



LWI LIVES

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Feel free to reach out to any one of us if you have questions about this edition.

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.

Hal Lloyd: Bridging Commercial Law and the Humanities



By Rebecca Rich

After practicing commercial law for years, both at a firm and then as general counsel to a growing grocery store chain, in 2010, Harold Anthony Lloyd became a legal writing professor—what he refers to as his third career. By any measure, it has been a successful one; he was recently granted a promotion and tenure as a Professor of Legal Analysis and Writing at Wake Forest University School of Law.

For more about Hal, see page 2.

Robert Parrish: The Road Less Traveled



By Elizabeth Beranger

Eleven years ago, Robert Parrish was living the dream life of a young lawyer. A graduate of University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill Law School, he had recently completed a prestigious clerkship with the Honorable Frank Sullivan, Jr., and was in his first year of practice at a business litigation firm in Indiana. He was on the fast-track to achieve

Danielle Shelton: How She Keeps Her Balance

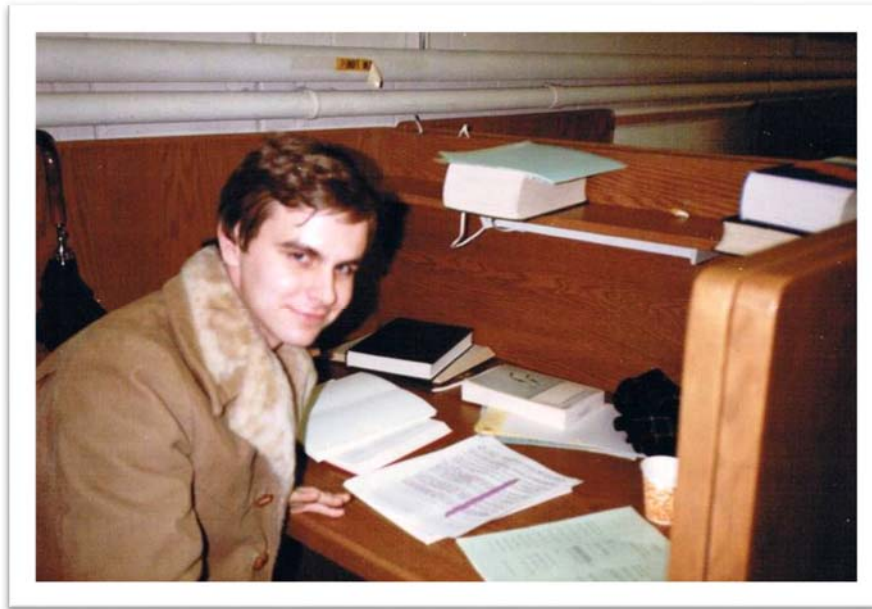


By Tracy L. Norton

Danielle Shelton has a full life. But to say that she “juggles” to keep everything together wouldn’t be quite right. Danielle balances. For starters, my first conversation with Danielle lasted two hours and could have easily gone on for two more. She has the warm, easy way of a longtime friend. She displays none of the ego you might expect from a *magna cum laude* Harvard Law graduate, who missed overlapping with

For more about Danielle, see page 4.

Hal Lloyd, continued



Hal as a student in his favorite carrel in the Duke Law Library

Hal is a prolific scholar, writing at the intersection of law and the humanities. He identifies a common thread in his scholarship—that law is too insular and needs to learn from other disciplines, including philosophy, linguistics, and cognitive psychology. His broad teaching and personal interests bridge commercial law and the humanities as well. In addition to legal writing, Hal teaches commercial leasing, contracts and commercial transactions, classical rhetoric, and meaning and interpretation. He also writes and translates verse.

Hal majored in philosophy at Davidson College as an undergraduate and was particularly interested in the philosophy of language. He entered law school thinking that it might be a good stepping stone to a teaching career. But [he did not find great intellectual stimulation in the Langdellian method of legal education](#). Reading redacted appellate cases and learning from law professors with limited practical legal experience seemed to remove much humanity and intellectual rigor from the study of law.

After graduation, Hal began his first career, practicing commercial law with Tuggle, Duggins & Meschan, P.A. He assumed that he would soon return to school for an advanced degree in philosophy. But with more practice experience, he began to see that law was much more profound than what he'd experienced in the more Langdellian law schools of the time. As Hal says, "In practice you see that law's a complex art that's also full of humanity, creativity, and intellectual rigor if you do it right, and it becomes fasci-

nating, fulfilling, and fun."

