closes, another opens, and after five years, Brian saw an opportunity. Cleveland-Marshall sought an adjunct to teach Legal, Research & Writing, and Brian jumped at the opportunity. A few years later, Brian was hired for a full time slot.

When asked about his teaching philosophy, Brian said this: “There are three keys to teaching successfully: (1) command of the subject matter; (2) enthusiasm; and (3) respect for your students. If you are firing on all of those cylinders, you will be a successful teacher.”

Brian's enthusiasm for his job is contagious. As we talked, I could feel his warmth, positive energy, and enthusiasm. He described his love of teaching as “the happy challenge of the blank slate – I have to cover certain things, but beyond that, it's a blank slate.”

***Brian A. Glassman, *In the Mind's Eye: Visual Lessons for Law Students, 23 Perspectives: Teaching Legal Res. & Writing 25 (2014)*. [from page one]**

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Brian Glassman, conclusion

Brian has a genuine interest in how people learn. As a visual learner himself, he realized that visual learners are underserved in law school. After years of thinking it was important to keep his love of law and his love of art separate, he finally saw a clear path to combining his two passions. He became an expert in art law, “a patchwork of different legal disciplines,” and began incorporating artwork into his Legal Writing classroom. He has developed a novel approach to teaching, illustrating through famous works of art, the mechanics of legal writing. After all, as Brian so insightfully pointed out, “what’s in an artist’s toolbox is very similar to what is in a writer’s toolbox. Structure, contrast, perspective: they all matter to a writer as well as to a visual artist.”

Referencing Patrick O’Brian’s “Master and Commander” series, Brian stated that he wants his classroom to be a “happy ship.” He says, “I think of myself as a stand-up comedian with really bad material. My job is to do something engaging with that material.”

Brian is very proud of his daughter, Avery, who is also artistically inclined. She works at a regional arts center in Colorado, as the curator and director of adult educational programming.

In his spare time, Brian can be found engaging in nearly any physical activity, including cycling, swimming and playing Ultimate Frisbee with the Cleveland State University team!

One of the things Brian is most proud of is his work to advance the status of legal writing professors at his law school. When he started at Cleveland-Marshall, he and his colleagues were considered “professional staff.” He worked tirelessly to move legal writing teachers to professor status, with 5-year, renewable appointments. Brian pledges to continue working to raise the status of legal writing faculty, for as he says, “structure produces stability and excellence. It is good for the students, the law school, and the legal profession.”

Brian and his daughter Avery skiing in western Colorado, February 2015.



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Molly Lien, continued

Molly was a leader in the field, a mentor, and a person whose life was defined by doing for and giving to others, all the while having a cardiac condition that resulted in eight cardiac surgeries during her life.

Molly was born in Chicago, Illinois, the daughter of a features editor for the Chicago Tribune. Artistically gifted, Molly distinguished herself as a singer and pianist starting at an early age. She attended the Interlochen Summer Arts Camp, and her family moved to Interlochen when her dad retired. She majored in music at the University of Miami before attending Emory University School of Law, where she finished second her class (after having had her second child in her first year of law school!). In addition to her commitment to law and social justice, Molly remained artistically inclined all her life: singing, playing the piano, knitting, and taking up looming after her retirement.

Molly's academic record and legal career are nothing short of astounding, especially given her health challenges. In law school, she was a student leader and received nearly every academic honor possible. She clerked for the Seventh Circuit, and prior to teaching, she worked for two major Chicago law firms, where she was known as a tenacious litigator. After beginning her academic career, she worked internationally in Russia, Ukraine, and Singapore. Always a dedicated student, Molly learned to speak Russian fluently and had the goal of reading 50 books each year.

Molly's intellectual and academic achievements would be impressive in and of themselves, but what made Molly Lien truly impressive was the gift of friendship, dedication, and unyielding support she provided to everyone who came near her. Molly was committed to social welfare wherever she lived. She was very involved with civic organizations, both when she lived in the Chicago suburb of Winnetka and later in Traverse City, Michigan. Molly was also a person of deep faith. She took on leadership roles in the Episcopal Church, and she volunteered in its various efforts for social justice. Her abilities and competency made her a leader wherever she went. She was often drafted into leadership positions, even when she was trying to cut back on activities.

Molly was a person who took on everyone else's concerns as a priority to her own, even when it was to her own detriment. If anyone needed a helping hand or a break from their own responsibilities, Molly was there to help or to solve the problem. As a law professor, her door was always open to any student, whether that student was her student or not. She was a person who dropped everything at any time of the day or night to help anyone in need or to simply provide an encouraging word.



Chicago Kent trophy, presented to Molly as the Faculty Member of the Year (2001).

Molly and Ralph Brill at an LWI function holding their "Courage Awards."



