



# LWI LIVES

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Volume V Issue 1

October 2018

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## Contributors to this Edition:

Elizabeth Berenguer  
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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.

## SPECIAL EDITION!

Welcome to the fifth year of *LWI Lives*!

For our 2018-2019 kick-off edition, the Faces of LWI Committee is collaborating with the LWI New Member Outreach Committee! The mission of the Outreach Committee is to welcome new members into the LWI community through outreach activities that help them to become more involved in service and leadership positions.

We hope that this edition, which features nine new (and newish) legal writing professors, helps to welcome them and provides them with opportunities to connect with our warm, dynamic, and fabulous community of legal writing professors by day and complex and extraordinary individuals by night.

In this edition, we feature the following fascinating individuals:

- **Shannon Burke**, Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago-Kent College of Law
- **Timothy Duff**, Case Western Reserve University School of Law
- **Jessica Gunder**, University of Idaho College of Law, Boise
- **Robert Montgomery**, Campbell University School of Law
- **Tolulope “Tolu” Odunsi**, The University at Buffalo School of Law
- **Aimee Saginaw**, Univ. of District of Columbia, David A. Clark School of Law
- **Drew Simshaw**, Georgetown University Law Center
- **Irene Ten Cate**, University of Houston Law Center
- **Kayonia L. Whetstone**, St. John’s University School of Law

**Name:** Shannon Burke**Current school:** IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law**What did you do before joining academia?**

I was a law clerk to (Ret.) Justice Kelly of the Michigan Supreme Court and Justice Neville of the Illinois Court of Appeals (now Illinois Supreme Court). I practiced appellate law at the family law firm of Schiller, DuCanto and Fleck LLP in Chicago, Illinois. I was also an adjunct professor at DePaul University College of Law and at Loyola University Chicago School of Law.

**What topic are you most excited to teach this year?**

I enjoy teaching persuasive writing. Every year, I am inspired by students who have either a natural or learned ability to draft concise, legally accurate, and impactful documents. It is rewarding to see them gain confidence in their abilities and watch them transition their thinking from student writers to future attorneys who will advocate for clients.

**Why did you pursue an appointment to teach legal writing?**

I enjoy teaching skills-based courses, working closely with the students, and helping them develop their skills. When I offer words of encouragement or correction, I extend the same honesty, respect, and professionalism to them as I would have wanted someone to extend to me while I was in law school. This is a transformative three years for the students, and I am honored to provide as much guidance and mentorship as I can during that time.

**What do you enjoy doing outside of teaching?**

I enjoy spending time with my husband Cory and our two boys, Alex (age 9) and Henry (age 6). We spend a lot of time outdoors and have a goal to visit every MLB baseball stadium before my oldest son graduates high school. I enjoy reading during my down time and am fortunate to be in two book clubs with women who inspire and challenge me.

**You're stranded on a desert island and can have two things: a book and a "luxury" item small enough to carry. What are your items and why?**

I would bring a survival guide! I would also bring a hammock because, after a good night's sleep, tomorrow is another day!



Shannon, Alex (9), Henry (6), and Cory  
at the Sky Garden in London, England.

LegalWriting  
INSTITUTE

## Name: Timothy J. Duff

**Current school:** Case Western Reserve University School of Law

### What did you do before joining academia?

I practiced law for over 27 years. I began by clerking for an appellate court and eventually became a partner in a large firm before transitioning to a nationally recognized, boutique land-use and litigation firm. I am also an Appellate Law Certified Specialist in Ohio. My experience touched on many areas in addition to appellate matters, including zoning, land use, construction law, employment law, business and commercial litigation, and public law.

### What topic are you most excited to teach this year?

I am teaching a 2L advanced legal writing, experiential education course set in a litigation context. I am excited about teaching students how to effectively, efficiently, and ethically draft different types of documents commonly found in litigation such as engagement letters, objective analyses, pleadings, discovery, persuasive briefs, and communications with clients and opposing counsel. I am also excited about teaching in a specially designed classroom that combines high-level technology with an advantageous physical layout.