He has always been more interested in the transactional side of law practice, in part because it tied in with his interest in language. He saw in practice that creating a well-drafted contract was good not only because it benefited people, but because it was a work of art in itself. And as someone interested in literature and verse, [he enjoyed understanding the characters in his clients' stories](#) and knowing his clients' interests well enough to be able to creatively show them how a deal might be possible even when they thought it wasn't. Hal particularly enjoys commercial leasing law. He notes his great satisfaction in putting together a deal that makes everyone happy and then being able to see tangible structures being built and people employed as a result of his and others' work.

Eventually, Hal's practice at Tuggle Duggins became so focused on one client that it made sense for him to go in house. The Fresh Market is a grocery store chain that now has 170 stores, but it began in Greensboro in the 1980s. In his second career as Vice President and General Counsel, Hal created Fresh Market's legal department as its first in-house attorney. The role allowed Hal to continue doing the transactional work he enjoyed, but he was also able to see the legal world from a different perspective, as both a lawyer and a client at the same time.

Ultimately, Fresh Market went public, which significantly changed the role of the company's general counsel. Hal

Hal Lloyd, conclusion



used the opportunity to pursue his lifelong interest in teaching, first as an adjunct at Wake Forest, teaching classical rhetoric, commercial leasing, and legal writing. He was eventually hired as a full-time legal writing professor.

Now that Hal is back at law school, his dissatisfaction with the limits of traditional legal education has informed his scholarship, his own approach to teaching, and his vision of what it means to be a successful law professor. In 2015, Hal organized a symposium at Wake Forest called “Revisiting Langdell: Legal Education Reform and the Lawyer’s Craft,” which brought together law professors and practitioners to talk about the inseparability of theory and practice in the law and its implications for legal education. The related symposium volume of the Wake Forest Law Review has also been [published as a book](#), with Hal’s introduction, “[Raising the Bar. Razing Langdell.](#)” Hal chose for the book’s cover William Blake’s rendition of Urizen, Blake’s god of lifeless reason who bears (to Hal at least) an uncanny resemblance to Langdell.

Hal’s courses also reflect his belief that successful law teaching must combine theory and practice. In addition to teaching the first semester LAWR class at Wake Forest that focuses on objective writing, he teaches a transactional section of the third semester LAWR class. In both that class and his commercial leasing class, he does not use a traditional casebook but instead uses a text that’s a combination of a treatise and a variety of actual contracts from SEC filings or other sources. Hal finds that the students’ writing assignments show much deeper engagement with and understanding of the substantive law that he’s teaching than a traditional exam answer does. Ultimately, in Hal’s view, many more law school classes should be taught like a legal writing class, assessing students’ problem solving skills and understanding of legal concepts through in-depth writing assignments.

Consistent with this classroom experience and his belief that successful law teaching must combine theory and practice, Hal

believes that it’s important for law professors to have meaningful experience in law practice and to continue to be in touch with the legal profession even after they begin teaching. He envisions professors taking a sabbatical from teaching to return to law practice for a summer or even a year and hopes law schools can leverage alumni connections to make this possible.

Challenging the insularity of the law, Hal also believes that linguistics and [semiotics](#) have much to teach lawyers and judges about [proper interpretation and construction](#) of both private and [public law texts](#). Hal also believes that modern cognitive psychology reinforces [the inseparability of theory and practice](#) in best legal instruction. He has also written about the “cognitive” structure of basic emotions in an effort to draw attention to the relationship between reason and emotion that judges, lawyers and law students often miss, leading to avoidable errors and mental health issues within the bar.

Hal contributes to the profession beyond the walls of Wake Forest as well. He has served as a co-editor-in-chief of *The Second Draft* and as Ethics Chair for the Corporate Counsel Section of the North Carolina Bar Association. He has also blogged for [The Huffington Post](#). A post he wrote in May 2016 about North Carolina’s infamous House Bill 2, “McCrorry’s House Bill 2: A Brief Outline of its Five ‘Parts,’” went viral. He wrote the piece because he felt that reporters weren’t properly explaining what the bill actually covered. His post hyperlinked to the bill itself and asked readers to read it for themselves. Then it briefly explained each part of the bill. The success of the post confirmed Hal’s view that people can understand more than journalists often assume. Hal no longer blogs for *The Huffington Post*. Instead, you can find him blogging on his [Law and Language](#) blog where he shares matters he’s currently exploring, his original verse, and his verse translations.

You can contact Hal at lloydha@wfu.edu.



Hal challenging Langdell at the Langell Symposium



Robert Parrish, conclusion

everything young lawyers are told they should want in a legal career.

But then, an advertisement in a local lawyer journal caught his eye. Indiana Maurer School of Law was seeking a professor of legal writing. “Requirements: JD, strong academic record, significant practice experience,” it read. “Why not?!” thought Robert. An unlikely candidate due to his nascent legal career, Robert decided to take a chance. To his surprise, he got a call to interview. As he prepared to deliver his job talk, nerves rose up from deep inside. The tide of emotion threatened to breach, but he gained control and rode the wave expertly. The faculty was impressed and offered him the opportunity to join the highly coveted ranks of the academy.