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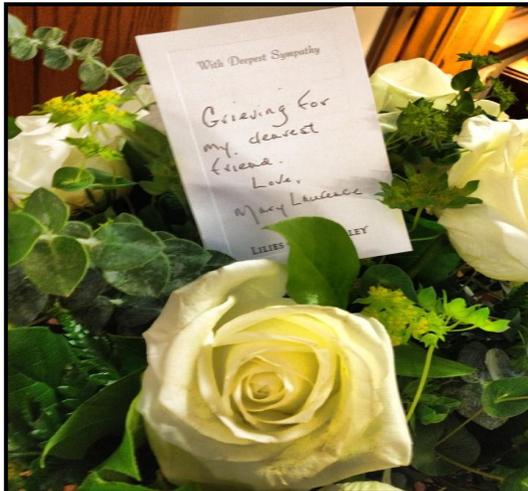


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Molly Lien, conclusion

I got to know Molly on a more personal level after her retirement, and I had the opportunity to learn that Molly was even more impressive than anyone could imagine. Molly never neglected her family and friends at the expense of any of her other endeavors. Whenever there were problems to be solved for her children (and there are always problems to solve for our children), it was Molly who leapt in to save the day. When her mother's health was deteriorating in Traverse City, it was Molly who would drive there on the weekends to do the cooking, the cleaning, the bill paying, and the appointment scheduling. She traveled to Oregon as frequently as she could to visit her dear friend Mary Lawrence. She was a vegetarian and an animal lover who took in shelter animals, and even at her busiest, always kept the bird feeders in her yard filled and provided food for the ground critters.

In 2014, Molly's life was hit by tragedy when her son Johnny was diagnosed with glioblastoma. Molly said, "After going through the usual reaction of trying to make it into a dream, wishing it away, crying, and being in anguish, I had no choice but to accept it and formulate a plan to fight it." Within weeks, Molly had researched every available treatment in the world and had formulated Plans A, B, C, and D, and, again, leapt in to help. This required traveling frequently between Traverse City and Cincinnati.



Dear friends like Mary Lawrence, and so many others, will always remember Molly's selflessness.

Johnny, Karin Mika, and Molly.



Unfortunately, Molly herself became ill during this time, when she developed a staph infection related to her heart condition. Antibiotics did little to help, and Molly suffered a stroke that paralyzed her right side. Very quickly, the combination of drugs and infection put her into kidney failure. At that time, Molly put herself into hospice and stopped all medical treatment. Her wish was to avoid becoming such an invalid that she would be a burden to her family.

Molly said it was her son Johnny who brought her back when he told her that he could not face what he was facing without her. With her typical strength, dedication to others, and perhaps a miracle or two, Molly's staph infection subsided and she resumed her caretaking of the family in both Traverse City and in Cincinnati. During her "off" travel days, she continued her activities with the church and community. Sadly, after various experimental treatments, her son passed away on July 4, 2015.

Molly's own ability to overcome the odds of her illness ended when her staph infection returned and surgery was necessary. Sadly for all us who knew her, this latest battle could not be won. Her absence has left a hole in a great many hearts. She will be greatly missed.

UPCOMING LEGAL WRITING EVENTS

(continued from page 1)

January 6, 2016

Joint Scholars & Scholarship Workshop on Feminist Jurisprudence, sponsored by AALS, ALWD, LWRR Section of AALS, and Fordham Law School New York, New York (Fordham's Skadden Center)

January 6-10, 2016

AALS Annual Meeting
New York, New York

January 22-23, 2016

2016 Southeastern Legal Writing Conference
University of Miami School of Law

March 11-12, 2016

Sixth Annual Capital Area Legal Writing Conference
University of Maryland Carey School of Law

March 18-19, 2016

16th Annual Rocky Mountain Legal Writing Conference
University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law

July 10-13, 2016

2016 LWI Biennial Conference
Portland Hilton and Executive Tower

Check out these websites for more information on what's happening!

<http://www.aals.org/aals-events/>
<http://www.lwionline.org/>
<http://www.alwd.org/>



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Next month in *LWI Lives*, read about:



**Emily Grant
Washburn**



**Twinette Johnson
Southern Illinois**



**Cristina Knolton
Southwestern**

Selection and Presentation Process: We believe it is important for the members of LWI to know our process for creating the newsletter. The Committee is organized into three teams, and each is responsible for selecting, proposing, and writing the three profiles for a particular issue of the newsletter. To ensure a diverse newsletter, the teams propose the names of the selected individuals to the Co-Chairs to ensure that there is a breadth of coverage for each issue. Additionally, the Co-Chairs are keeping a master list of all the profiles, so that we can ensure a wide range of coverage over time.

The Faces of the LWI Committee exists to allow us to learn about the interesting lives of our colleagues. For that to happen, we want and need a diverse selection of legal writing professors to profile. If you have someone in mind that we should put on the list for a future newsletter, please feel free to contact any of our members at the email addresses below. If you could include a note on why you think the individual's profile would be particularly interesting, it will help us in developing priorities.

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