### Why did you pursue an appointment to teach legal writing?

I have always enjoyed legal writing and thinking about legal writing. In my leisure time I read legal-writing books. I also always enjoyed helping newer lawyers with their writing. Once, I was fortunate enough to teach legal writing for someone on maternity leave and found out that I loved it. And I eventually realized that I could be happiest and do the most good by teaching students how to write and how to become lawyers.

### What do you enjoy doing outside of teaching?

When I have time, I enjoy exercising in all forms—especially in nature—reading books (some of which do not involve legal writing), and early morning walks with my lovely wife and my black Labrador retriever, Molly. I also enjoy visiting my daughter who is a 3L at Ohio State University and my son who just graduated from college and has an actual job.

### You're stranded on a desert island and can have two things: a book and a "luxury" item small enough to carry. What are your items and why?

The first thing that comes to mind is Bryan Garner's *The Winning Brief*, but because I might be on this island for quite a while, I would probably bring *What the Buddha Taught*, not a thick book but one can spend a long time reading it. As for the other item, a pair of running shoes. (I think that a pair of shoes constitutes one item, but I will let the listserv debate that one.)



Walking Molly

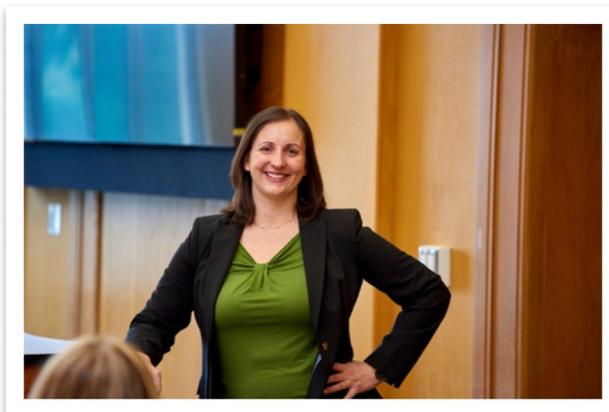


## Name: Jessica Gunder

**Current school:** University of Idaho College of Law  
(Boise campus!)

### What did you do before joining academia?

Immediately after law school, I served as a judicial clerk in the Eastern District of Missouri. I then joined the Department of Justice's Consumer Protection Branch in Washington, D.C., where I advanced criminal and civil litigation related to the protection of public health and safety. Finally, I worked as an Assistant United States Attorney in the District of Idaho, where I served as the Civil Division's Affirmative Civil Enforcement Coordinator and Civil Rights Coordinator.



### What topic are you most excited to teach this year?

There are actually two topics that I am most excited to teach this year. The first is rule application. I enjoyed watching how my students engaged with the in-class exercise on this topic last year, and I am looking forward to teaching it again. The second is professional emails. I am adding the topic into my first-year legal writing class this year, and I am excited to cover something new with my students.

### Why did you pursue an appointment to teach legal writing?

While I loved litigation, I was ready for a change after ten years of practice. I had always enjoyed working with students—I supervised law-student interns during my clerkship and ran the Consumer Protection Branch's intern program—so teaching seemed like a natural fit.

### What do you enjoy doing outside of teaching?

This has changed a lot in the last few years! Before kids, I would have said exercising (I had raced an Ironman and was an avid crossfitter), knitting, reading, and baking. Now I have two kids—Willia who is 3.5 years old and Greta who is 1.5 years old. And I love making memories with them! We enjoy taking trips to the zoo and commuting on my long-tail bike. We also recently experienced our first family camping adventure.

### You're stranded on a desert island and can have two things: a book and a "luxury" item small enough to carry. What are your items and why?

Just one book? That doesn't seem fair! I would have to pick something like *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr or *The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green—a book with beautiful prose and a thoughtful storyline to contemplate. For my luxury item, I would bring a pillow or comfortable sleeping pad because I'm a bit scared from the sleeping situation during our family camping adventure a couple weeks ago.