With that invitation, Robert found himself at a fork in the road. He was already traveling the well-marked path of the successful lawyer. Prestigious Degree, Prestigious Clerkship, Prestigious Firm. He loved the competitive nature of the work. He felt alive when battling wits against other smart and capable attorneys. The anticipation of winning an argument lifted his spirits. Now, though, a new path had opened up—a path available to a select few, but less clearly marked, less clearly prestigious, and less clearly lucrative. Without so much as a glance at the rear-view mirror, though, Robert exited the highly-traveled partnership-track highway and began his journey along the academic road.

Over the last eleven years, Robert has cultivated an unwavering passion for teaching legal writing. “One of my favorite things about teaching legal writing is seeing what are essentially laypeople come into my classroom during orientation and seeing them transform before my eyes into competent legal analysts,” he reports. Like so many of us, Robert loves the creativity inherent in teaching legal writing. Developing a new exercise sparks excitement within his soul. Conceiving new approaches to teaching classic concepts stokes his passion for teaching legal writing. Even after eleven years, he still enjoys spending prep time considering whether there is a better way to teach a certain topic. The most inspiring moments, those that pull him back into the classroom day after day, are those glimmers of inspiration when some new idea breathes life into his classroom.

A true intellectual, Robert has used his position in the academy as an opportunity to develop as a scholar. His projects generally involve issues surrounding critical race theory. He is a historian by training, and that influence

appears throughout his scholarship, too. His current piece (being finalized now for publication) is a “historical case study of a southern city’s attempts to integrate its schools and what it tells us about the convergence of interests of its racial groups.”

Robert’s passion and creativity appear in all areas of his life, but even when he is relaxing, his mind is always working. For example, he has recently immersed himself in immersive strategy computer games. He is also a creative writer. (Fingers-crossed we can read some of his creative works sometime!) For the last few years, he has even been teaching himself to play the bass.

But perhaps his most defining characteristic is the investment he makes in building relationships. His children are privileged to have a father who sets aside his own personal interests to spend time doing what they want to do. He supports them in their hobbies, attends their games and other activities, and is simply there for them when they need him. He is similarly faithful to his relationships with students and colleagues; he is a stalwart presence in their lives, especially helping them achieve personal and professional goals. Those who know him can attest that he cares deeply about his family, friends, students, and colleagues. His dedication to cultivating these relationships is his legacy.

Two relationships, in particular, stand out, though: Frank Sullivan Jr. and Bryan Babb. Robert clerked for Judge Sullivan right after law school, and Judge Sullivan has been an invaluable mentor and friend. Robert reflects that “my relationship with [Judge Sullivan] has opened so many doors professionally that I don’t feel like I am exaggerating at all to say that I owe my career to him.” Similarly, Bryan was Robert’s supervising attorney when he was in practice. Not only was Bryan a mentor, but he taught Robert to be a lawyer by example and through every edit of work that passed over his desk. So much of what Robert teaches his students, and the manner in which he teaches, are directly taken from lessons Bryan taught him.

Although there are times when Robert may miss the thrill of practice, he has never regretted his choice to take the road less traveled. His path has been illuminated by the deep relationships forged with students and colleagues. If you have not yet had the chance to befriend Robert, it would be well worth your time to reach out and add this caring and thoughtful man to your circle of friends.

You can contact Robert at robert.a.parrish@emory.edu.

Danielle Shelton, continued

Barack Obama by a matter of months (which is the only fact anyone would know about me if I could say the same). See what I mean? Balance.

Danielle remembers wanting to be a lawyer for as long as she can remember. In grade school, she wrote about her future self as a “famous and thinking lawyer.” She marched steadily on to law school from grade school forward, fueled by a passion for helping the underdog. She studied Psychology and Women’s Studies in college to help her understand what motivates people and to prepare her for a career in law and social justice. Her summer internships reflected her interest in women’s rights and animal welfare. Working in those areas, though, tipped her off that full-time work on issues she was passionate about might be a recipe for burnout. Moving toward balance as always, she decided to take a step back and apply for a post-graduate judicial clerkship, where she would better be able to balance analysis with passion.