Jessica enjoys spending quality time with her family when she isn't teaching legal research and writing.

LegalWriting  
INSTITUTE

## Name: Robert Montgomery

**Current school:** Campbell University School of Law

### What did you do before joining academia?

I worked for the State of North Carolina for 30 years, the last 19 at the Attorney General's Office. Although I primarily represented the State in criminal appeals, I headed the Criminal Division the last four years. In that role, I supervised a variety of attorneys including special prosecutors, appellate attorneys, and attorneys defending prisoner lawsuits. The highlight of my career was arguing two cases before the United States Supreme Court.

### What topic are you most excited to teach this year?

I am most excited to teach appellate brief writing and oral argument. Although students usually are very anxious about oral argument, they often later say it is the best thing about their legal research and writing class. Even if students never do appellate work after they leave law school, the experience of writing an appellate brief and doing an oral argument gives them a great foundation for all types of legal writing and oral advocacy.

### Why did you pursue an appointment to teach legal writing?

Because I taught legal research and writing as an adjunct for 23 years, I thought when I retired I would like to try full-time teaching. I think being able to utilize my experience as a practicing appellate attorney will be rewarding to me and, hopefully, beneficial to the students. It always feels good to hear from students years after I taught them about how much their legal research and writing courses have helped them in their practice.

### What do you enjoy doing outside of teaching?

I really like to travel with my family, although I do not get to do enough of it. I also am a big sports fan. I have seen baseball games at 24 different major league baseball stadiums, I follow college basketball and football, and I enjoy the NFL and NHL. Even though I'm not very good at it and don't get much opportunity to do it, I like to play golf.

### You're stranded on a desert island and can have 2 things: a book and a "luxury" item small enough to carry. What are your items and why?

Although I should give an answer like the Bible or the Complete Works of William Shakespeare, I would take a giant book of Word Jumbles and a really good pen (maybe one that would never run out of ink, if that were possible). If I'm going to be stranded on a desert island for a long time, I better keep my mind sharp just in case I am rescued. At least that seems better to me than drawing a face on a volleyball and talking to it.



## Name: Tolulope “Tolu” Odunsi

**Current school:** The University at Buffalo School of Law: it is the only law school in the State University of New York (SUNY) system.

### What did you do before joining academia?

Prior to joining academia, I practiced as a civil defense attorney at a law firm in Buffalo, New York. I represented clients involved in complex civil litigation matters including employment law, automobile product liability, class actions, premises liability, and insurance defense.

### What topic are you most excited to teach this year?

I am most excited to teach the students in my Legal Analysis, Writing and Research (LAWR) course how to conduct legal research and how to write professional emails. These topics excite me because my law school experience did not include those lessons. When I began to practice law, I learned that researching issues and writing emails are crucial skills for new attorneys.

### Why did you pursue an appointment to teach legal writing?

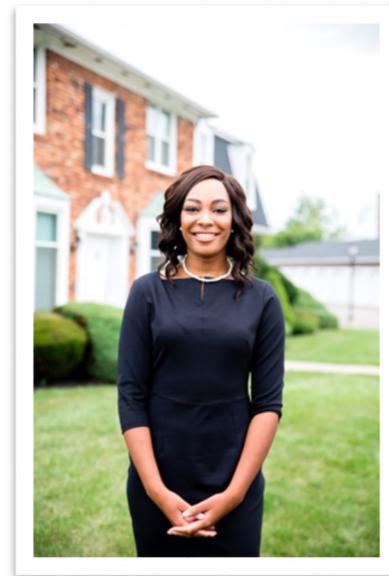
I pursued an appointment to teach legal writing because I have always wanted to enter academia, and I have always been passionate about legal research and writing. I also enjoy mentoring law students, so this position made sense for me to pursue based on my interests and strengths.

### What do you enjoy doing outside of teaching?

Outside of teaching, I enjoy traveling and spending quality time with my family and friends. I recently traveled to Cuba with a few friends from undergraduate and law school. We visited the beaches, explored the museums, took a cooking class, and went horseback riding. I also enjoy playing board games with my family and friends. One of our favorites is Taboo, where you have to get your team to guess words without using obvious clues!

### You're stranded on a desert island and can have two things: a book and a "luxury" item small enough to carry. What are your items and why?

For the book, I would choose the Bible because it has always been my go-to when I have felt hopeless in the past. And being stranded on a desert island sounds like a hopeless situation! I would also bring a satellite phone, which is a cell phone that can be used anywhere in the world. With this "luxury," I might actually have a chance of getting off the island!



Tolu, who is in the driver's seat, enjoys traveling, especially her recent visit to Cuba with friends!

## Name: Aimee Saginaw

**Current school:** University of the District of Columbia (UDC)–David A. Clarke School of Law

### What did you do before joining academia?

After law school, I clerked at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and then spent two years as an associate at a large firm. I subsequently joined a midsize Manhattan boutique, where I worked for seven years as an associate, and, later, as a partner, focusing on trial- and appellate-level commercial, employment, and constitutional litigation. Prior to law school, I worked as a reporter and editor at the *Wall Street Journal*.

### What topic are you most excited to teach this year?

I am most excited to teach the fundamentals of legal analysis and writing, specifically, the CREAC/IRAC method. I particularly enjoy finding ways to incorporate students' interests and hobbies into such lessons. For example, sports analogies are a great way to illustrate how to apply rules and use precedent. And more traditional writing concepts, such as transitions, can be demonstrated using music and art. I also love to teach and discuss constitutional law.

### Why did you pursue an appointment to teach legal writing?

While I loved trial and appellate work, the most rewarding aspect of private practice for me was training associates and paralegals. I took great pleasure in teaching associates how to draft interrogatories and motions and then watching them flap their wings and fly. I am also extremely proud that every paralegal with whom I worked credits me with making the first year of law school easier (particularly with respect to civil procedure and legal writing).

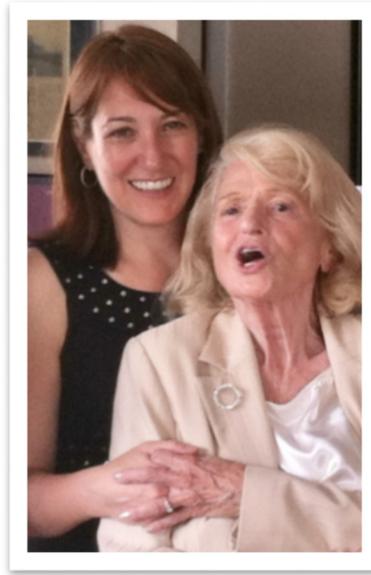
### What do you enjoy doing outside of teaching?

A lot of things! Playing tennis. Watching football. Going to the symphony and theatre, particularly to see musicals. Dancing the salsa, even if awkwardly. Singing, mostly in choirs (though a few "lucky" LWI Conference attendees caught my performance of Prince at karaoke). Reading and watching spy thrillers and Agatha Christie novels. And taking my convertible out on long, winding roads in warm weather!

### You're stranded on a desert island and can have two things: a book and a "luxury" item small enough to carry.

#### What are your items and why?

My book would be a hardcover copy of *Extreme Wilderness Survival: Essential Knowledge to Survive Any Outdoor Situation* (enabling me to transform a book corner into a blade, if necessary). My luxury item would be a Garmin inReach Explorer®+ satellite communicator, which can share locational data in areas lacking cell reception. Of course, I would have downloaded the *New Yorker* app beforehand, so I could make conversation with other stranded LWI members while awaiting rescue!



Aimee and the late, great, Edie Windsor in East Hampton, New York, celebrating the long-awaited wedding of a close friend.

One of the many activities Aimee enjoys when she isn't teaching is hitting the road in her Mazda Miata!