You know . . . the thing about coming to realizations in your third year of law school is that your options may be limited by others who had their realizations earlier and snapped up the jobs. When Danielle went to the judicial clerkships bulletin board (Remember those? Physical bulletin boards outside of Career Services?), the sole remaining piece of paper advertised a clerkship for the Eleventh Circuit. In Montgomery, Alabama. The number of miles between Boston and Montgomery doesn’t adequately convey the distance between the two places, but she responded and landed a coveted federal judicial clerkship. Danielle enjoyed seeing the larger framework of the law through the variety of legal issues that came before the court. By the end of her time at the Eleventh Cir-



Danielle balancing it all on a stand-up paddle board



Danielle with her husband and children

cuit, though, Danielle was ready for more variety in the tasks she performed and also ready to play the role of decision maker rather than supporter.

Returning to her home state of Iowa, Danielle took a position with a business law firm. This allowed her to have a career she loved in the law without the burn-out of total immersion in social justice issues. After seven years practicing business law, a job posting by Drake Law School beckoned her to a career in law teaching where she could still engage with legal writing and legal analysis but also be offered work with students that was meaningful and energizing.

And it was this final professional transition that brought long-term balance to Danielle’s professional life. As a law professor, Danielle teaches the same analytical skills each year but to a new, energized group of students. As the architect of her own courses, she enjoys the flexibility to set the agenda and change it from year to year as she grows and her students change. She enjoys watching students transition from eager, new law students to young legal professional in three short years. Being part of this transformation infuses her work as a professor with the meaning she sought as a practicing attorney.

Danielle Shelton, conclusion

At Drake, Danielle serves as the advisor to the Student Animal Legal Defense Fund (SALDF). This service gives her an avenue to channel her passion for animal welfare without being immersed in heartbreaking legal battles on a daily basis, battles that would surely call to mind concerns for her own menagerie of dogs and cats at home, which includes fostered pets from the animal shelter. Through her work with the SALDF, she brings her spirit of balance to the entire law school with therapy dogs during exam periods and pet photo contest fundraisers to benefit the local animal shelter. She mentors law students as they lobby city and state governments for legislation that promotes animal welfare. Danielle's latest transition has been from active parent to empty nester. Her students and her two children are now about the same ages, which has given Danielle a new perspective on what it means to support a young person through the sometimes terrifying and overwhelming world of professional school. She fills some of her newfound free time with yoga and training for half marathons. She's selected her half-marathons to achieve the same balance that permeates her life and her personality: participants run 13.1 miles . . . to a winery.

As I did with Kim Holst when I spoke to her for a profile last fall, I felt comfortable enough with Danielle to ask her to answer the Bernard Pivot questionnaire. Take it away, Danielle.

What is your favorite word? *Hope*

What is your least favorite word? *No*

What turns you on creatively, spiritually, or emotionally? *Separating in time and space from the day-to-day by getting outdoors*

What turns you off? *Judgment*

What is your favorite guilty pleasure? *Sleeping and, most particularly, napping*

What sound or noise do you love? *The sound of my son playing piano*

What sound or noise do you hate? *Alarm clock*

What profession other than your own would you like to attempt? *Practicing medicine*

What profession would you not like to do? *Anything involving travel*

If Heaven exists, what would you like to hear God say when you arrive at the Pearly Gates? *"I'm so glad you're here. We have some people who would like to see you again."*

If you don't know Danielle, seek her out at the conference this summer in Milwaukee when you're ready for some conversation that's both laid back and energizing. You can contact Danielle at danielle.shelton@drake.edu.



Danielle with her sister after a half marathon

UPCOMING LEGAL WRITING EVENTS

June 1-2, 2018
Teaching Transactional
Law and Skills
Emory Law

July 11-14, 2018
18th Biennial LWI Conference
Marquette University Law School

September 28-29, 2018
Western Regional Legal
Writing Conference
UC Irvine School of Law

"When our days become dreary with low-hovering clouds of despair, and when our nights become darker than a thousand midnights, let us remember that there is a creative force in this universe, working to pull down the gigantic mountains of evil, a power that is able to make a way out of no way and transform dark yesterdays into bright tomorrows. Let us realize the arc of the moral universe is long but it bends toward justice."

*Martin Luther King, Jr.
Address to the Southern Christian
Leadership Conference on August 16, 1967*

Selection and Presentation Process: We believe it is important for LWI members to know our process for creating the newsletter. The Committee is organized into three teams, and each team 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 keep 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 who we should put on the list for a future newsletter, please feel free to email any of the committee members listed below. If you could include a note explaining why you think the individual's profile would be particularly interesting, it will help us in developing priorities.

Committee Members



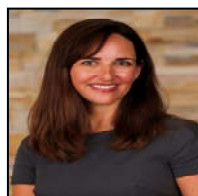
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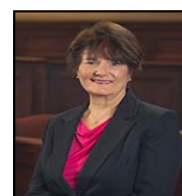
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Check out these websites for more information on what's happening!

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