## Name: Drew Simshaw

**Current school:** Georgetown University Law Center (visitor)

### What did you do before joining academia?

I was an analyst for interdisciplinary centers at Indiana University specializing in privacy and cybersecurity. I worked with computer scientists to analyze legal and ethical challenges posed by robots and other emerging technologies. I loved collaborating with experts from other fields who approach challenges and solutions from a different perspective than lawyers. I also learned how to write about complex issues for legal and non-legal audiences—a skill I went on to practice and teach in Georgetown's Communications and Technology Law Clinic.

### What topic are you most excited to teach this year?

I am excited to teach students how to effectively share their legal analysis via email. I love guiding students through the process of adapting what they have learned about the content and structure of a formal legal memo to meet the expectations and needs of a more defined audience. It is always fun to see students discover their ability to transfer legal writing skills to new media and contexts.

### Why did you pursue an appointment to teach legal writing?

Helping students refine their research, writing, analytical, and oral skills was my favorite part of my clinical teaching fellowship at Georgetown Law. The experience made me want to help more students earlier in their law school careers, when developing these skills is especially critical for aspiring attorneys entering the legal discourse community. Legal writing professors help students grow not only as advocates, but as people, and I could not be happier about being part of such an inspiring and supportive community.

### What do you enjoy doing outside of teaching?

I enjoy exploring new places with my partner, Shayna. Both west coast natives, we enjoy hiking, live music, and immersing ourselves in different cultures. Our favorite experiences have been in Puerto Rico, Maine, and (most recently) Quebec.

### You're stranded on a desert island and can have two things: a book and a "luxury" item small enough to carry. What are your items and why?

I would bring "Boys in the Boat," Daniel James Brown's inspiring and beautifully written true story about the University of Washington (my alma mater) men's rowing team and its journey to winning gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics. I would also bring a baritone horn—an instrument I played through college and professionally as a member of the official band of Major League Soccer's Seattle Sounders. I haven't played since becoming a lawyer, and if stranded on a desert island, I could make up for lost time (with no one around to complain!).



## Name: Irene Ten Cate

**Current school:** University of Houston Law Center

### What did you do before joining academia?

I practiced litigation and international arbitration with two law firms in New York, and in between those two stints, I taught legal writing as a fellow and doctrinal classes and a litigation skills workshop as a VAP. Earlier, I practiced briefly as a transactional lawyer in Brussels, and I interned with the ICC Court of International Arbitration in Paris.

### What topic are you most excited to teach this year?

I look forward to teaching persuasive writing in the spring, because I find it rewarding to help students find and develop their own writing voices. I also plan to make sure that each student participates in at least one oral argument. It is always exciting to watch students in action, and the advocacy role sometimes brings out unexpected qualities.

### Why did you pursue an appointment to teach legal writing?

My last firm was a wonderful place to practice law, but I could never shake the feeling that academia was my true calling. After reflecting on how I'd like to spend my time, I realized that my dream job involves working closely with students, writing scholarship on a variety of topics, and contributing to an academic community. I figured (correctly) that a legal writing faculty position would allow me to do all of those things.

### What do you enjoy doing outside of teaching?

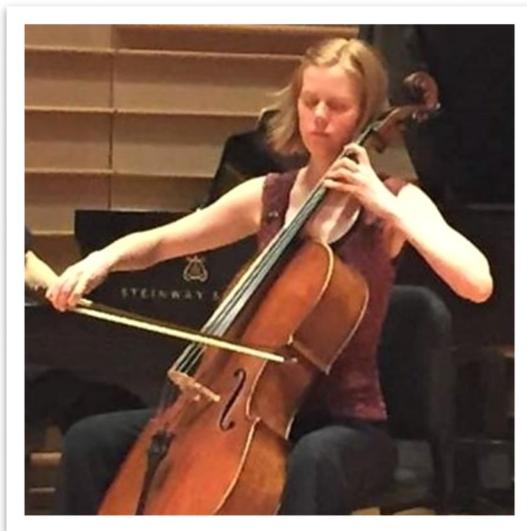
I have played the cello since childhood. I love music for its own sake, but being a cellist has also brought me some incredible life experiences, including performances in venues ranging from Carnegie Hall to a high-security prison in the Netherlands. My idea of a perfect evening is to meet up with other musicians, hack our way through a few string quartets, then enjoy a meal together.

### You're stranded on a desert island and can have two things: a book and a "luxury" item small enough to carry. What are your items and why?

The Blue Book, so I can finally master its intricacies! Actually, since the Bluebook would inevitably end up in the ocean, I'll opt for a collection of English language poetry. I don't read much poetry but would like to, or so I tell myself. As for the "luxury" item, I'll bring a photo album with pictures of my husband, relatives, and friends.



Prof by day...



...cellist by night.

## Name: Kayonia L. Whetstone

**Current school:** St. John's University School of Law

### What did you do before joining academia?

Before joining academia, I was an appellate prosecutor for nearly thirteen years. I served in the Bronx and Queens counties of New York, where I litigated numerous direct appeals and other matters in both federal and state trial and appellate courts. I also argued and briefed several cases before New York's highest court and conducted post-adjudication insanity hearings and trials, post-conviction hearings, and served as an on-call homicide duty prosecutor.

### What topic are you most excited to teach this year?

This fall, I'm most excited to teach rule synthesis and rule statements—a key tool for conducting an effective legal analysis. When students can extract rules from the authorities they are examining and craft accurate rule statements, they are armed with the tools to provide competent advice about a legal issue. Also, I cannot wait to teach crafting persuasive fact statements this spring because what lawyer doesn't like to argue and tell a compelling story?

### Why did you pursue an appointment to teach legal writing?

Good writing is an art, and language is the tool of our trade; good legal writing is an essential tool for every attorney. In law school, I dreamt of mentoring aspiring attorneys and writing study guides and textbooks. So, I pursued appellate prosecution to do justice and hone my written advocacy skills. Teaching legal writing perfectly combines my passions for good writing, mentoring, and arming budding social engineers with critical skills for their success.

### What do you enjoy doing outside of teaching?

When I'm not teaching, I love spending time with family and friends. My husband and I have two little ones who keep us pretty busy. The children and I love cooking, baking, doing arts and crafts projects, singing, and dancing together. I even take dance classes on my own; currently, I dance Zumba and Hip Hop. I'm also one of six children, so we have a large extended family that we thoroughly enjoy.

### You're stranded on a desert island and can have 2 things: a book and a "luxury" item small enough to carry. What are your items and why?

If I were stranded on a desert island, I would take the Bible. It's great literature and covers many genres including love, friendship, drama, self-help, you name it—I mean have you read Songs of Solomon, Ruth, Proverbs, Ezekiel, Thessalonians, or even Revelations? My small luxury item would be a journal that includes a pen because I could use it to create my own stories or record my thoughts on my island experience.



**UPCOMING  
LEGAL WRITING  
EVENTS**

**LWI ONE-DAY  
WORKSHOPS**

**November 30, 2018**  
University of Akron  
Chapman University  
Loyola Univ., New Orleans  
Mississippi College  
University of Oregon  
University of Pittsburgh

**December 1, 2018**  
University of Illinois  
University of Tennessee

**December 7, 2018**  
Northeastern University  
University of Pittsburgh

**December 8, 2018**  
University of Louisville

**December 14, 2018**  
Ave Maria

**December 10-12, 2018**  
Global Legal Skills  
Melbourne Law School

**March 15-16, 2019**  
Rocky Mountain Legal Writing  
UNLV

**June 3-5, 2019**  
Institute for Law Teaching  
and Learning  
Washburn University

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/>

*A word is dead  
When it is said,  
Some say.  
I say it just begins  
to live that day.*  
  
Emily Dickinson

**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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